

Boston African American National Historic Site

**Draft
General
Management
Plan &
Environmental
Assessment**

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National
Historic
Site**

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Plan &
Environmental
Assessment**

**North Atlantic Region
National Park Service
U.S. Department
of the Interior
Boston, Massachusetts**

November 1984

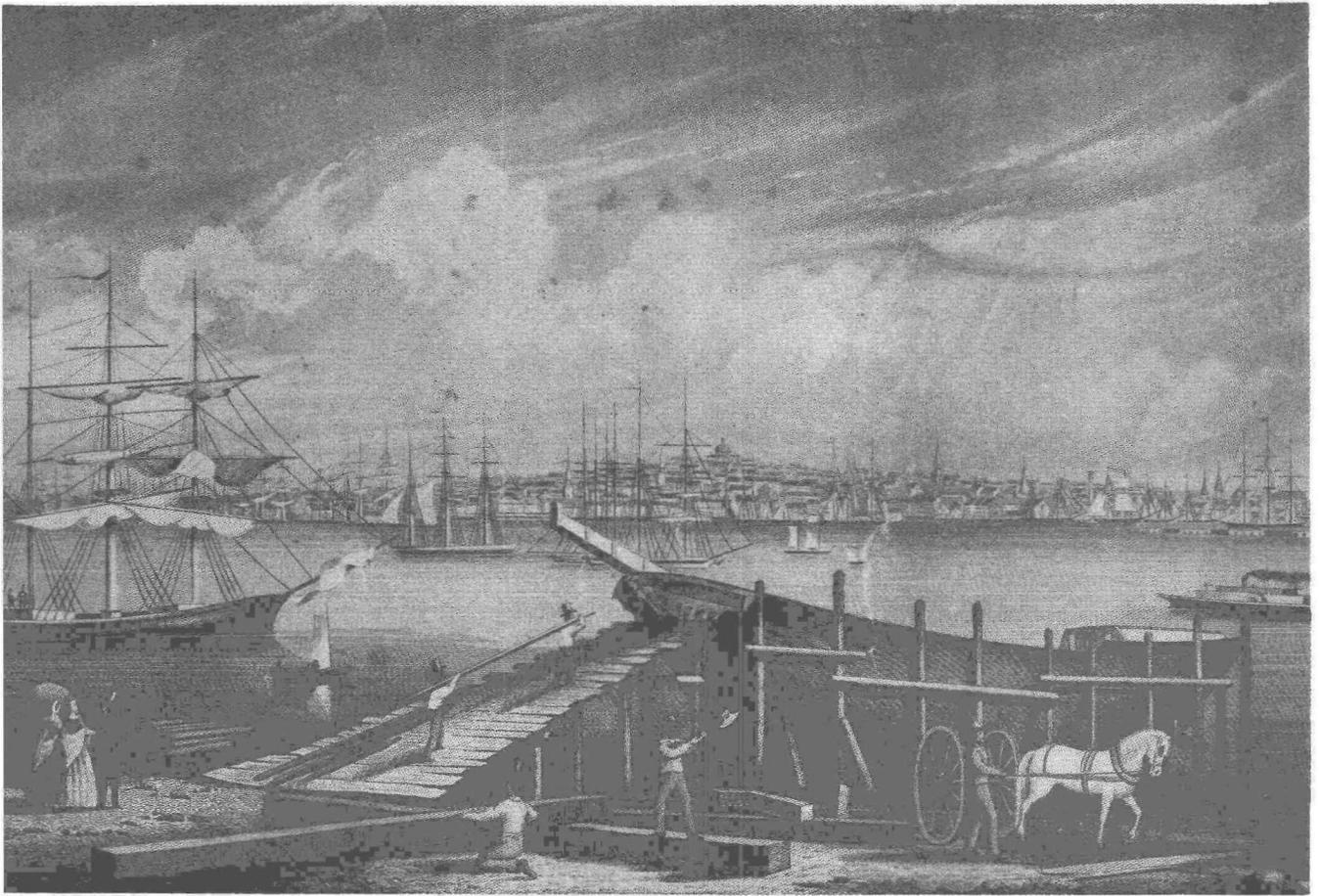
“We have met tonight in this obscure schoolhouse; our numbers are few and our influence limited; but, mark my prediction, Faneuil Hall shall ere long echo with the principles we have set forth. We shall shake the nation by their mighty power.”

William Lloyd Garrison
January 6, 1832
African Meeting House
Boston, Massachusetts

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Boston, 18th c. engraving, Afro-American shipbuilders

Foreword

Under the tutelage of unprecedented events, ordinary men and women become extraordinarily perceptive and articulate, seizing the moment to challenge the assumptions of the old regime and proclaim a new social order. Even then, few take the initiative. Some—perhaps most—simply try to maintain their balance, to reconstitute a routine, to maximize gains and minimize losses as events swirl around them. But inevitably they too become swept up in the revolutionary process.¹

The Boston African American National Historic Site (NHS) was created to commemorate a community of free Afro-Americans which—in the face of tremendous opposition—mounted a resistance to the forces of slavery and segregation in the years leading up to and including the Civil War. The form of that resistance underwent many changes, from public protest and civil disobedience to underground conspiracy, and ultimately, organized military participation in civil war. The leaders of this resistance were people not trained in leadership or politics. Individuals such as Revolutionary War veteran George Middleton and daring abolitionist Lewis Hayden rose from obscurity to meet head-on the fury of violent mobs and the strategies of slave hunters and their political accomplices. They were remarkably brave.

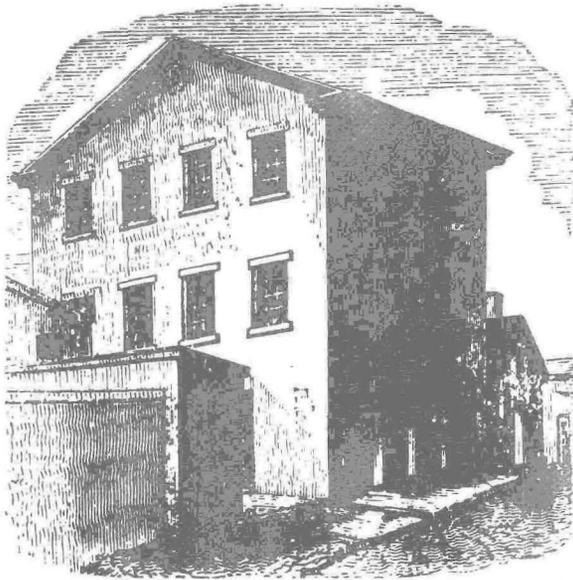
When the Fugitive Slave Law was passed in 1851 authorizing the legal pursuit of runaway slaves throughout the land, a handful of Bostonians formed the Vigilance Committee. The committee openly defied the authority of anyone attempting to enforce this law, from the Boston police to the U.S. Congress. Denounced as social misfits and troublemakers, and threatened with imprisonment and violence, they nevertheless persevered with their activities, supported by a unified and determined community on the north slope of Beacon Hill.

Today, many of the Beacon Hill homes and meeting places of these now-respectable rebels are part of the Boston African American National Historic Site. But this site draws its significance not so much from the exploits of a few extraordinary individuals, but rather from the Afro-American community that supported them. For it was the social and institutional fabric of this community that sustained the momentum for the national abolition of slavery, and the struggle within the city of Boston for equal rights under law. It is not a coincidence that the most important building in the Boston African American National Historic Site is a meetinghouse that served as the early 19th century social, spiritual and political center of Beacon Hill's north slope.

Through a closer examination of the people and social history of this community, now long gone from Beacon Hill, we can begin to appreciate their spiritual strength and commitment to freedom in the face of discouraging odds—and perhaps better understand the sacrifices that must be made to obtain it.

¹from *Freedom, A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867*
Cambridge University Press

CHURCHES IN BOSTON.



FIRST INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH,
BELKNAP STREET.

This Church was constituted under the title of the 'African Baptist Church,' on the 5th day of August, A. D. 1805. It was incorporated under its present title, A. D. 1836.

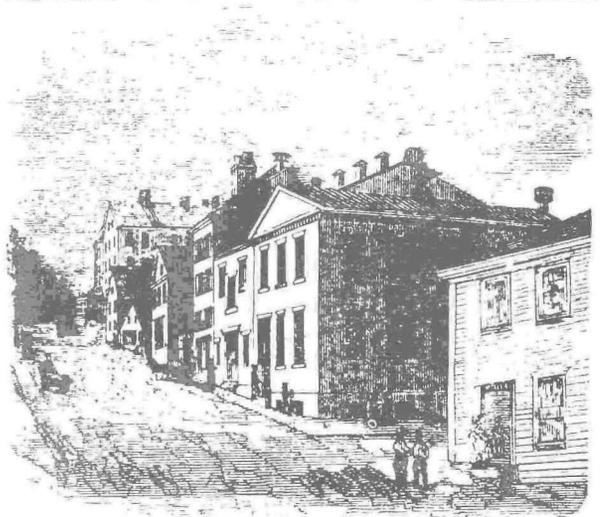
PASTORS.

- Rev. THOMAS PAUL, ind. 1805, dis. 1829.
- Rev. WASHINGTON CHRISTIAN, ind. 18 2, dis. 1832.
- Rev. SAMUEL GOOCH, ind. 1832, dis. 1834.
- Rev. JOHN GIVEN, ind. 1834, dis. 1835.
- Rev. ARMSTRONG ARCHER, ind. 1836, dis. 1837.
- Rev. GEORGE H. BLACK, ind. 1838, dis. 1841.
- Rev. J. T. RAYMOND, ind. 1842, present Pastor.

Present number of members, 158.

The building, which was built by subscription, is situated in a court near Belknap street, adjoining the 'Smith School' edifice. It is very plain and commodious, being capable of seating 600 persons. The proprietors have it in contemplation, if the necessary means can be raised, to modernize, and otherwise improve the premises.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN BOSTON.



Belknap street. } SMITH SCHOOL. { Erected, 1834.
Established, 1812. } { Cost, \$7,485.61.

AMBROSE WELLINGTON, *Master.*
SARAH H. SOUTHWICK, *Assistant.*

This school is for colored children of both sexes. A school for Africans was commenced by themselves, in 1798, the Selectmen having first granted permission, and was kept in the house of Primus Hall. The yellow fever broke it up, and three years afterwards it was revived by Rev. Drs. Morse of Charlestown, Kirkland of Harvard College, Channing, and Lowell, and Rev. Mr. Emerson of Boston. They provided for its entire support two years. It was then proposed to have the colored people hire a building, and a carpenter's shop was selected adjoining to the old church, and this continued three years. The site of the meeting-house was then selected, and purchased by subscription, and the African Baptist Church erected a house, of which the school occupied the basement. The room was completed in 1808, and immediately occupied by the school, and the reverend gentlemen mentioned supported the school, with aid from subscriptions, until 1812, when the town first took notice of it, granting \$200 annually. In 1815 Abiel Smith, Esq., died, and left a legacy of about \$5000, the income of which is to be appropriated "for the free instruction of colored children in reading, writing and arithmetic." The city then took the school under its entire charge, and in 1833 the ill-condition of the room attracted attention, and a Committee, of which D. L. Child was Chairman, reported in favor of a new house. The present house was built in the next two years, and on the 10th of February, 1835, the school was named for its benefactor. Its Masters have been, Prince Saunders, James Waldach, John B. Russwurm, William Bascom, Abner Forbes, and the present incumbent, since 1836. Latest returns show only 78 pupils; attendance, 53.

The Afro-American Community on Beacon Hill

The first Africans arrived in Boston in February 1638—eight years after the city was founded. They were brought as slaves, purchased in Providence Isle, a Puritan colony off the coast of Central America. By the end of the Revolutionary War, there were more free Afro-Americans than slaves in Massachusetts. Slavery was ruled to be illegal in the courts of Massachusetts in 1783, and by the time the first federal census was taken in 1790, Massachusetts was the only state in the Union that reported no slaves. From that time onward, Boston became a haven for runaway slaves. By the beginning of the 19th century, the city's free black population numbered nearly 1,100 and was one of the largest free black communities in North America.

Before 1820, most of the city's blacks lived in the relatively inexpensive North End, which had the added advantage of being close to the businesses and industries of downtown Boston. However, the North End was also a very crowded and rundown section of the city. As the black population continued to grow, community leaders began to look elsewhere for a place to build a strong black settlement. The site they finally chose was the farmland on the north side of Beacon Hill, an area today bounded by Cambridge, Pinckney, Joy, and Charles Streets. They planned the new settlement to improve upon the crowded conditions of the North End, and still retain convenient access to the jobs in the downtown business and industrial districts, and in the aristocratic homes of Beacon Hill.

Among the black groups involved in this relocation effort was the African Society, a religious and social organization composed of leading members of the community. The society believed that the construction of a meetinghouse at the new site would encourage blacks to move to the area. Thus, between 1804 and 1805, the society began preparations to build a meetinghouse on the North Slope of Beacon Hill, also known as the West End. Land was purchased in 1805, and the building—commonly called the African Meeting House—was completed the following year. It was dedicated on December 6, 1806, and occupied by its first congregation, the African Baptist Church, formed a year earlier and led by the Rev. Thomas Paul, a black minister from New Hampshire.

The need for such a meetinghouse in the new community was paramount. The bonds of slavery were broken early in Massachusetts, but the bonds of economic underdevelopment, social and institutional segregation, and political disenfranchisement proved much harder to overcome. For example, black Bostonians could attend white churches, but they generally faced discrimination. They were assigned seats only in the balconies, and they were not given voting privileges. Even during the dedication of the African Meeting House itself, the seats on the sanctuary floor were reserved for all those “benevolently disposed to the Africans,” and the black members sat in the balcony of their own new meetinghouse.

The new African Meeting House was in every way the focus of the new community—the center of its political, social, and spiritual life. School classes met on its first floor, beginning in 1808. The building often served as a clearinghouse for employment opportunities. The meetinghouse also provided physical and emotional sanctuary, a place where free Afro-Americans could escape from the powerful everyday reality of 19th-century racism. Assessing these many community functions, historian James Horton describes the African Meeting House as an “educational lectern, political forum, and religious pulpit.”

