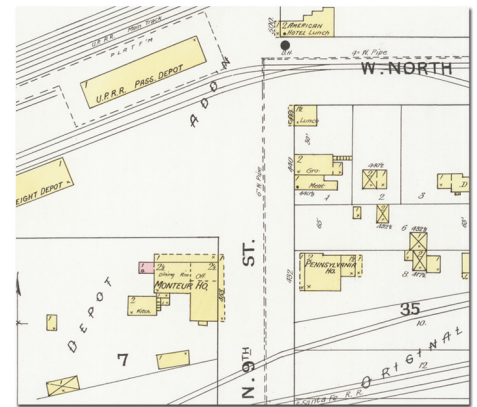


# BLACK HISTORY

## Salina Driving Tour

Salina was founded in 1858. Since then, every person who's lived in, or passed through the Salina area, has played a part in our story. A story of struggle, resilience, community, leadership and growth. In celebration of Black History Month, this driving tour focuses on stories from the Black community. These are a few of the many that could be highlighted. Join us, as we strive to learn more, meet more incredible people, see history on the streets of Salina and be part of Salina's growing story.

**Intersection of North 9th & West North streets.** Dana Adams was a 19-year-old Black man. In the early hours of Thursday, April 20, 1893, he fought with and injured, a white male employee of the Union Pacific train depot. Adams was captured, put on trial and sentenced to seven years in prison that same day. Sheriff Anderson planned to take Adams to Leavenworth on the evening train. A mob pulled Adams from the train and lynched him from a telegraph pole near this spot. Roughly 50 men made up the mob, while close to 200 others watched. No one was held accountable.



From 1892 Sanborn map.  
Courtesy Library of Congress.



**Caldwell Plaza, 300 West Ash, between the City/County and Library buildings.** In 1890, Amelia Ann Tapscott Allen became the first Black woman elected to the Salina School Board. Well-known suffragist, Laura Johns, supported her leadership. Robert Caldwell was another vital Salina leader. He taught at Dunbar School and later at Salina Central High. Elected to the city commission in 1969, he served eight years including three terms as Salina's first Black mayor. Caldwell was a state representative and a member of the Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame.

Mayor Robert Caldwell. Image from Smoky Hill Museum archives.



Amelia Ann Tapscott Allen. Image published May 3, 1890, in \*The Freeman, a National Colored Illustrated Newspaper.



Dunbar School, 1920s. Image from Smoky Hill Museum archives.

**Carver Center parking lot, 315 North 2nd Street.** For years, this area served as the hub for many activities in the Black community. Dunbar School, to the southeast, at 509 E. Elm Street, was Salina's K-8 segregated school. It operated from 1922 until 1955 and today houses St. Francis Community Services. Carver Pool, the Black public swimming pool, sat just south of Carver Center. Built in 1948, it eventually integrated and was later demolished in 2001. Carver Center itself, was also built in 1948 and torn down to make way for the current center, dedicated in 1979. Near the center is the John Parker Jr Memorial Park. To the north of Dunbar, at 345 North Front was the Booker T. Washington Community Center. It was built in the 1930s and sold in the late 1940s. Money from the sale financed scholarships for Black students.

**415 East Mulberry Street.** Between 1971 and 1976, *The Black Word Is ...*, published twice a month. Funded through a grant, it was underwritten by the Black American Citizens Organization of Salina (BACOS). According to the newspaper, its goal was to encourage members of the Black community to "take a more active role in bettering their lives." It promised to "guard the rights of individuals of color to advance the cause of freedom in the fullest of their daily lives." James Briscoe served as editor from its office in the Washington Building on the northeast corner of Mulberry & 3rd streets.

\*<https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=1oUnAAAIBA&sjid=KwQGAAAAIBA&pg=4116%2C1168861>