



Register of Historic Kansas Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Atchison's Black Business District

Other names/site number Winrow Brother's Property; Winrow Grocery, Café, Barbershop & Retail; KHRI 005-1795

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

street & number 1118 North 7th Street not for publication

city or town Atchison Vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Atchison code 005 zip code 66002

3-4. Certification

The above property has been determined eligible for both the Register of Historic Kansas Places and the National Register of Historic Places. The property has been documented and recorded on a National Register of Historic Places nomination form, which serves as the official register nomination for this property.

The Historic Sites Board of Review has determined that this property meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

I hereby certify that this property meets the criteria for and is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

Applicable State Register Criteria: A B C D

Listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places on: June 7, 2025

Date of Listing

Katrina Ringler, Deputy SHPO

Signature of certifying official/Title

Name of certifying official

Kansas State Historical Society
State agency

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Atchison's Black Business District

Other names/site number Winrow Brother's Property; Winrow Grocery, Café, Barbershop & Retail; KHRI 005-1795

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 1118 North 7th Street

N/A	not for publication
-----	---------------------

City or town Atchison

N/A	vicinity
-----	----------

State Kansas Code KS County Atchison Code 005 Zip code 66002

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local Applicable National Register Criteria: x A B C D



June 27, 2025

Signature of certifying official/Title Katrina Ringler, Deputy SHPO Date

Kansas State Historical Society
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:) _____

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on

August 12, 2025

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
4		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business, restaurant,
specialty store

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VERNACULAR

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE, BRICK, CONCRETE

walls: STONE, BRICK, WOOD

roof: WOOD, ASPHALT, SYNTHETIC

other: METAL

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

Atchison's Black Business District is located north of Division Street (now Unity Street), which is known as the dividing line between Atchison's historic Black neighborhoods and the rest of the city. Now, three buildings remain from what was once a bustling business district for the Black community: the Grocery, Rock-Inn, and a Garage. The buildings are all one-story masonry buildings with a mix of locally quarried stone, bricks, and concrete. The district includes the three buildings and a historic stone retaining wall, all of which contribute to the significance of the property. Due to deterioration, some changes have been made; though, those changes are acceptable amounts of loss, further described in the integrity section. Overall, the buildings and structure retain great historic integrity of location, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship. They are the remnants and representatives of the once-thriving Black commercial district in Atchison.

Elaboration

Setting

Atchison's Black Business District is located on the 1100 Block of North 7th Street in Atchison. The buildings are constructed into the hillside and are surrounded by a stone retaining wall. To the south is an open lot that has evidence of possible previous structures. To the west is a local City park, with playground and basketball courts. To the north is a vacant lot, and then a single residence. Behind the alley to the east are a couple of residences. Historically, the area was more developed with residences and commerce, but most of those buildings have been lost due to neglect or significant damage.

Overview

The remaining commercial buildings are the last evidence of the prominent Black Business District that Atchison once had. There are three vernacular style buildings described as: the Grocery Building, the Rock Inn, and a brick Garage. All of the buildings are one-story masonry with framed roofs and wood floors; foundations are various masonry (brick, stone, concrete). The southwest corner of the block has two buildings sharing a parti-wall, to the west, the large Grocery, and to the east, the smaller Rock-Inn. The buildings are located on the site of a hill and have been adjusted to account for the slope. To the north was a general store, which had recently been removed/demolished, followed by the small brick Garage. All of the buildings and the stone retaining wall retain their integrity and contribute to the significance of the district.

Grocery Building 1935

The primary elevation faces west toward North 7th Street and is a one-story masonry building covered in plywood paneling. The building has a front-gable roof with a false front parapet and a shed roof addition to the north. The west elevation has a full-width concrete stoop, with a contemporary shed roof supported by contemporary metal posts. There is a single, centered door flanked by large picture windows. Beneath the false front is exposed historic clapboard siding. The north shed addition appears to have a mix of stone and brick under the paneling and has no features or openings.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State



Figure 1: North and West (main) elevations of the Grocery building.

The north elevation (and addition) is mostly below grade but consists of a mix of concrete and brick. The above ground portion appears to be painted brick with one or two openings that are covered in plywood. At the east end is a gabled dormer also covered in plywood, with wooden stairs leading to it; no opening is visible. The east wall appears to be masonry and is a parti-wall shared with the Rock-Inn. The south elevation appears to be masonry covered in plywood paneling. The eastern third of the building is stepped out around two feet and has a single one-over-one window with an AC unit. The middle third has a single contemporary door to access the interior, and a large window opening that is covered in plywood and has an AC unit.

The interior appears to be a concrete slab on grade with wood-framed portions. However, the wood portions are deteriorating from a large amount of moisture damage. The roof is in poor condition with visible holes, causing water damage to the interior. The masonry walls appear to be in fair condition.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State



Figure 2 Rock-Inn, West (main) elevation.

Rock-Inn 1925

The building is primarily constructed of locally quarried stone and was built into the hillside. The stone is a variety of colors in a Quarry Finish and is laid in the Rubble Style. The L-shaped building sits above the Grocery and has a sloped roof with a parapet. The west (main) elevation has three openings, all with formed lintels. To the north is a set of concrete and stone stairs leading to the main door, followed by two single window openings to the south. All openings are covered in plywood. The parapet line has Rubble stones evenly spaced along it. The south elevation has four window openings, two with formed sills. The openings are symmetrical, with large rectangular openings on the ends and small square openings in the middle. They are evenly spaced from each other and share a lintel. The parapet line is broken into three steps and has Rubble stones evenly spaced along the top. The east elevation (rear wall) is almost all below grade. The visible portions are the southeast corner and the roof of the building, which is heavily deteriorated. The north elevation has no openings, is mainly in the hillside, and has a five-step parapet, capped with metal.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State



Figure 3 Garage, West (main) and south elevations. View of the stone retaining wall.

Garage 1920

The one story building is solid brick with a gable roof and parapet façade. The building is very simple in design with no ornamentation. Less than half the walls are below grade. The west (main) elevation faces North 7th Street and has a single door opening to the south with a contemporary metal door and a single large picture window opening to the north. The south elevation has two small rectangular openings just below the roof and a single square opening, currently filled with an AC unit. The north elevation has a single small rectangular opening. The interior is in fair condition and has some contemporary wood-framed walls and doors.

Stone Wall

A historic Quarry Finish and Rubble Style stone retaining wall lines the west frontage. Since the wall is in fair condition and from the historic period, it is considered a contributing structure.

Integrity

The historic significance of the buildings helps to assess the historic integrity. This means that integrity is a hierarchy that can change depending on the importance of the property. In this case, location, feeling, and association are the highest considerations. Next would be the design, materials, and workmanship, followed by the setting.

The location is tied to the historic Black neighborhood and commercial area, which is essential to the property's significance. The buildings are in their original location from when they were first constructed. The location north of Division Street (now Unity), which was said to historically separate the Black neighborhoods from the rest of Atchison, is essential to the integrity of location, feeling, and association. The placement on the hillside relates to the location, design, and material choices as well.

Atchison's Black Business District

Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas

County and State

Association is the direct link between the historic event and the property. The association is evident through the location, documentation, and use of the buildings, as well as the overall vernacular design and use of local materials. Feeling is the expression of the sense of space and time. The feeling can be impacted by changes to the setting. However, the buildings are representative of the type, period, and method of construction associated with the Black Business District in Atchison. These buildings retain their feeling and association with their place in Atchison's history.

Provided that the Black community's socio-economic status in Atchison was impacted by racial discrimination and oppression, changes in the design and materials are expected. The design, including the form, plan, shape, and massing, is central to the Vernacular style. These buildings are recognizable by their historic form and type. The use of local materials, simplified details, openings, and quality craftsmanship in the use of Quarry Finish and Rubble Style stone, along with the buildings still standing (despite deterioration), are all examples of retained historic design, materials, and workmanship. Though deterioration has caused issues with roofs, wood framing, and the interior spaces, the building's materials, workmanship, and design are still recognizable and mostly intact. The amount of deterioration and loss is acceptable considering the importance of the properties to Atchison's history.

The overall setting has changed as the buildings were once surrounded by a few more commercial and residential buildings. The rarity of these buildings outweighs the diminished integrity of the setting.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins circa 1915 and stretches to circa 1960. During this period, many Black businesses found homes at the 1100 block, many of which were run by Samuel and Edward Winrow. Once Atchison began revitalization of downtown in the late 1950s, part of the City's identity was lost through the decline and eventual abandonment of Atchison's Black Business District.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

N/A

Areas of Significance

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

COMMERCE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

c1915 - c1960

Significant Dates

1920, 1925, 1935, 1950

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

The location of the Black Business District reflects the local beliefs surrounding Atchison's racial division, as it is on the north side or "Black side" of what was once Division Street and is now Unity Street. Furthermore, its period of significance begins in the late 1910s/early 1920s and stretches decades into the 20th century; in this time frame, many Black businesses found homes at the 1100 block, many of which were run by Samuel and Edward Winrow. Unfortunately, at the same time Atchison was building its identity through the revitalization of downtown beginning in the late 1950s, part of its identity was also being lost through the decline and eventual abandonment of Atchison's Black Business District. Only three buildings remain today. While there's still more to uncover, it's clear that Atchison's Black Business District has a robust past and is significant for its contributions to Atchison's African American history, as well as for the deep connections that people still have with this property. The District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with Atchison's Black ethnic heritage, commerce, and social history.