The early part of the 19th century found the small settlement on Beacon Hill struggling to establish its own economic and social identity. The residents were employed as servants, barbers, street laborers, caretakers, shopkeepers and mariners. Numbering approximately 2,000 individuals at its pre-Civil War peak, the Beacon Hill black community achieved a high degree of social cohesion, enabling it to exert an influence on local and national political events far out of

THE
COLORED PATRIOTS
OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION,

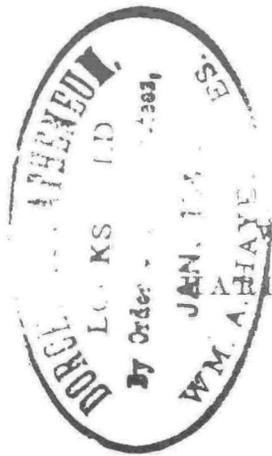
WITH SKETCHES OF SEVERAL

DISTINGUISHED COLORED PERSONS:

TO WHICH IS ADDED A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE

Condition and Prospects of Colored Americans.

By WM. C. NELL.



WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.



BOSTON:

PUBLISHED BY ROBERT F. WALLCUT.

1855.

proportion to its actual size. This small neighborhood became not only the vanguard for confronting institutional racism within the city and Commonwealth, but it also mounted an organized and spirited harassment of the forces of slavery throughout the country.

Between 1839 and 1855, the city of Boston witnessed the first of several racial controversies concerning public schools. William C. Nell, who had attended school in the meetinghouse as a child, initiated a movement for "the day when color of skin would be no barrier to equal school rights."

Founder of the Equal School Association, Nell organized an 11-year-long boycott of the Abiel Smith School, where black children from all over the city had to go to school. The association was protesting inequality of curriculum, level of instruction and physical facilities. In 1848, Benjamin Roberts had attempted to enroll his daughter Sarah in each of the five public schools that stood between their home and the Smith School. When Sarah was denied entrance to all of them, Roberts sued the city under an 1845 statute providing recovery of damages for any child unlawfully denied public school instruction. Abolitionists joined the case in 1849 with Charles Sumner representing Sarah, and black attorney Robert Morris acting as co-counsel. The case was argued before Chief Justice Lemuel Shaw of the Supreme Judicial Court, who in 1850 ruled that Sumner and Roberts had not shown that the Smith School was inferior, or that it offered instruction inferior to that in other Boston schools. Undeterred, Nell and the Equal School Association moved their cause to the halls of the State House. A bill to end segregation in public schools failed in 1851, but a similar measure was passed in 1855 by the State Legislature and signed by the governor, although by that time Boston had the only segregated system in the Commonwealth.

Quality education was an important goal for many of Boston's blacks but no single issue galvanized the 19th-century free Afro-American community on Beacon Hill as did the abolition of slavery. The shadow of Southern slavery hung heavy over the small free Afro-American communities in cities such as Philadelphia, New York and Boston. Many free Afro-Americans were former slaves themselves, and almost everyone had had some close personal encounter with slavery. For Boston's "free" Afro-American community, achieving full freedom and political rights as Americans was inexorably linked to the national abolition of slavery. Free Afro-Americans of all classes joined together in abolitionist activities. Beacon Hill became a hotbed of abolition agitation and a hiding place for runaway slaves and hunted fugitives.

The African Meeting House was the center of much of this antislavery activity. It was there in 1832 that William Lloyd Garrison's New England Abolitionist Society issued its Declaration of Anti-Slavery Sentiments. In the ensuing years, prominent abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass, Wendell Phillips and Charles Sumner spoke from the pulpit to denounce slavery, and to organize against it. Even after some members of the congregation split off in 1845 to form the Second African Baptist Church (now the 12th Baptist Church on Phillips Street), the meetinghouse remained known as a center of abolitionist activity.

The social pressure and agitation for abolition, which had begun in Boston in the 1830's, was heightened in 1850 by the enactment of the Fugitive Slave Law. In essence, this statute meant that blacks who had escaped slavery in the South could be legally pursued North and forcibly returned to their masters. The reaction of Boston's Afro-American community to the Fugitive Slave Law was swift and uncompromising. A network of "safe" houses for fugitive slaves sprang up on the North Slope of Beacon Hill. The community's involvement in the maritime trades helped to aid the escape of many slaves who were stowaways, and it established Beacon Hill as an important "station" on the Underground Railroad to Canada. Many residents of Beacon Hill, former runaway slaves themselves, risked arrest and possible reenslavement to aid desperate fugitives. Slave hunters who came north pursuing fugitives were denounced openly and harassed on the streets of Boston, and forced to operate under the protection of city constables.

As opposition grew bolder, a group of white and black Bostonians formed the Vigilance Committee, organized secretly to resist the law by all necessary means.



Lewis Hayden

CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE

OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,

You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the

Watchmen and Police Officers of Boston,

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as

KIDNAPPERS

AND

Slave Catchers,

And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the Welfare of the Fugitives among you, Show them in every possible manner, as so many HOUNDS on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open.

APRIL 24, 1851.

The Vigilance Committee Dr.				Francis Jackson Treas ^r Cr.			
1858	July	Amount carried forward	1095 91	1858	July	By amount brought forward	1161 85
August	19	Palmer \$6- for Artificial Leg for Johnson & Walker a fugitive slave, who in his flight from slavery, had his foot crushed by the car wheels at the Road road Station in Wilmington Delaware	100	"	"	Francis Jackson for Walker Artificial Leg	5
Nov:	18	B. F. Wallcut for Chat Jefferson from New Orleans		"	"	Wendell Phillips	5
		Clothes of See A Penno	7 50	"	"	Charles F Hovey	5
		Passage in Cars from Portland to Canada	8	"	"	William J Bowditch	5
		Board at Mrs Scotts	50	"	"	John B Meanley	2
		Spending money 3 Mills services 75	3 75	"	"	Edmund Jackson	2
			19 75	"	"	J B Smith	1
"	23	John Oliver for Mrs Simpsons slave child from Smithfield Virginia	3	"	"	Samuel Philbrick	5
Dec:	20	Balance carried forward to new acct	43 19	Sept	"	N L Nash	2
			<u>1261 85</u>	"	"	Charles Ellis	3
				"	"	A W Farrar	2
				"	"	Geo. Ellis	1
				"	"	Emory D Fay	2
				"	"	Alexander Foster	1
				"	"	Albert M Chase	1
				"	"	J H Stephenson	2
				Nov	"	Ingersol Bowditch	2
				"	"	George A Penno	50
				"	"	Johnson & Walker himself paid	3 50
				Dec:	"	Palmer \$6- gave towards the leg	50
						Boston Dec: 20 1858 Error Excepted	1261 85
						Balance 43 dollars to new acct Francis Jackson Treasurer	
						Boston January 24 1859 Examined & found correct	
						Mar Loring having deceased & Mr A P Thorp absent from the United States. (Signed) J. E. Sew all for the Committee.	

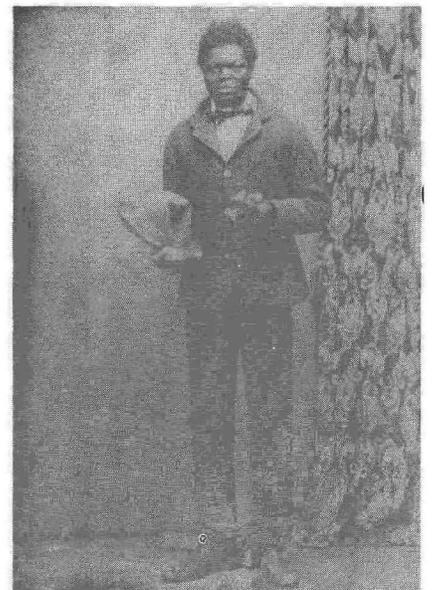
Accounts ledger of the Vigilance Committee, 1859

Lewis Hayden and his wife Harriet used their home on Beacon Hill as a station on the Underground Railroad. The Haydens reputedly kept two kegs of gunpowder in their cellar, saying that they would rather blow up their house than surrender the fugitive slaves that they harbored. Vigilance Committee member Hayden, a former fugitive himself, led several daring attempts to free apprehended slaves from the courtrooms and jailhouses of Boston. These activities were noted throughout the country; in Washington, President Fillmore issued a special proclamation denouncing this determined resistance.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Boston's free Afro-Americans volunteered to fight with the Federal Army, even though the government refused until 1863 to endorse emancipation as a war objective. This offer of service continued to be rejected until after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. President Lincoln, under pressure from white and black abolitionists, finally authorized Governor Andrews of Massachusetts to raise the all-volunteer 54th Colored Regiment, the first regular Afro-American regiment in the Civil War.

Black citizens were angry when they learned only whites could serve as officers, and they were reluctant to join the regiment. However, respected leaders such as Lewis Hayden and Frederick Douglass soon overcame this reaction, and—using the African Meeting House as a center for the recruitment drive—the 54th was quickly raised. A number of the volunteers whose names appeared on the regiment roster were fugitive slaves residing in Canada, who traveled to Boston to join the regiment. Soon after forming, the 54th distinguished itself in the heroic but ill-fated assault on Fort Wagner, South Carolina. It sustained such high casualties that the regiment almost ceased to exist as a functioning unit. For two full years of service, the members of the 54th Regiment refused to accept their salaries, since the army would pay them only as laborers, not front-line soldiers. Ultimately Congress did relent, and increased their pay retroactively.

The African Meeting House continued to serve its congregation and community until the close of the century. By the mid-1890's, however, the Afro-American community on Beacon Hill began to dissipate, as families moved to the South End, Roxbury, and other Boston neighborhoods. With the development of new transportation links to outlying areas, and the decline of job opportunities in downtown Boston, the migration accelerated. The North Slope was soon filled with new European immigrants. The meetinghouse was sold in 1898, and was converted by a Jewish congregation into a synagogue in 1904. Nearly 75 years later, the building was acquired by the Museum of Afro-American History.



VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF
Massachusetts



City
TOWN OF *Boston*
W^ob.

I, *James Thomas Roberts* born in *Springfield*
in the State of *Ohio* aged *twenty one* years,
and by occupation a *Barber* DO HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have
volunteered this *twenty fifth* day of *November* 1863
to serve as a SOLDIER in the ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, for the
period of THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do also agree to
accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing as are or may be established by law for volun-
teers. And I, *James T. Roberts*, do solemnly swear that I will
bear true faith and allegiance to the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and that I will
serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that
I will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of
the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

*54th Mass.
new recruit*

Sworn and subscribed to, at

this day of 18
BOSTON

} *James T Roberts*

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above named Volunteer, agreeably
to the General Regulations of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all bodily defects and men-
tal infirmity, which would, in any way, disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

[Signature]
EXAMINING SURGEON.

*Ward 6
single man*

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer,
previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my judgment
and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an
able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service. This
soldier has *black* eyes. *black* hair. *malatto* complexion, is *5* feet *inches*
high.

55th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers
[Signature] RECRUITING OFFICER.

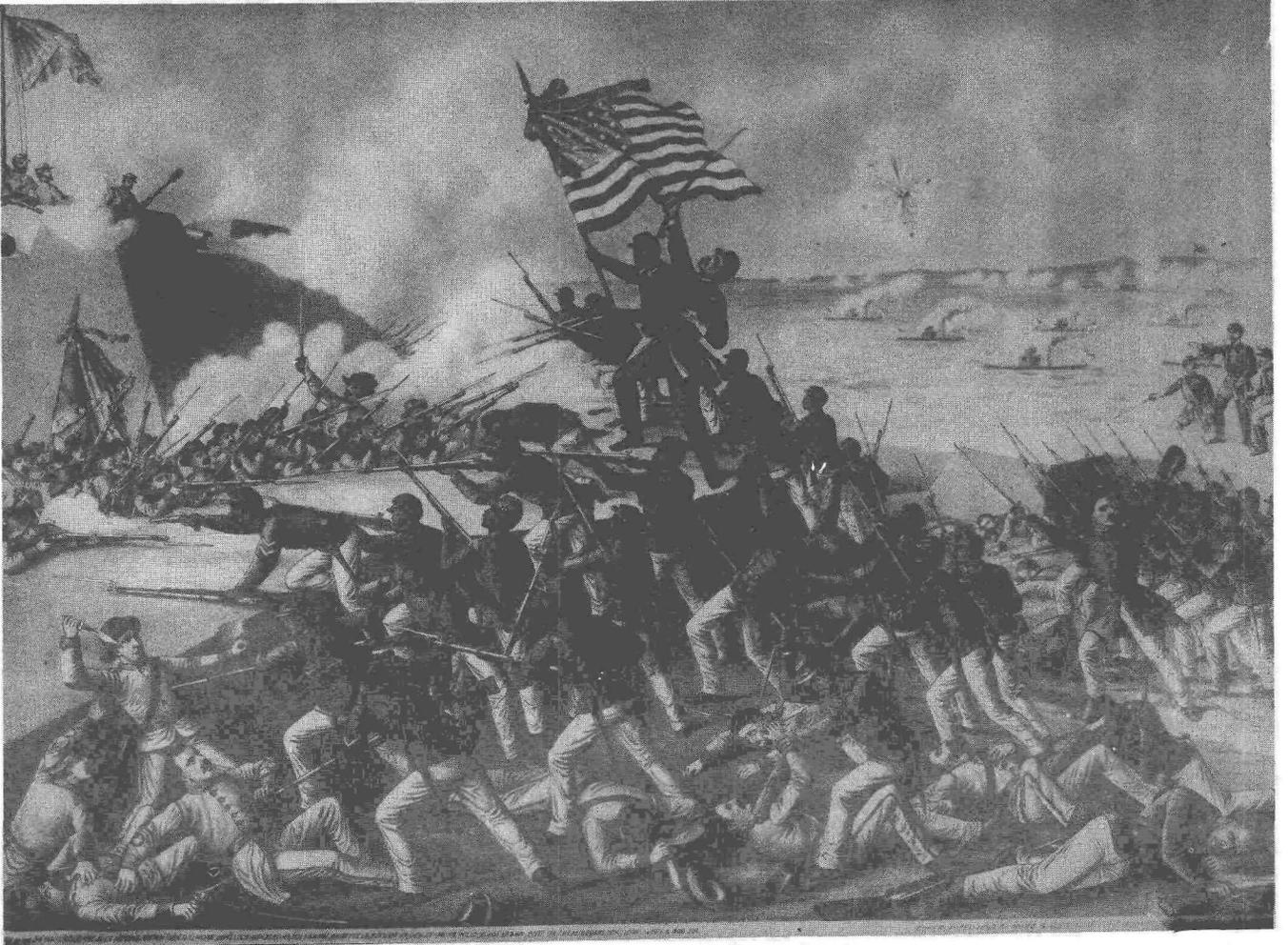
MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS.

