

Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Center  
NPS Grant – Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Center awarded \$300,000 grant by the Historic Preservation Fund and the National Park Service**

The Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Center in Walthill, Neb., is pleased to announce that it is being supported in part by a \$300,000 Save America’s Treasures grant from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Center was originally built as a hospital in 1913 by the country’s first Native American physician, Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte, to serve the needs of the Omaha Nation and Walthill community.

Once restored, the Center will be home to a museum, which will feature a historically accurate patient room, nurses’ quarters, operating room and exhibits showcasing Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte’s life and medical practice. In addition, there will be areas designed for arts and culture, education, healthcare (physical and behavioral) and substance misuse, entrepreneurship and youth programming.

Phase III restoration of the Center is currently underway. It focuses on the installation of underground utilities and removal of hazardous materials inside the building – such as lead-based paint and asbestos, which was in use during the period. In addition, Phase III includes the complete restoration and equipping of the interior, which will be finished by mid-2023.

The restoration project began in 2017 when the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs formed a Susan La Flesche Picotte Memorial Committee, comprised of Dr. Picotte’s descendants, community leaders, architects, museum professionals, other stakeholders, and subsequently, the Omaha Tribe and tribal elders. In 2018, BVH Architects and the Nebraska Institute for Leadership Development authored a Condition Assessment and Renovation Master Plan, which has been used as the blueprint to restore the historic hospital.

The historic structure is located at 503 Matthewson Street, in Walthill, Nebraska. It retains its classic craftsman architecture and its original oak trim, features and finishes – down to the generous front porch, and the lilac bushes originally planted by Dr. Picotte.

For information about the Save America’s Treasures grant support, restoration details or Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte’s life and legacy, please contact Kevin Connot, Advantage Consulting Group at [kconnot@nntc.net](mailto:kconnot@nntc.net) or (402)518-0824.

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