There was a possibility of these buildings being destroyed, but the City instead granted the Black Business District to the Atchison County Historical Society in October 2024. The "Atchison Kansas Historic Black Business Master Plan" outlines the future of this area and includes the addition of a courtyard, as well as the renovation of 1). A "Garage Building" into a Black History Museum; 2). The "Rock Inn" building into a restaurant, with carry-out and courtyard dining; and 3). A "Grocery Building" into a business incubator.¹

Elaboration

History of Atchison, KS

Settlement

Atchison, Kansas, has a rich history. The first Europeans to visit the area came as early as 1724, decades before the United States became a sovereign nation and over a hundred years before Atchison became a city and Kansas a state.² Eighty years later, Lewis and Clark themselves passed through Atchison on the Fourth of July. In commemoration of the first Independence Day to be celebrated in the American West, they named two creeks: Independence Creek and July 04, 1804 Creek; today, July 04, 1804 Creek is called White Clay Creek.

When the Kansas Territory opened in 1854, Atchison County was one of the first 33 counties established.³ Atchison itself was the first settlement to be founded in Atchison County and was ⁴dedicated on July 4th, 1854 - exactly 50 years after Lewis and Clark passed through. Among Atchison's founders were pro-slavery Platte County Missourians and prominent Missouri senator David Rice Atchison, for whom the county and city are named. They chose Atchison as their first settlement because of its advantageous position on the Missouri River.

¹ Clark Huesemann, "Atchison Kansas Historic Black Business Master Plan" (master plan, 2024), 3-4.

² "Development History," Grow Atchison, Locally Atchison Main Street, published December 12, 2018, <https://growatchison.com/about-atchison/development-history/>

³ Sheffield Ingalls, History of Atchison County Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas: Standard Publishing Company, 1916), Chapter VI, www.gutenberg.org/files/58216/58216-h/58216-h.htm#Page_63, Project Gutenberg ebook.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

However, while Atchison was settled by pro-slavery advocates, much of the town's growth is attributed to antislavery people. A notable example is the Mormons, many of whom were antislavery.³

Upon coming to Atchison in 1855 during the Mormon Migration, the Mormons realized that Atchison did not have the warehouses necessary to appropriately supply them.⁵ In response, they contributed to the growth of Atchison by constructing warehouses and other buildings, as well as by establishing a Mormon Grove campsite 3 miles west of Atchison. In building these structures, as well as in corresponding with other free-staters about using Atchison as a starting point west, it became a popular travel destination and a hub for trade. As a testament to its success, Atchison was incorporated as a town just a year after its founding and by 1858, a city.⁶

In 1858, another notable antislavery contributor, Samuel C. Pomeroy, came to Atchison.⁷ Given that Pomeroy was sent from New England to lay the groundwork for free-staters traveling west, his presence alone suggests that the free-staters' efforts to secure the west were not only evident in Atchison, but in fact contributed to the city's settlement and development. This is seen in that the projects he worked towards and funded with the money he received from the Emigrant Aid Association, such as road improvements or business attractions, aided Atchison in further becoming a good starting point out west and an economically sound city.⁸

“Bleeding Kansas” Era

Please note: the “Bleeding Kansas Era” section contains stories of local injustices, violence, abuse, hate speech, and discrimination. The dated or derogatory terminology appears sparingly, when citing a direct quotation of primary source material. The references are used to explain the intense, violent, and controversial past of the Atchison area, which is relevant to the local context.

From the time Atchison was established in 1854, on the cusp of Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War beyond, it found itself caught in the day's great American question: Will slavery continue, or will it end? In Atchison, there was a prominent sentiment that slavery would prevail and that it *should* prevail; some residents even enslaved people themselves.⁹ Furthermore, a crowd openly discussed the hanging of abolitionists as the first town lots were sold on September 21st, 1854. Senator Atchison himself reportedly “expressed his profound contempt for abolitionists, and said if he had his way he would hang everyone of them that dared to show his face.”

Like many Missourians at the time, Senator Atchison was pro-slavery and known even to encourage his people to secure Kansas as a slave state by stuffing ballots.¹⁰ With the same aim in mind, he also led these “border ruffians” on violent excursions, including on the infamous Sack of Lawrence in 1856. During the raid, Lawrence's Free State Hotel was

³ Brent Franklin, “A Day in the Life of Early Atchison: 1855,” lostkansas.ccrs.digitalprojects.com, Lost Kansas Communities, published March 1, 2011, https://lostkansas.ccrs.digitalprojects.com/sites/lostkansas/files/private/_static/2022-12/LT_AT_Atchison_Franklin.pdf, PDF.

⁵ Brent Franklin, “A Day in the Life of Early Atchison: 1855,” lostkansas.ccrs.digitalprojects.com, Lost Kansas Communities, published March 1, 2011, https://lostkansas.ccrs.digitalprojects.com/sites/lostkansas/files/private/_static/2022-12/LT_AT_Atchison_Franklin.pdf, PDF.

⁶ Sheffield Ingalls, *History of Atchison County Kansas* (Lawrence, Kansas: Standard Publishing Company, 1916), Chapter VI, www.gutenberg.org/files/58216/58216-h/58216-h.htm#Page_63, Project Gutenberg ebook.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Brent Franklin, “A Day in the Life of Early Atchison: 1855,” lostkansas.ccrs.digitalprojects.com, Lost Kansas Communities, published March 1, 2011, https://lostkansas.ccrs.digitalprojects.com/sites/lostkansas/files/private/_static/2022-12/LT_AT_Atchison_Franklin.pdf, PDF.

⁹ Sheffield Ingalls, *History of Atchison County Kansas* (Lawrence, Kansas: Standard Publishing Company, 1916), Chapter VI, www.gutenberg.org/files/58216/58216-h/58216-h.htm#Page_63, Project Gutenberg ebook.

¹⁰ Zach Garrison, “Atchison, David Rice,” *Civil War on the Western Border*, Kansas City Public Library, Accessed January 7, 2025, <https://civilwaronthewesternborder.org/encyclopedia/atchison-david-rice>.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

destroyed and its printing presses put into the river. Six days later, Atchison own newspaper, *Freedom's Champion*, proudly asserted Atchison County's involvement in the Sack of Lawrence:

Atchison County furnished a larger number of men to assist in enforcing the laws in Lawrence than any other county in the Territory. This speaks well for the bravery and patriotism of our citizens. When their services are again required to subdue the traitors in Douglas County, they will be found ready and willing to enlist in the cause.¹¹

A lesser known though locally important story involves "traitor" abolitionist Pardee Butler, a preacher that came to Atchison County in the spring of 1855 to stake out land.¹² By that August, with a cabin and church set in place, he came to Atchison city to board a steamboat and collect his family from Illinois. However, when his views were discovered, Butler was forced onto a raft to be killed by the Missouri River and had an "R" for rogue painted on his forehead. Additionally, the flag hanging on his raft's makeshift flagpole read "'GREELEY TO THE RESCUE: I HAVE A NIGGER. THE REV. MR. BUTLER, AGENT FOR THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD'" in reference to abolitionist newspaper editor Horace Greeley. Butler was able to reach dry land and survive the ordeal by tearing down this makeshift flagpole and making an oar of it. The following year, Butler moved to Atchison County and suffered further abuses for his views. Today, he is regarded as a significant figure in Atchison's history and has a town in Atchison County, called Pardee, named after him.

While the stories above indicate an overwhelming pro-slavery force in Atchison, it's important to note that there was a prominent anti-slavery presence as well. As previously mentioned, Samuel C. Pomeroy was one of Atchison's notable free-staters. He was, in fact, the first mayor:

A temporary truce having been effected between the Southerners and the Free State men, it was agreed that a compromise in local affairs would be beneficial to the community. By the toss of a coin the Free State men won the mayor and three councilmen, and the pro-slavery men had four councilmen. Pomeroy was named by the Free State men mayor.¹³

Pomeroy, in addition to being Atchison's first mayor, is also politically important for his involvement in the purchase of *Squatter Sovereign*, a previously pro-slavery newspaper in Atchison, as well as for his appointment as one of Kansas' first senators.¹⁴ His success in becoming a senator is attributed to his connections with the Emigrant Aid Association, as they allowed him to effectively distribute aid to Kansas during the 1860 drought.

Other prominent anti-slavery men with ties to Atchison include Horace Greeley and Abraham Lincoln, though both men have admittedly looser ties than either Butler or Pomeroy. Lincoln's connection lies mostly in that on the day John Brown was hanged in December of 1859, he was staying at the Massasoit House in Atchison.¹⁵ During his visit, he tried out his now infamous Cooper Union speech before revealing it to the nation months later. Similarly, Horace Greeley's link to Atchison also comes from his stay at the Massasoit House.¹⁶

¹¹ "From Lawrence," *Freedom's Champion* (Atchison, Kansas), May 27, 1856.

