

# Transcript of Video of Bob Harrison

**Subject:** Black in the Past

**Title:** Bob Harrison (1 Minute 5 Seconds)

**Scene 1:** Portrait of Bob Harrison.

**Text:** Not all Blacks who are worthy get a street named for them. But Bob Harrison did.

Bob was the barber to Austin's most prominent and notable men of the late 19th century.

**Scene 2:** Picture of a poster showing a portrait of Ben Thompson with the words "The Famous Texan" under it and then, fade-in of three other prominent people's portraits including President Woodrow Wilson and Col. E.M. House.

**Text:** He shaved the faces of all but three governors, the Mayors and the Who's Who of Austin's social elite.

**Scene 3:** Picture of pages from a handwritten letter on lined stationary.

**Text:** When in 1916 Bob wanted to pay off his home mortgage, he sat down and composed a letter to several of his rich friends. The gist of the letters pointed out to them that if he were to die today, he was sure that his friends would place flowers on his last resting place.

**Scene 4:** Photo of Bob Harrison standing next to a barber chair in his barber shop

**Text:** He asked instead that the money they would spend on flowers be given to him now while he was living. Their response was so great that he had more than enough money to pay off his mortgage.

**Scene 5:** Photo of mound of large flower arrangements upon his grave.

**Text:** When Bob Harrison finally died seventeen years later some of these same friends attended his funeral and heaped flowers on his grave.

**Scene 6:** Photo of street sign with the words BobHarrison St. 1200.

**Text:** They proposed to the Austin City Council that part of 14th Street be re-named in his honor.

**Scene 7:** Credits for video showing Austin History Center and Austin Public Library logos on a black background with white lettering. It reads: Austin History Center Austin Public Library presents "Black in the Past", Executive Producer K. Anoa Monsho, Producer Karen Riles.

**Text:** I am Karen Riles inviting you to explore your past at the Austin History Center.