

# HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD VISITOR CENTER



## WELCOME GUIDE 2017



*"I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors can't say—I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger."*

*~ Harriet Tubman*

# WELCOME

Welcome to Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center in scenic and historic Church Creek. The center is managed through a partnership between the Maryland and National park services. It features a permanent exhibit that focuses on Tubman’s life, including her formative years in Maryland, and the Underground Railroad resistance movement from a regional perspective.

This guide contains everything you need to enjoy your visit. We hope you enjoy your Tubman experience!



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## Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center

4068 Golden Hill Road  
Church Creek, Maryland  
410-221-2290

Maryland Park Service  
[dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands](http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands)

National Park Service  
[nps.gov/hatu](http://nps.gov/hatu)



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/HarrietTubmanNPS

**Guide Editor**  
Ranger Crenshaw

## MESSAGES FROM THE VISITOR CENTER MANAGERS

### Message from the Maryland State Park Manager

Greetings on behalf of the Maryland Park Service and welcome to the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park. The Visitor Center, which includes state-of-the-art green elements such as bio-retention ponds, rain barrels and vegetative roofs, is the premier feature of the park. While visiting, we hope you come to better appreciate the places and factors that helped shape Tubman into the successful conductor, nurse, spy, scout and strategist that she became. Tubman's values of faith, family, community and freedom were the driving forces that motivated her to risk her life to return time and again. Appreciate that Tubman is a true Maryland treasure and American icon who is still relevant today. She transcends race, gender, age, religion and nationality, and symbolizes hope for a better future. Her legacy speaks to the fact that regardless of circumstances, you can make choices that positively impact your family, community and in Tubman's case, nation. Lastly, please do not let your Tubman experience end here. Let the landscapes evoke her memory and connect with the places where she lived, toiled, worshiped and loved.

Dana Paterra  
Maryland Park Service, Park Manager

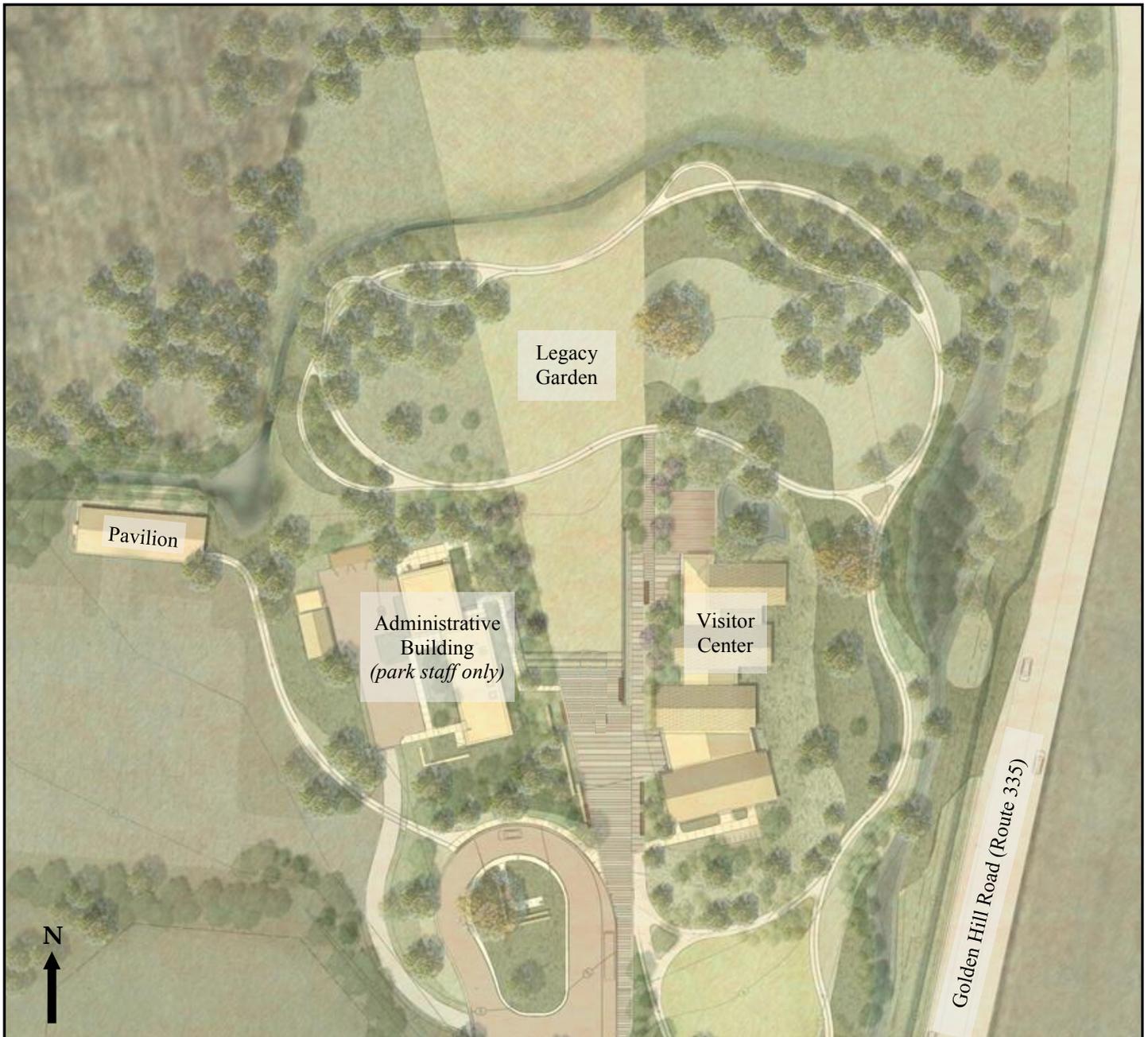
### Message from the National Park Superintendent