¹² "Pardee Butler, 1816-1888," TheRestorationMovement.com, History of the Restoration Movement, Accessed January 7, 2025, https://therestorationmovement.com/_states/kansas/butler.pardee.htm

¹³ Sheffield Ingalls, History of Atchison County Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas: Standard Publishing Company, 1916), Chapter VI, www.gutenberg.org/files/58216/58216-h/58216-h.htm#Page_63, Project Gutenberg ebook.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Sheffield Ingalls, History of Atchison County Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas: Standard Publishing Company, 1916), Chapter VI, www.gutenberg.org/files/58216/58216-h/58216-h.htm#Page_63, Project Gutenberg ebook.

¹⁶ Ibid.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

Overall, in some ways, Atchison's history lends itself to the idea that it had an extreme and strong pro-slavery force; in others, it seems that the free-stater presence matched or even exceeded the prominence of pro-slavery. Either way, it's clear that as with Kansas and America as a whole, Atchison had a far more complicated political climate and relationship with slavery than what is immediately apparent. Additionally, regardless of the division and contradiction seen before the Civil War, both pro-slavery and anti-slavery forces appeared to meet a consensus during the war, with the entire city being notably unwelcoming towards those sympathetic to the Confederacy.¹⁷ Furthermore, Atchison County contributed about 1,000 men, over an eighth of the county population, to regiments in states such as Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska – all a part of the Union.

Economy

With its ideal steamboat landing on the Missouri River coupled with its position as a wagon supply stop, Atchison flourished to become a major commercial hub just as its founders anticipated.¹⁸ Early on, at least two steamboats and sometimes over double that docked in Atchison every day. Atchison was additionally an important point for wagon trains, with more wagons outfitted from Atchison than from any other place on the Missouri River.¹⁹ In the summer of 1858 alone, 24 trains made up of 775 California-bound wagons set off from Atchison, carrying between them 3,730,905 pounds of merchandise. Perhaps this is why Abraham Lincoln gave his friend this career advice: "If I went West, I think I would go to Kansas – to Leavenworth or Atchison. Both these are and will continue to be fine growing places."²⁰ As it turned out, Lincoln was right:

Atchison's economic status continued to grow as the Overland Stage Line and Salt Lake City-based freighters made it their eastern terminus. The U.S. Post Office made Atchison the headquarters and starting point for mail to the West. The stage coach line from Atchison to Placerville, Calif., was one of the longest and most important lines in the country.²¹

While Overland trade waned in the 1860s, Atchison's importance in transportation did not. Instead, Atchison redefined itself as a railroad center, with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad having its roots in Atchison.²² Then in 1938, with the construction of the Mo-Kan Free Bridge (now the Amelia Earheart Memorial Bridge) over the Missouri River, Atchison was ushered into the automobile era and its place as a regional trade center affirmed.

Later Years

Only after a hundred years as a city did Atchison show true decline. With Kansas City emerging as a dominating city and with the western region growing more and more self-reliant, Atchison's prominence lessened.²³ So much so, in fact, that when the Interstate Highways were built in the area during the late 1950s, Atchison was bypassed by 20 miles. Most telling of changing times, however, was perhaps that in 1958, Atchison had its last westbound passenger train leave the Union Depot.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ "Our History," cityofatchison.com, City of Atchison, Accessed January 7, 2025, <https://cityofatchison.com/residents/our-history/>

¹⁹ Sheffield Ingalls, History of Atchison County Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas: Standard Publishing Company, 1916), Chapter VI, www.gutenberg.org/files/58216/58216-h/58216-h.htm#Page_63, Project Gutenberg ebook.

²⁰ "Our History," cityofatchison.com, City of Atchison, Accessed January 7, 2025, <https://cityofatchison.com/residents/our-history/>

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ "Development History," Grow Atchison, Locally Atchison Main Street, published December 12, 2018, <https://growatchison.com/about-atchison/development-history/>

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

In the same year, Atchison became known as the “city that refused to die” after White Clay Creek destroyed much of downtown in two flash floods.²⁴ In the end, this disaster only shaped Atchison’s identity, with rebuilding from the floods “leading to the construction of the walkable downtown that today is the heart of the city as well as construction of 25 watershed retention ponds that provide idyllic countryside scenery and handy fishing holes throughout the community in addition to enhanced flood control.”²⁵

African American History of Atchison, KS

Please note: the first three paragraphs in the “African American History of Atchison, KS” section contain a description of local injustice, violence, abuse, death, and discrimination. The references are used to explain the intense, violent, and controversial past of the Atchison area, which is relevant to the local context.

Introduction

Though Atchison did contribute to the Union, it could still be hostile to Blacks. Notably, on January 4th, 1870, a white mob came to Atchison in the dead of night to kidnap a black prisoner, George Johnson, from the Atchison County jail.²⁶ While the Sheriff heard about such a move beforehand, his preparations to protect Johnson were lackluster in the face of the mob.²⁷ Upon the abduction, Johnson was dragged with a rope around his neck 500 yards to the Fifth street bridge with the mob reportedly shooting him several times before hanging the “helpless, wounded, bruised and mangled victim of their brutal fury from the railing.”²⁸ Two days later, the coroner found that Johnson had in fact not been shot at all; his body was, however, riddled with the tortures of being dragged across the ground and hung.²⁹

Something to be noted is that, while the lynching did occur in the city of Atchison, the mob mostly came from elsewhere – the Walnut and Mt. Pleasant Townships of the county. The people within the city, or at least those running Atchison’s Republican newspaper, *Atchison Champion*, were appalled:

This county was, we believed until last night, a civilized community, were [sic] the law ruled. But our city has been disgraced, our laws have been trampled under foot, justice has been outraged and defied, and humanity has been disgraced, by the presence and acts of a brutal, reckless and violent mob, who came in a great crowd stealthily and at dead of night, took one unarmed, helpless man from the officers of the law, shot him, dragged him through one of the streets with a rope, mangling and tearing him, and finally hanged him from a bridge, for an act that may have been an accident, or of a crime, an act that would have been punished in due course of law.³⁰

Regardless of who was involved, however, it’s a part of the city’s history. In 2021, over 150 years after Johnson’s death, Atchison recognized George Johnson and his lynching.³¹ In remembrance of him, a memorial walk was held, with community members walking the path his killers took from the site of the former jail to the Fifth Street bridge, collecting

²⁴ “Our History,” cityofatchison.com, City of Atchison, Accessed January 7, 2025, <https://cityofatchison.com/residents/our-history/>

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ “Historical Marker Dedicated in Atchison, Kansas,” eji.org, Equal Justice Initiative, published June 26, 2021, <https://eji.org/news/historical-marker-dedicated-in-atchison-kansas/>

²⁷ “Local Matters,” *Atchison Champion*, Jan. 5, 1870.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ “Local Matters,” *Atchison Champion*, Jan. 6, 1870.

³⁰ “Local Matters,” *Atchison Champion*, Jan. 5, 1870.

³¹ “Historical Marker Dedicated in Atchison, Kansas,” eji.org, Equal Justice Initiative, published June 26, 2021, <https://eji.org/news/historical-marker-dedicated-in-atchison-kansas/>

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

soil along the way. Afterwards, that soil was displayed at the Legacy Museum and locally in Atchison. A historical marker and sculpture were also dedicated to Johnson and his lynching, ensuring that he would never be forgotten.

Besides Johnson's historical marker and sculpture, the community has also been making other efforts to face Atchison's past and become a more united city. This is perhaps captured best in that Atchison's Division Street has recently been renamed Unity Street.³² While Division Street was not intended to be a racial divide, locals came to believe that it separated the Blacks north of Division from the whites south of Division. While research shows that Atchison was always far more integrated than this would suggest, the street's name nonetheless created a sense of division within Atchison. So, after decades of attempts, the name was finally changed in 2020.

In addition to facing Atchison's discriminatory past, there have also been efforts to recognize and preserve the history of Atchison's Black community. The subject of this nomination, Atchison's Black Business District at the 1100 block of N. 7th St., is a significant piece of this history as will be illustrated below.

Atchison and The Exodus

In 1860, Atchison County as a whole only had 36 Black residents; this jumped to 1,130 in 1870 and to 3,410 in 1880.³³ During this time, beliefs that the federal government were giving out acres of free land in Kansas, as well as the equipment and resources necessary to farm that land, had circulated through the Southern Black communities and contributed to the Exoduster Movement.³⁴ This movement is especially associated with the late 1870s and early 1880s, and had biblical undertones, with Blacks hoping to escape the oppression in the South and to find a "promised land" elsewhere. Given Kansas' reputation as a land of opportunity for Blacks, it experienced a flood of Black immigrants, evidenced by Atchison County's sharp rise in its Black population.

What Blacks found upon reaching Kansas, however, was not a "promised land." While leaders in the western states – including those in Kansas – sought vigorously to attract residents and celebrated the arrival of white immigrants, the Southern Blacks were not seen as desirable.³⁵ At the time, common assumptions from the period denied race as a factor, and the negative attitude towards Blacks was instead attributed to the conditions they were often in, with sickness and destitution pouring into Kansas with them. They were also seen as lazy, which led to further apprehension in communities faced with the responsibility to provide for these newcomers. In Atchison, for example, frustration about the Exodusters' conditions and work ethic was clear:

"They consisted principally of old men, women, and children," complained city attorney H.C. Solomon, "and were in a state of the most abject poverty, with no means, ragged, filthy, and dirty. They were taken charge of by the city authorities" ...

