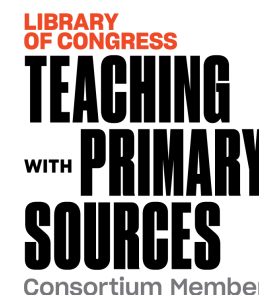


1. Title / Episode Link:	Fannie Mae Duncan and the Cotton Club
2. Historic Site:	Cotton Club
3. Episode	<a href="https://www.pbs.org/video/fannie-mae-duncan-ruz2sw/">https://www.pbs.org/video/fannie-mae-duncan-ruz2sw/</a>
4. Developed by:	Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 School District Laura Israelsen, Denver Public School District
5. Grade Level and Standards:	<i>Grade Level:</i> 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> <i>Standards:</i> Colorado Social Studies Standards 1-4 <i>Prepared Graduate Competencies:</i> Content in this Document Based Question ( DBQ ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards 3 <sup>rd</sup> : PGC 1-5, 7 4 <sup>th</sup> : PGC 1-5, 7 5 <sup>th</sup> : PGC 1-5, 7
6. Assessment Question:	Is it important to tell stories of places or buildings even if they no longer exist? Why or why not?
7. Contextual Paragraph	Fannie Mae Duncan was an African American nightclub owner who brought the motto “Everybody Welcome” to true meaning at her Colorado Springs Cotton Club despite the volatile Civil Rights Movement of her day. In an era of segregation and Civil Rights protests, Fannie Mae Duncan brought world-class black entertainers to Colorado Springs. Her Cotton Club boasted high profile, top-tier acts of the day including Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Etta James. For nearly 30 years it was one of only a few bars that welcomed the black community. Her motto “Everybody Welcome” embraced a multi-ethnic staff and attracted a well-to-do white population eager to experience artists who were not permitted to perform elsewhere. Fannie Mae’s legacy of generosity, philanthropy, perseverance, and peaceful integration continues to inspire today. A black woman herself, Duncan started the business in the late 1940s during the “separate but equal” era for black Americans. She overturned that convention by making the Cotton Club, which attracted nationally known black entertainers, open to people of all colors. Fannie



	<p>Mae Duncan moved to Colorado Springs when she was 15 years old. She went to local schools and graduated from Colorado Springs High School. She married Edward Duncan, and together they founded Duncan's Café and Bar. Mrs. Duncan then expanded the Café in the late 1950's to include The Cotton Club.</p>	
<p>7. Connection to Historic Preservation</p>	<p>Colorado is home to several clubs and mountain retreats like Lincoln Hills that welcomed blacks during an era when they were not welcome in many places. The Colorado residents who were brave enough to open and run these places speaks to the resilience and pioneering spirit of the people who live in this state. Remembering these places and people help tell their story and remind us of the courageous people who were willing to do the right thing in troubled times. Adding displays of places like the Cotton Club to museums and historic buildings we are preserving during that time period help recreate the time period and add to the importance of preserving the buildings that are still standing today. Colorado is working to digitally preserve stories and buildings of people who have lived in our state. These digital collections are an important part of the historic record.</p>	

## Document Based Question (DBQ)

### Document Set

Cotton Club



Photo Norman Sams Collection, © Pikes Peak Library District

<https://springsmag.com/honoring-fannie-mae-duncan/>

1. What do you notice about this picture?
2. Write down all of the words you can find in this image.
3. What is the setting of this picture? Where is it? What are your clues? When was it taken?
4. Can you find evidence of who was allowed into the Cotton Club?

### Cotton Club Street Painting



<https://www.westsidepioneer.com/Articles/050216/OCHSEsmiol.html>

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What colors did the artist choose to use in this painting?
2. What do you notice about all of the buildings on this street?
3. How is the painting different from the photograph in the first example?
4. Are paintings primary sources?

### Cotton Club Soda Fountain with Fannie Mae



*Photo Norman Sams Collection, © Pikes Peak Library District*

<https://www.pinterest.com/marhessa1/historic-colorado-springs-co/>

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What do you notice about the architecture?
2. How is this Soda Fountain different than a restaurant or bar you would visit today? How is it different?
3. How do furniture, accessories and other fixtures tell about time and place? What do they tell about the building?

**Assessment Question**

Is it important to tell stories of places or buildings even if they no longer exist? Why or why not?

Response