Greetings, indeed, the privilege is mine to also welcome you to the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center on behalf of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, a unit of the National Park Service. In 2016, the service celebrated its centennial. We not only celebrated 100 years of caring for our nation's most important landscapes and historic sites and stories—but we also positioned ourselves for the next 100 years. We're working hard to engage younger, more diverse audiences in the places and stories of the National Park System. The story of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad is one that captivates people of all ages and backgrounds and this new national park and monument will help us share her story and think about what it means for people today. More importantly, we're proud to have the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Park Service as our principal partner and fellow steward of the Tubman legacy within the national monument. Collectively, we share a common goal of protecting, preserving, connecting and educating the world about Harriet Tubman's significance in the national historical narrative. After your Visitor Center experience, we encourage you to immerse yourself in the landscape and understand the rest of the monument from the historical point of view of Harriet Tubman.

National Park Service, Superintendent



# PARK MAP



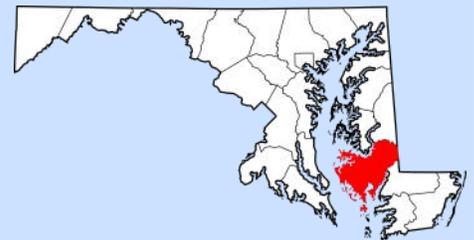
## Hours of Operation

The Visitor Center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. There is no entry fee. Arrival before 4 p.m. is recommended.

## Important Phone Numbers

Emergency: 911

Visitor Services Desk: 410-221-2290 x5070



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Maryland State Park Policies

- **Parks are trash free.** Please use the designated recycling receptacles and take your trash home with you. All visitors should follow the Leave No Trace Ethic of “Pack it in, pack it out.”
- **No alcohol.** Unless a permit has been acquired.
- **No hiking after dark.** The park and trails close at sunset.
- **No fireworks.**

### Maryland Traffic Laws

- **Obey the speed limit.** For the safety of all of our visitors please adhere to the posted speed limit.
- **Obey traffic direction signage.** The parking lot loops are one way. Please come to a full stop at all stop signs.
- **Wear a bicycle helmet.** State law requires that all bicyclists under the age of 16 wear helmets.