When asked about the attitude of Kansans, in general, toward the black settlers, Solomon spoke frankly: "I am positive that it is the universal sentiment, not only in the city of Atchison and the county, but in the northern part of the State of Kansas, where they have come in in large numbers, that they are a detriment to the State, because they are paupers; they do not produce anything, and the large portion of those who are able to work will not work."³⁶

³² Lisa Baniewicz, "Atchison Street with Racial Undertones is Changed from Division to Unity Street," *Leaven Catholic Newspaper*, July 31, 2020, <https://theleaven.org/atchison-street-with-racial-undertones-is-changed-from-division-to-unity-street/>

³³ 1880 Census: Volume I. Statistics of the Population of the United States

³⁴ Athearn, Robert G., *In Search of Canaan: Black Migration to Kansas, 1879-80* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2020), [Athearn 1978 2.pdf](#), PDF.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Athearn, Robert G., *In Search of Canaan: Black Migration to Kansas, 1879-80* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2020), 47, [Athearn 1978 2.pdf](#), PDF.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

In addition to Solomon, others were also frustrated or concerned with the Exoduster Movement:

“[T]he whites [of Atchison] wrestled with their consciences and loudly proclaimed that the question of race was not involved. Edward Mills, a local grain dealer and member of the city council, insisted that if these people were as hard-working and as capable of white immigrants, he would welcome them with open arms; it was not a question of color, but one of economic condition among the Exodusters.”³⁷

Furthermore, these responses were not confined to Atchison. In fact, it's because they were rejected by other cities and bounced around throughout Kansas that many Exodusters wound up in Atchison to begin with. In early 1879, for example, the Exodusters traveling to Kansas by the Missouri River stopped in St. Louis before generally heading to either Kansas City, Missouri or in Wyandotte, Kansas.³⁸ Most of the Exodusters' fares to either Wyandotte or Kansas City was paid for by St. Louis' charity organizations, as many of the Blacks falsely believed that there were free railroad tickets to Kansas from St. Louis and did not come with the means to pay themselves. While there was initial hesitation to send the immigrants to Kansas and to burden its cities, as St. Louis became increasingly overwhelmed by the influx of immigrants and its citizens increasingly unable and unwilling to provide for them all, funds were pulled together to send them into Kansas.

The city of Wyandotte was first regarded as a kind of haven to the newcomers, especially in comparison to the more hostile Kansas City, Missouri just across the river.³⁹ To its credit, Wyandotte, as with St. Louis before it and the cities after, attempted to provide for the Exodusters and did so with less resentment than other municipalities did – even as it was accused for not wanting the newcomers due to its Democratic ties.

However, after becoming overwhelmed by the influx of immigrants, Wyandotte barred further Black immigration.⁴⁰ Many of those bound for Wyandotte ended up in Kansas City, Missouri instead. Then, like St. Louis, both Wyandotte and Kansas City began sending the newcomers to other cities in Kansas, such as Ellis and Manhattan. The mayor of Wyandotte also pushed those in St. Louis to send the immigrants to Leavenworth and Topeka instead of to Wyandotte. Soon after the city began receiving the immigrants, Leavenworth pulled funds together to send them to Atchison instead. Similar to Wyandotte, Atchison quickly passed legislation in an attempt to bar the Exodusters from entering the city, with Atchison restricting any and all transportation companies from bringing “paupers” to the city.⁴¹ Though Atchison was accused of having this reaction due to its Democratic political make-up, the rejection of the exodus was not confined to Democrats but crossed party lines. This is evident in that both Atchison's Democratic newspaper, *The Patriot*, and its Republican newspaper, *Atchison Champion*, showed signs of skepticism towards the Black migration to Kansas:

[A]s the *Atchison Daily Champion* pointed out, Kansas was a new state, one that needed capital, not labor, and it was hoped that the dribble of impoverished blacks then entering the state would not increase. The paper praised the efforts of Wyandotte, condemned the southerners roundly for their treatment of the former slaves, and called upon Congress to discourage a major movement of these unhappy people out of the South...⁴²

³⁷ Ibid., p. 48.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid..

⁴² Athearn, Robert G., *In Search of Canaan: Black Migration to Kansas, 1879-80* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2020), 47, [Athearn 1978 2.pdf](#), PDF.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

H. C. Park, editor of the Democratic *Daily Patriot*, represented the more inflexible view. When asked what he thought of the movement, he said that he did not think that there was a man, woman, or child in Atchison who wanted it. He did not go out of his way to deny race prejudice, but he argued that beyond this, there simply was little or no demand for farm labor in the neighborhood.⁴³

Additionally, neither the Black nor the white population embraced the Exodusters.⁴⁴ This was not unique to Atchison but could be seen throughout Kansas. However, the Black community's lack of engagement with the Exodusters was still frustrating and surprising to others within the city:

“Defenders of Atchison's civic spirit were annoyed by suggestions that too little had been done for the black transients. They pointed the finger at members of that race who had lived in and around the city for some time and who now showed very little disposition to help their troubled brothers. ‘We thought that perhaps it would be as well to have the colored people, who were in large numbers there [at Atchison], take charge of them,’ the city attorney later told a congressional committee. ‘They at first refused to have anything to do with them, so the mayor and city council met in special meeting and appointed a committee of citizens to take charge of them. The colored people who resided in the town were finally induced to open their churches, and they were put in there temporarily, and provided for by the city.’”⁴⁵

Altogether, the Exoduster Movement into Kansas was oftentimes regarded warily. Furthermore, in Atchison, the people – whether Black, white, Republican, or Democrat – generally did not want the Exodusters. This was reflected well in Atchison's aforementioned restrictive policies on immigration into the city, as well as in its decision to export the Exodusters to other cities. The latter decision is perhaps why there was a drop in Atchison's Black population from the 1880 to 1890 census, with the 1890 census counting only 3,010 Blacks in comparison to the 3,410 counted in the 1880 census.⁴⁶

Settlement Pattern

As previously mentioned, there are local beliefs that Division St. historically acted as a dividing line between the Blacks in the north and the whites in the south. But Division St. was never meant to act as a racial divide, but simply a divide between two plats of land: the original plat on the south side and the north addition on the north side.⁴⁷

Going back to the time of the exodus, the number of Blacks living on the south side of Division was over triple that living on the north side in 1880.⁴⁸ Old Atchison, an area bordered on the north by Division St. and on the south by Utah Ave., had the largest number of Blacks with 272 listed in the 1880 City Directory. North Atchison, north of Division St., followed far behind with only 113 Blacks; South Atchison, the area south of Utah Ave., came in last with 112 Blacks. Altogether, this means that out of 497 Blacks listed in the 1880 City Directory, 384 lived on the south side of Division versus only 113 on the north side of Division. While city directories did not account for everybody and there were likely differences between the true proportions of Blacks living north and south of Division than was reported, this shows considerable spread regardless. In contrast to 1880, by the time Atchison's redlined map was created in the early- to mid-

⁴³ Ibid., p. 48.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. “Bulletin 208: Population by Color, Sex, and General Nativity. Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas.” September 30, 1892.

⁴⁷ Lauren Williams, “Division Street History May Surprise,” *MSC News*, Oct. 4, 2016, <https://www.mscnews.net/news/?nk=60242>

⁴⁸ Andrew Werring, “The African-American Migration into Atchison” (essay, African American-Black History collection of Atchison County Historical Society, 2001).

Atchison's Black Business District

Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas

County and State

20th century, it does appear that Division St. was more of a dividing line between Blacks and whites than it had been previously.⁴⁹

“Redlined maps” were color coded maps of cities created by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and Home Owner’s Loan Corporation (HOLC) during the Great Depression, with each of the four colors used – green, blue, yellow, and red – corresponding to mortgage security.⁵⁰ Green-coded neighborhoods were rated “Best Residential” and posed minimal investment risks; blue-coded neighborhoods were rated “Good Residential” and seen as still desirable; yellow-coded neighborhoods were rated “Declining Residential” and viewed as concerning; and red-coded neighborhoods were rated “Hazardous” and posed the highest risk of investment. In determining grading, race was considered. “Best Residential” areas typically housed all-white U.S. born citizens in either the upper- or middle-class, while “Good Residential” areas were almost all-white, and U.S. born. By contrast, it was typical for European immigrant and working-class neighborhoods near Black areas to be labeled as “Declining Residential,” and the Black areas themselves as “Hazardous.” In Atchison, all north of Division was coded yellow for ‘Declining Residential,’ suggesting that there was a greater presence of low-income individuals and minority groups – including Blacks – than the blue- and green-coded areas directly south.

However, even though Division St. did act as a clear-cut line between “Declining Residential” and higher ratings, it still did not act as a clear-cut line between Blacks and whites.⁵¹ Most areas south of Utah Ave. were in fact given a rating lower than the northernmost part of the city, with it being considered “Hazardous Residential” and colored red; only a small part of South Atchison was given a better rating and was curiously enough given the highest rating of “Best Residential.” Between these areas, and an extremely small part of Old Atchison, 55% of the city was deemed either “Declining” or “Hazardous.”

