

## Quakertown Memorialization Public Meeting

Parks and Recreation MLK Jr Recreation Center Discussion December 8, 2022

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## **A Brief History**

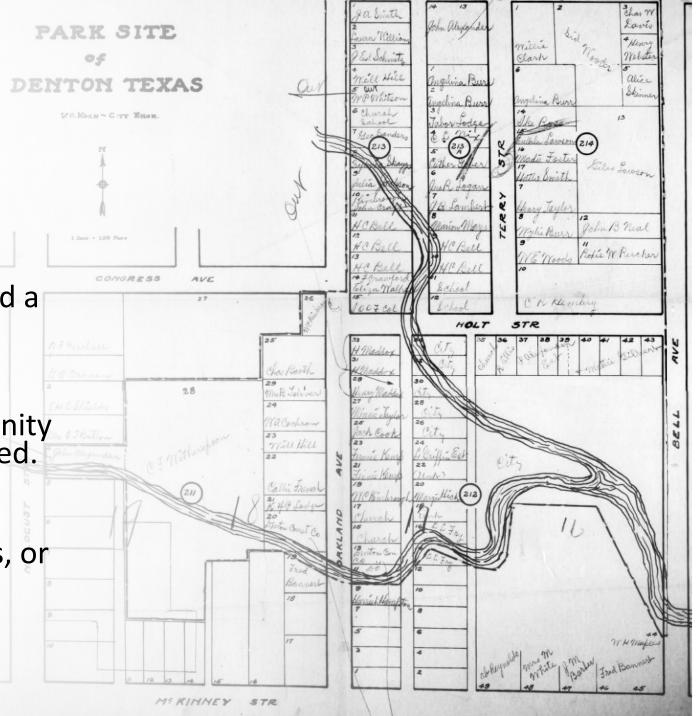
Quakertown was a vibrant middleclass, and mostly African America, community that existed where Quakertown Park exists today. The community emerged in the 1870s and existed for several decades, and included several churches, a school, houses, and businesses.

#### **Park Board Vote**

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**

QUAKERTOWN



#### on County Quakertown House suilt in 1904 by H. F. Davidson at 607 Bell Ave. in the African Americ

community of Quakertown, this house was purchased by C. Ross Hemb in 1919. He sold the land to the City of Denton for \$2,700 in 1922 a moved the structure to 1113 E. Hickory, in Solomon Hill, now Souther Denton, when the citizens of Denton voted to make the area a park a remove the entire neighborhood. In 2004, the house was moved to the Park and dedicated as the Denton County African American Museum February 16, 2008.

Denton County Historical Commission

Historic Landn

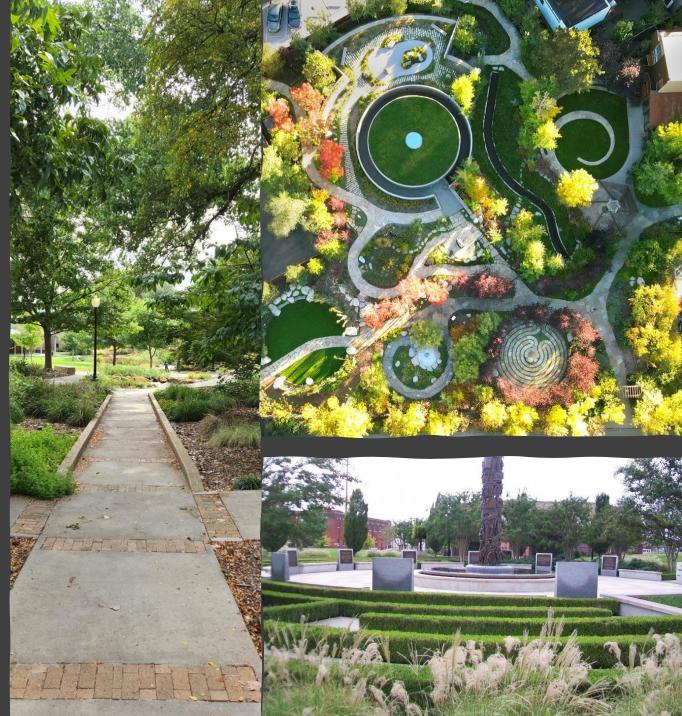
## **Permanent Memorial**

- 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 1925 and 1957, before the one built General Park, this area easy the location of General Village – a community compound predicting of Advisor Americans, many an whom sevend property. This west the most densely advisor sectors of the acreage stated for Central Park, by 1806 the community numbered approximately 225 and hed 52 homes and three characters.

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# **Calendar of Events**

• Quakertown History Speaker Series

#### Centennial Day of Remembrance

#### • Related Arts or Musical Events

# **Questions?**

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