Fifty-Fourth Regiment Infantry, M. V.—(Three Years.)—Concluded.

NAME AND RANK.	AGE.	Bounty.	Residence or Place credited to.	Date of Muster.	Termination of Service and cause thereof.
<i>Unassigned Recruits—Con.</i>					
Murray, James,	24	-		Jan. 21, '64,	- - -
Newport, Fitz Henry,	26	-	Warren,		
Nichols, John,	26	-	Watertown,	Nov. 30, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Owens, James,	28	\$325 00	Charlestown,	Jan. 25, '65,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Owen, William,	36	50 00	Leyden,	Dec. 24, '64,	-
Paine, William,	38	325 00	Salem,	July 23, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Patterson, Robert T.,	19	100 00	Cambridge,	Nov. 15, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Pernell, George,	19	325 00	Acton,	23, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Perry, C. O.,	19	325 00	Groton,	21, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Perry, Thomas R.,	39	-		Jan. 21, '64,	-
Peters, Daniel P.,	39	100 00	Oxford,	Sept. 1, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Philips, Anderson,	22	-		Jan. 28, '64,	-
Porter, Edward,	44	168 00	Lenox,	Sept. 19, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Powers, Francis,	21	325 00	Athol,	Dec. 28, '64,	-
Price, James,	26	-		Jan. 28, '64,	-
Read, Charles,	21	325 00	Spencer,	Dec. 1, '63,	-
Reed, Joseph W.,	23	325 00	Spencer,	3, '63,	-
Riley, George,	21	-		Jan. 29, '64,	-
Rome, George B.,	22	237 99	Worcester,	Sept. 3, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Rutter, Daniel,	19	244 66	Williamsburg,	Aug. 23, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Sampson, David H.,	19	325 00	Fitchburg,	Jan. 16, '65,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Sanders, Nathan,	19	-		28, '64,	-
Sherman, William,	23	237 99	Salem,	Sept. 3, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Silvers, William,	31	100 00	Oakham,	Jan. 5, '65,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Slaughter, Simon,	24	239 99	Chicopee,	Aug. 31, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Smith, Peter,	24	325 00	Falmouth,	June 8, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Smith, Thomas F.,	24	100 00	Oakham,	Jan. 5, '65,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Smith, William A.,	18	239 33	Salem,	Sept. 1, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Snowden, John,	23	243 33	Lynn,	Feb. 2, '65,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
South, Edward,	25	166 66	Dartmouth,	Sept. 7, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Stanley, Romulus,	24	-	Townsend,	Oct. 31, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Stevens, George,	18	315 99	Beverly,	July 22, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Stimpson, Royal,	40	325 00	Warwick,	Oct. 30, '63,	-
Stuart, Lattimer,	39	236 66	Cambridge,	Sept. 5, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Thomas, James W.,	31	325 00	Groton,	Nov. 17, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Thomas, Richard,	23	325 00	Roxbury,	July 23, '64,	-
Thompson, William,	29	-	Townsend,	Nov. 11, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Thorne, James P.,	35	325 00	Sunderland,	Aug. 26, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Tillman, Henry,	34	137 99	Hopkinton,	Feb. 3, '65,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Torrey, Henry,	32	244 66	Worcester,	Aug. 24, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Toppin, Elisha,	43	252 66	Worcester,	Jan. 12, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Tyler, John,	23	-		Jan. 25, '64,	-
Tyler, William,	22	325 00	Newbury,	Feb. 17, '65,	May 13, 1865.
Wakefield, Clinton,	20	-		19, '64,	-
Walker, Daniel,	19	289 33	Townsend,	Sept. 1, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Wallace, Samuel, Jr.,	32	325 00	Palmer,	July 26, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Washington, George,	25	325 00	Leverett,	Dec. 5, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Washington, John S.,	35	170 00	Salem,	Sept. 1, '64,	May 15, 1865.
Weathers, Albert,	21	-		Feb. 15, '64,	-
Wheatland, Simeon J.,	38	169 33	Salem,	Sept. 2, '64,	May 15, 1865.
Whipple, George E.,	21	298 66	Chesterfield,	Aug. 18, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
White, Alexander,	22	325 00	Lynn,	Feb. 1, '65,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
White, George S.,	18	239 99	Auburn,	Aug. 31, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
White, Peter,	35	-		Feb. 12, '64,	-
Wiggins, Albert,	22	325 00	Beverly,	July 26, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Williams, Benjamin,	19	325 00	Dana,	June 18, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Williams, George,	30	235 99	Salem,	Sept. 6, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Williams, John,	25	325 00	Chester,	Jan. 18, '65,	-
Wilson, Alfred,	23	-	Pittsfield,	July 14, '63,	-
Wilson, Bonaparte,	20	50 00	West Boylston,	Feb. 3, '65,	-
Wilson, Thomas C.,	40	325 00	Dorchester,	Aug. 1, '64,	Transferred to 55th Inf.
Wincoop, John R.,	23	325 00	Springfield,	Dec. 1, '63,	-
Woodson, Samuel,	23	-		Feb. 12, '64,	-

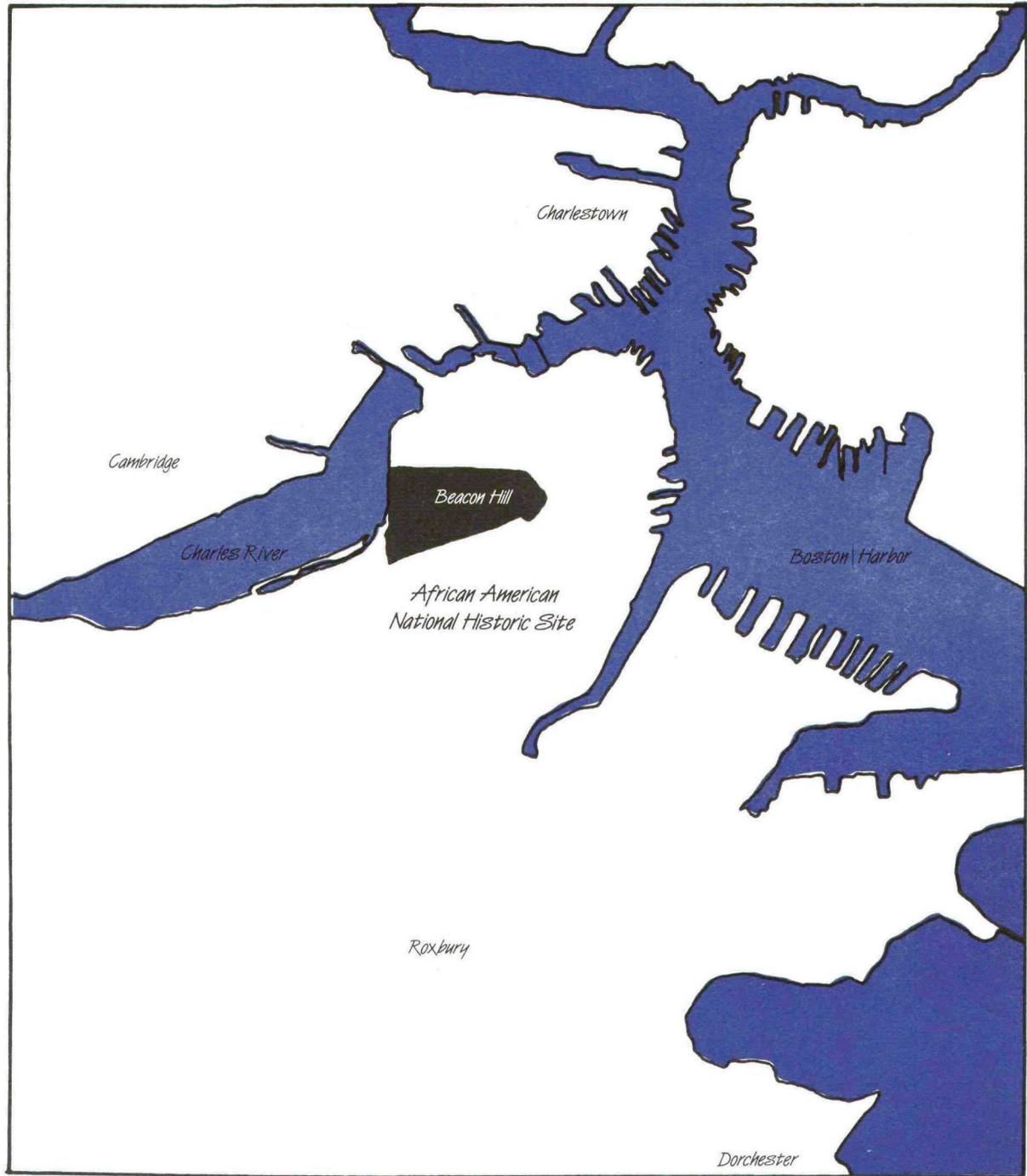
RECAPITULATION.

	Killed in Action.	Died of Wounds, Dis., &c.	Deserted.	Transferred.	Missing.	Unaccounted for.	DISCHARGED.					Totals.
							Promoted.	Honorably.	Dis'onorably.	Disability.	Exp. of serv.	
Commissioned Officers,	5	1	-	-	-	-	70	29	-	7	28	140
Non-Commissioned Officers,	7	19	1	3	5	-	5	-	-	15	136	191
Privates,	42	134	39	91	46	39	2	35	1	118	696	1,243
Totals,	54	154	40	94	51	39	77	64	1	140	860	1,574



STORMING FORT WAGNER.

Storming Fort Wagner: July 18, 1863



City of Boston: Location of the Site

A New Park Concept

The Museum of Afro-American History—a private, nonprofit, educational organization—was the first proponent of the idea that the homes and meetinghouse of the 19th century Afro-American community on Beacon Hill should be recognized and protected as a national historic site. It played a key role in building legislative support for this concept, and in 1980 the Boston African American National Historic Site was established by Congress. The purpose of this action was “to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States...certain historic structures and properties of outstanding national significance located in Boston, Massachusetts, and associated with the creation and development of a free African American community within Beacon Hill prior to the Civil War.”

The Boston African American National Historic Site was conceived as an innovative departure from more traditional national parks and historic sites managed by the National Park Service. Instead of drawing a contiguous boundary around a section of Beacon Hill, Congress designated 16 separate historic properties—linked by the Museum of Afro-American History’s Black Heritage Trail¹—as components of the new National Historic Site (NHS). The National Park Service was directed to manage the site without acquiring any land, but preserving through the mechanism of cooperative agreements with private and public owners, the historic integrity and appearance of these important buildings and structures.

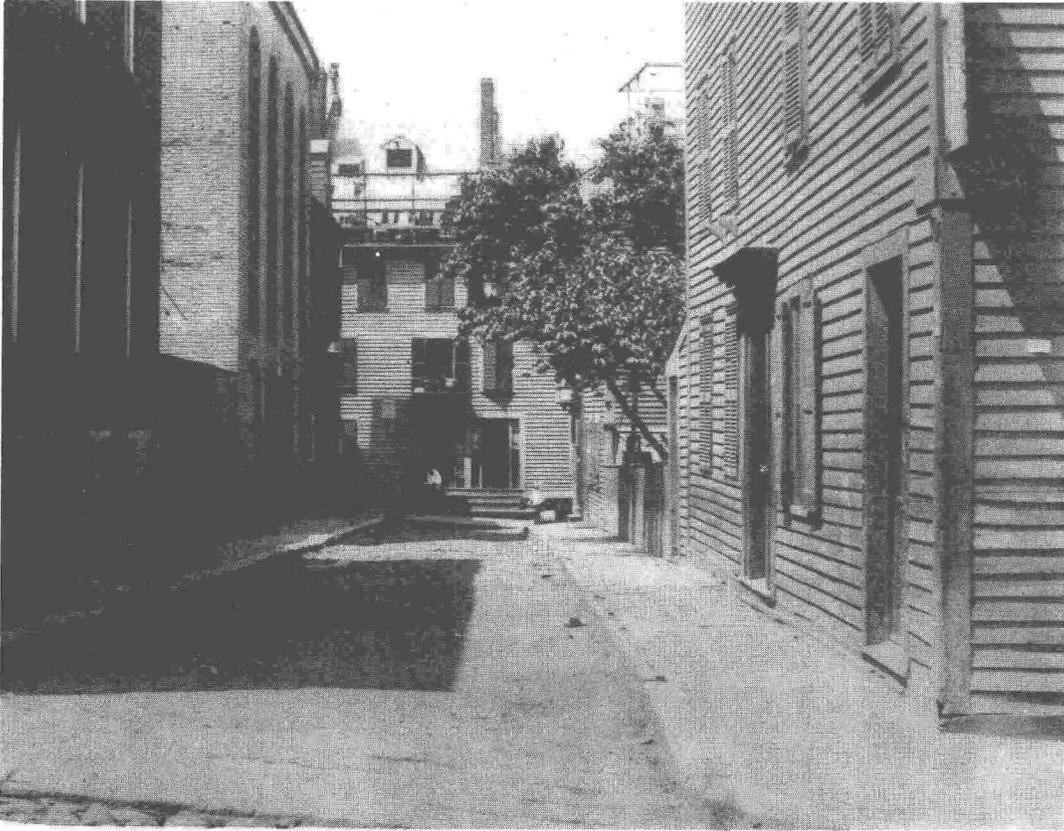
All of Beacon Hill (including the component parts of the Boston African American NHS) is a National Register District and a National Landmark District. The five-member Beacon Hill Architectural Review Commission, appointed by the Mayor, is charged by an act of the State Legislature to conduct design reviews of all changes to exterior architectural features visible from public ways on Beacon Hill. The Beacon Hill Civic Association also conducts a neighborhood review of all proposed zoning variances. These regulations and procedures will provide adequate protection for the scene along the Black Heritage Trail.

