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Native People & Enslaved Africans Acknowledgement and Recognition in Delaware		
County, Town, Venue	Native People Information	Enslaved People Information
Kent County, Dover, The Green	Dover, DE is located on Lenape land, known as the Delawares by the Europeans. Most Lenape were pushed out by expanding colonies. The Revolution pushed them farther west. In 1860's US sent the remaining Lenape to Oklahoma, with some living in Wisconsin and Ontario.	<p>Due to it being a border state, Kent has a complicated history. Enslaving people had been a divisive issue in DE for a decade before the Civil War. Half of the State's black population was free by 1810, and more than 90% were free by 1860, thanks to the Quaker dominated population. There is a plantation in Dover called Dickinson Plantation, in which there were Enslaved people and " Indentured Servants".</p> <p>VENUE: The Green was laid out in 1717. The Green is also known for a trip of Samuel Burris, a free man and Conductor on the Underground Railroad, who was captured in Dover in 1847 for helping a women escape slavery. He was immediately imprisoned in Dover, and forced to await trial for 14 months. Eventually, he was found guilty and sentenced to be sold into slavery for seven years. Unknown to Burris at the time, he was rescued on the auction block by abolitionists.</p>

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<p>New Castle County, Wilmington, Rockford Park</p>	<p>The Lenape Tribe, known by the European's as the Delawares, were a Algonquian language speaking tribe that lived in the county. They are though to be the oldest of the Algonquian language group. They were the first enslaved people in Delaware. The revolutionary government promised that if the 'Delawares' helped their fight against the British, they would be given statehood in the future, a promise that was not kept. Because of the continuing conflict with European settlers encroaching upon Tribal lands, many of the Tribe's members were killed or removed from their homelands. Those who remained survived through attempting to adapt to the dominant culture, becoming farmers and tradesmen.</p>	<p>Wilmington was a "Sundown Town," which were "all white" locations that practiced a form of segregation by excluding any non-white citizens via some combination of discriminatory local laws, intimidation, and violence. In 1655, the number of enslaved people grew exponentially under Dutch rule, and then again in 1668 under English rule. While most sites claim that Wilmington ceased to be a slave state in 1860, the census from that year still lists 1,900 peopleas enslaved. Because DE was a boarder state, the Emancipation Proclamation didn't apply to them. Those enslaved on June 19th wouldn't be freed until December of 1865 when the 14th amendment was rattified.</p> <p>Wilmington served as the northeastern terminus for the Underground railroad, less than 10 miles from Pennsylvania. The old Town hall jailed runaway enslaved people. The 1790 census of Delaware showed that "70 percent of the state's black population were slaves, and slaves were 15 percent of the state's total."</p> <p>VENUE: 9 acres for the Rockford Park were donated by the Du pont family, who were strictly anti-slavery. As Quakers, they found slavery to be "morally and economically unsound." The rest of the land for Rockford park was donated by William Poole Bancroft who was also a Quaker, and heavily involved in creating schools and educational opportunities for all in the community in Wilmington.</p>

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Sussex County, Selbyville, Freeman Stage	<p>The Nanticoke Indians and their ancestors have lived along the river for over 6,000 years. The first record of a European to explore the head of the Nanticoke, however, was in 1608 when Captain John Smith set out exploring the Chesapeake Bay. Development along the Nanticoke River was slow partly due to friction that developed between the Nanticoke Indians and the English settlers. All land in current western and southern Sussex County was first settled as part of Maryland</p> <p>VENUE: Evidence of a small permanent settlement of Assateague People of Delmarva has recently been discovered at a potential development site at Old Mill Landing. Protests to the development are underway.</p>	<p>Selbyville is on the Mason-Dixon line. Delaware stayed a state with Enslaved people, but had a number of free black folks as well. "Freedman" became a popular last name among former slaves. If the family name was Freedman, it meant they were freed after the Civil War. Freeman, on the other hand, is also a common name among African-Americans. It was often taken by people who were freed or purchased their freedom prior to the Civil War. The Selby family, after whom the town was named, were enslavers. In Delaware there were about 1,800 enslaved Africans, with 75% located in Sussex County.</p>
Sussex County, Seaford, Jay's Nest	<p>The Nanticoke Indians and their ancestors have lived along the river for over 6,000 years. The first record of a European to explore the head of the Nanticoke, however, was in 1608 when Captain John Smith set out exploring the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Development along the Nanticoke River was slow partly due to friction that developed between the Nanticoke Indians and the English settlers. Once the conflicts were resolved, development in the area flourished. All land in current western and southern Sussex County was first settled as part of Maryland.</p> <p>VENUE: This land was home to the Nanticoke Tribe</p>	<p>There were two areas of Sussex County that were extremely involved in Slavery, including Seaford, where there were 96 enslaved people. The Ross Mansion and Plantation in Seaford was owned by the Governor of Delaware. He was also a enslaver and the property includes slave quarters. There were at least a dozen families that enslaved Africans in Seaford. Harriet Tubman came through Seaford as part of the Tilly escape. The Seaford Museum runs an exhibit on Patty Cannon, a notorious slave catcher and murderer who lived 5 miles outside of Seaford.</p>

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Sussex County, Lewes, Lewes Public Library	<p>The Lenape and the Nanticoke tribes were settled along the water in Lewes. Lewes was the site of the first European settlement in DE, but the Native people's took back the land in 1632. The Dutch then took it back in 1663.</p>	<p>The Holland family of Lewes had at least 14 enslaved people on their tobacco farms. The grand children of the enslaved people live in Lewes, and are incredibly vocal in the community. There were about 1,800 enslaved Africans in Delaware, and 75% were located in Sussex County. By 1850, 90% of Africans living in Delaware were freed slaves- the largest percentage of any state in the country at that time.</p>
Sussex County, Dagsboro, Holts Landing	<p>Sussex County was home to the The Nanticoke. The first record of a European to explore the head of the Nanticoke, however, was in 1608 when Captain John Smith set out exploring the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Development along the Nanticoke River was slow partly due to friction that developed between the Nanticoke Indians and the English settlers.</p> <p>VENUE: This land was home to the Blackfoot Indian Tribe.</p>	<p>Slavery was very present in Dagsboro. Delaware's largest enslaver, Benjamin Burton, lived and worked in Dasgboro. Abraham Lincoln discussed with him a "compensated emancipation plan" in 1861. Their proposal was never acted upon.</p>

Native People & Enslaved Africans Acknowledgement and Recognition in Delaware Sources

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New Castle County	<p>Info re: Juneteenth in DE: https://why.org/articles/juneteenth-did-not-mean-freedom-for-delaware-slaves/ Info re: DE Underground Railroad: https://www.visitwilmingtonde.com/blog/post/learn-from-the-past-explore-delawares-underground-railroad/ History of African Americans on the Eastern Shore: https://archives.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/156/2018/08/A-History-of-African-Americans-of-Delaware-and-Marylands-Eastern-Shore.pdf Info on the Du Pont Family: https://www.hagley.org/librarynews/ask-hagley-historian-what-were-du-pont-family%E2%80%99s-views-slavery Rockford Park Information: https://www.oah.org/site/assets/files/10217/frst_hrs-_10_11.pdf</p>
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