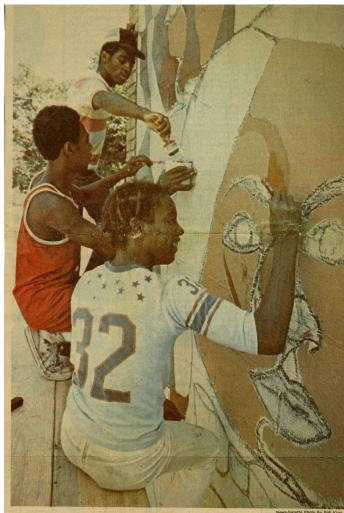
## Revisiting Murals Animating Neighborhoods Animating Neighborhoods



## **Mural Depicts Local Black History: Local Artist Bring Black** History to Life



## Mural Depicts Local Black History

As far back as the 1850s, when the Illinois Central Railroad laid its first tracks just west of Urbana, and the first wood-burning trains roared through, blacks were coming

In honor of that past, local black artists have devised a plan to illus-trate the point that "blacks have a stake in the growth and develop-ment of Champaign."

The artists are painting a mural, depicting scenes from Champaign's black history on the north and west walls of the building adjacent to Mini Park I at the corner of Fifth and Park streets.

and Park streets.

According to project coordinator
Angela Rivers, this site was chosen
because she feels that when you
talk about the blacks in Champaign,
this is where it all began.

"No matter what anybody else
says," said 26-year-old Rivers, "this

News-Gazette Staff Writer
The City of Champaign's got would be a fitting place.

"The majority of the blacks in this neighborhood have been here since the turn of the century," she

"At least 10 families (hers included) have been here since 1860. They have just as much claim to the area as the first white families, and I just want to show not only the black community, but the city as a whole, that blacks do have a stake

Rivers said that the main purpose of the mural is to give blacks, especially the younger ones, "something they will be able to identify

with."
"I think it's about time that some of the younger folks in Champaign had something that they can call their own," said Rivers. "They just don't have any place to go any more. At least this will give them something that they can be proud of that they can be proud. of...that they can say they worked

According to Rivers, the mural

tion Resources in Environmental Science (ERES) a local group de-

ERES representatives contacted

sen, and the group got the go-ahead from the Champaign Park District, the next step, Rivers said, was try-ing to find the funds necessary for

CETA had offered to fund the project, but she was hesitant to go that route because of "all the restric

Finially, she said, with no other funding in sight, they decided to go ahead and accept the CETA fund-