Now in its third year of operation, the Boston African American National Historic Site is still suffering growing pains; it depends on the larger Boston National Historical Park (BNHP) for operational and administrative support. Fiscal year 1985 will be the first fiscal year that the site will be allocated a line item in the National Park Service’s operating budget. A small site headquarters operates out of a temporary office above the BNHP’s Visitor Center at 15 State Street, about a 15-minute walk from the African Meeting House on Beacon Hill. Most tours of the site gather informally either on the steps of the Robert Gould Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial on the Boston Common, directly across from the State House, or outside the African Meeting House in Smith Court. There are no facilities at the site open to the public as of yet.

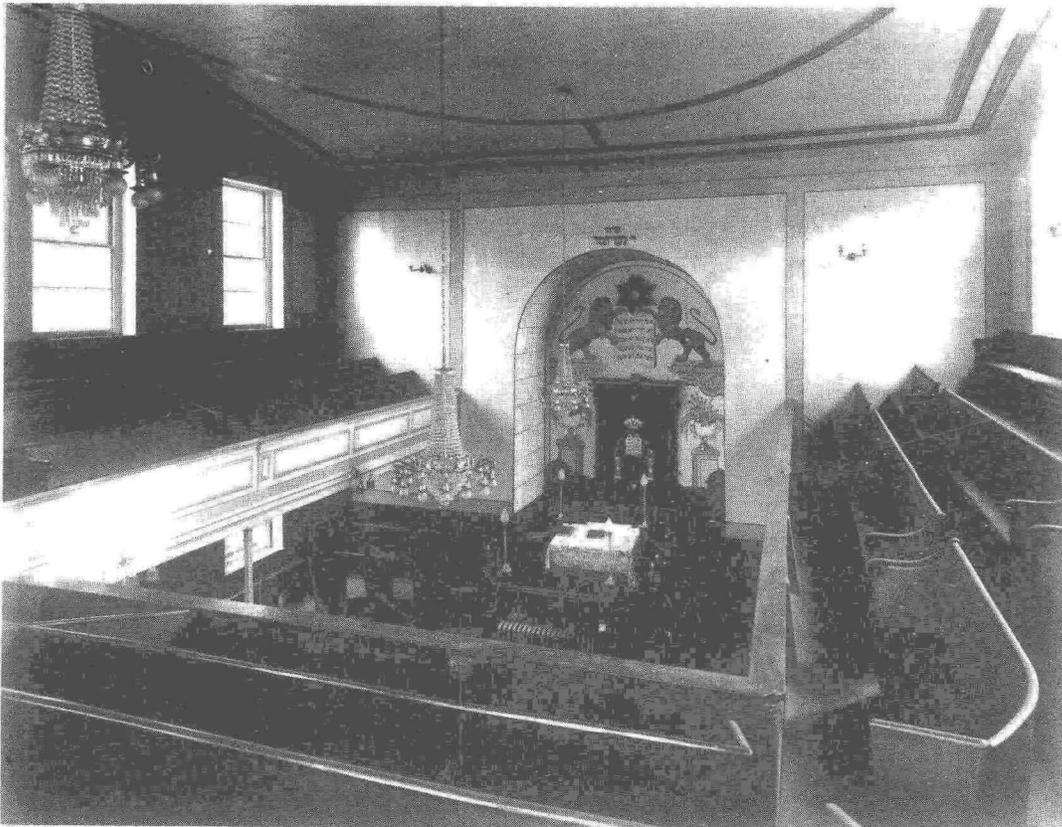
Despite these limitations, last summer more than 13,000 visitors to the site were greeted with a smile and some Afro-American history. Many of these visitors took a self-guided walk along the Black Heritage Trail with the help of an illustrated brochure (now in its second printing), produced jointly by the Park Service and the Museum of Afro-American History. Distinctive trail markers are being put up near each of the sites along the trail.

When the cold winds start to blow off Boston Harbor, and the streams of strolling tourists begin to thin, the Boston African American National Historic Site—working closely with the Museum of Afro-American History—continues to serve the public with special indoor events. These include historical and cultural traveling exhibits, concerts and conferences. Among the exhibits presented have been the very successful offerings, *I Was Born on Beacon Hill*, and *Negro Cloth: Northern Industry and Southern Slavery*. The site is also one of the sponsors of the annual *Blacks in Boston* conference. (More information on these efforts is contained elsewhere in this draft plan.)

¹Black Heritage Trail is a trademark of the Museum of Afro-American History.



Smith Court c. 1895 (SPNEA)



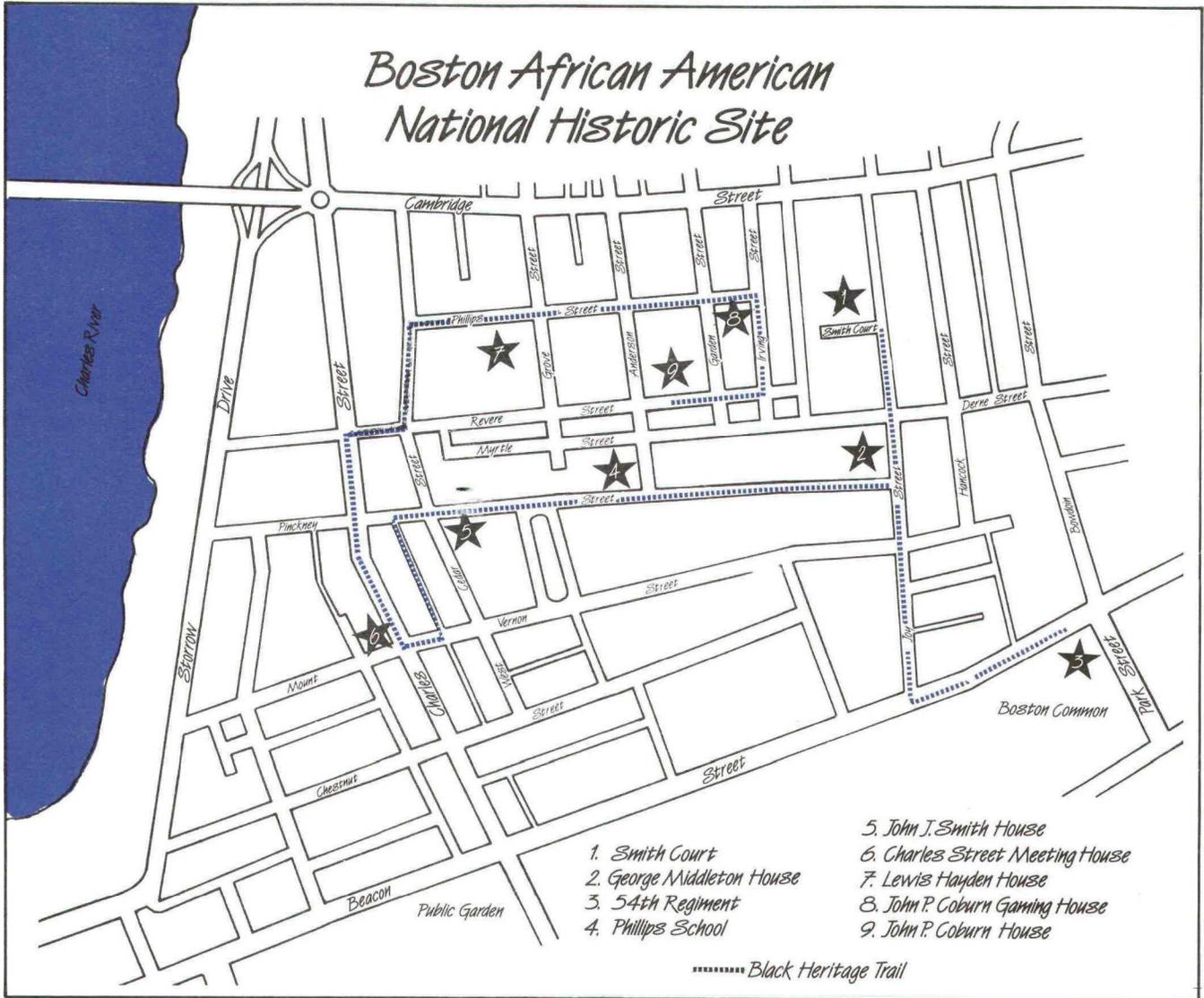
Interior of the Meetinghouse as a synagogue, c. 1937. (only known surviving photograph of the interior.) (SPNEA)

The most exciting project yet undertaken by the Boston African American National Historic Site and the Museum of Afro-American History, however, is the restoration of the African Meeting House at the end of Smith Court. Damaged by fire in 1973, the African Meeting House stood unheated and empty for more than a decade, most of its pews and interior furnishings and fixtures having been put in storage. It was a logical candidate for the Boston African American National Historic Site's first cooperative agreement, which was entered into in August 1981 with the museum, to preserve the meetinghouse. In 1983, Congress made a special \$1 million appropriation toward the complete restoration of the meetinghouse. The National Park Service had prepared a draft historic structure report on the meetinghouse, which determined how much architectural fabric remained from each of the various periods in the building's history. This and other information was needed before an informed decision could be made regarding the treatment of the building.

The museum had suggested that the meetinghouse be restored to its appearance in 1855, after the original 1806 design was remodeled into the basic form extant today. The historic structure report found that there was sufficient documentary and physical evidence from that period to guide an accurate restoration effort.

Given the overwhelming support expressed during the public review of planning alternatives for restoration of the meetinghouse, the decision was made to proceed with this important project, consistent with the general management plan being developed for the site. Detailed plans and specifications are now being prepared for the restoration, and for the installation of new mechanical, electrical and protective systems. It is anticipated that construction will begin on the building early next year, and that the African Meeting House will be opened to the public before the end of 1985.

Boston African American National Historic Site



- 1. Smith Court
- 2. George Middleton House
- 3. 54th Regiment
- 4. Phillips School
- 5. John J. Smith House
- 6. Charles Street Meeting House
- 7. Lewis Hayden House
- 8. John P. Coburn Gaming House
- 9. John P. Coburn House

..... Black Heritage Trail

Black Heritage Trail,
Boston African American National Historic Site

A Walk on the Black Heritage Trail

The Black Heritage Trail is a 1.6 mile walking tour that introduces visitors to the history and architecture of the free Afro-American community that lived on the North Slope of Beacon Hill in the 1800's. The trail weaves its way through the largest concentration of pre-Civil War black historic sites in the United States, which now constitute the Boston African American National Historic Site.

The trail originates at the African Meeting House, located in Smith Court, a short cul-de-sac off Joy Street. A two-story red brick building, the meetinghouse is one of the oldest black church buildings in New England. The plaque above the main doors commemorates Cato Gardner, one of the principal fundraisers for the construction.

Throughout the 19th century, the meetinghouse hosted musical performances, literary society meetings, socials, political rallies, school classes and worship services. The building was remodeled and modernized in the 1850's. The meetinghouse is currently being restored to its appearance shortly after this remodeling; it will be the only completely restored structure open to the public on the Black Heritage Trail.

Across the street from the meetinghouse are the Smith Court residences, built from 1799 through 1853. Typical homes of black families, these simple wood frame houses—with their small dooryards—were often shared by two families, or by a family with boarders. William C. Nell, a black community leader in school integration and a Revolutionary War historian, once lived at 3 Smith Court. The second deacon of the meetinghouse and his family lived upstairs at number 5, and rented out the lower floor. The house at 10 Smith Court, next to the meetinghouse, was built by a black chimney sweep named Scarlett. The one at 7½ Smith Court is located behind number 7, tucked down a narrow alley. Many houses of this period could be reached only via an intricate system of pedestrian alleys passing through the centers of the blocks. The proximity of homes made it easy for neighbors to meet and share news, thus developing and strengthening the close-knit community.

The Abiel Smith School, built in 1834, is at the corner of Joy Street and Smith Court, adjacent to the African Meeting House. For many years, the city of Boston did not provide schooling for black children, although petitions requesting the service were submitted and denied as early as 1787. A school was begun in the home of Primus Hall. After 1808, classes met on the first floor of the African Meeting House. The Smith School, which opened in 1835, was the first school built to provide primary and grammar schooling for all black children of Boston. After the Civil War, the Smith School became a center for Afro-American veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic.

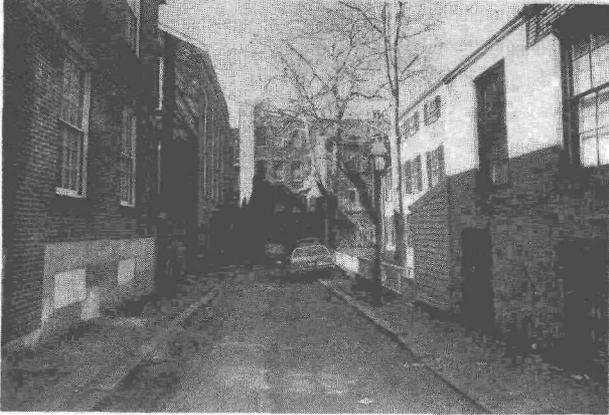
The next site along the Black Heritage Trail, 5-7 Pinckney Street, is a small sturdy clapboarded house, the oldest extant house built by a black person on Beacon Hill and one of the area's oldest remaining wooden structures. Former owner Colonel George Middleton was well-known for his leadership of "The Bucks of America," an all-black company in the American Revolution. In acknowledgement of their service, John Hancock, Governor of Massachusetts, presented the Bucks with a special silk company banner, which has been preserved by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Walking along Joy Street to the Boston Common, the character of the architecture changes from the rather simple styles seen at Smith Court, to the very elegant homes of the Boston "aristocracy" facing the Common, where many 19th-century Afro-Americans obtained employment.

