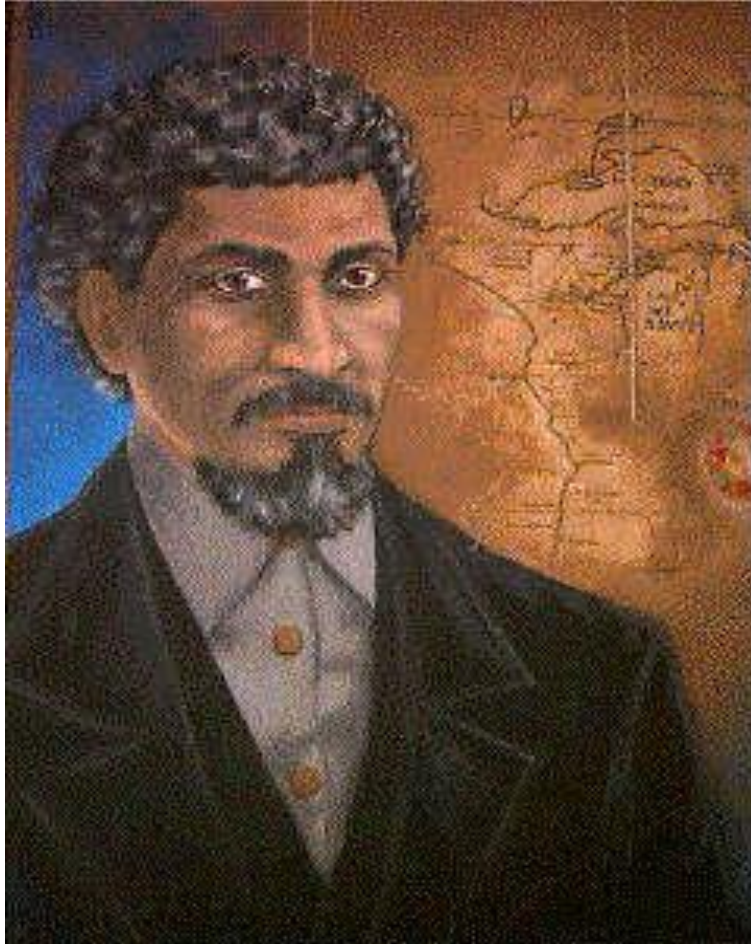


# HAITI




**JEAN BAPTISTE POINTE DU SABLE 1745 - 1818**  
**The Founder Of Chicago**

Born in St Marc, Haiti in 1745, Du Sable left Haiti and moved first to New Orleans. Once in New Orleans, Du Sable made the epic journey up the Mississippi River where he started a successful fur trading business. In the mid to late 1770's he built a home and cultivated approximately 30 acres of land in Peoria, Illinois. That first settlement would become later the City of Chicago, taken from the Indian name Eschikagou.

He maintained excellent relations with Native Americans and lived among indigenous tribes where he married Catherine, the daughter of Pottawatomie Chief Pokagon in a tribal ceremony. This common law marriage was solemnized in a Catholic church in Cahokia, Illinois in 1778. Jean-Baptiste and Catherine had two children, Jean-Baptiste Jr. and Suzanne.





## Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable

Only a few notes and legal documents survive to attest to the deeds of Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable, but he is remembered as one of the most remarkable men of his time and as the “founder” of what became the cornerstone of America’s heartland – Chicago.

A merchant, farmer, fur trader, and administrator, about 1773 Du Sable built a trading post on the banks of the Chicago River that was by all accounts grandiose for its time. By 1784, his development had grown to include a house renowned for its elaborate furnishings and modern conveniences, two barns, a mill, a dairy, a bake house, a poultry house, a workshop, stable and livestock holdings.

His character was such that in 1780, Native Americans in the Lake Michigan region successfully petitioned their British protectors to name Du Sable as the administrator of their affairs.



A bronze sculpture of Du Sable has been installed on Michigan Avenue in honor of the fur trader. The sculpture based on a 19th century drawing is mounted on a granite pedestal and stands over 6 feet tall. It was made possible by donations from Haitian-American businessman Lesly Benodin as a gesture of goodwill to Chicago and its citizens.







**Drawing Of The Home Of Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable  
In Chicago As It Appeared In The Early 1800s**



**The Du Sable Museum Of African American History  
In Washington Park**