solved now, Rivers estimates that work on the project should progress



Park Street at 5th Street

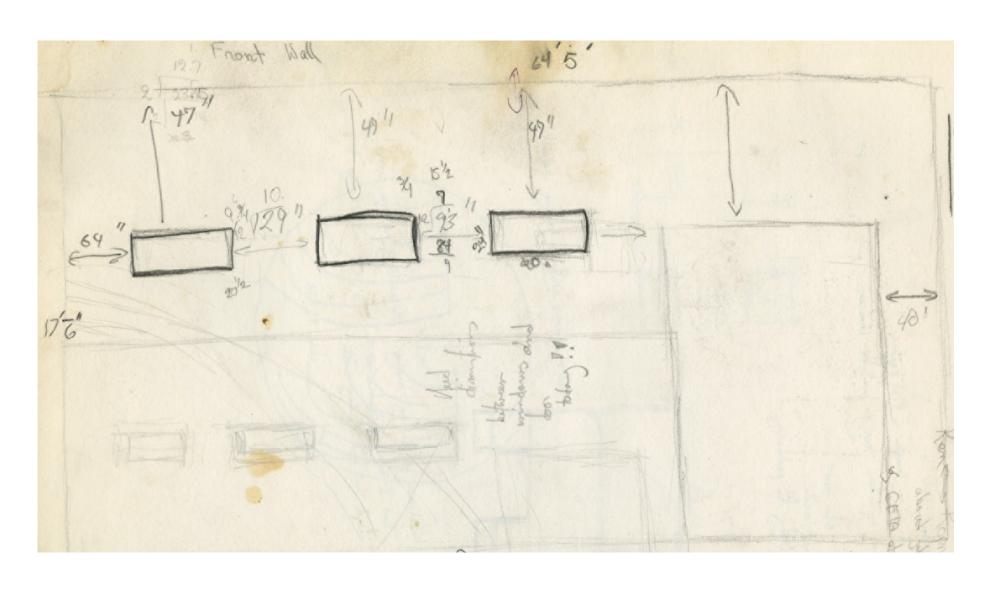


The Mural in 1978

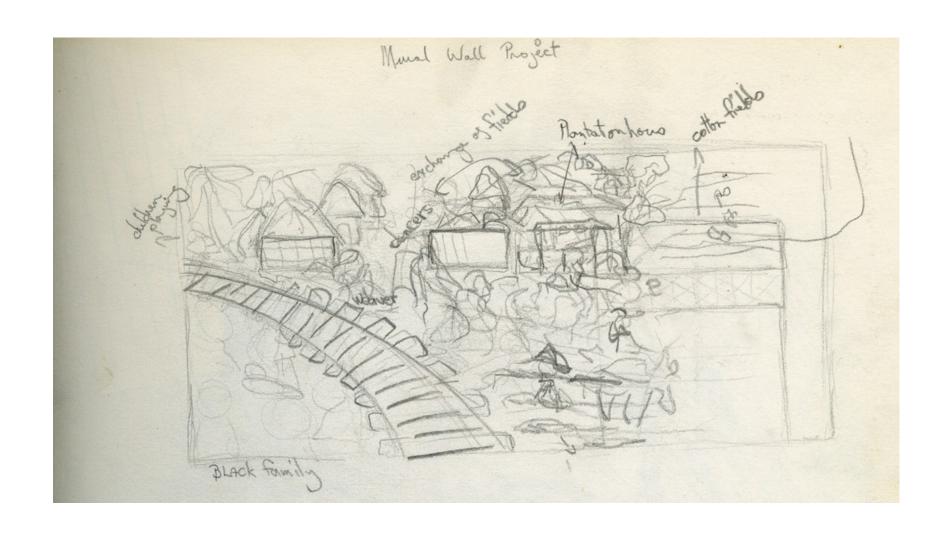
A Pictorial History of African Americans of Champaign County



