

# THE TEXAS FREEDOM COLONIES PROJECT

## BLACK SETTLEMENTS STUDY SURVEY: MAPPING COMMUNITIES AND CULTURES

(Long Survey Form) UVA IRB-SBS # 5460



Dear Participant,

Before sharing your story, please review the Texas Freedom Colonies Project research info and permission and licensing agreement at [this link](#).

Completion of this form and return of the form to the researcher represents consent to participate in the study. You are invited to participate in a research study, being conducted by Dr. Andrea Roberts of the SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE at the UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, [Dr. Andrea Roberts, School of Architecture, Urban and Environmental Planning Program, Campbell Hall PO Box 400122, Charlottesville, VA 22904, 434-924-6445, aroberts318@virginia.edu, UVA IRB-SBS # 5460 ]

The purpose of this research study is to learn about cultural phenomena unique to settlements founded by former slaves in Texas. Your participation in the study will contribute to a better understanding of how to help communities achieve their community development and historic preservation goals. Please participate if you have relatives or ancestors from these counties or are a current resident of a settlement in these counties. You must be at least 18 years old to participate.

If you agree to participate:

The activities may or may not take an hour of additional time. i.e. phone interview You will not be compensated. Follow-up information may be requested.

Identifying information: Name, phone number, exact address are all optional information, however zip code associated with your current address is required.

To learn more about freedom colonies visit the project's website: <http://www.thetexasfreedomcoloniesproject.com>

**To submit by email:**

Email the scanned completed forms to:  
[freedomcoloniesproject@gmail.com](mailto:freedomcoloniesproject@gmail.com)

**To submit by mail:**

C/o Dr. Andrea R. Roberts, School of Architecture Campbell Hall PO Box 400122, Charlottesville, VA

## Share your community's story!

**Name:**

**Email Address:**

**Address:**

**Zip Code:**

**Phone Number:**

**How did you hear about the Texas Freedom Colonies Project?**

☐ Public Event

☐ TV/Radio

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Social Media

☐ Word of Mouth

**How often do you spend time in the settlement? Are you a ...**

☐ Full-time Resident

☐ Part-time Resident

☐ Non-resident

☐ Occasional Visitor

**Please enter the name of your settlement, its nearest major city, and the county in which it's located.**

**Freedom Colony Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**County Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nearest Major City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Freedom Colony's Location:** Please write the address, directions, or the latitude and longitude of your settlement's location in the space below.

**In the space below, share your settlement's origin story and the approximate founding year. If unaware of how the settlement was founded or when it began, provide any memories of founding families or institutions (Churches, Schools, etc.).** It doesn't have to be accurate. Just whatever you remember. Feel free to email us a video response at [freedomcoloniesproject@gmail.com](mailto:freedomcoloniesproject@gmail.com).

**How many people currently live in the settlement?** Estimate the population by selecting one of the ranges below.

☐ 1 - 1,000

☐ 1,001 - 5,000

☐ 5,001 - 10,000

☐ +10,000

**If you were to give a tour of the settlement(s), what are the most important buildings or places you would point out to visitors?** Feel free to provide information on multiple places.

☐ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ School: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ House (Built before 1978): \_\_\_\_\_

## Settlement Connections and Networks

**Are you affiliated to any other settlements/freedom colonies? List the names, counties, and nearest/town cities below.** (e.g. Freedom Colony Name, County Name, City/Town Name)

**Recall your most recent visit. What did you like the most about visiting or living full time in the settlement?**

## Events and Traditions

**Do you have any ongoing activities (events, celebrations, etc.) that bring you back to the settlement?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**If Yes:**

**Which events, places, or people bring you back to the settlement? Select your settlement's current event type. Include the name of event and a short description.**

☐ Homecoming:\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Church Anniversary:\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Reunion:\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Food Festival:\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other:\_\_\_\_\_

**What are some of the activities, foods, or traditions associated with your events and/or celebrations?**

**Please share a link of any websites associated with the settlement or annual events.**

**Check the box if you would like that information to be public and you would like to be contacted about the event.**

☐ Yes, I would like to be contacted

☐ No, I'm not willing to be contacted

## Preservation Activities

**How and when do you pass on the story of how your community was founded to young people?**

(e.g. Oral History, Traditions)

**Do you currently live on commonly owned land, a homestead, or farmstead in the settlement?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**Have you tried to preserve or conserve buildings, homesteads, and/or cemeteries? How have you maintained them?** Please tell us what has worked.

**When, if ever, do you work with government planners or preservationists? Has the experience been positive?**

## Settlement Challenges and Issues

**What are the biggest challenges to maintaining property or historic sites in your community/freedom colony?**

Feel free to write about more than one challenge.

**Who do you rely on to help you with problems like taxes, land, and community services?**

**Is access to the internet or quality utility services (water) an issue in your freedom colony?** If so, please elaborate on the extent of the issues and why you think they have remained unresolved.

**Please provide the names of people, books, articles, maps, brochures, or other sources used to support your survey answers.** Copies are adequate. We will not return original materials.

**Additional Documents:** Please attach any documents you want to share related to your settlement (images, documents, etc.) to this form.