

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5613

To designate the Quindaro Townsite in Kansas City, Kansas, as a National Historic Landmark, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2018

Mr. YODER (for himself and Mr. CLEAVER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate the Quindaro Townsite in Kansas City, Kansas,
as a National Historic Landmark, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. QUINDARO TOWNSITE NATIONAL HISTORIC**
4 **LANDMARK ACT.**

5 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
6 “Quindaro Townsite National Historic Landmark Act”.

7 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) The town of Quindaro was founded in 1857,
9 in what was then the Territory of Kansas, with the
10 specific intent of aiding the Free-State movement in

1 the struggle over whether to admit Kansas to the
2 Union as a free State or a slave State. As a result,
3 Quindaro played an important role in both the his-
4 tory of Kansas and our Nation's broader debate over
5 slavery.

6 (2) Quindaro was a key site during the Bleed-
7 ing Kansas conflict, serving as a safe port of entry
8 into Kansas on the Missouri River for those opposed
9 to slavery.

10 (3) The town of Quindaro also acted as an im-
11 portant piece of the Underground Railroad, allowing
12 runaway slaves to escape to freedom in Kansas.

13 (4) Since the Quindaro Townsite's first exca-
14 vation, it has yielded a wealth of important artifacts
15 that have contributed to our understanding of the
16 town and its place in history. The area maintains a
17 high level of archaeological integrity, with the poten-
18 tial for additional discoveries at the site in the fu-
19 ture.

20 (5) Local government, private entities, and indi-
21 vidual stakeholders in the area have invested time
22 and resources to further the preservation of both
23 Quindaro's physical remains and its historical and
24 cultural legacy.

1 (6) The Quindaro Townsite fits the National
2 Historic Landmark designation's requirement of
3 possessing exceptional value in illustrating the his-
4 tory of the United States, as well as providing the
5 potential to yield new information about our past.

6 (c) DESIGNATION.—The Quindaro Townsite in Kan-
7 sas City, Kansas, as listed on the National Register of
8 Historic Places, is hereby designated as the Quindaro
9 Townsite National Historic Landmark.

10 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—Nothing in this section shall
11 affect the administration of the Quindaro Townsite by
12 Kansas City or the State of Kansas.

13 (e) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary, in
14 consultation with the State of Kansas, Kansas City, Kan-
15 sas, and affected subdivisions, may enter into cooperative
16 agreements with appropriate public or private entities, for
17 the purposes of protecting historic resources at Quindaro
18 Townsite and providing educational and interpretive facili-
19 ties and programs for the public.

20 (f) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The
21 Secretary may provide technical and financial assistance
22 to any entity with which the Secretary has entered into
23 a cooperative agreement under subsection (e).

24 (g) NO EFFECT ON ACTIONS OF PROPERTY OWN-
25 ERS.—Designation of the Quindaro Townsite as a Na-

1 tional Historic Landmark shall not prohibit any actions
2 which may otherwise be taken by any property owners,
3 including the owners of the Quindaro Townsite National
4 Historic Landmark, with respect to their property.

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