### Driving Directions

*From Annapolis and points north:* Take US-301 North/US-50 East toward Cambridge. Turn right on Woods Road. Turn right on Route 16 (Church Creek Road). Turn left onto Route 335 (Golden Hill Road) drive for 4.5 miles and the visitor center will be on your right.

*From Ocean City and points south:* Take US-50 West toward Cambridge. Turn left on Route 16 (Church Creek Road). Turn left onto Route 335 (Golden Hill Road) drive approximately 4.5 miles and the visitor center will be on your right.

**4068 Golden Hill Road**

**Church Creek, Maryland 21622**

### Leave No Trace Ethics

*Help keep your public lands beautiful*



Much of Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park is a sensitive ecosystem. Please practice the following stewardship principles. For more information visit [lnt.org](http://lnt.org)

### Know Before You Go

#### Stick to the Trail

- Walk on designated trails. Doing so will help protect plants and wildlife.
- Do not step on flowers or small trees. Once damaged, they may never grow back.
- Respect park boundaries.

#### Take Your Trash With You

- Pack it in, pack it out.
- Use a plastic bag for your pet's waste, provided in the parking lot.

#### Leave It As You Find It

- Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them for others to enjoy.
- Treat plants with respect: carving, hacking or peeling plants may kill them.

#### Keep Wildlife Wild

- Observe wildlife from a distance and never approach, feed or follow them.
- Human food is unhealthy for wildlife and feeding them starts bad habits.

#### Share the Trail and Manage Your Pet

- Be considerate when passing others.
- Leash and keep control of your pet to protect it, as well as other visitors and wildlife.
- Avoid making loud noises or yelling.
- Be sure the fun you have outdoors does not bother anyone else.

# VISITOR EXPERIENCE

## ABOUT THE STATE PARK

The 17-acre site is adjacent to the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, along Route 335. Approximately nine acres are within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area. The state park is a key destination on the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway. The National Park Service manages both the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program from the site.

## STATE PARK FEATURES

- 16,000 square foot LEED Silver rated visitor center and administrative building
- Legacy garden
- Picnic pavilion
- Information kiosk
- Storage garage
- Parking for 75 cars and 3 buses
- Overflow parking for 100 cars



## THE DESIGN CONCEPT

*The View North*, was developed from a concept that expresses the importance of moving northward to escape the circumstance of slavery. Most notably, the design solution splits the building program into two structures that frame the view of the legacy garden as the visitors approach.

## SPECIAL FEATURES

- Two sculptures are planned. The first is a statue of Tubman set between the administration building and visitor center. The second is of a group of figures headed north, towards the woods on their escape journey.
- The legacy garden is an open quiet space bounded by a network of paths that provide opportunities for more interpretation and reflection.
- A 2,600 square foot open air picnic pavilion with stone fireplace and serving area is located along the western boundary of the park.
- Landscaping materials are plants native to the Eastern Shore, showcasing native trees with seasonal interest (spring blooms and strong fall colors).
- Lawn areas are a combination of mowed and un-mowed grass to recall the farm fields common to this area.
- The design maximizes the incorporation of permeable roads and paths.



# VISITOR EXPERIENCE

## BUILDING FEATURES

- The exhibit building is the primary destination for visitors. It houses the permanent exhibition and main interpretive experiences, restrooms, museum store, information desk and research library. The layout of the exhibit building is a series of four pitched roof volumes connected by a linear spine. The linear spine represents the northbound journey of the Underground Railroad. The volumes could be interpreted as stations.
- The permanent exhibits comprise the northern half of the building with additional space available for temporary or rotating exhibits.
- The administrative building houses park staff and volunteers. It is designed for private access. The storage garage is reserved for park staff.

## EXHIBIT FEATURES

- Visitors will begin their exhibit experience with an orientation film.
- The permanent exhibition focuses on Tubman and the Underground Railroad resistance movement from the Maryland perspective.
- Visitors are encouraged to wander the site, where paths meander through a landscape reminiscent of Tubman's world.

