

GARRISON SCHOOL CULTURAL CENTER

Self-Guided Tour

Exterior Grounds:

Garrison School, established in 1877, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the only Black School still standing in Clay County and is the 501c3 for the Clay County African American Legacy Inc.

Upon entering the Garrison School Cultural Center site from the Water Street parking lot, visitors will see a large black and white mural on the building with the theme "Stony the road We Have Trod." This mural depicts the struggle of Black people for equal education during the segregation era. As you walk around the building on the Main Street side, you will see another mural with the theme "Sing a Song Full of the Faith that the Present Has Brought Us." This mural depicts life for Black people during the desegregation era. Visitors will also see the following sculptures on the Main Street side of the building: each is described in your historic Tour Guide brochure:

- Blue Bottle Tree
- Garrison Historic Marker
- Sankofa Bird Sculpture

Garrison Interior Exhibits: (Exhibit rooms A-E on first floor level)

Exhibit Room A:

Pioneer Black Families of Liberty, Civil war era artifacts, Story Boards on Excelsior Springs and its 7 Black Bath houses and owners from the 1880s-1930s, Missouri City students and Educators, Liberty churches, The Gladstone Community of White Oak, Famous Civil War Era Pioneers to the present day of Liberty, Handmade Plantation Chairs from the Withers Farm, photos of early community leaders and Masons of Liberty among other artifacts..

Exhibit Room B: Handmade Quilts Room Featuring (7) patterns.

Exhibit Room C: Black Baseball Room featuring the Kansas City Monarchs (both men and women players), Numerous Black Baseball **Teams and Players:** Black All Stars in Cuba, Lincoln Giants, Pillsbury Crawfords among others; **Women Players:** Toni Stone, Connie Morgan, Mamie "Peanut Johnson; **Women Team Owners:** Effa Brooks Manley owner of the Brooklyn Eagles, Dr. Hilda Bolden Shorter owner of the Philadelphia Stars; **Books, and numerous baseball artifacts and posters** on loan from one of the Kansas City Negro League Baseball Museum founders and author Larry Lester.

Exhibit Room D: Featuring African American Veterans of Clay County from the Civil War through the Gulf Wars (both men and women)

Exhibit Room E: Featuring Liberty School District high School student Research Projects for the Garrison Advanced Student Educational Mentoring Program (ASEM). The Lion and Unicorn Reading literacy Program (LURP) for elementary youth has included over 4,000 youth from the Liberty and Kansas City School Districts during the past 10 years.

Clay County African American Art Gallery: (Lower Level of Garrison) featuring African American Art, African Art, Artists, historical posters, and artifacts.

Thank you for touring the Garrison School Cultural Center and please invite your friends and family to visit us soon!!

Restrooms are located on both the upper and lower level of the building.