



Quakertown Memorialization Public Meeting

**Parks and Recreation /
Historical Preservation**

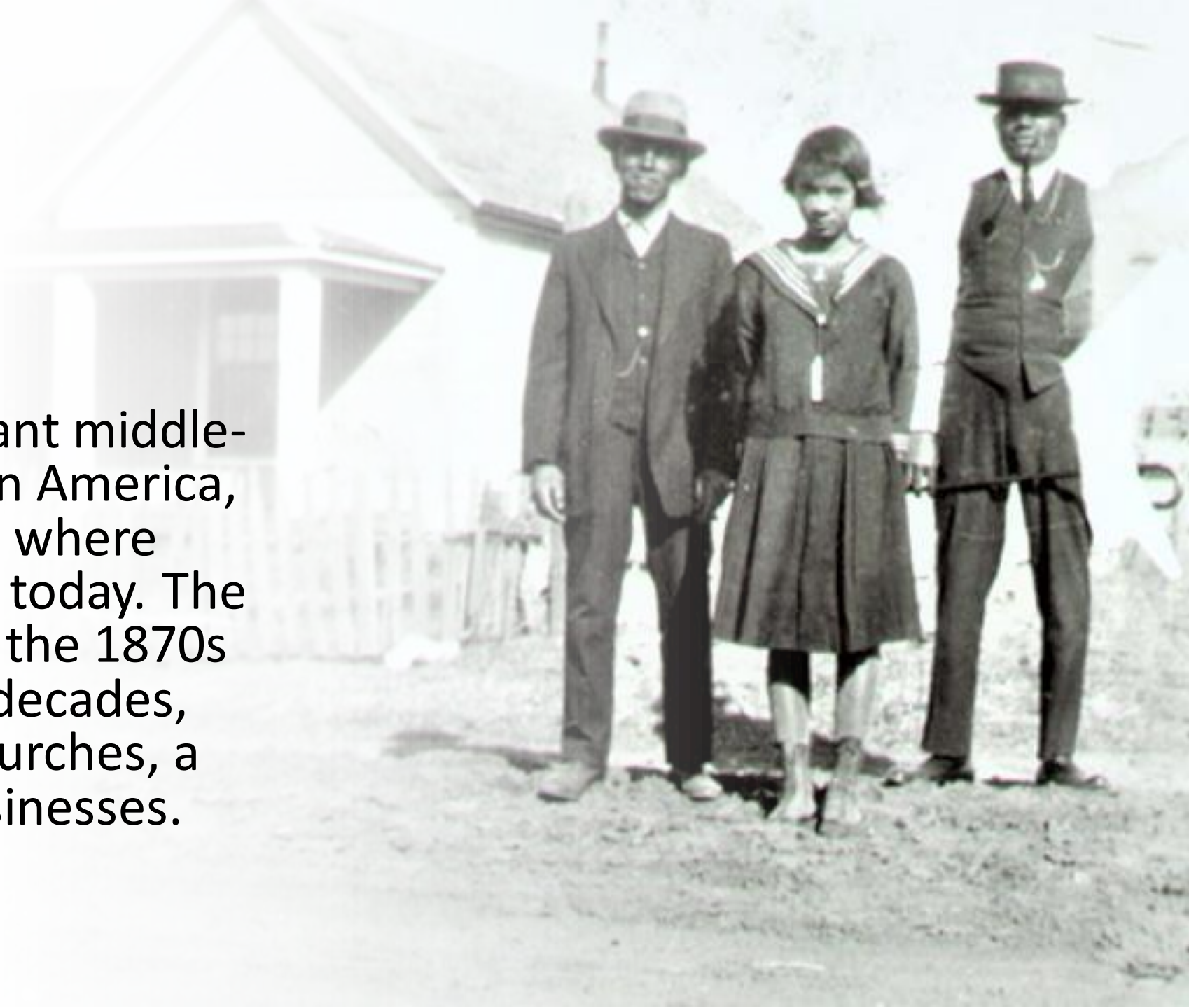
December 1, 2022

**Fince Espinoza, Asst. Director
Omar Siddiqi, Management Analyst
Chris Escoto, Parks Planner**



A Brief History

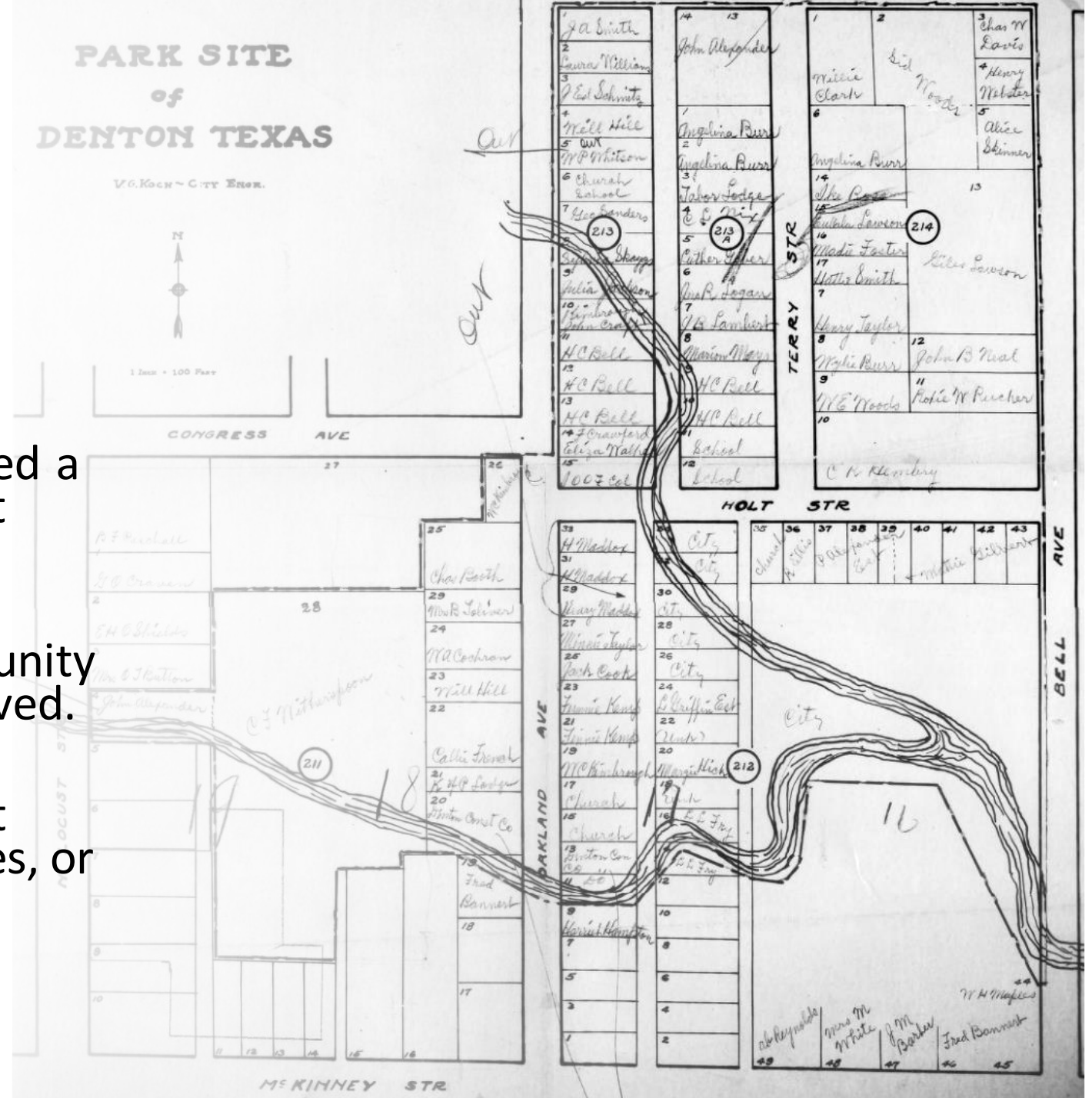
Quakertown was a vibrant middle-class, and mostly African America, community that existed where Quakertown Park exists today. The community emerged in the 1870s and existed for several decades, and included several churches, a school, houses, and businesses.



In April 1921 Denton Voters approved a bond for a City Park to be located at Quakertown.

