

Harriet Tubman

National Historical Park





Tubman's family in Auburn from left to right: Harriet Tubman; Gertie Davis (Tubman's adopted daughter); Nelson Davis (Tubman's husband); Lee Cheney; "Pop" Alexander; Walter Green; Sarah Parker; and Dora Stewart (granddaughter of Tubman's brother, John Stewart)

In a letter to Harriet Tubman three years after the end of the Civil War, Frederick Douglass contrasted their roles in the movement to free enslaved people:

"I have had the applause of the crowd and the satisfaction that comes of being approved by the multitude, while the most that you have done has been witnessed by a few trembling, scarred, and foot-sore bondmen and women, whom you have led out of the house of bondage, and whose heartfelt 'God bless you' has been your only reward. The midnight sky and the silent stars have been the witnesses of your devotion to freedom and of your heroism."





Freedom felt bittersweet for Harriet Tubman. Despite separations imposed by slavery, she came from a close family in a tight community and she missed them. She recalled that in the north, “I was a stranger in a strange land; and my home, after all, was down in Maryland, because my father, my mother, my brothers, and sisters, and friends were there. But I was free, and they should be free.”

Over and over, Tubman risked her life to rescue them and others, finally settling in Auburn, New York in 1859. Central New York was a center for progressive thought, abolition, and women’s suffrage. Here, Tubman practiced her faith and continued to fight for human rights and dignity until she died in 1913.

LOOKING FORWARD

In the coming years, the national historical park will take shape through public involvement. You are invited to join this effort.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

You can visit Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church (exterior), and through our partners see the Harriet Tubman Visitor Center, the Tubman Home for the Aged (by tour only), and the Harriet Tubman Residence (exterior).

SAFETY

- Be aware that some areas are not paved for foot traffic.
- Be mindful of traffic when walking and crossing streets.
- Large vehicles will need to take care to navigate in tight spaces.

Harriet Tubman National Historical Park
Auburn, New York
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www.nps.gov/hart

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