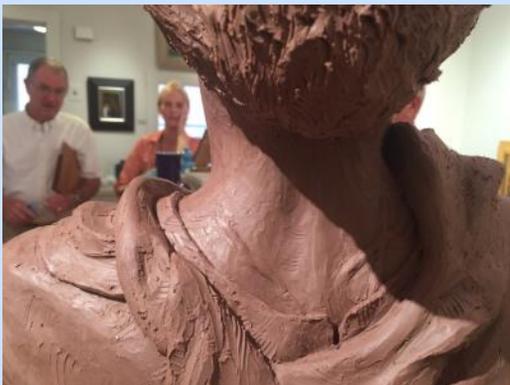
## THE BUST OF HARRIET TUBMAN

The visitor center is also home to a bronze bust of Harriet Tubman. This life-size rendition was carefully sculpted by Brendan O'Neill, Sr. of Talbot County. O'Neill graciously donated his time, talent and materials to meticulously create the bust. He also designed the pedestal on which it is displayed, which consists of a combination of wood from the 460 year old Wye Oak, the honorary state tree of Maryland and the largest white oak tree in the United States, and a cedar tree, which



*Mr. O'Neill and the clay model of Tubman*

represents Tubman's time in the forests and fields of Dorchester County. O'Neill conferred with partners, stakeholders and family members, and consulted with Dr. Kate Clifford Larson, the park's historical consultant.



"We appreciate all the time and effort that went into fabricating this exceptional likeness," said Maryland State Park Manager Dana Paterra. "Mr. O'Neill's piece shows a youthful, strong and resilient Tubman that will greet our visitors as they begin their journey at the visitor center."

## VISITOR CENTER PARTNERS

### Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park



The 17-acre Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park is home to the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, administrative offices for both the Maryland and National park services, a recreational pavilion and a legacy garden. This location was chosen because the view is preserved by the surrounding Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Very few structures remain from her time in the Choptank river region, so the landscape is a large part of the experience. Tubman may have traveled through the area going between Madison and Bucktown. Additional information is available at [dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/eastern/tubman.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/eastern/tubman.aspx)



### Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park



The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument was established by President Barack Obama on March 25, 2013 by an executive order under the Antiquities Act of 1906 resulting in Presidential Proclamation No. 8943. The 480-acre Jacob Jackson Home Site was donated to the National Park Service by the Conservation Fund for inclusion in the new national monument. A year later, Public Law 113-291 created the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. The Jacob Jackson portion of the monument and any future authorized acquired area is now referred to as the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. Together, the park and monument will interpret those landscapes and special places that were important to Tubman's life as an enslaved child, young woman and freedom seeker in Dorchester, Talbot and Caroline counties.

The National Park Service entered into an agreement with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park to manage and operate a joint visitor center. The historic park is fortunate to have a number of operating partners that are instrumental in protecting and interpreting resources associated with Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. Moreover, the National Underground Railroad Network To Freedom program is now headquartered in Maryland and is aligned with the historic park. Through shared leadership with local, state and federal entities, as well as interested individuals and organizations, the network program promotes programs and partnerships to commemorate and preserve sites and other resources associated with, and educate the public about the national historical significance of the Underground Railroad.

Go online for more information [nps.gov/hatu](http://nps.gov/hatu)

## VISITOR CENTER PARTNERS

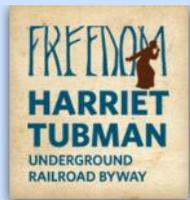
### National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program



The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom tells the story of brave and resourceful individuals, black and white, willing to risk their lives for the core American value: freedom. The network fights to preserve and protect disappearing underground railroad-related sites, landscapes, archeological remains and oral traditions, and to educate the public about the underground railroad. The network uses civic engagement to create a unique dialogue with new constituencies in order to document, interpret and commemorate the underground railroad, and achieve legitimization of documentable local history. It encourages local ownership of history.

