



Many pioneering African American men and women made a significant impact in shaping Fort Worth throughout history. Here is a snapshot of just some of the individuals and neighborhoods that make up our story. Discover more multicultural history at National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum.

- In 1865, John Pratt, a blacksmith, was the first African American to have a business in Fort Worth.
- John Ware, a freed slave, came to Fort Worth after the Civil War, worked on a local ranch, went on cattle drives to Kansas and became one of the first individuals to take cattle to Alberta, Canada. He is honored there and in Fort Worth at the National Multicultural Museum for that feat. Grant Macewan's book John Ware's Cow Country (1960) documents Ware's life.
- African American entrepreneurs began to emerge in the late 1800s. Gooseneck McDonald with a broad range of investments and businesses was the most significant of these. Others included Hiram McGraw (saloon owner), William E. Davis (physician), and Tom Davis (he provided the first African American park).



- After the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education Case and the 1965 voting rights act, African Americans began to win election to local governing bodies. Dr. Edward Guinn was the first elected official on City Council and was an important early African American political leader. Many other African Americans became elected and appointed officials in the years which followed.
- A number of early African American communities emerged in Fort Worth. The "Garden of Eden" is a 145-year-old neighborhood and is has a local historic designation. "Moiser-Valley" neighborhood in East Fort Worth was one of the first African American communities in Texas after the civil war.

- Stop Six and Como are two important historic African American neighborhoods which emerged in the 1900s. Stop Six was the area south of the sixth stop of the interurban rail line in East Fort Worth. The housing to the south of the Sagemore Hill stop (Stop Six) was an area of quality African American homes.

- The Como neighborhood was named for Como, Italy. Lake Como in Fort Worth was an early African American entertainment area in West Fort Worth near the interurban line. Gradually an African American neighborhood grew up in this area with both professional and domestic workers.

- Important African American churches emerged over the years to provide services and leadership. Some of these churches included: Allen Chapel, Morning Chapel, Greater St. James Baptist Church, Corinth Baptist Church and Mount Gilead Baptist



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