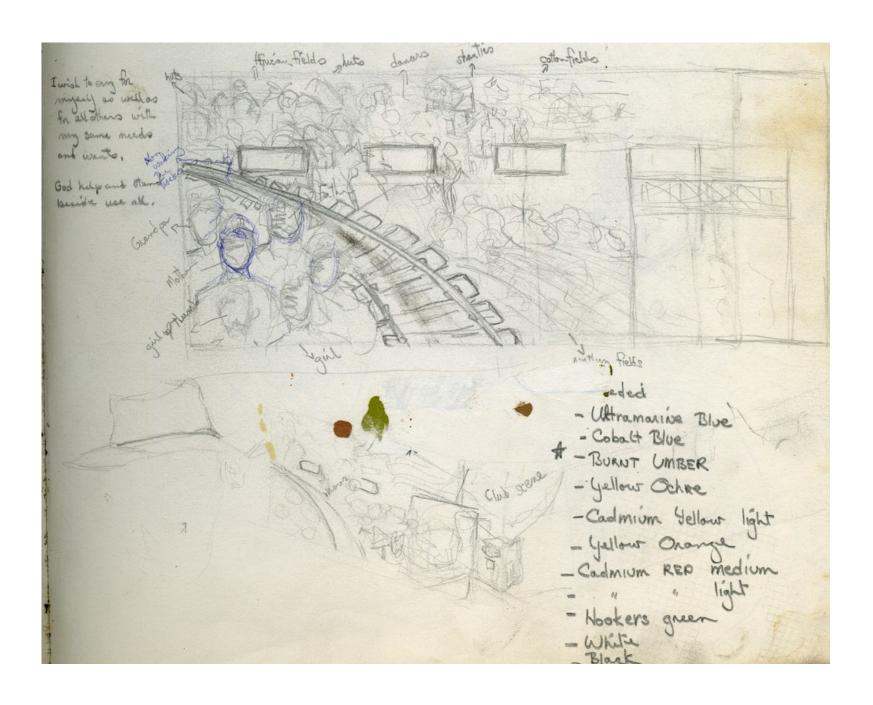
The Wall



Measurements of the Wall



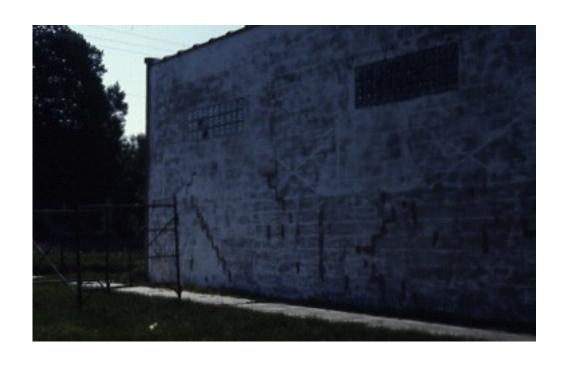
First Themes of the Mural



Defining Themes and Color Schemes



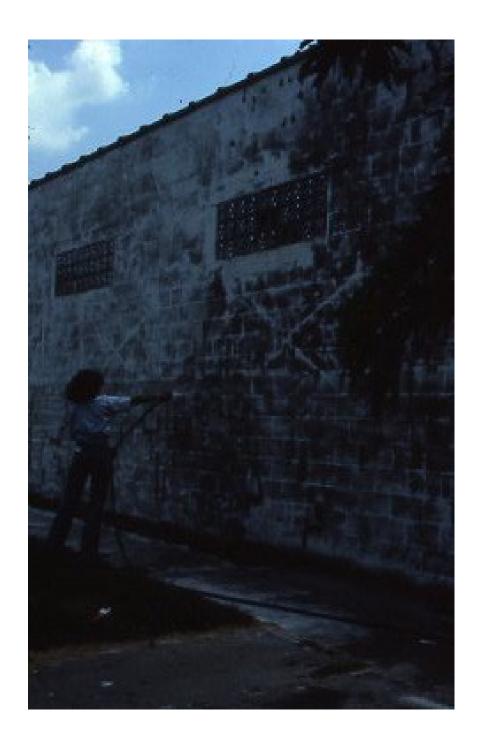
The Crew

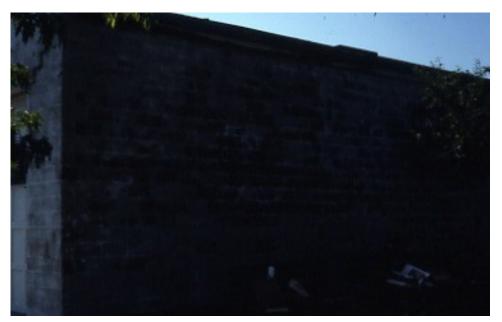






Sealing and Tuck-pointing the Wall





Sandblasting



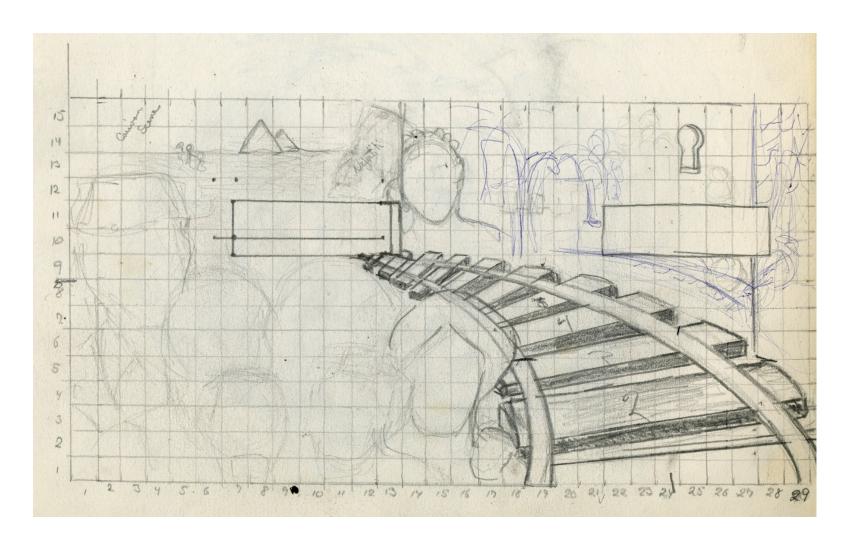




Priming the Wall



The Primed Wall



First Section of the Graft: Placement and Perspective





Putting the Grid the Wall



Rivers with Cartoon of the Mural