Besides a small fraction of South Atchison, the two desirable ratings, “Good” and “Best,” were solely found in the area sandwiched between Division St. to the north and Utah Ave. to the south, which included Old Atchison, West Atchison, and Parker’s Addition.⁵² So, while there were higher concentrations of Blacks in some areas of the city – including north of Division - and lower concentrations in others as evidenced by the map, there was still far more complexity than believed.

Another resource relevant to this time period, the 1934 City Directory, suggests more complexity than even the map.⁵³ Something that is unfortunate about this resource is that it was created during the Great Depression, and the instability that characterized this time in history made it hard to keep track of both businesses and people. However, it is still an invaluable resource that shows how much spread there really was at this time.

One of the most striking differences between Atchison’s redlined map and the 1934 City Directory is that the latter includes demographics on Atchison’s commercial areas whereas the former did not evaluate these areas. Importantly, this includes parts of Commercial St. in Old Atchison that, in 1934, had 12 residents, the Taborine Lodge Hall, the Morning Star Lodge Hall, and 6 businesses – Freeman's Sandwich Shop, Gap’s Cafe, Gaines Cafe, a barber shop, a physician, and

⁴⁹“Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America: Atchison, Kansas,” Digital Scholarship Lab, Richmond University, Accessed January 9, 2025, <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/map/KS/Atchison/areas#mapview=full&loc=14/39.5613/-95.1285>.

⁵⁰ Appleton, Sarah. “MapMaker: Redlining in the United States.” National Geographic Society: December 17, 2024. <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/mapmaker-redlining-united-states/>

⁵¹ “Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America: Atchison, Kansas,” Digital Scholarship Lab, Richmond University, Accessed January 9, 2025, <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/map/KS/Atchison/areas#mapview=full&loc=14/39.5613/-95.1285>.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Paul Tonsing and Junior, *City Directory of Heads of Families and Business, Professional, Religious and Educational Institutions Arranged Alphabetically, Also Numerically by Streets: Atchison, Kansas, Fall of 1934* (Atchison, Kansas: Paul Tonsing and Junior, 1934).

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

a smokehouse – all of which were noted as Black.⁵⁴ This shows that Blacks were present in Old Atchison more so than the map would suggest, and more than that, they had even created a community for themselves on Commercial St., Atchison's "principal" street according to the 1934 City Directory.

Something else to note is that the Winrow brothers, Samuel and Edward Winrow, lived south of Division in Old Atchison.⁵⁵ These men were prominent businessmen in Atchison's Black community, and as will be discussed later, were especially significant to Atchison's Black Business District. The house they shared with Ira J. Monroe, another Black businessman, at 920 N. 9th St., was in a "Good Residential" area. This is somewhat surprising given that in other parts of the nation, neighborhoods with a few Black families – even respected Black families like the Winrows – were labeled as "Hazardous" for their presence. For example, consider this area in Tacoma, Washington:

Though otherwise identical to the surrounding B-graded neighborhood of which it was a part, the area was assigned a D grade because "Three highly respected Negro families own homes and live in the middle block of the area... While very much above the average of their race, it is quite generally recognized by Realtors that their presence seriously detracts from the desirability of their immediate neighborhood."⁵⁶

Furthermore, the "Good Residential" rating becomes even more surprising when considering that in all, the 1934 City Directory listed 13 Black residents for N. Ninth St. in Old Atchison, as well as the J. T. Miles Funeral Home, a Black owned business.

Additionally, another surprising aspect about the 1934 City Directory in light of the map's ratings and local beliefs is that Lincoln School, one of Atchison's Black schools, was in a blue-coded or "Good Residential" area in Old Atchison.⁵⁷ What's particularly important about the school's location is that, though it was south of Division, it was just across the street from North Atchison and was a contributing factor in Blacks moving towards this area.⁵⁸ Prior to the 1920s, it was South Atchison that had a greater African American population. But by the 1930s, a shift to North Atchison became more prominent after the 1921 construction of the Lincoln School, as well as the construction of a gymnasium in 1937. Even then, however, Division St. did not segregate Blacks from whites and never came to in the way it's been suggested. So, while there is truth to the local beliefs, it is not the whole truth.

The Winrow Brothers – Samuel and Edward

Please note: the "Winrow Brothers – Samuel and Edward" section contains stories of abuse, mistreatment, and mental health. The descriptions and dated terminology appear when referencing or citing primary source material. The references are used to explain the complicated past of the Winrow family, which is relevant to the context.

At one point, Atchison's Black Business District was bursting with businesses run by Samuel and James "Edward" Winrow. The first was a grocery store that Edward opened in 1919, and for decades after, there was one – if not multiple –

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Robert K. Nelson, "Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America: Introduction," Digital Scholarship Lab, Richmond University, Accessed January 9, 2025, <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/introduction>.

⁵⁷ Paul Tonsing and Junior, *City Directory of Heads of Families and Business, Professional, Religious and Educational Institutions Arranged Alphabetically, Also Numerically by Streets: Atchison, Kansas, Fall of 1934* (Atchison, Kansas: Paul Tonsing and Junior, 1934).

⁵⁸ Lauren Williams, "Division Street History May Surprise," *MSC News*, Oct. 4, 2016, <https://www.msnews.net/news/?nk=60242>

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

properties owned by the Winrows here.⁵⁹ Partly for their contributions to Atchison's Black Business District, Samuel and Edward were significant figures in Atchison's Black community and the Black community as a whole, with the *Topeka Plaindealer* recognizing them both as good businessmen, and more generally, as good men in 1925:

Another big successful firm is the Winrow Brothers, J.E. and S.E., located at 1112 N. 7th St. These young men started in business with no experience, just a few years ago and now carry several thousand dollars worth of stock and are doing several thousand dollars worth of business a month. The building they now own, they first rented. They own an automobile and a truck for delivery purposes, and are highly respected by the citizens of Atchison and his community for their honesty and square dealings with their customers. They own other rental properties besides their home. They were born and reared in Atchison. They are members of a church and believe in christianity and progressiveness of mankind. They are surrounded by several white groceries and several have tried to break into their trade, but have fallen by the wayside and gone to unknown territory.⁶⁰

From the excerpt above, it's clear that Samuel and Edward were objects of pride and inspiration to many. This idea is even further clarified in that the *Topeka Plaindealer* later referred to them as "race leaders."⁶¹

The deep respect allotted to these "race leaders" was well-earned. Not only were they highly successful businessmen, with them owning several properties and the Winrow Bros Grocery doing fifty thousand dollars' worth of business in 1929,⁶² but the Winrow brothers were also involved in their community. Edward Winrow, for example, was the vice chairman for "The Atchison Independent Negro Political Club", as well as *the* chairman for its Publicity Committee.⁶³ This club was formed in the early 1920s with the purpose of strengthening Atchison's Black voters, and it gained over one-hundred members in its beginnings. While the club's high membership was an accomplishment in itself, it was especially so when considering how reliant the model was on participation and unity, with the club picking out candidates they liked and did not like before voting as an entire group for or against these candidates. The *Topeka Plaindealer* noted the club as "a step in politics that should have the endorsement of every thinking negro in the State."⁶⁴

Furthermore, both Edward and Samuel were involved in the Morning Star Lodge, one of Atchison's Black masonic lodges, as well as the Ebenezer Baptist church. Edward even appeared as a manager with the Ebenezer Baptist church under this advertisement:

MISS GEORGIA HARVEY, the most phenomenal contralto of the race, will appear in song recital, at EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, FRIDAY NIGHT, JULY 8, 1921. Miss Harvey has traveled fifteen years abroad in Europe, Asia, and recently returned to America by way of Japan. You will miss a treat if you fail to hear her.⁶⁵

Samuel's connections with the Ebenezer Baptist church comes in the fact that he had been one of its members for over 50 years at the time of his death in 1977 and had served as both an officer and a beacon.⁶⁶ He was also on the organization committee for the construction of the Ebenezer Baptist church building at 826 Riley St., built between the years 1911 and

⁵⁹ *Atchison Daily Globe*, (Atchison, Kansas), May 22, 1966.

⁶⁰ *Topeka Plaindealer*, (Topeka, Kansas) June 19, 1925.

⁶¹ "Winrow Bros. Grocers: Atchison," *Topeka Plaindealer*, June 7, 1929.

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ "Atchison Colored Organizations Are Now Waking Up. Every Country in the Big State Should Take Same Step," *Topeka Plaindealer*, April 11, 1924.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ "Ebenezer Baptist Church" Ad, *Atchison Daily Globe*, July 8, 1921.

⁶⁶ "S.E. Winrow Dies; Rites on Monday," *Atchison Daily Globe [2nd]*, Nov. 4, 1977.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

1923; since 2005, it's been on the National Register.⁶⁷ As for the Morning Star Lodge, Samuel was a member there for over 50 years before his death too.

