

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8276

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2026

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

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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