By 1923, all structures in the community had either been destroyed or removed.

Many residents moved to Southeast Denton. Some moved to other states, or even to Liberia in West Africa.

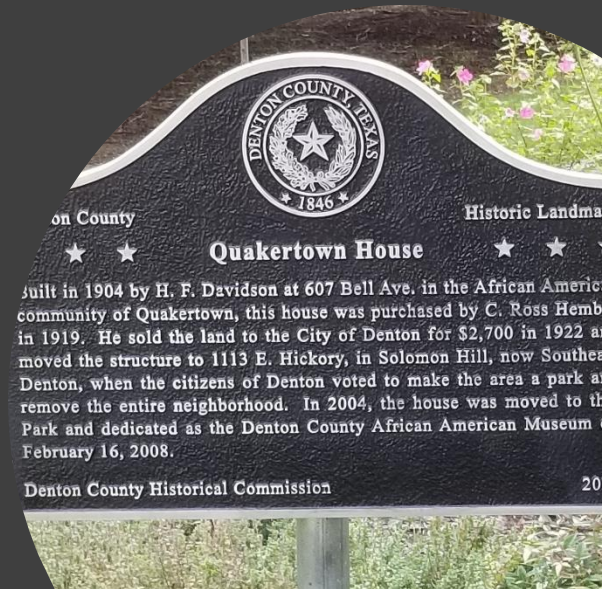


Considerations / Concerns

- **Process**: The scope of a permanent memorial in Quakertown Park could be included in the Downtown Master Plan effort. This effort would take time and require a significant public input component.
- **Function**: How will the memorial co-exist within the wider context of a fully operational park (maintenance, City-wide events, etc.)?



