

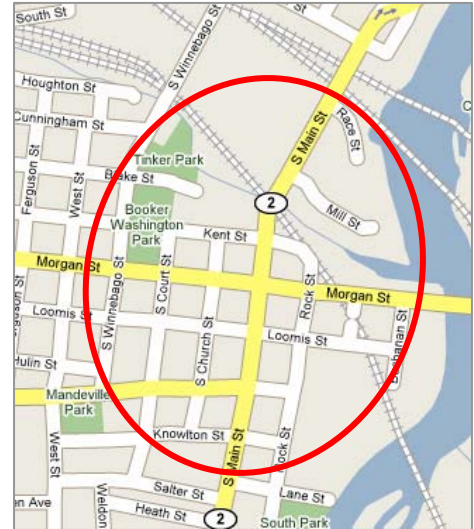
FOUNDERS VILLAGE

Historic South Rockford

The **Founders Village** designation is a unique way to recognize this neighborhood's importance as the cradle of industrial development, and the area where generations of immigrants first settled in Rockford.



This legacy can be rightfully honored with the establishment of an interactive and entertaining cultural venue that exhibits the history of Rockford industry and technology as well as the stories of immigrants of all ethnic backgrounds who helped build our community.



The ideal location for this **Rockford Legacy Center** is on Rockford Park District land next to Tinker Swiss Cottage and the Booker Washington Community Center. This attraction could be the new venue for the Ethnic Heritage Museum as well as incorporate building materials and artifacts from the recently razed Allen Chapel AME, the first black church in Rockford.

South Main St. clearly offers the best long-term potential for direct access to downtown Rockford.



However, this economically-challenged area has not seen the investment necessary to help it fulfill that role. The beautiful old storefronts along South Main at Kent and Loomis can be redeveloped as a mixed-use block called **South Town** that offers unique shops, art galleries,

dining, night life and loft living—all with an ethnic twist.



These commercial and cultural developments will be the catalysts for the further investment of public and private resources that revitalize this historic neighborhood.

Celebrating our Ethnic and Industrial Heritage

www.RockfordFoundersVillage.com