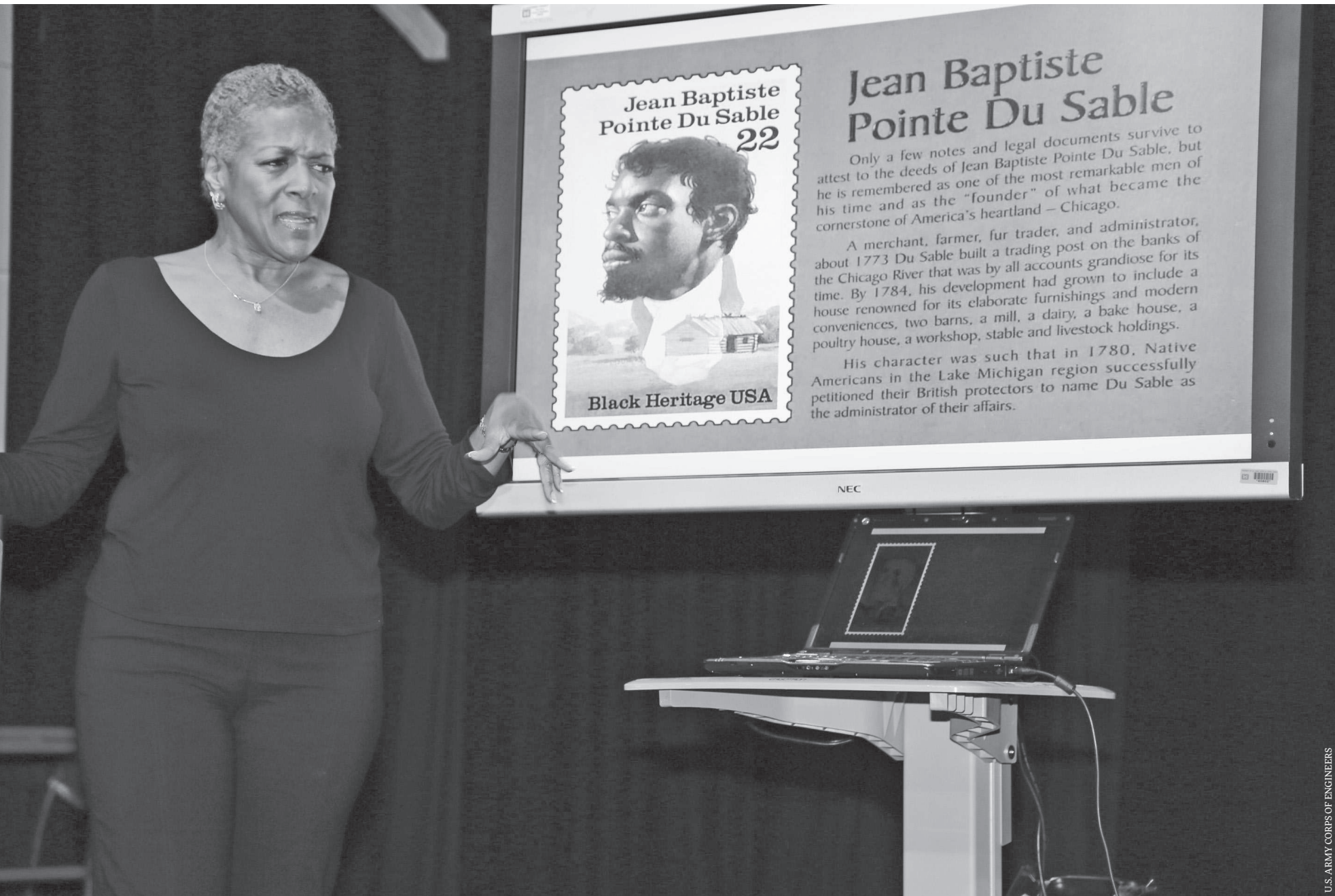


Black History



Ricki Stevenson, founder of Black Paris Tours., speaks about Sable during a Black History Month 2014 event.

Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable

The founder of Chicago is a mysterious man.

Not much is known about Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable's early life; he was born around 1745, possibly in Haiti, maybe in Canada.

Maybe his father was a pirate and his mother an African slave. He may have been educated in France. But we know he founded Chicago and that, for years, he wasn't recognized for it.

Sometime in the 1780s, Du Sable and his family — he married a Potawatomie woman and had children — settled in the area then known as Eschecagou, near the mouth of the river. He lived there off and on for 20 years, enlarging his trading post and holdings. In 1800, he sold his Chicago land to John Kinzie, a White man. Kinzie was, for years, hailed as the first settler of Chicago. Du Sable died in 1818 in Missouri.

During the 1960s, as Americans realized more and more African American contributions to the nation, du Sable started to get the credit he deserved.

A 1963 article in Ebony magazine lamented that du Sable was not yet recognized in Chicago, pointing out that his home was known as the Kinzie home-stead. In 1965, a plaza called Pioneer Court was built on the site of the du Sable home-stead, and in 1976, the same year African-American History Month was federally declared, the homesite was named a National Historic Landmark.

Since then, a number of bridges, roads and other Chicago-area places and institutions have been named for du Sable. One of the most important is



A depiction of Pointe du Sable from A.T. Andreas 1884 book History of Chicago.



The house built by John Baptiste Pointe du Sable close to the mouth of the Chicago River as it appeared when owned by the Kinzie family in the early 1800s.

the DuSable Museum of African-American History, founded in 1961, located in Washington Park. It is the oldest, and before the National African-American Museum in Washington, D.C., largest museum of African-American culture.

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

North by Northeast honors and celebrates Black History Month

Black Health Matters

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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