Transferring Cartoon on to the Wall

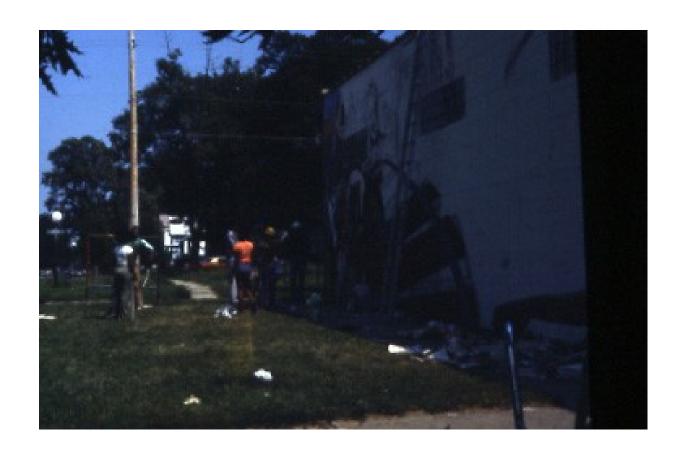


Morning Setup for Painting

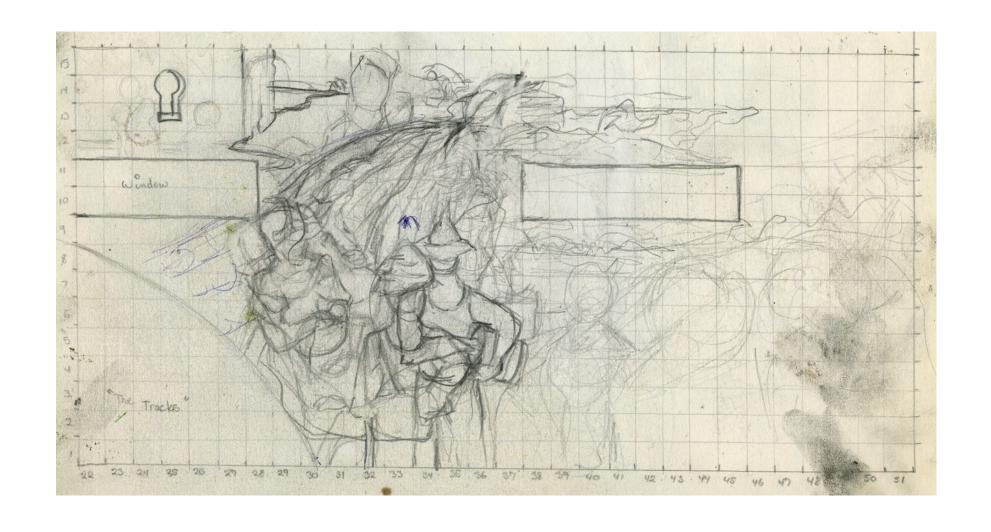




First Stages of Painting



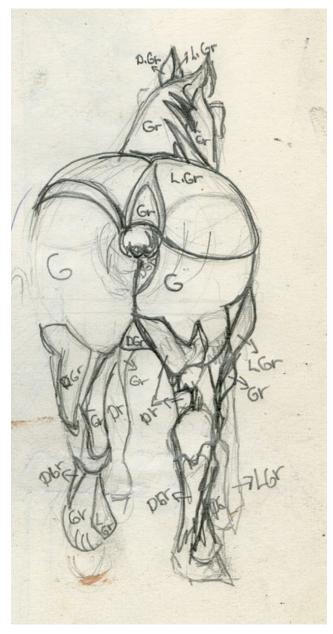
Afternoon Take Down and Clean Up



Second Section of Wall Graft: Placement



Drawing of Adjustments to Graft





Begin to Transfer the Second Stage of Cartoon

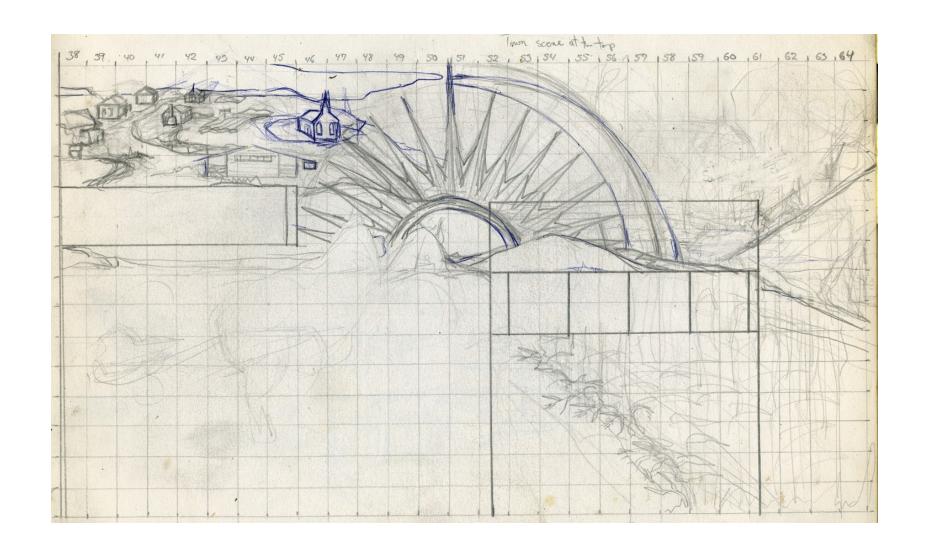




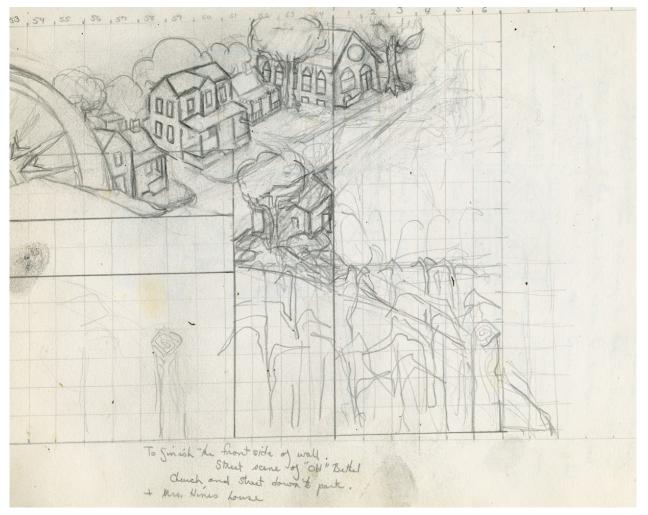
Mural: Completing Second Section