Congress passed the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act in 1998. The network is unique and a new model for the National Park Service. As the underground railroad crossed borders, the legislation includes Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean, and recognizes entities inside and outside the National Park Service. By understanding the underground railroad as a resistance to enslavement through escape and flight, the network draws attention to the agency of enslaved and free African Americans in agitating for their own freedom, rather than focusing solely on the aid provided by white operatives. The underground railroad involved people who worked across lines of race, religion, gender and socioeconomic class for a common cause. In telling their stories, the network reaches out to diverse communities and contributes to the park service's effort to maintain relevancy in the 21st century. More information is available at [nps.gov/subjects/ugrr](https://nps.gov/subjects/ugrr)

### Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway



The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway was designated as one of the best driving tours in the nation by the Federal Highway Administration for its scenic beauty and significant history. It is one of only 31 distinctive *All-American Roads* nationwide.

Meandering through 125 miles of countryside and shoreline in Dorchester and Caroline counties, the byway invites visitors to experience the region's Underground Railroad stories in a few hours or a couple of days. In addition to recounting Harriet Tubman's remarkable life, the byway reveals the story of slavery and the pursuit of freedom on the Eastern Shore. It weaves through a rare landscape, virtually unaltered for more than a century.

The byway offers more than 30 points of interest—from the Dorchester County Visitor Center, and marshes of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge to places where Tubman lived. Visitors are invited to experience and explore the region's historic sites, scenic vistas and recreational destinations that provide the backdrop for the secret networks to freedom forged by 19th-century self-liberators. Request a free map and guide or download the audio guide at [harriettubmanbyway.org](https://harriettubmanbyway.org).

## VISITOR CENTER PARTNERS

### THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF SITES OF CONSCIENCE



PROUD MEMBER OF THE  
International Coalition of  
**SITES of CONSCIENCE**

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park is a proud member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. The coalition is a worldwide network of historic sites, museums and memory initiatives that activate the power of places of memory to engage the public with a deeper understanding of the past and inspire action to shape a just future. It supports its members in many ways, including providing direct funding for civic engagement programs, introducing members to a global network of similarly minded sites, helping them establish best practices and new partnerships, organizing leadership and program development opportunities; offering dialogue training and conducting strategic advocacy for individual members and the Sites of Conscience movement as a whole. Learn more at [sitesofconscience.org](http://sitesofconscience.org).

### GET INVOLVED!

Do you want to give back to the park? Have you ever thought of volunteering your time and talents in a place that is both beautiful and educational? Consider volunteering or becoming a member of our “Friends” group.

Volunteers contribute to the mission of the Maryland and National park services, and the communities they serve. Volunteers welcome visitors to the park, assist with special events and much more.

“Friends” groups are found at many parks, raising awareness and appreciation for these special places while helping to provide education and interpretive resources to enhance the visitor experience. The Friends of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad is the official non-profit partner of Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center. The organization has local and regional membership, and includes people who have been inspired by Tubman and her selfless acts of courage. Together, the groups works to preserve her memory for future generations.

You too can volunteer. Ask for more information at the visitor services desk.



*Maryland and National park service staff at the visitor center*

*Did you know Harriet Tubman was the first woman to lead an armed raid during the Civil War? Learn more about Tubman and Colonel Montgomery’s campaign on the Combahee River in South Carolina on page 12.*



## BIOGRAPHY

Harriet Tubman is best remembered as one of America's most famous conductors of the Underground Railroad. Born into slavery in early 1822 in Dorchester County, Tubman gained international acclaim during her lifetime as an Underground Railroad agent, abolitionist, Civil War spy and nurse, suffragist and humanitarian. Suffering under the lash and disabled by a near fatal head injury while enslaved, Tubman rose above horrific childhood adversity to emerge with a will of steel. Owing her success to unique survival techniques honed in the forests, fields and marshes of Maryland's Eastern Shore, Tubman transcended victimization to achieve personal and physical freedom from her oppressors. Refusing to be bound by the chains of slavery or by the low expectations limiting the lives of women and African Americans, Tubman battled amazing odds to pursue lifelong dreams of freedom, equality, justice and self-determination.

