

Throughout the site, painted signs identify and comment on what is being commemorated and challenge the viewers to affirm the nation's foundational political ideals and the Christian values of mercy, forgiveness and humility before God.

African Village in America is the creation of Joe Wade Minter, Sr, born in Birmingham in 1943. Raised under the South's Jim Crow laws, Minter vividly remembers the civil rights struggle in his city. Having graduated from high school and spent 2 years in the army (1965-1967), Minter laboured for the next 28 years in jobs including metalwork, painting, construction and road work before retiring in 1995. Although he knew that the civil rights movement had given blacks the means to fight back against oppression, he felt deeply that the white man had not changed at all. On the advice of a fellow 'African brother', who he sensed was sent by God, Minter set out in 1979 to write his personal meditations on the '400 year journey of African-American people in America', but soon lay his pen down. (26 years later, he would complete this work by self-publishing *To You Through Me: The Beginning of a Link of a Journey of 400 Years.*) But he continued to reflect on the situation of African Americans in America and in the 1980s, when the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute was established, Minter grew concerned that a significant part of the story of the black experience would never be told. He believed that the contributions of ordinary citizens who battled for human rights - who he called the 'foot soldiers' - would be disregarded in favour of the nationally known figures. Asking God for a vision, he received a mission to tell 'the story of the African people lost here in America.'..

Read the full article in:
Raw Vision #68