While it was these accomplishments and connections that made the Winrow brothers such significant figures, it would be a disservice not to also discuss their hardships. Notably, on June 23rd, 1896, their father – James Winrow – was declared insane. This was only three days after his first symptoms of instability began appearing, and the *Atchison Daily Globe* went so far to say that they manifested so suddenly that he was of “good mental balance” on the morning of June 20th, but insane by evening.⁶⁸ And the *Atchison Daily Globe* was not alone in its sentiments. On June 25th, the *Atchison Champion* wrote in bafflement that James had “always been considered a very intelligent and industrious colored man.”⁶⁹ Understanding James’ rapid deterioration was a game of guesswork, but his newfound condition was at least partially attributed to his working under the hot sun all day with his sons.⁷⁰ Since James and his wife had five sons, it's unclear which were included, but it's probable that Samuel and Edward were among them since they were the oldest at 10-11 and 12-13 respectively.⁷¹

Regardless of which sons were involved, when they were done working, James had them hitch and unhitch their horse over and over on their way to town.⁷² Upon arriving at 4 o'clock in the morning, he told a priest at St. Benedict's church that he was going to “destroy the earth.” He reportedly also tried to preach before finally going home, where he abused the boys’ mother, Lucinda.⁷³ By that afternoon, he was arrested.

In the days after, James appeared to be fixated on America's great financial question of the day: should the gold standard persist, or should the dollar be backed by both gold and silver? This was a highly debated issue in 1896, and many had their eyes on the “gold standard question.”⁷⁴ According to the *Atchison Daily Globe*, James’ “hobby” – or more accurately, hope – was “to build a golden castle and pay all the workmen \$10 a day in gold.”⁷⁵ The *Atchison Champion*, too, covered James’ focus on gold:

Those who know him say he was an enthusiastic goldbug and was constantly arguing for his view of the great question of the day. He told the officers yesterday that he was going to build a wall of gold five stories high around Atchison and then build an immense temple of gold in the center of the city where the people might assemble and talk on the monetary question to their heart's content.⁷⁶

Only a month after these events, James died at a Topeka asylum.⁷⁷ He'd been degrading quickly both mentally and physically, with James refusing food, raving, and acting extremely violent until his death on July 30th.⁷⁸ His wife, Lucinda, and six young children survived him, of which Edward was the oldest.⁷⁹

⁶⁷ Kathy L. Morgan, “Ebenezer Baptist Church” (National Registration of Historic Places Registration Form, 2005), Accessed January 9, 2025, https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/NRHP/05001343_text.

⁶⁸ “City News: A Collection of Important Paragraphs for Your Consideration,” *Atchison Daily Globe*, June 23, 1896.

⁶⁹ “Crazy on Finance,” *Atchison Champion*, June 25, 1896.

⁷⁰ “City News: A Collection of Important Paragraphs for Your Consideration,” *Atchison Daily Globe*, June 23, 1896.

⁷¹ Atchison Public Library Archives. Winrow Family Tree.

⁷² “City News: A Collection of Important Paragraphs for Your Consideration,” *Atchison Daily Globe*, June 23, 1896.

⁷³ “Crazy on Finance,” *Atchison Champion*, June 25, 1896.

⁷⁴ “Election of 1896: It Came Down to a Question of Money,” [learningenglish.voanews.com](https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/a-23-2005-12-07-voa2-83124647/124292.html), VOA Learning English, Dec. 7, 2005, <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/a-23-2005-12-07-voa2-83124647/124292.html>

⁷⁵ “City News: A Collection of Important Paragraphs for Your Consideration,” *Atchison Daily Globe*, June 22, 1896.

⁷⁶ “Crazy on Finance,” *Atchison Champion*, June 25, 1896.

⁷⁷ “Winrow Dead,” *Atchison Champion*, July 31, 1896.

⁷⁸ *Atchison Daily Globe*, July 14, 1896.

⁷⁹ Atchison Public Library Archives. Winrow Family Tree.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

Almost twenty years after their father died, Samuel and Edward's brother, William or "Green" Winrow, also experienced mental instability. His degradation wasn't as fast or as severe as James', with it taking Green several months to be formally declared and with him living for another 60 years afterwards.^{80,81} However, it too was sudden. In May of 1914, an advertisement for Green's blacksmith shop, Winrow Bros., at 123 S. 8th St., appeared in the *Atchison Daily Globe*.⁸² By May of 1915, he suddenly closed it due to his belief that the Mayor and Chief of Police were trying to kill him.⁸³ He also accused both of threatening to take his tongue.

Green experienced a mental imbalance earlier in the year, too, but was reported better on April 22nd while Edward was visiting him from Des Moines, Iowa.⁸⁴ This was obviously short-lived, however, as he closed shop shortly after. Though his family members tried to care for him, Green was like James in that he could be violent. So, he was eventually adjudged insane in August and admitted to an asylum.⁸⁵ By September, Green was well enough that he wrote to his mother from the Topeka asylum with news of improvement and to the Ebenezer Baptist church.⁸⁶ In February the following year, however, the *Atchison Champion* shared that Green "does not improve and little hope is entertained for his recovery."⁸⁷

Atchison's Black Business District

As previously mentioned, Atchison's Black Business District is located at the 1100 block of N. 7th St. The Winrows' first business at this block was Winrow Bros., a grocery. It began appearing in newspapers in 1921, with *Atchison Daily Globe* listing it as "Winrow Grocery Co., groceries Atchison city poor" in the August 11, 1921, issue.⁸⁸ However, it is said to have begun in 1919, with the excerpt below highlighting the Winrow brothers' early beginnings in Atchison's Black Business District:

Mr. [Edward] Winrow and his brother, Samuel, began their enterprises in 1919 with a grocery store at 1102 North Seventh street, and expanded their interests until they owned the entire block, and other properties. They made deliveries with a horse and wagon during the early days of their business.⁸⁹

Importantly, though, there does appear to be some contradiction on whether or not both Samuel and Edward owned the grocery initially as is indicated above. Additionally, other sources suggest that the grocery began at 1112 N. 7th St. and moved to 1102 N. 7th St. later. In the 1923 City Directory, for example, while Samuel does appear to be working with Edward, the business is listed only as "Winrow Edw 1112 n 7th" under "Grocers – Retail"; furthermore, when indicating ownership, the directory lists Edward and not Samuel.⁹⁰ This follows with how the newspapers reported the grocery in 1921, with it appearing as "Winrow Grocery Co." and being attributed to Edward alone as opposed to it being called "Winrow Bros" with Samuel also listed for the business.^{91,92} However, also in 1921, the newspaper reported a lost pup, with the contact simply named "Winrow Bros.," presumably at 1112 N. 7th St. because the phone number given, 536, was

⁸⁰ "Insane Patients Suffering with Queer Delusions," *Atchison Champion*, Aug. 2, 1915.

⁸¹ "Green Winrow Dies at 86," *Atchison Daily Globe* [2nd], Apr. 16, 1975.

⁸² "Up-to-Date Atchison Business Directory: Blacksmiths: Winrow Bros.," *Atchison Daily Globe*, May 1, 1914.

⁸³ "Insane Patients Suffering with Queer Delusions," *Atchison Champion*, Aug. 2, 1915.

⁸⁴ "Among the Colored People," *Atchison Champion*, Apr. 22, 1915.

⁸⁵ "Insane Patients Suffering with Queer Delusions," *Atchison Champion*, Aug. 2, 1915.

⁸⁶ "Among the Colored People," *Atchison Champion*, Sep. 14, 1915.

⁸⁷ "Among the Colored People," *Atchison Champion*, Feb. 24, 1916.

⁸⁸ "July Bills Paid by County: Report of the Commissioners of Atchison County," *Atchison Daily Globe*, Aug. 11, 1921.

⁸⁹ *Atchison Daily Globe*, May 22, 1966.

⁹⁰ Dunham Directory Co., *City Directory: Atchison, Kansas, 1923* (Springfield, Mo.: Dunham Directory Company, 1923).

⁹¹ "July Bills Paid by County: Report of the Commissioners of Atchison County," *Atchison Daily Globe*, Aug. 11, 1921.

⁹² "Report of Commissioners of Atchison County," *Atchison Daily Globe*, Sep. 16, 1921.