Named Araminta, or "Minty," by her parents Ben and Rit Ross, Tubman was the fifth of nine children. Daily survival remained her biggest challenge; frequent separations forced upon her family, in service to their white enslavers, were compounded by the sale of three sisters to distant plantations in the Deep South. Taken from her mother and hired out to cruel masters at the age of six, she was often physically and mentally abused and neglected. She was nearly killed at the Bucktown Village Store by a blow to her head from an iron weight thrown by an angry overseer. She suffered debilitating seizures from the injury for the rest of her life. Such injustices and mistreatment tested Tubman's profound faith. "Slavery," she said, "is the next thing to hell."



*Harriet Tubman  
portrait circa 1860  
or 1875*



*Inside the Bucktown Village Store*

Married to John Tubman, a free black man, in 1844, Minty then changed her name to Harriet. Faced with certain sale away from her loved ones to settle her dead master's debts in 1849, Tubman determined to seize her liberation instead. Late that fall, she fled enslavement by tapping into a regional Underground Railroad network that was already functioning well in Caroline and Dorchester counties. Traveling by night, using the North Star and instructions from black and white helpers, she found her way through Delaware to freedom in Philadelphia.

Freedom was bittersweet. "I was free," Tubman later recalled, "but there was no one to welcome me to the land of freedom. 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." In Philadelphia, she easily found work in domestic service, enabling her to save money and plan for her family's escape.

## BIOGRAPHY

Tubman ensconced herself in the anti-slavery networks centered in Philadelphia, New York City and Boston, where she found respect and the financial and personal support she needed to pursue her private war against slavery on the Eastern Shore. In spite of the grave consequences to her own life—including certain death if captured—Tubman successfully ferried approximately 70 people, among them family members, to freedom by 1860. She could not accompany all who sought to escape, but through detailed instructions she enabled another 70 or more to find their way north independently. While only a few freedom seekers returned to rescue family members from bondage, Tubman’s numerous journeys back into dangerous slave territory were unequalled and earned her the biblical nickname “Moses.”

Tubman used disguises and various ruses to affect some of her escapes, and she relied on a trustworthy system of safe houses, from Dorchester and Caroline counties to Canada, where black and white sympathizers risked their lives to help hide freedom seekers.

Tubman’s commitment to destroying the slave system eventually led her to collaborate with John Brown, the anti-slavery activist whose failed raid on Harpers Ferry, West Virginia in 1859 helped spark the Civil War. Sent to South Carolina during the war by the governor of Massachusetts, Tubman alternated between roles as nurse, scout, cook and spy in service to the Union. Under the command of Col. James Montgomery, she was an integral part of the Combahee River expedition with 150 black union soldiers of the 2nd South Carolina Regiment. The troops came ashore and succeeded in destroying several estates owned by leading secessionists and freeing approximately 750 people. Later she settled with her family and friends in Auburn, New York, where Secretary of State William H. Seward sold her a small farm. In 1869, after the death of her first husband, Tubman married Civil War veteran Nelson Davis, and they adopted a baby girl named Gertie. Three biographies about her were published, reaping international acclaim for her accomplishments.

Tubman’s passion for equality drove her to challenge women’s and African American’s inferior political, economic and social roles through suffrage and civil rights activism during the remainder of her life. Her humanitarian work triumphed with the opening of the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged, located on her land in Auburn, which provided nursing and respite care for aging African Americans. She died there on March 10, 1913.