Existing and Planned Memorials

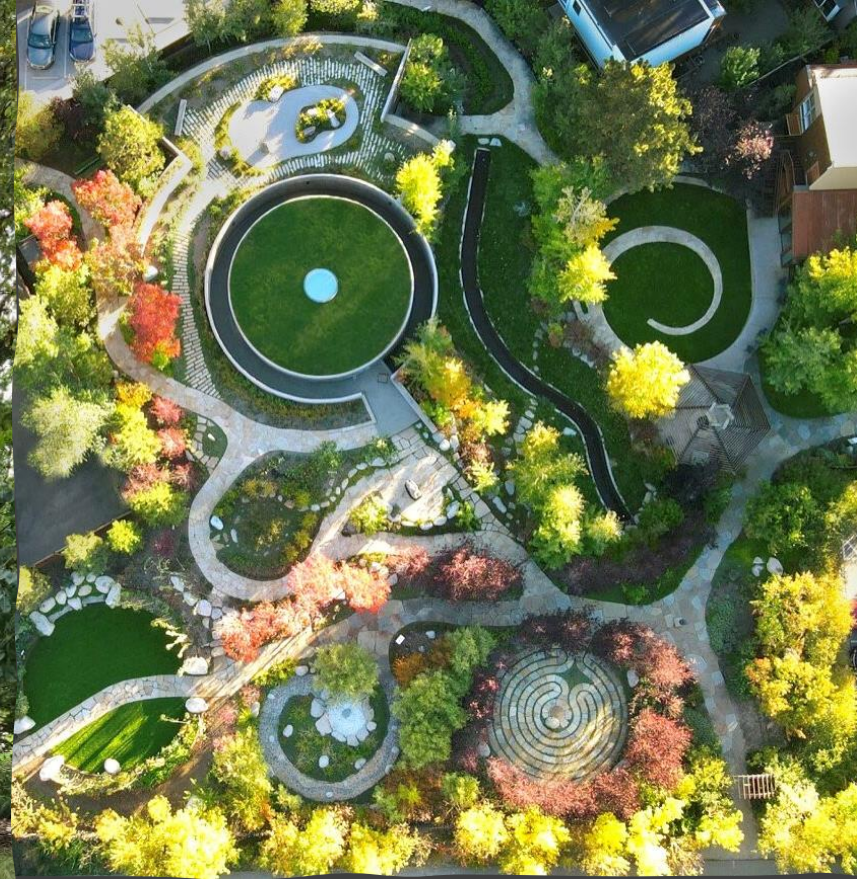


Permanent Memorial

- Will be located in Quakertown Park
- Developed within Master Planning Process(es)
- Extensive public input will determine scope/shape of permanent memorial.

Healing/Reconciliation Garden and Living Museum

- Could build a new garden at Henry Taylor's lot
- OR expand and renovate current garden located between City Hall and the Civic Center
- Garden could feature thematic “rooms” with sensory features with a mixture of textures, smells, and colors
- Memorial artwork/sculpture
- Historical signage
- Combines community, history, education, nature, healing and social engagement generating a sense of place
- Would require a high level of continued maintenance

