

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5878

To designate the Quindaro Townsite National Historic Landmark, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 3, 2023

Mr. LATURNER (for himself, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. CLEAVER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To designate the Quindaro Townsite 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Quindaro Townsite  
5 National Historic Landmark Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

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

1 over whether to admit Kansas to the Union as a free  
2 State or a slave State;

3 (2) as a result of the circumstances described in  
4 paragraph (1), the town of Quindaro played an im-  
5 portant role in the history of Kansas and the broad-  
6 er debate over slavery in the United States;

7 (3) the town of Quindaro was a key site during  
8 the conflict, known as the “Bleeding Kansas” con-  
9 flict, serving as a safe port of entry into Kansas on  
10 the Missouri River for people opposed to slavery;

11 (4) the town of Quindaro also acted as an im-  
12 portant piece of the Underground Railroad, allowing  
13 runaway slaves to escape to freedom in Kansas;

14 (5) since the first excavation of the Quindaro  
15 Townsite, the area has yielded a wealth of important  
16 artifacts that have contributed to the understanding  
17 of the town and the place of the town in history;

18 (6) the Quindaro Townsite maintains a high  
19 level of archaeological integrity, with the potential  
20 for additional discoveries at the townsite in the fu-  
21 ture;

22 (7) local government, private entities, and indi-  
23 vidual stakeholders in the area have invested time  
24 and resources to further the preservation of the

1 physical remains of the town and the historical and  
2 cultural legacy of the town; and

3 (8) the Quindaro Townsite fits the require-  
4 ments for National Historic Landmark designation  
5 of—

6 (A) possessing exceptional value in illus-  
7 trating the history of the United States; and

8 (B) providing the potential to yield new in-  
9 formation about the history of the United  
10 States.

11 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) LANDMARK.—The term “Landmark” means  
14 the Quindaro Townsite National Historic Landmark  
15 designated by section 4(a).

16 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
17 the Secretary of the Interior.

18 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
19 of Kansas.

20 **SEC. 4. QUINDARO TOWNSITE NATIONAL HISTORIC LAND-**  
21 **MARK.**

22 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Quindaro Townsite in Kan-  
23 sas City, Kansas, as listed on the National Register of  
24 Historic Places, is designated as the “Quindaro Townsite  
25 National Historic Landmark”.

1 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-  
3 tion with the State, Kansas City, Kansas, and af-  
4 fected subdivisions of the State, may enter into co-  
5 operative agreements with appropriate public or pri-  
6 vate entities, for the purposes of—

7 (A) protecting historic resources at the  
8 Landmark; and

9 (B) providing educational and interpretive  
10 facilities and programs at the Landmark for the  
11 public.

12 (2) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

13 The Secretary may provide technical and financial  
14 assistance to any entity with which the Secretary  
15 has entered into a cooperative agreement under  
16 paragraph (1).

17 (c) NO EFFECT ON ACTIONS OF PROPERTY OWN-  
18 ERS.—Designation of the Quindaro Townsite as a Na-  
19 tional Historic Landmark shall not prohibit any actions  
20 that may otherwise be taken by a property owner (includ-  
21 ing any owner of the Landmark) with respect to the prop-  
22 erty of the owner.

1       (d) NO EFFECT ON ADMINISTRATION.—Nothing in  
2 this section affects the administration of the Landmark  
3 by Kansas City, Kansas, or the State.

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