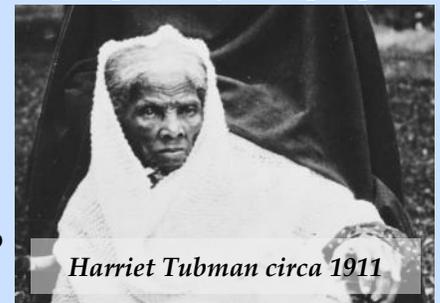
Harriet Tubman’s life was rooted in a thirst for freedom, a deep spiritual faith, and life-long humanitarian passion for family and community. Rising from the most oppressive of beginnings, Tubman’s unyielding and courageous resolve to secure liberty and equality for all has immortalized her among America’s most famous historical figures.

Written by Dr. Kate Clifford Larson, the park’s historical consultant. Learn more at [harriettubmanbiography.com](http://harriettubmanbiography.com)

## MYTHS VS. FACTS

**Myth:** Harriet Tubman rescued 300 people in 19 trips.

**Fact:** According to Tubman's own words and extensive documentation on her rescue missions, we know that she rescued about 70 people—family and friends—during approximately 13 trips to Maryland. During public and private meetings in 1858 and 1859, Tubman repeatedly told people that she had rescued 50 to 60 people in eight or nine trips. This was before her very last mission, in December 1860, when she brought away seven people. Sarah Bradford exaggerated the numbers in her 1868 biography. She never said that Tubman gave her those numbers, but rather estimated the figure. In addition to rescuing family and friends, Tubman also gave instruction to another 70 or so freedom seekers from the Eastern Shore who found their way on their own.



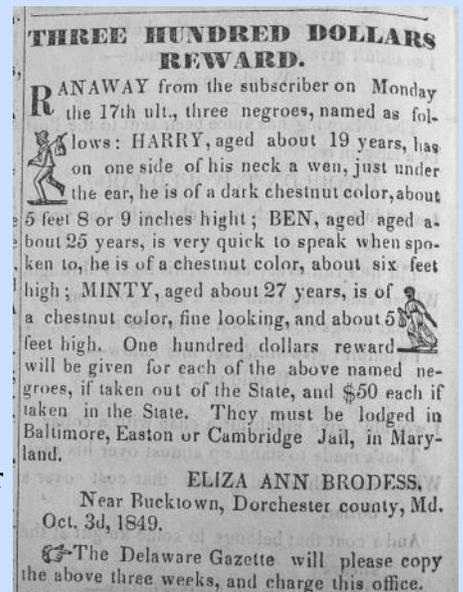
*Harriet Tubman circa 1911*

**Myth:** Tubman was born around 1820 in Bucktown, on the farm of Edward Brodess.

**Fact:** According to oral traditions and the most recent research, Tubman was born in early 1822 on the plantation of Anthony Thompson—Brodess's stepfather—located south of Madison in an area called Peter's Neck in Dorchester County. Tubman was later brought to Bucktown with her mother and siblings to live on Brodess's small farm.

**Myth:** Tubman had a \$40,000 "dead or alive" bounty on her head.

**Fact:** The only reward for Tubman's capture was in the October 3, 1849 advertisement for the return of "Minty" and her brothers "Ben" and "Harry," in which their mistress, Eliza Brodess, offered \$100 for each of them if caught outside of Maryland. Slaveholders on the Eastern Shore had no idea it was Harriet Tubman (or, Minty Ross, as they knew her) who was helping and inspiring people to run away. The \$40,000 bounty figure was made up by Sallie Holley, a former anti-slavery activist in New York, who wrote a letter to a newspaper in 1867 arguing for support for Tubman in her pursuit of back pay and pension from the Union Army. To put this in perspective, the United States government offered \$50,000 for the capture of John Wilkes Booth, who murdered President Lincoln in 1865. \$40,000 is equivalent to several million today.



*Courtesy of the Bucktown Village Foundation, Cambridge, Maryland*

**Myth:** Tubman rescued people from all over the south using the Underground Railroad.

**Fact:** Tubman returned only to Maryland to bring away loved ones—family and friends she could not live without and whom she could trust. It was too dangerous for her to go places where she did not know people or the landscape.

