



NEGROES CLAIM CIVIL RIGHTS

They Insist Upon Equal
Privileges in Public
Baths.

A Social Club of Colored People
Will Back the Suit Against
Adolph Sutro.

John Harris

An early civil rights victory?

In 1897, John Harris, an African American, challenged Sutro Bath's "whites only" policy in court and won his case. His suit was based on the California 1897 Dibble Civil Rights Act that guaranteed citizens equal treatment and access to public places regardless of race. Harris vs. Sutro placed San Francisco at the heart for the fight against separate but equal during the Jim Crow Era and predates the National Civil Rights Act by 67 years.

There are no known images of John Harris.

To learn more, visit: www.nps.gov/goga

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE