The United States possesses places where people can visit to absorb elements of the nation’s depth of pain, triumph, awe, disappointments and dreams. This project will begin organizing a field guide that will ultimately teach the complexities of such sites that raise questions regarding the American identity. Multiple voices are essential to this project as we collect oral history narratives, images, maps, video and supplementary readings about these sites.

places to consider

Chinatown, San Francisco, CA
Devil’s Tower, WY
Seneca Falls, NY
16th Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL
Panama Hotel, Seattle, WA
Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty, NY
Yosemite, CA
Salt Lake City, UT

our criteria

1. Includes a contribution to broad patterns of history
2. Addresses the significance of erasure in the United States
3. Contains evidence within its physical geography
4. Is visually interesting and stimulating to the senses
5. Prompts an experience gained by visitation
6. Commemorates or memorializes a historic person or event
7. Contains multiple layers