## MYTHS VS. FACTS

**Myth:** Jacob Jackson operated an Underground Railroad safe house at his home in Madison.

**Fact:** Jacob Jackson, a free black farmer and veterinarian, was Harriet Tubman's confidante. Tubman had a coded letter written for her in Philadelphia and sent to Jackson in December 1854, instructing him to tell her brothers that she was coming to rescue them and that they needed to be ready to "step aboard" the "Ol' Ship of Zion." There is no documentation that he actually sheltered runaways in his home. On the Underground Railroad, Jackson would be referred to as an agent.

**Myth:** Tubman helped build Stewart's Canal.

**Fact:** Tubman did not help build the canal, which was built between 1810 and 1830 when she was still a child. "She probably used it though to transport timber and agricultural products when she worked in the area as a young adult." We do not know if her father helped build the canal, but he certainly would have used it for transporting timber.

**Myth:** Tubman used the quilt code to follow the Underground Railroad.

**Fact:** Tubman never used the quilt code because the code itself is a myth. She used various methods and paths to escape slavery and rescue others. She relied on trustworthy people who hid her, told her which way to go, and told her who else she could trust. She used disguises. She walked, rode horses and wagons. She sailed on boats and rode on trains. She used certain songs to indicate danger or safety. She used letters, written for her by someone else, to trusted individuals like Jacob Jackson, and she used direct communication. She bribed people. She followed rivers that snaked northward. She used the stars and other natural phenomenon to lead her north. She also trusted her instincts and faith in God to guide and comfort her during difficult times and unfamiliar territories.

**Myth:** Tubman carried a rifle on her rescue missions.

**Fact:** Tubman carried a small pistol with her on her rescue missions, mostly for protection from slave catchers, but also to encourage weak-hearted runaways from turning back and risking the safety of the rest of the group. She carried a sharp-shooters rifle during the Civil War.



*Jacob Jackson Home Site*



*Bucktown Village Store*

## MYTHS VS. FACTS

**Myth:** Tubman sang *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, *Wade in the Water* and *Follow the Drinking Gourd* as signals on the Underground Railroad.

**Fact:** According to Sarah Bradford's biography—*Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*—she sang two songs while operating her rescue missions, *Go Down Moses* and *Bound for the Promised Land*. Tubman said she changed the tempo of the songs to indicate whether it was safe to come out or not.

*Follow the Drinking Gourd* was first written and performed by the Weavers, a white folk group, in 1947, nearly 100 years after Tubman's days on the Underground Railroad. *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* was written and composed after the Civil War by a Cherokee Indian living in Oklahoma and therefore would have been unknown to Tubman.

Written by Dr. Kate Clifford Larson, the park's historical consultant. Learn more at [harriettubmanbiography.com](http://harriettubmanbiography.com)



# IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE TUBMAN EXPERIENCE

## Interpretive Programs

We are pleased to offer interpretive programs by request and events throughout the year. All of our programs share the message of appreciation of our natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources as a service to our community. So that we may better serve you, we ask that you complete a Program Request Form. Email [htursp.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:htursp.dnr@maryland.gov) to get started.



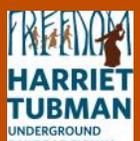
*Guests enjoying a ranger-led tour*

## Tours

The visitor center's exhibit hall is a self-guided experience, however, rangers are available beforehand for an introduction to the park and grounds, as well as afterward for group discussions. With advance notice, groups may request ranger-led tours or interpretive programs. Offer valid only when services are available.

## Pavilion Rental Information

The picnic pavilion is available for family reunions, special gatherings and a variety of other events. It features a stone fireplace, food preparation area, picnic tables, bathrooms and sweeping views of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. At 2,600 square feet, this open air facility is perfect for gatherings of 75 people or less. The pavilion can be reserved and rented for a fee. A special park use permit is required. Please email [htursp.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:htursp.dnr@maryland.gov) for more information.



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Mark Belton, Natural Resources Secretary

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1/2017 DNR: 04-9232016-620