**Drawing of Slave Quarters** 



Third Section of Wall Graft



Fourth Section of Wall Graft: Extending Around the Corner





Mural: Painting the Third and Fourth Sections



The Finished Mural



History Begins in Africa: Ancient Egypt and Caravans to Great Kingdoms of the Sahel



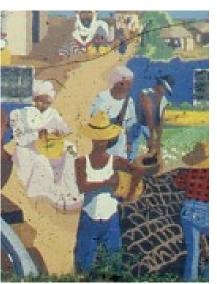
## West African Village

Markets of Timbuktu









The Middle Passage and Slavery



The Family

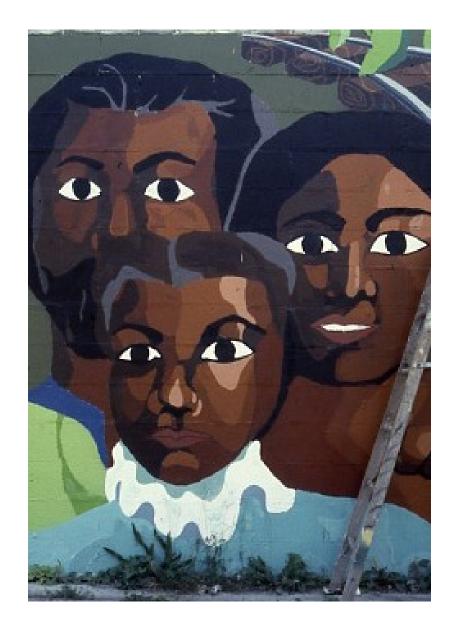






Farmer Plowing His Field:
Moving Forward





Looking Toward to a New Future

The End