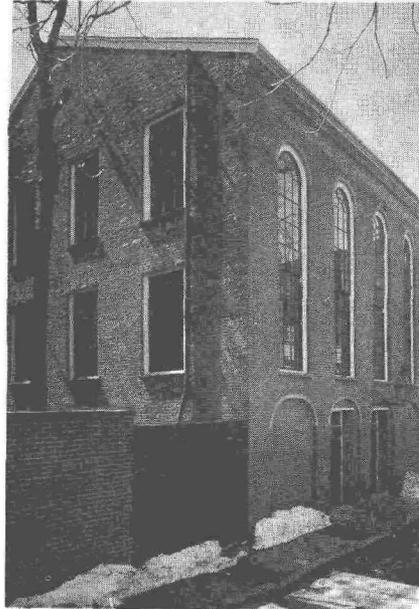
The edge of the Boston Common opposite the State House features the Robert Gould Shaw/54th Regiment Memorial by sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The memorial was funded by contributions from Massachusetts citizens and was dedicated in 1897. A copy of the massive relief of Colonel

1. Smith Court
2. William C. Nell House
3. African Meeting House
4. Joseph Scarlett House
5. Coburn Gaming House
6. Charles St. Meeting House

1.



3.



2.



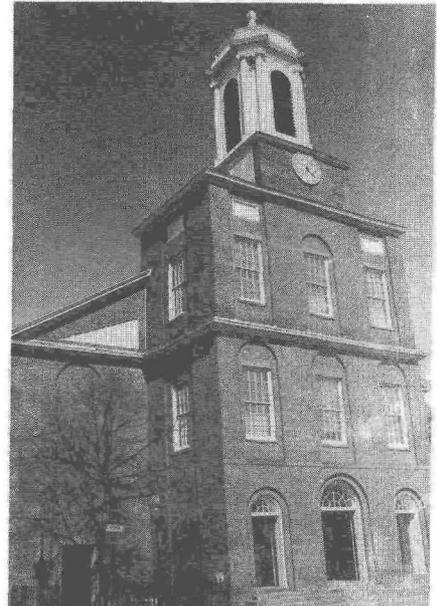
4.



5.

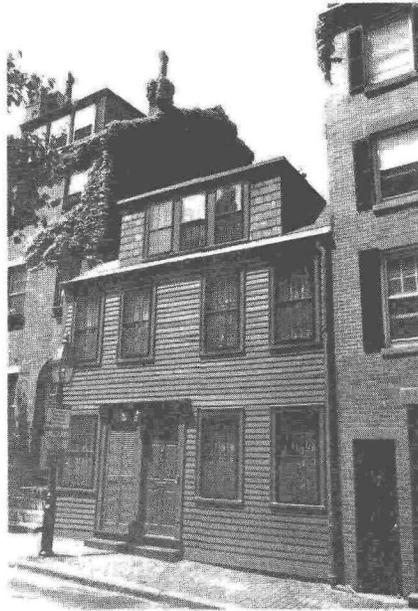


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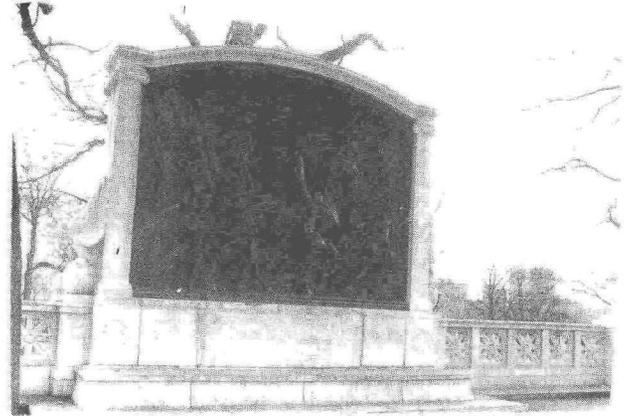


- 7. George Middleton House
- 8. Shaw Memorial/54th Regiment
- 9. Phillips School
- 10. John J. Smith House
- 11. Lewis Hayden House
- 12. Abiel Smith School

7.



8.



9.



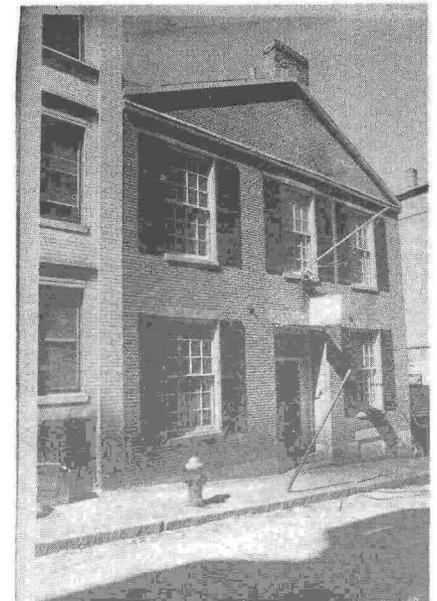
10.

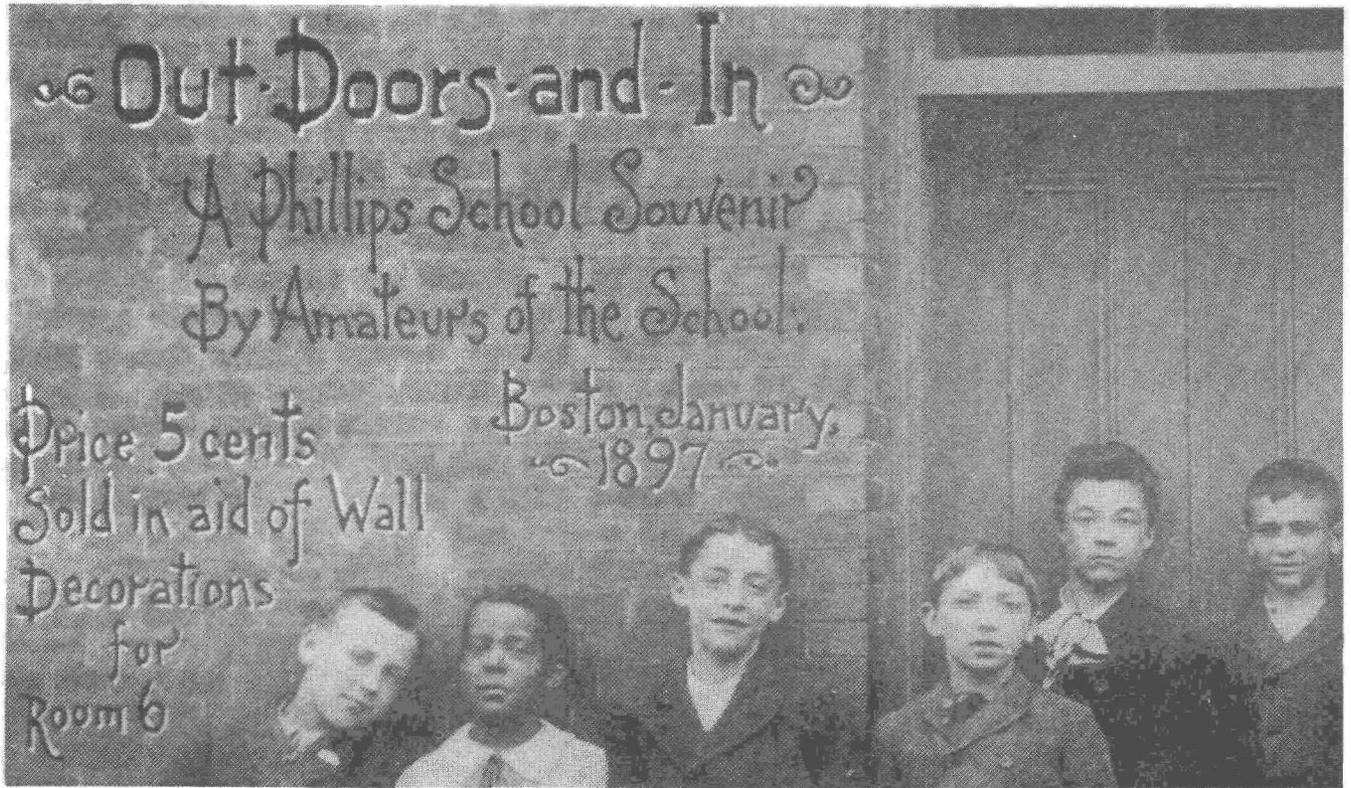


11.



12.





Phillips School students c.1895



Shaw marching with the black soldiers of the 54th is on display at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire—also a National Park Service site. In 1983, after a publicly funded restoration effort, the Shaw/54th Regiment Memorial was rededicated.

The Black Heritage Trail then doubles back along Joy Street and travels down Pinckney Street to the Phillips School. This three-story red brick schoolhouse with arched windows dominates the corner of Pinckney and Anderson Streets. Built in 1824, the school enrolled only white students until 1855, when the State Legislature integrated schools, making the Phillips School the first racially-integrated school in the city.

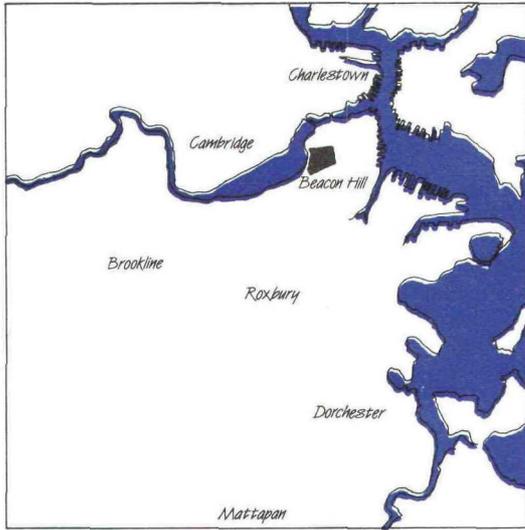
Just one block above Charles Street is 86 Pinckney Street, a brick townhouse with three-sided bay windows. It was the residence of John J. Smith from 1878 to 1893. A barber and caterer, he served three terms in the State Legislature, and was later appointed to the Boston Common Council. Smith was an active crusader for the black community, being involved in the movements to integrate Boston schools, and to develop an all-black cavalry during the Civil War. This house—larger, more elegant and more durably constructed than the wooden houses of Smith Court—reflected the economic development of the black community in the later 19th century.

The trail turns onto Charles Street, where a white cupola topped by a gold weathervane marks the Charles Street Meeting House, built in 1807 by the Charles Street Baptist Church Congregation. This first congregation followed the traditional practice of restricting blacks to the galleries, out of sight of the white congregation and the minister. In the mid-1830's, Timothy Gilbert's challenge of this rule and his subsequent expulsion from the church, led to the founding of the Tremont Temple, Boston's first integrated church. The Charles Street Church was purchased in 1876 by the African Methodist Episcopal Church; it remained a center of black religious activities until 1939, when the congregation moved to Roxbury.

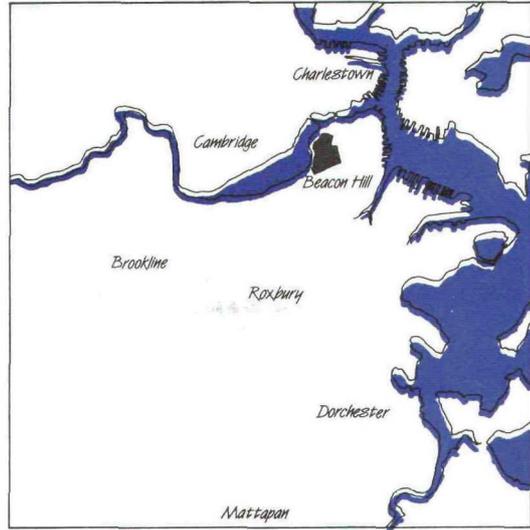
Leaving Charles Street, the trail turns up Revere Street and then down West Cedar Street to 66 Phillips Street, a three-story red brick townhouse, once the home of Lewis Hayden. Hayden, an escaped Kentucky slave, and his wife Harriet settled in Boston in 1849 and became increasingly active in the abolition movement. Their home is the most extensively documented of Boston's Underground Railroad stations, having sheltered many fugitive slaves. A clothing dealer by profession, Hayden helped recruit the 54th Regiment and later served a term in the State Legislature.

The corner of Phillips and Irving Streets features a red brick townhouse with fanciful black iron balcony. This building was known as the Coburn Gaming House. It was built in 1843-1846 for John P. Coburn, a clothing dealer, and his family. Coburn and his brother-in-law operated a gaming house here as well.

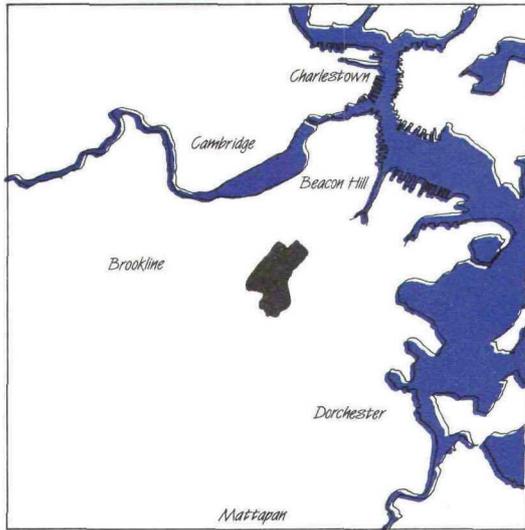
The Black Heritage Trail returns to Smith Court by way of Anderson, Cambridge and Joy Streets.