Atchison's Black Business District

Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas

County and State

the same one attributed to Edward at 1112 N. 7th St. in a 1920 ad.^{93,94} Due to this, it's difficult to ascertain if both Samuel and Edward owned the grocery in its beginnings, or if that came later. Regardless, in the 1924 City Directory, "Winrow Bros." appears as definitively owned by both Samuel and Edward.⁹⁵

To further discuss the 1923 and 1924 city directories, there are peculiarly no other businesses but the grocery listed at the 1100 block at this time.^{96,97} While this is also true for the 1926, 1928, and 1934 City Directories, the grocery store was at least the only thing listed at 1112 N. 7th St. in these years – by contrast, in 1923 and 1924, the grocery shared its building with a resident, Isabelle Landers.^{98,99,100}

Given the lack of businesses, it would seem that the 1100 block was purely residential before the Winrows. But this is not true. There were in fact several businesses at 1112 N. 7th St. that preceded Winrow Bros. The J.E. Holbrooks grocery, for example, appeared in Atchison's Black newspaper *Atchison Blade* in the late 1890s.¹⁰¹ Another grocery, C. A. Cochran, was also listed at 1112 N. 7th in the early 1900s.¹⁰² Neither one of these, though, was Black owned.¹⁰³

By 1917, however, 1112 N. 7th St. was listed as the residence of a Black grocer and his wife, John and Isabelle Landers, who ran a grocery store out of 1110 n 7th St. before his death in July of 1917.^{104,105} Around the same time, there was a Baxter and Mitchum confectionary run by Mr. Marion Baxter and Mrs. Rolla Mitchum, at 1118 N. 7th St., which moved to 1112 N. 7th St. before being destroyed by a fire in 1918.^{106,107}

This story continues when the Winrows finally appear the following year, though the newspapers curiously didn't record this development until 1920 – and only through a wanted ad for a horse: "WANTED - To buy horse, must be perfectly sound. Ed Winrow, 1112 North Seventh. Phone 536."¹⁰⁸ Perhaps the horse was meant for the grocery's deliveries, but this isn't specified and - as discussed above - the grocery itself isn't even mentioned until 1921. What is prevalent at 1112 N. 7th St. throughout 1919, however, are sales of a rather eclectic array of items. In February, for example, the *Atchison Daily Globe* printed this ad: "FOR SALE – Paper rack, 2 store counters, 60 gallon oil can, meat block, store scales. 1112N. 7th St."¹⁰⁹ By March, "[a] good large barn, with loft and double doors" was being sold there, and in April, "[t]wo feather beds and one new down bed."^{110,111} The last ad was for a "[l]arge davenport, small cookstove, almost new dresser, tables, dishes, etc." in November.¹¹² Perhaps the Winrows were clearing house for their store, or Isabelle was selling her things

⁹³ "Too Late to Classify," *Atchison Daily Globe*, Apr. 2, 1920.

⁹⁴ "Too Late to Classify," *Atchison Daily Globe*, Feb. 26, 1921.

⁹⁵ Dunham Directory Co., *Dunham's Directory: Atchison, Kansas, 1924* (Springfield Mo.: Dunham Directory Company, 1924).

⁹⁶ Dunham Directory Co., *City Directory: Atchison, Kansas, 1923* (Springfield, Mo.: Dunham Directory Company, 1923).

⁹⁷ Dunham Directory Co., *Dunham's Directory: Atchison, Kansas, 1924* (Springfield Mo.: Dunham Directory Company, 1924).

⁹⁸ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison City Directory, 1926* (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1926).

⁹⁹ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Kansas) City Directory, 1928, Including Atchison County* (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1928).

¹⁰⁰ Paul Tonsing and Junior, *City Directory of Heads of Families and Business, Professional, Religious and Educational Institutions Arranged Alphabetically, Also Numerically by Streets: Atchison, Kansas, Fall of 1934* (Atchison, Kansas: Paul Tonsing and Junior, 1934).

¹⁰¹ "Local News," *Atchison Blade*, Dec. 24, 1897.

¹⁰² "Good as Gold," *Atchison Daily Globe*, Sep. 9, 1904.

¹⁰³ Dunham Directory Co., *City Directory: Atchison, Kansas, 1906* (Springfield, Mo.: Dunham Directory Company, 1906).

¹⁰⁴ Dunham Directory Co., *City Directory: Atchison, Kansas, 1917* (Springfield, Mo.: Dunham Directory Company, 1917).

¹⁰⁵ "Tuesday," *Atchison Weekly Globe*, July 26, 1917.

¹⁰⁶ Dunham Directory Co., *City Directory: Atchison, Kansas, 1917* (Springfield, Mo.: Dunham Directory Company, 1917).

¹⁰⁷ "City Items: Collection of News Paragraphs and Advertisements," *Atchison Daily Globe*, Feb. 12, 1918.

¹⁰⁸ "Too Late to Classify," *Atchison Daily Globe*, Apr. 2, 1920.

¹⁰⁹ "Want Ads: Too Late to Classify," *Atchison Daily Globe*, Feb. 22, 1919.

¹¹⁰ "Too Late to Classify," *Atchison Daily Globe*, Mar. 21, 1919.

¹¹¹ "Too Late to Classify," *Atchison Daily Globe*, Apr. 12, 1919.

¹¹² "Want Ads: Too Late to Classify," *Atchison Daily Globe*, Nov. 15, 1919.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

after John's death, or 1112 N. 7th St. became the site of a marketplace. Whatever the case, there was clearly more going on than just the grocery.

Thus, with this history of business and sales, it's strange then that there were no other businesses mentioned at the 1100 block besides the Winrow Bros. grocery in the 1923, 1924, 1926, 1928, or the 1934 city directories. It's possible that there were others and they just weren't listed, but as of yet, nothing has been found to indicate that this is the case. Regardless, while it's true that the 1100 block had businesses decades before the Winrow Bros grocery, Samuel and Edward Winrow were the people that truly shaped Atchison's Black Business District. This is largely because they opened many businesses at the 1100 block over the years and were catalysts in other businesses finding their places there.

The importance of the Winrows' presence can be seen in the 1941 City Directory, with 3 out of 4 businesses listed at the 1100 block being owned by the Winrows.¹¹³ This included the Winrow Bros Grocery at 1102-1104 N. 7th St.; the Winrow Bros restaurant at 1102 ½ N. 7th St.; and the Winrow Hall at 1114 N. 7th St. Also located at 1114 N. 7th St. was a barber, George E. Scott, who had previously run a barber shop at 107 N. 6th St.

By 1950, the restaurant had instead become noted as a tavern and the Winrows had added another business - the Winrow Bros Retail Store (liquor) at 1116 N. 7th St.¹¹⁴ In 1957, the Winrow Tavern and the Rock Crushers Club were both listed at 1102 ½ N. 7th St, and the Winrow Hall had changed to the Ross Tavern.¹¹⁵ Through it all, barber George E. Scott had remained at 1114 N. 7th St. This changed, as well as many other things, by 1959, with 1114 N. 7th St. becoming vacant and most of the businesses up to that point disappearing.¹¹⁶

Notably, the Winrow Bros Grocery – a staple for decades – got replaced by a Tyler and Wilson Grocery at 1102 N. 7th St. Furthermore, the Winrow Tavern and Ross Tavern were both gone, replaced by a Chetchen Taven at 1114 ½ N. St. The Winrow Bros Retail Store remained, but it was the only business not to change or disappear in just that two-year span of time. Not only are rapid differences reflected in this, but also the rapid decline of Atchison's Black Business District, with the Winrow Bros Grocery, Winrow Tavern, Rock Crushers Club, Ross Tavern, barber George E. Scott, and the Winrow Bros retail store being reduced to only the Tyler and Wilson Grocery, Chetchen Tavern, and the Winrow Bros Retail Store. By 1963, the only two businesses still at the 1100 block were The Rock Inn tavern and the Winrow Bros Retail Store.¹¹⁷

Another sign of decline came in the form of vacant buildings. From the 1920s to 1959, no vacancies were recorded at the 1100 block – not even during the Great Depression.¹¹⁸ But in 1959, there were two, with one of them at 1114 N. 7th St., and the other at 1118 N. 7th St.; in both 1961 and 1963, this fell to one vacancy at 1118 N. 7th St.^{119,120}

¹¹³ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Atchison County, Kans.) City Directory, 1941, Including Atchison County* (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1941).

¹¹⁴ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Atchison County, Kans.) City Directory, 1950, Including Atchison County* (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1950).

¹¹⁵ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Atchison County, Kan.) City Directory, 1957, Including Atchison County* (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1957).

¹¹⁶ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Atchison County, Kan.) City Directory, 1959, Including Atchison County* (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1959).

¹¹⁷ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Atchison County, Kan.) City Directory, 1963, Including Atchison County* (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1963).

¹¹⁸ Dunham Directory Co., *City Directory: Atchison, Kansas*, (Springfield, Mo.: Dunham Directory Company, 1923, 1924).; R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Kansas) City Directory*, (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1926, 1928, 1941, 1947, 1950, 1957, 1959).; Paul Tonsing and Junior, *City Directory of Heads of Families and Business, Professional, Religious and Educational Institutions Arranged Alphabetically, Also Numerically by Streets: Atchison, Kansas, Fall of 1934* (Atchison, Kansas: Paul Tonsing and Junior, 1934).

¹¹⁹ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Atchison County, Kan.) City Directory, 1961, Including Atchison County* (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1961).

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

However, despite its hardships, Atchison's Black Business District persevered for many years after. In 1971, for example, while the 1100 block hosted two vacancies and it was undoubtedly not as lively as it once was, it still boasted both three businesses and three residences.¹²¹ Edward Briggs' Pool Room and The Rock Inn tavern worked out of 1112 N. 7th St., and Thompson's Liquor Store out of 1116 just a couple doors down.

Just four years later, a perhaps even more pronounced recession came than was seen in 1959, but Atchison's Black Business District still clung on. That year, out of the eight addresses reported, five were vacancies and only one a residence; the businesses, however, remained the same.¹²² Then in 1978, the 1100 block – what had once been predominantly residential – hosted no residences, but no vacancies either.¹²³ Unfortunately, this did not speak to its success, but rather to its reduction in size, with the entire block being reduced to four buildings: 1112 N. 7th St., with Briggs' Pool Room and The Rock Inn tavern both still there; 1114, by then housing Roberta's Beauty Shop; 1116 still home to Thompson's Liquor Store; and 1127 N. 7th St. having come under construction.