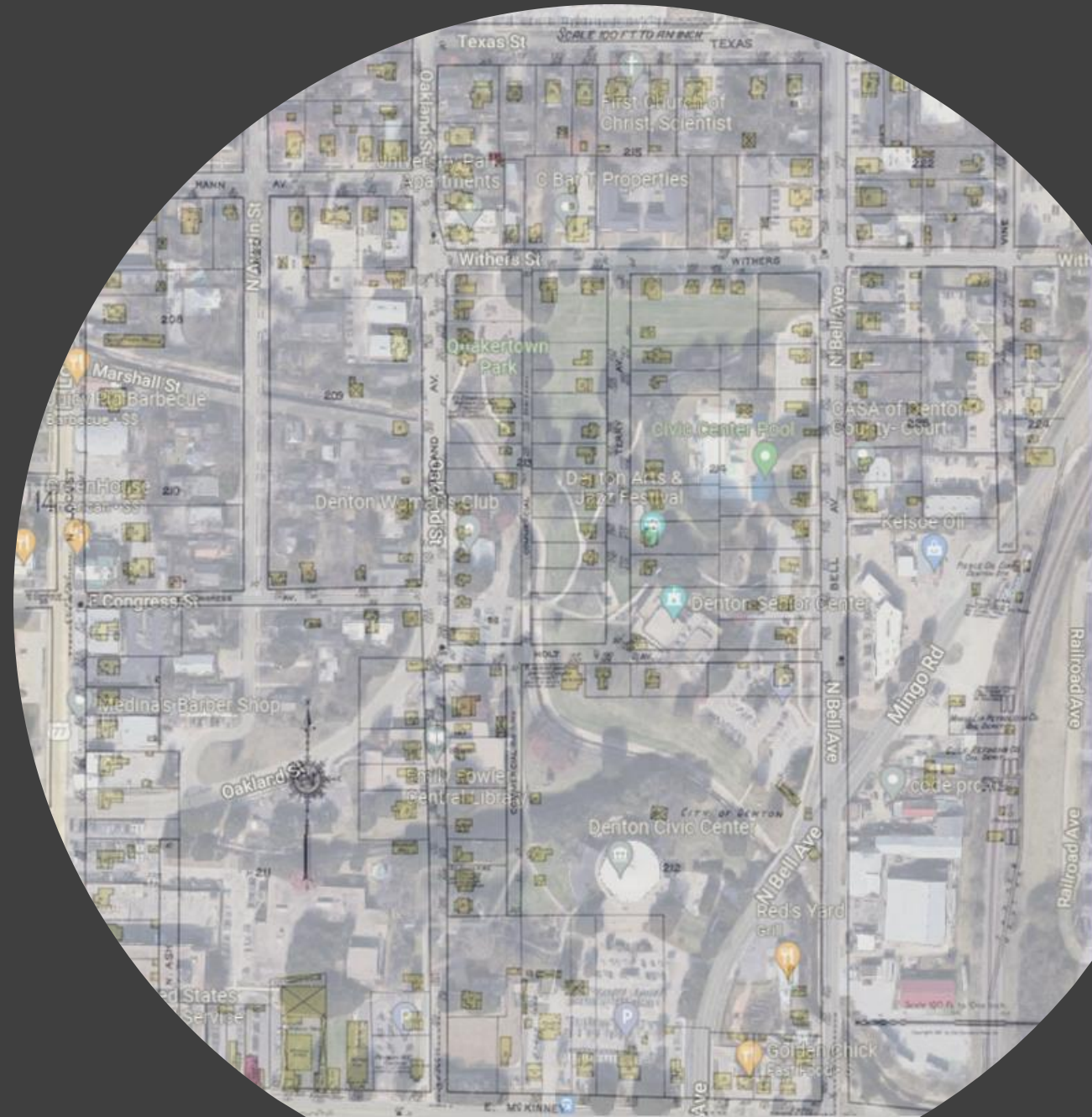


Some Temporary Memorial Options

- Quakertown Property Outlining
- Explanatory Signage
- Calendar of Public Event (Arts, Music, History, Storytelling, Children's Events, etc.)

Quakertown Outlining

- Outline Terry Street with athletic paint and include temporary signage throughout the park showing the location of houses, businesses, and churches.
- Signage could include information about past owners and residents at each location
- 80+ Quakertown landmarks coincide with the current Quakertown Park area



Explanatory Signage

- Temporary signage would help readers understand the history of Quakertown
- Can provide a sense of space with the use of historic photographs and maps
- Possibility of being easily damaged

Discover Seneca Village

Between 1825 and 1857, before the city built Central Park, this area was the location of Seneca Village – a community composed predominantly of African Americans, many of whom owned property. This was the most densely settled section of the acreage slated for Central Park; by 1855 the community numbered approximately 225 and had 52 homes and three churches.

Explore the history, community, and landscape of Seneca Village in a series of interpretative signs. Begin at the information kiosk (A), then visit the sixteen signs throughout the area, in the order suggested. Download or photograph a map of the signs here or pick up a brochure at one of our visitor centers.

To learn more about Seneca Village, visit:
www.senecavillage.org



Map Key

- AME Zion Church
- African Union Church
- The Wilson House
- All Angels' Church
- Irish Americans
- Summit Rock
- Lewis, Lutz, and Squire
- Housing
- Tanner's Spring
- Reservoir Reservoir
- Livelihood
- Cemetery
- Reservoir Keepers
- Downtown Connections
- Andrew Williams
- Gardens
- ▲ Introduction
- Welcome Information





Calendar of Events

- Quakertown History Speaker Series
- Centennial Day of Remembrance
- Related Arts or Musical Events

Questions?

Contact Information:

Omar Siddiqi, Management Analyst
omar.siddiqi@cityofdenton.com

Chris Escoto, Parks Planner
chris.escoto@cityofdenton.com

