

PIONEERS

RICHLAND

The movement of blacks from the barracks and trailer camps of North Richland into the town of Richland was slow, partially due to the requirement to be a General Electric employee and due to discrimination in housing.

Fred Claridy



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Fred Claridy came to North Richland in 1947 and was employed by General Electric Co. as a janitor and later as a metal operator. The first black to rent one of the government houses in the city of Richland, Fred lived in a one bedroom prefab on George Washington Way until he bought two houses on Perkins Avenue, one to dwell in and one to rent.

After Fred moved into Richland, other blacks began to move in. He paved the way for other blacks to own homes in the city of Richland.

Fred Claridy was an avid and expert fisherman. He died in 1963.

Patrick Owen

Mr. Owen, a General Electric employee, was also among the first blacks to reside in Richland. He and his wife Dorothy raised a large family, some who remain in the area.

George Mitchell and the Rocquemores

In 1943, George Mitchell lived in housing at White Bluffs while working on temporary bases, traveling to Texas and back. Later, he was moved with other workers to North Richland. His daughter Lois Mitchell Rocquemoire and