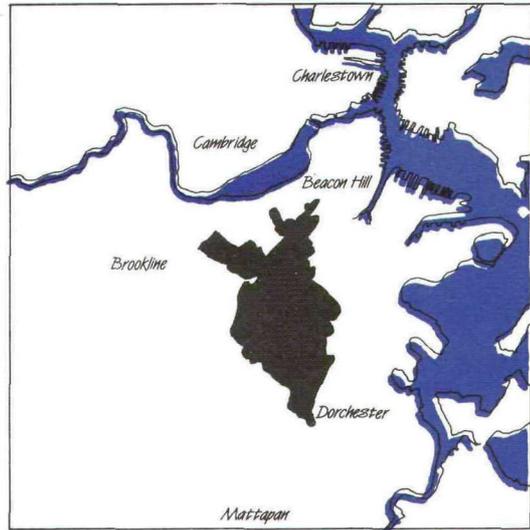
1840



1880



1920



1960

**Demographic Change of Neighborhoods
with 50% or more Afro-American Population**

The Need for a Plan

A plan is needed to guide the management and preservation of this relatively new historic site. The Boston African American National Historic Site is not a traditional national park and the management problems it faces are unusual. Any plan for the site must address four major issues:

1. How can the National Park Service preserve and protect the historic resources of the Boston African American National Historic Site, given that the Park Service would not actually own any of the properties (with the exception of any future donations) comprising the site?
2. In view of the Museum of Afro-American History's involvement in the creation and interpretation of the Black Heritage Trail and its ownership of the African Meeting House, what are appropriate roles for the museum and the Park Service and how will their cooperative relationship be defined?
3. How can the site and its many themes be interpreted adequately, considering the physical constraints of the Black Heritage Trail and the fact that the National Park Service may have very limited, if any, indoor visitor facilities?
4. Despite the considerable research done by the Museum of Afro-American History on the Beacon Hill black community, much of the history of the Hill's free African American community has not been studied. As a consequence, many of the site's themes cannot now be interpreted to the public. How can the National Park Service develop the information necessary to preserve important cultural resources, and to achieve greater public understanding and appreciation for the historical role of the Free Afro-American community on Beacon Hill?



Logo: Museum of Afro-American History

The Proposal

Summary

The National Park Service will seek to enter into cooperative agreements with the owners of all of the historic properties comprising the Boston African American National Historic Site as defined in Public Law 96-430. The purpose of this action is to ensure the preservation of these properties and to promote the interpretation of the Black Heritage Trail. With the exception of the African Meeting House and the Smith School, the National Park Service will not be involved in the interior renovation or adaptive use of any of the properties; the objective of most of the cooperative agreements will be the preservation of exterior facades, and support for interpretation.

The African Meeting House—under a cooperative agreement with the Museum of Afro-American History—will be restored to its appearance in 1855, when it was an important religious, social and political center for Beacon Hill's Afro-American community. Based on the draft historic structure report completed by the National Park Service in 1982, the restoration will involve the preservation of as much historic building material as possible. The restored African Meeting House will be open for visitors and guided tours and will be staffed and operated by the Museum of Afro-American History with the assistance of the National Park Service. The meetinghouse will once again be used for the community meetings, ceremonies, exhibits and special programs.

Cooperative Agreements

The Boston African American National Historic Site was created to preserve buildings and properties of outstanding national significance associated with the free 19th-century African American community on Beacon Hill. The National Park Service is not authorized to acquire any of these historic properties unless they are donated. Congress intended the purposes of the National Historic Site to be achieved through a variety of cooperative arrangements with other parties, including property owners and private organizations. The principal mechanism used for the preservation of historic properties will be the cooperative agreement.

To date, cooperative agreements have been established with the Museum of Afro-American History, owner of the African Meeting House, and the owners of the Lewis Hayden House, a private residence. A description of the existing and proposed cooperative agreements follows.

The African Meeting House

The National Park Service's first cooperative agreement for the site was signed with the Museum of Afro-American History in 1981. The museum is a nonprofit educational institution founded to study the social history of New England's Afro-American communities, and to promote an awareness of that history by means of educational programs, publications, exhibits and special events. The museum's ownership makes the African Meeting House the only building of the site still owned by a black organization. The museum developed the Black Heritage Trail, and played a key role in the establishment of the Boston African American National Historic Site.

Because of the museum's important role in relation to the National Historic Site, this proposal addresses at some length the museum's special cooperative relationship with the National Park Service, and recommends ways in which the museum and the National Park Service can work together in the future. The cooperative agreement defines the appropriate roles of the National Park Service and the museum in the restoration, operation and interpretation of the meetinghouse.

The first phase of the meetinghouse restoration—the actual exterior and interior restoration of the structure—will be funded by the National Park Service. Funds for the second phase of the project—the development of interpretive exhibits and programs—are to be partially raised by the Museum of Afro-American History

and private donors. These funds will be used for audio-visual programs to be shown in the sanctuary, and for small exhibits for the first-floor area. In addition to regular visitor programs, the meetinghouse will also be open for lectures, performances and special events of community interest.

The museum will be responsible for the operation and interpretation of the restored African Meeting House. The museum may charge admission to the meetinghouse. Under the terms of the Boston African American NHS legislation, where federal funds are expended under a cooperative agreement, any fees the cooperator—in this case, the museum—may collect shall be applied to the renovation and maintenance of the property.

The National Park Service will provide technical assistance to the museum, subject to the availability of funds, for historic preservation and maintenance. Also, subject to the availability of funds, the Park Service will assist the museum's interpretive, curatorial and management activities at the meetinghouse. Any alterations of the meetinghouse will require the mutual consent of the museum and the National Park Service. The museum and the Park Service will work cooperatively to develop exhibits for the first floor of the meetinghouse, and will continue to co-sponsor special programs and research efforts, as described later in the proposal.

Museum staff members will continue to provide guided tours along the Black Heritage Trail. National Park Service interpreters will be available at certain places along the trail in the summer, when visitation to the Boston African American NHS is at its highest. These seasonal employees will be stationed at or near the Boston Common Information Center, and at the Boston National Historical Park's State Street Visitor Center. These locations will continue to serve as orientation points and staging areas for self-guided tours of the Black Heritage Trail.

Both the museum and the site will work together closely to ensure that all programs are carefully coordinated.

The Abiel Smith School

A former black school and meeting hall for black Civil War veterans, the Smith School has historically been a very important Afro-American institution in Boston. The school, which adjoins the African Meeting House, is currently owned by the City of Boston. The National Park Service will seek a cooperative agreement with the city to use the Smith School for interpretation and administration. Interpreting the site will reaffirm its historic identity and link to Afro-American history and culture.

Using it administratively will enable the National Park Service staff to be stationed close to the Smith Court sites, once the meetinghouse and Smith School are opened to the public. This will facilitate the buildings' maintenance and security.

Under the proposed cooperative agreements, the exterior of the Smith School will be preserved; the interior will be modified as needed for adaptive use. (A historic structure report and interpretive prospectus will guide the interior treatment of the school.) A range of related uses will be considered, including exhibition space, visitor orientation, and meeting space for veterans' groups and other small community gatherings.

The Robert Gould Shaw/54th Regiment Memorial

A cooperative agreement will be sought with the City of Boston for the preservation and interpretation of the Shaw/54th Regiment Memorial, located on the Boston Common opposite the State House. Seasonal National Park Service interpreters will use the memorial site for interpretive talks, and as a place to start visitors on self-guided tours of the Black Heritage Trail. NPS interpreters will also work cooperatively with City of Boston Parks Department interpretive staff assigned to the Common. The National Park Service will participate in the general maintenance of the site and will erect free-standing interpretive plaques explaining the history and significance of the 54th Regiment and the memorial.

The Lewis and Harriet Hayden House

The National Park Service has entered into a cooperative agreement with the owners of the Lewis and Harriet Hayden House. The Museum of Afro-American History is also a party to the agreement. Under the terms of the agreement, the owners will not make exterior alterations to the property except by mutual agreement. The National Park Service is granted the right to interpret the outside of the house (including the placing of markers or interpretive plaques) and portions of the building's interior, upon mutual agreement with the owners. The Park Service is also granted access to conduct historical or architectural studies. As part of the agreement, a 20-year preservation covenant and restriction has been placed on the property to preserve the integrity of exterior architectural features. The duration of the covenant, 20 years, was equal to the maximum duration of covenants required by state and federal preservation grants-in-aid.

Subject to the availability of funds, the National Park Service will provide assistance with the preservation maintenance of the house's exterior facade, including repairs to the roof, gutters, masonry, windows and doors, walks and exterior maintenance activities. The Park Service is currently funding the repointing of masonry and the repair of sandstone lintels and sills on the facade of the Hayden House.

Agreements for Other Sites

The National Park Service will seek cooperative agreements with the owners of all other buildings and properties comprising the Boston African American NHS. This strategy is also recommended in the draft Land Protection Plan for the Boston African American National Historic Site, which is currently being prepared. These agreements will be similar in purpose and scope to the Hayden House agreement described above. It is the objective of the Park Service to have cooperative agreements with all property owners by the end of 1986.

Land Protection Issues

There are two land protection issues relating to the National Historic Site that need resolution:

The title of a 6'x30' tract between the African Meeting House and the Abiel Smith School sites is unclear. Ownership must be established in order to determine if the existing Cooperative Agreement with the Museum of Afro-American History for the restoration and interpretation of the African Meeting House applies to this parcel. If no action is taken to resolve this and title for the tract remains unclear the National Park Service and the museum will be unable to complete the treatment of grounds around the Meeting House in conjunction with the current \$1 million dollar restoration of the structure. The NPS could work with the City of Boston to determine final ownership of the tract. Should ownership rest with the City of Boston or private owners other than the Museum, a cooperative agreement for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the property could be pursued.

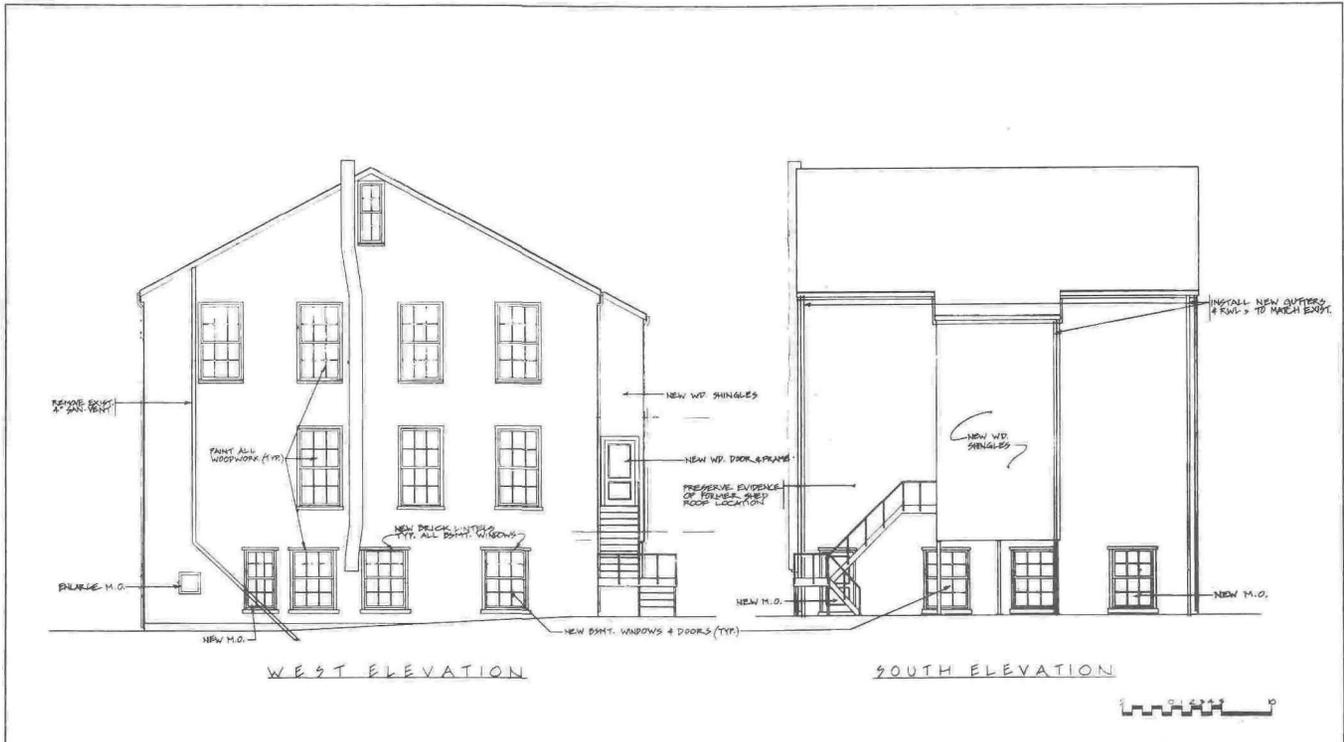
The proposal recommends that the Park work with local authorities to determine ownership of the property adjoining the African Meeting House and establish a cooperative agreement with the owner.

The only access to view the Coburn House site is by means of the private passageway leading from Phillips Street. This passageway has been locked on several occasions because of vandalism. If no action is taken to resolve this, the public will be unable to visit the Coburn House site, a component of the Boston African American NHS, when the passageway gate is locked. A cooperative agreement could be pursued providing supervised access to site.

The proposal recommends establishing a cooperative agreement with the owners of the Coburn House and affected neighbors, to provide for supervised access to the Coburn House site.



AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE 8 SMITH COURT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS D. BAUGH & ASSOCIATES, INC. 75 KNEELAND STREET BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS		DESIGNED: _____ DRAWN: _____ TECH. REVIEW: _____ DATE: / /	SUB SHEET NO. _____ TITLE OF SHEET NORTH & EAST ELEVATIONS	DRAWING NO. _____ PER. NO. _____ SHEET A&E OF _____
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AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE 8 SMITH COURT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS D. BAUGH & ASSOCIATES, INC. 75 KNEELAND STREET BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS		DESIGNED: _____ DRAWN: _____ TECH. REVIEW: _____ DATE: / /	SUB SHEET NO. _____ TITLE OF SHEET SOUTH & WEST ELEVATIONS	DRAWING NO. _____ PER. NO. _____ SHEET A&E OF _____
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Restoration of the African Meeting House

The significance of the African Meeting House was recognized with its designation as a National Historic Landmark on May 30, 1974 and its listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The enabling legislation for the Boston African American National Historic Site (P.L. 96-430) further recognized the meetinghouse as one of the most important early 19th-century Afro-American structures in America.