Presumably, 1127 being “under construction” in 1978 meant it was being taken down, as it was gone completely by 1981.¹²⁴ Only the Briggs' Pool Room and The Rock Inn at 1112 remained, as both 1114 and 1116 were vacant at this time. By 1985, the 1100 block had bounced back a little, with it featuring Bratton's Pool Room and The Rock Inn at 1112 and 1112 ½ respectively as well as Cynthia's Ice Cream Store at 1116.¹²⁵ The 1990 City Directory captured roughly the same thing: The Pool Hall at 1112, The Rock Inn at 1112 ½, Bratton's Candy Store at 1116, and a vacancy at 1114.¹²⁶

Today, there are only three buildings left in Atchison's Black Business District and they are all out of use, though there are plans to renovate them.

Statement of Archaeology

The Winrow Brothers Property, also known as Atchison's Black Business District, is located in north Atchison in an area that has not been disturbed by modern development. The property is located in a valley within the uplands and within the floodplain Branch of White Clay Creek, a defunct tributary of the Missouri River. A review of the soils as provided by the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service website indicates a deeply buried A-horizon. The Kansas Historical Society Archeological Inventory Map Viewer's archeology potential layer also suggests a moderate to high potential for buried precontact archeological deposits to be identified on the property. A review of the 1855 GLO survey maps depict two roads within less than one mile from the property. To the south, the road is labeled “Road to Atchison” and to the east “Road Atchison to Doniphan.” The only available historic plat map to depict the property is the 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. The map for lots 15-17 shows a frame grocery store, two dwellings, and two outbuildings. Today, the dwellings and the outbuildings are no longer present and appear to have been razed prior to 1982 as seen in historic aerials. Lastly, there is one archeological site, 14AT498, located within one mile of the property. This site is recorded as a historic site consisting of a limestone wall that was discovered during the trenching for utility

¹²⁰ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Atchison County, Kan.) City Directory, 1963, Including Atchison County* (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1963).

¹²¹ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Atchison County, Kan.) City Directory*, (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1971).

¹²² R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Atchison County, Kan.) City Directory*, (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1975).

¹²³ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Atchison County, Kan.) City Directory*, (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1978).

¹²⁴ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison City Directory, 1981, Including Atchison County Taxpayers* (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1981).

¹²⁵ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison City Directory, 1985, Including Atchison County Taxpayers* (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1985).

¹²⁶ R. L. Polk and Co., *Polk's Atchison City Directory, 1990* (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1990).

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

relocation for a road project. This property consists of a moderate to high potential to contain precontact and historic archeological deposits. There is a high potential for historic archeological materials given the history of the property.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Atchison Blade, (Atchison, Kansas), Dec. 24, 1897.

Atchison Champion, (Atchison, Kansas), various issues 1870, 1915-1916.

Appleton, Sarah. "MapMaker: Redlining in the United States." National Geographic Society: December 17, 2024.
<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/mapmaker-redlining-united-states/>

"Atchison Colored Organizations Are Now Waking Up. Every Country in the Big State Should Take Same Step," *Topeka Plaindealer*, April 11, 1924.

Atchison Daily Globe, (Atchison, Kansas) various issues 1896, 1904, 1914, 1918-1921, 1966, 1975, 1977.

Atchison Public Library Archives. Winrow Family Tree.

Atchison Weekly Globe, (Atchison, Kansas), July 26, 1917.

Athearn, Robert G., *In Search of Canaan: Black Migration to Kansas, 1879-80* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2020), Athearn_1978_2.pdf, PDF.

Baniewicz, Lisa. "Atchison Street with Racial Undertones is Changed from Division to Unity Street," *Leaven Catholic Newspaper*, July 31, 2020, <https://theleaven.org/atchison-street-with-racial-undertones-is-changed-from-division-to-unity-street/>

"Development History," Grow Atchison, Locally Atchison Main Street, published December 12, 2018,
<https://growatchison.com/about-atchison/development-history/>

Dunham Directory Co., *City Directory: Atchison, Kansas, 1923* (Springfield, Mo.: Dunham Directory Company, 1906, 1917, 1923, 1924).

"Election of 1896: It Came Down to a Question of Money," learningenglish.voanews.com, VOA Learning English, Dec. 7, 2005, <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/a-23-2005-12-07-voa2-83124647/124292.html>

Franklin, Brent. "A Day in the Life of Early Atchison: 1855," lostkansas.ccrs.digitalprojects.com, Lost Kansas Communities, published March 1, 2011, https://lostkansas.ccrs.digitalprojects.com/sites/lostkansas/files/private/_static/2022-12/LT_AT_Atchison_Franklin.pdf, PDF.

Freedom's Champion (Atchison, Kansas), May 27, 1856.

Garrison, Zach. "Atchison, David Rice," Civil War on the Western Border, Kansas City Public Library, Accessed January 7, 2025, <https://civilwaronthewesternborder.org/encyclopedia/atchison-david-rice>.

"Historical Marker Dedicated in Atchison, Kansas," eji.org, Equal Justice Initiative, published June 26, 2021, <https://eji.org/news/historical-marker-dedicated-in-atchison-kansas/>

Huesemann, Clark. "Atchison Kansas Historic Black Business Master Plan" (master plan, 2024).

Ingalls, Sheffield. *History of Atchison County Kansas* (Lawrence, Kansas: Standard Publishing Company, 1916), Chapter VI, www.gutenberg.org/files/58216/58216-h/58216-h.htm#Page_63, Project Gutenberg ebook.

"Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America: Atchison, Kansas," Digital Scholarship Lab, Richmond University, Accessed January 9, 2025, <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/map/KS/Atchison/areas#mapview=full&loc=14/39.5613/-95.1285>.

Morgan, Kathy L. "Ebenezer Baptist Church," Atchison, Atchison County, Kansas. (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2005), Accessed January 9, 2025, https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/NRHP/05001343_text.

Nelson, Robert K. "Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America: Introduction," Digital Scholarship Lab, Richmond University, Accessed January 9, 2025, <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/introduction>.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

“Our History,” cityofatchison.com, City of Atchison, Accessed January 7, 2025, <https://cityofatchison.com/residents/our-history/>

“Pardee Butler, 1816-1888,” TheRestorationMovement.com, History of the Restoration Movement, Accessed January 7, 2025, https://therestorationmovement.com/_states/kansas/butler,pardee.htm

Paul Tonsing and Junior, *City Directory of Heads of Families and Business, Professional, Religious and Educational Institutions Arranged Alphabetically, Also Numerically by Streets: Atchison, Kansas, Fall of 1934* (Atchison, Kansas: Paul Tonsing and Junior, 1934).

Polk, R. L. and Co., *Polk's Atchison (Kansas) City Directory*, (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk and Co., Publishers, 1926, 1928, 1941, 1947, 1950, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1971, 1975, 1978, 1981, 1985, 1990).

Topeka Plaindealer, (Topeka, Kansas), various issues 1925, 1929.

U.S. Census Bureau. 1880 Census: Volume 1. Statistics of the Population of the United States.

U.S. Census Bureau. “Bulletin 208: Population by Color, Sex, and General Nativity. Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas.” September 30, 1892.

Werring, Andrew. “The African-American Migration into Atchison” (essay, African American-Black History collection of Atchison County Historical Society, 2001).

Williams, Lauren. “Division Street History May Surprise,” *MSC News*, Oct. 4, 2016, <https://www.mscnews.net/news/?nk=60242>

“Winrow Dead,” *Atchison Champion*, July 31, 1896.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acree of Property Less than one

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>39.574480°</u>	<u>-95.121646°</u>	3	<u>39.574175°</u>	<u>-95.121086°</u>
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
2	<u>39.574480°</u>	<u>-95.121086°</u>	4	<u>39.574175°</u>	<u>-95.121646°</u>
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

NORTH ATCHISON, S36, T05, R20E, BLOCK 22, lot 15-17. Width 120-ft north-south, and depth 147.5-ft east-west.

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary is limited to the parcel that contains the remaining historic building associated with the Black Business District in Atchison.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jali Kennedy, SHPO Intern; Jamee Fiore Krivenko, KS-SHPO
organization KS State Historic Preservation Office date February 2025
street & number 6425 SW 6th Ave telephone _____
city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66614
e-mail Jamee.fiore.krivenko@ks.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Figure 1: North and West (main) elevations of the Grocery building. 4
Figure 2 Rock-Inn, West (main) elevation. 5
Figure 3 Garage, West (main) and south elevations. View of the stone retaining wall. 6

Photo 1 North and West (main) elevation of the Grocery Building 29
Photo 2 South elevation of the Grocery Building 30
Photo 3 West elevation of the Rock-Inn..... 31
Photo 4 South elevation of the Rock-Inn 32
Photo 5 West (main) and south elevations of the Garage 33

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State



Photo 1 North and West (main) elevation of the Grocery Building

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State



Photo 2 South elevation of the Grocery Building

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State



Photo 3 West elevation of the Rock-Inn

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State



Photo 4 South elevation of the Rock-Inn

Atchison's Black Business District
Name of Property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State



Photo 5 West (main) and south elevations of the Garage