The following description of the African Meeting House and recommendations for its restoration are based on the draft historic structure report prepared under the cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the Museum of Afro-American History.

The African Meeting House is three stories high and measures approximately 40 by 46 feet. Its exterior consists of brick on a fieldstone foundation, with an exterior brick chimney on each of its south and west sides, and a slate roof. Construction incorporated timbers and windows salvaged during the reconstruction of the Old West Church, built in 1736. The lowest level of the building, completed in 1808, included a foyer, a schoolroom and quarters for the minister. The sanctuary and its foyer were on the second floor, with the balcony above.

In 1855, the congregation undertook a major renovation of the meetinghouse. The entrance doors were moved to the center arches of the north facade replacing existing windows, and the remaining windows were lengthened to two stories. The windows in the south facade were bricked up, and gutters and gaslights were added to the building. Inside the meetinghouse, the stairways were rebuilt, a hot-air heating system was installed, the gallery and sanctuary walls were papered, and other walls and woodwork were repainted.

The meetinghouse suffered a fire in February 1973 which destroyed much of the roof. The wooden roof trusses were completely burned and the exterior brick walls were weakened. Emergency work quickly enclosed the roof, replacing the damaged trusses with a new bracing system. In late 1975, the museum undertook additional work to stabilize the meetinghouse, including the installation of a new slate roof and window repair.

In 1983, the National Park Service and the museum decided to restore the meetinghouse to its appearance in 1855, just after the Baptist congregation completed its major renovation of the structure. The decision was based upon the fact that this period in the building's history is represented by the largest amount of documentary and physical evidence. However, only those building elements that can be accurately documented will be restored. The historic structure report does not recommend restoration of elements such as the 1855 apse and pulpit, for which there is no evidence remaining. As much historic building material as possible will be saved; materials that postdate the historic period will be removed.

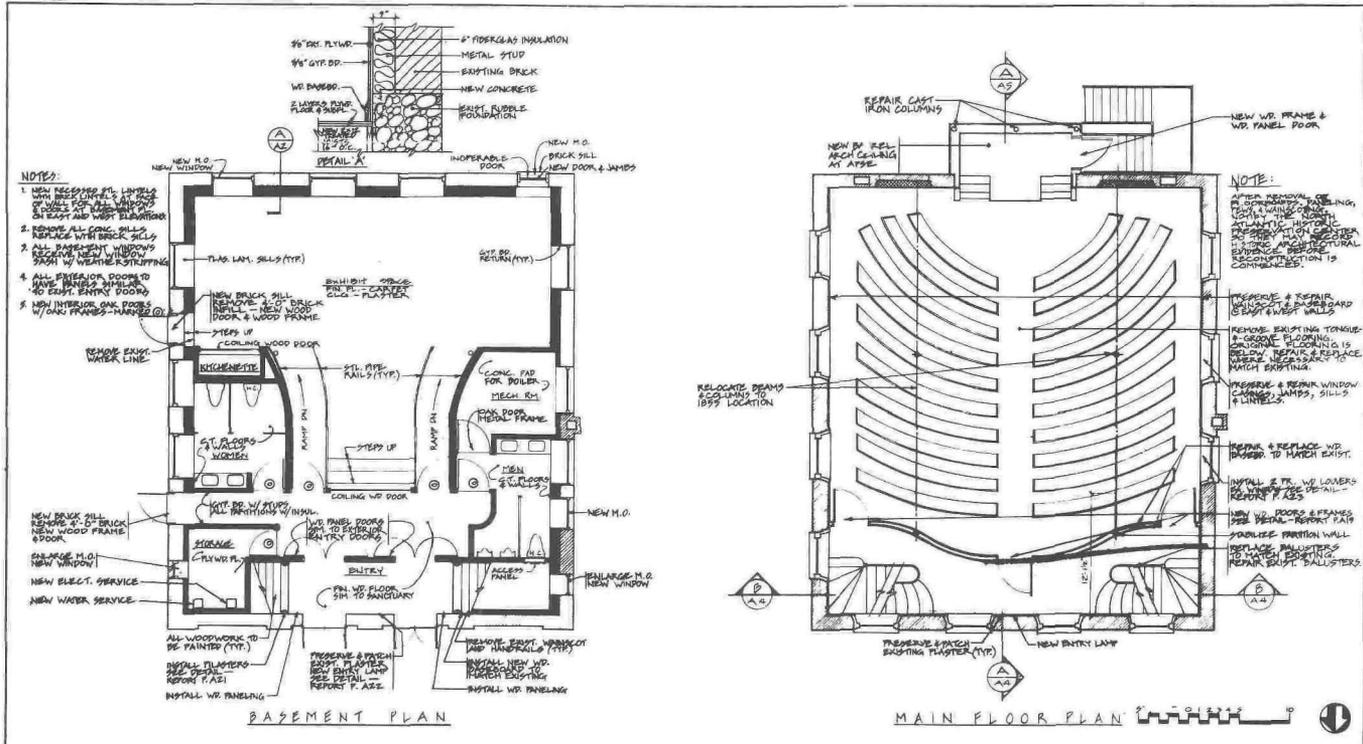
The sum of \$1 million has been appropriated by Congress for this project. Work will include the restoration of the exterior of the building and the foyer, sanctuary, foyer and gallery. The exterior restoration will include repairs to the brickwork and windows, as well as to the outside fence. The brick sidewalk was rebuilt in 1983. Windows and doorways bricked up after 1855 will be reopened and extraneous post-1855 hardware and paint will be removed.

Inside the building, walls, ceilings and floors will be returned to their 1855 condition. The stairways will be preserved and stabilized. Walls will be papered, painted or paneled, and floorboards will be added to match the original ones uncovered in the sanctuary. The foyer doors and frames will be modified to match an original doorway in the sanctuary. Double-leaved window blinds, reconstructed to match the ones discovered in 1975 archaeological excavation of the backyard, also will be installed.

The restoration of the sanctuary will require the removal of the wainscoting on the south wall and the tongue-and-groove flooring covering the original floorboards. Windows and pews will be preserved. The coved plaster ceiling and the barrel-arch ceiling in the apse will be reinstalled. The electrical system will be designed to support audio-visual equipment needed for public presentations.



AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE 6 SMITH COURT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS D. BAUGH & ASSOCIATES, INC. 78 KNEELAND STREET BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS		DESIGNED: _____ DRAWN: _____ TECH. REVIEW: _____ DATE: _____	SUB SHEET NO. _____	TITLE OF SHEET BUILDING SECTIONS	DRAWING NO. _____ SHEET NO. A4 OF _____
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AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE 6 SMITH COURT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS D. BAUGH & ASSOCIATES, INC. 78 KNEELAND STREET BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS		DESIGNED: _____ DRAWN: _____ TECH. REVIEW: _____ DATE: _____	SUB SHEET NO. _____	TITLE OF SHEET BASEMENT & MAIN FLOOR PLAN	DRAWING NO. _____ SHEET NO. A2 OF _____
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The gallery, which was disassembled (except for the stairs) and put in storage in 1975, will be reassembled and installed. Two gaslights, reproduced to match one recovered during the archaeological investigation, will be placed in their appropriate positions along the rail.

Adaptive preservation is planned for the first floor, due to the lack of accurate information on the space and the need to accommodate several modern functions. A ramp will lead from the foyer to the first-floor level, where the rest rooms and a kitchenette will be located. The small remaining space in the rear of the first floor will be renovated for exhibit space.

Modern building systems (electricity, heat, and fire and intrusion alarms) will be introduced into the building in an inconspicuous and unobtrusive manner.

The restoration project currently does not include funding for landscaping around the meetinghouse, or for the development of audio-visual programs and exhibits for the building. A decision will be made about landscaping the meetinghouse after the completion of a historic grounds report.

Site Management and Administration

Projected staffing levels for the Boston African American NHS are modest, reflecting the proposal's emphasis on making use of cooperative agreements and programs to accomplish many of the site's management objectives. For example, the African Meeting House—the main building open to the public—will be staffed by the Museum of Afro-American History.

Currently, the Boston African American NHS has three full-time positions: a site manager, a park ranger, and a clerk/typist. In addition, four temporary park technicians are hired during the summer season. The Boston National Historical Park provides the site with temporary office space, as mentioned, and also administrative, maintenance and visitor protection services.

It is planned that the site office will relocate from the Boston Park's Visitor Center to the Smith School, adjacent to the African Meeting House, upon the successful negotiation of a cooperative agreement with the City of Boston. If there is no agreement on the use of the Smith School, the National Park Service will have to evaluate other opportunities for renting or leasing administrative space on or near Beacon Hill.

As additional cooperative agreements are signed and the site becomes more established with the opening of the African Meeting House and possibly the Smith School, the site will require three new permanent staff positions: an administrative clerk, a ranger/historian, and a maintenance worker. The administrative clerk will assist with personnel and other administrative duties. The ranger/historian will be responsible for developing and coordinating cooperative research and interpretive programs. The maintenance worker will handle repairs and any noncustodial maintenance at the site as needed. A contract will be let for necessary custodial services, and to help keep Smith Court clean after the meetinghouse and the Smith School are opened.

The Boston National Historical Park and the North Atlantic Regional Office will continue to provide professional technical assistance in support of the cooperative agreements, as staff is available. Payroll and other specialized administrative functions, including security, will also remain with BNHP.



Smith Court

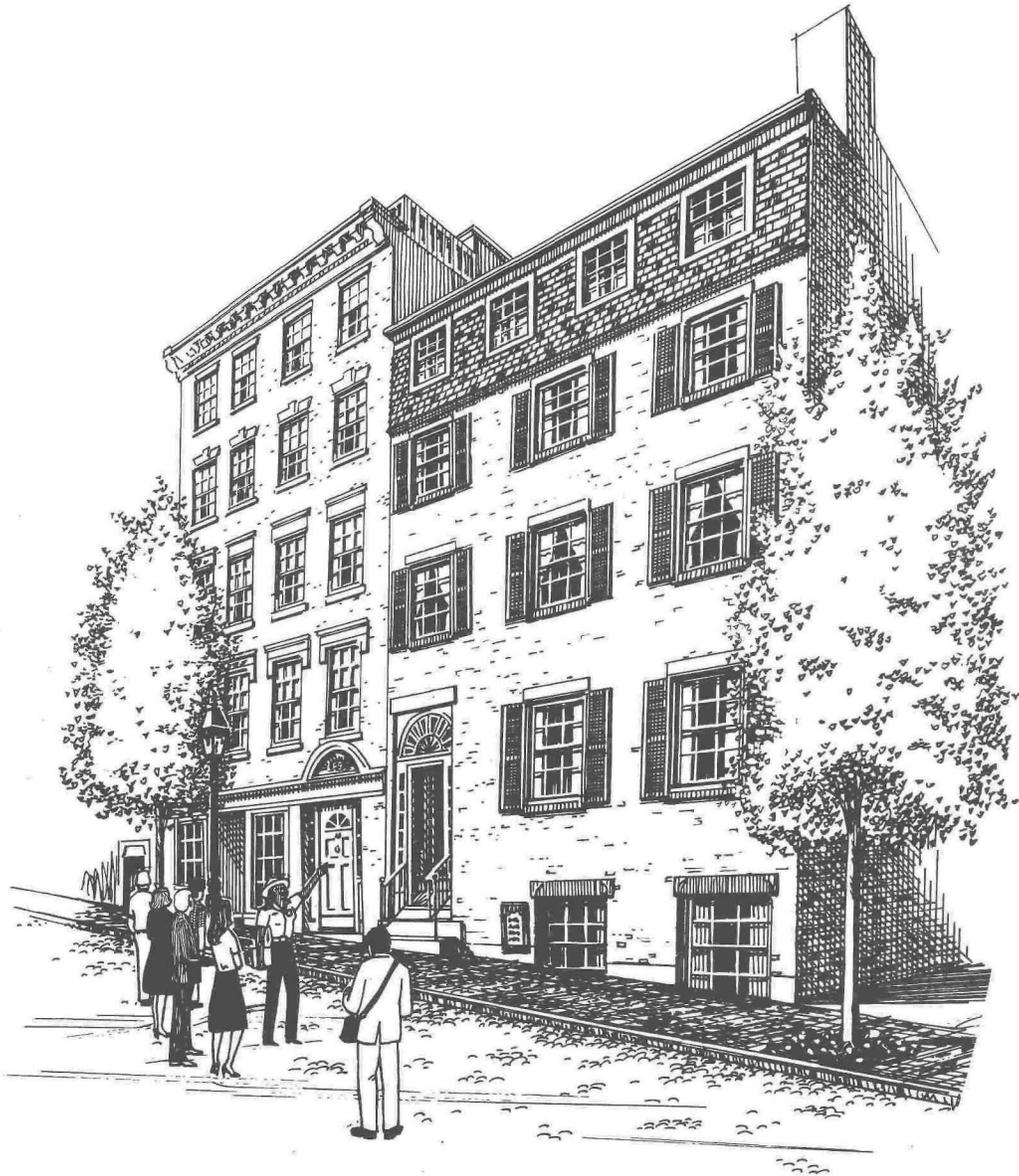
Staffing

Current Staff (FY '84)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Person Yr. (FTE)</u>
Management/Administration		
Site Manager	GS-9	1.0
Clerk Typist	GS-3/4	1.0
Interpretation		
Ranger	GS-5	1.0
Park Technicians	GS-4	<u>2.0</u> (Temporary)
		5.0

Projected Staff (by FY '86)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Person Yr. (FTE)</u>
Management/Administration		
Site Manager	GS-9/11	1.0
Administrative Clerk	GS-3/4	1.0
Receptionist/Typist	GS-3/4	1.0
Interpretation		
Ranger/Historian	GS-7/9	1.0
Ranger	GS-5	1.0
Park Technicians	GS-4	3.0 (Temporary)
Maintenance		
Maintenance Worker	WG-5	<u>.75</u>
		8.75



Lewis Hayden House

Cost Estimates

Site Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Development Costs

African Meeting House

exterior and interior restoration, and interior adaptive use	\$ 1,000,000
landscaping (includes historic grounds report)	55,000
exhibit and a/v planning, design and execution	<u>250,000</u> ¹
African Meeting House SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,305,000

Smith School

interior adaptive use (includes HSR)	\$ 224,000
exhibit design, planning and execution	<u>60,000</u>
Smith School SUBTOTAL	\$ 284,000

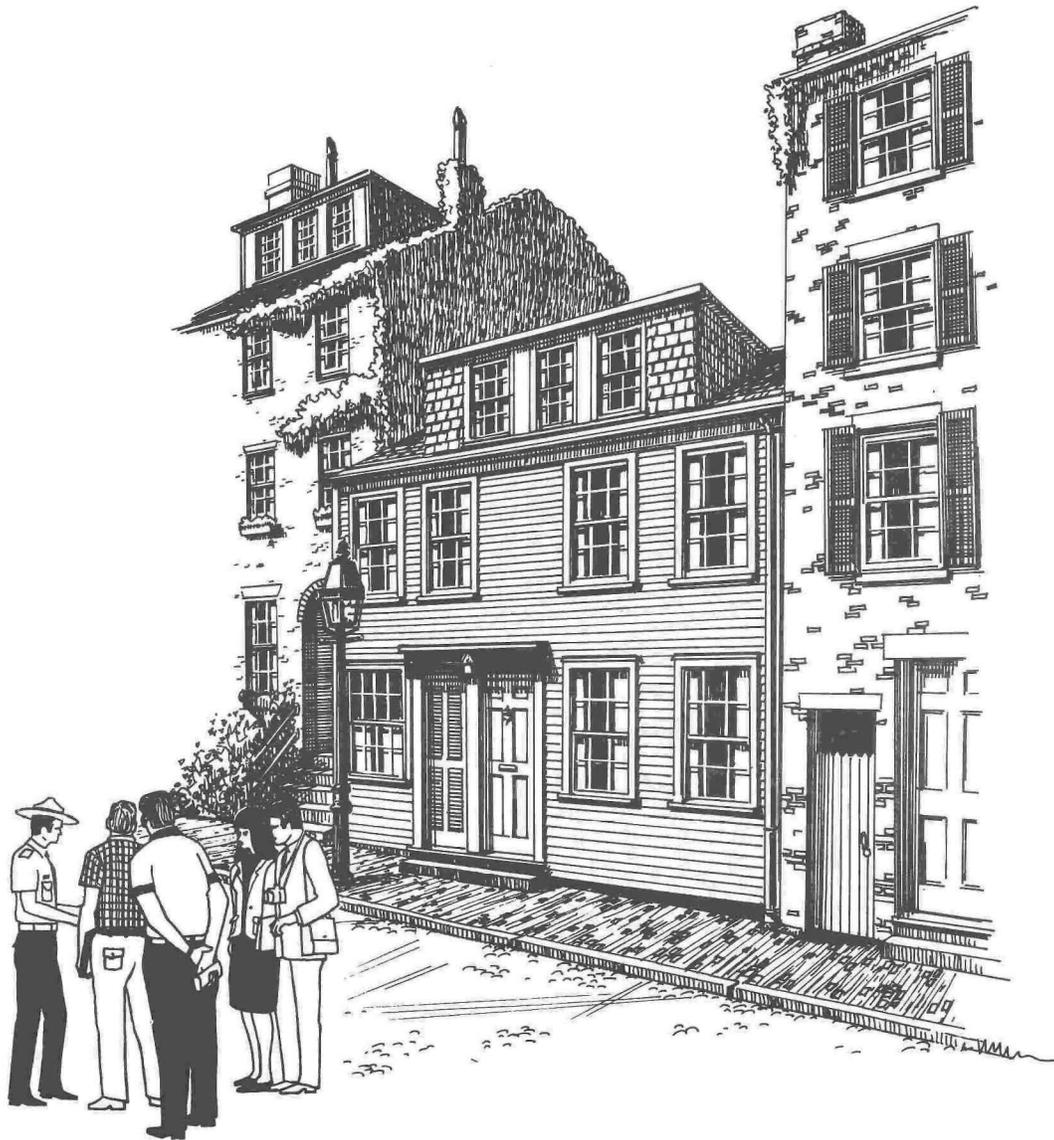
Hayden House

exterior preservation (including HSR)	\$ <u>100,000</u>
Hayden House SUBTOTAL	\$ 100,000

Total Development Costs	\$ 1,689,000
Funds Appropriated in FY'84 for Restoration of the Meetinghouse	(1,000,000)
Total Development Costs Yet to be Appropriated	\$ 689,000 ²

1. Funds for this work are to be partially raised by the Museum of Afro-American History and private donors.

2. Funds will be sought to complete the project by 1988, the 350th anniversary of the landing of the first Africans in Boston.



George Middleton House

Additional Studies Required After the General Management Plan

Historic Structure Reports

Smith Court Residences	\$ 30,000
Coburn Gaming House	20,000
Coburn House	20,000
Charles Street Meeting House	20,000
John J. Smith House	20,000
Phillips School	20,000
Middleton House	20,000
	\$150,000

Site-wide Interpretive Prospectus	\$40,000
Scope of Collection Statement	\$1,500
Historic Resource Study	\$43,000
	\$234,500

Operating Costs

Current FY '84

Management and Administration	\$ 37,000
Interpretation	41,000
Preservation Maintenance and Support of Cooperative Agreements	10,000
Maintenance/Security	14,000
	\$102,000

Projected Yearly Operating Costs (in FY'84 dollars)

Management and Administration	\$ 62,000
Interpretation	75,000
Preservation Maintenance and Support of Cooperative Agreements	125,000
Maintenance/Security	25,000
	\$287,000

*"I was born
on
Beacon Hill"**

**Afro-Americans
in
Boston
1800-1900**

*William C. Nell, *The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution*, 1855, p. 10.

**"NEGRO
CLOTH"
NORTHERN INDUSTRY
AND
SOUTHERN SLAVERY**

This exhibit was initially sponsored and funded in 1981 by the Boston African American National Historic Site, the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum, the Museum of Afro-American History, and the National Endowment for the Arts through the Boston University American and New England Studies Program.

In 1982 a new version of the exhibit under the title "The Loom and the Lash: Northern Industry and Southern Slavery" was sponsored and funded by the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, the Slater Mill Historic Site, Roger Williams Memorial, and the Roger Williams Park Museum of Natural History. Major funding was provided by the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and by the Boston African American National Historic Site.



Interpretation

It is unlikely that the Boston African American National Historic Site will own any property in the near future. Therefore, indoor programs or exhibits on Beacon Hill will be limited to whatever space that can be leased or made available under cooperative agreements. This limitation will require innovative approaches for interpreting the history of the site—approaches that are not constrained by the lack of indoor space on Beacon Hill. Off-site interpretation, or outreach, will serve as the basic interpretive-program technique for the Boston African American NHS, making extensive use of publications and audio-visual presentations.

The National Park Service will work closely with private organizations to develop interpretive programs, traveling exhibits, publications, guided tours and research and collection projects addressing the social history of Boston's 19th-century Afro-American community. It will thus make the most efficient use of limited staff by leveraging resources and skills through collaborative interpretive efforts that expand the potential program audience beyond those who actually visit Beacon Hill.

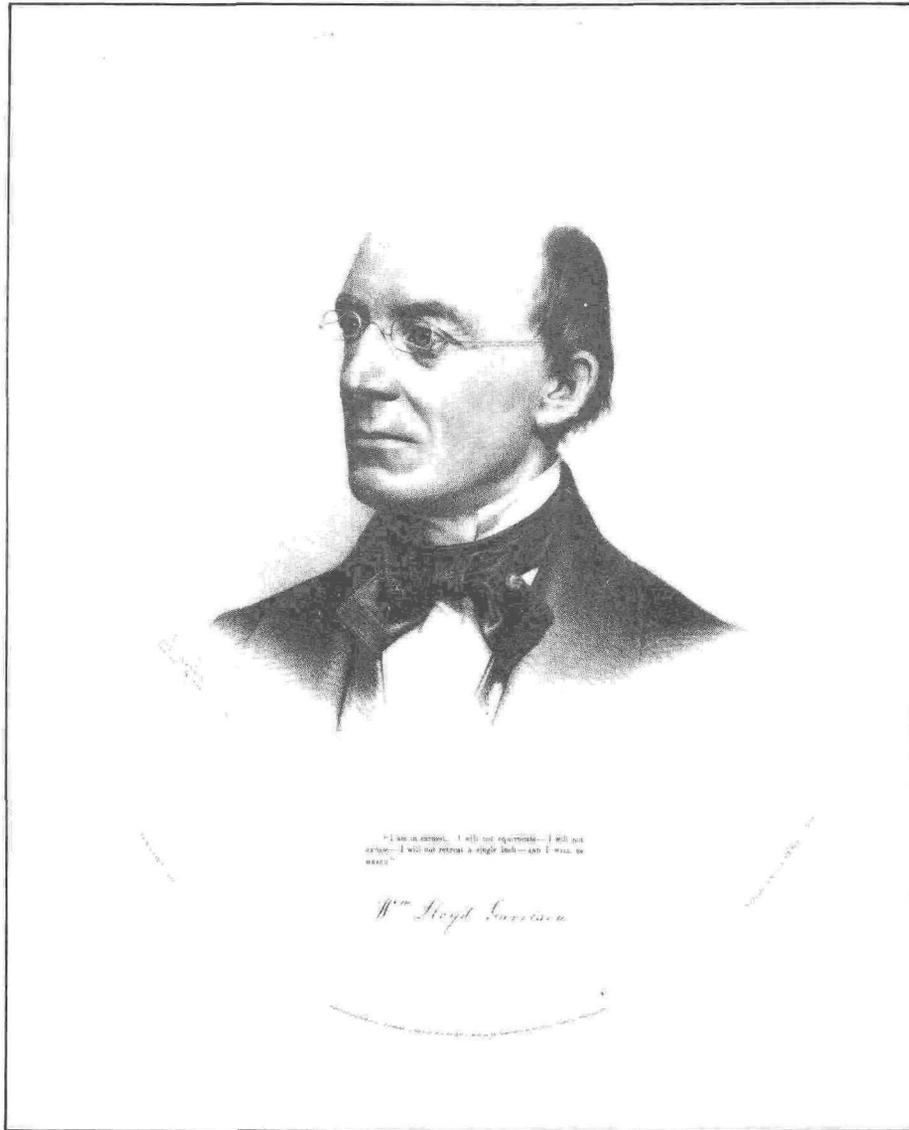
The Boston African American NHS has already made considerable progress with this interpretive program strategy. Working with a variety of organizations, the National Park Service has cosponsored or participated in traveling exhibits, educational forums, publications and special school programs—all exploring the heritage and culture of Boston's Afro-American community.

I Was Born on Beacon Hill is a 48-panel traveling exhibit, produced cooperatively with the Museum of Afro-American History, that portrays the demographic and cultural development of Boston's African American communities. **Negro Cloth: Northern Industry and Southern Slavery** is an exhibit of the special fabrics Northern mills produced for Southern slave owners, with commentary on the economic relationship between the New England textile industry and the institution of slavery. The **Negro Cloth** exhibit was a collaborative effort by the Boston African American NHS, the Museum of Afro-American History, the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum, and the New England Studies Program of Boston University. Both of these exhibits have been extraordinarily popular and have been in great demand, not only in the Boston area but in other parts of the country as well.

The site also has collaborated with local universities and colleges on several special projects. Since 1971 Suffolk University and the Museum of Afro-American History have been developing a Collection of Afro-American Literature, housed in the University's Sawyer Library, only two blocks from Smith Court. The University and the museum were joined in this effort in 1981 by the Boston African American NHS. Poetry, drama, fiction and nonfiction prose of important black American writers from the 18th century to the present are represented in the 3,700 volume collection, as well as related historical, critical, biographical and bibliographical works by writers of all races along with periodicals. There is an emphasis on black writers who studied or lived in New England. A writers' forum is conducted where black authors are invited to read and discuss their works. It is anticipated that these forums will be moved to the African Meeting House when its restoration is completed.

Another collaborative effort is **Blacks in Boston**, a national conference for teachers, community historians and citizens interested in recording and preserving the Afro-American heritage of Boston. Started in 1982, the annual conference is organized by Boston College, the Museum of Afro-American History and the Boston African American NHS. This year's conference was hosted by Boston College and the People's Baptist Church, and was assisted by the *Boston Globe*, the Coca-Cola Company and the Boston Public Schools. Workshops included presentations on "Researching Community Institutions," "Oral History" and "The African Meeting House: The Latest on Historical Archaeology."

The Boston African American NHS also produces each year a calendar of events to promote Black History Month. These events include various lectures, exhibits and performances celebrating the important contributions of Afro-American culture.



William Lloyd Garrison (The Athenaeum)

Interpretive attention is also focused on developing programs for school children. The Boston African American NHS and the Old South Association have developed a pilot project called "Resisting for Justice" at the Old South Meeting House—part of the "People and Places" program run with the Boston public school system. Elementary students assume roles of 18th and 19th century Bostonians whose lives have been directly affected by either the British Tea Tax or the Fugitive Slave Law. Approximately 350 children from public and parochial schools have participated, and the National Park Service would like to expand this program to include other schools outside of Boston as well.

In addition to these efforts, the Boston African American NHS will seek opportunities to cooperatively sponsor historical conferences and forums, special adult courses, cultural events and special-interest tours. The site will establish a volunteer program to expand community participation, particularly the involvement of community historians in the site's interpretive programs.

More traditional methods of interpretation, particularly tours along the Black Heritage Trail, will continue to be offered by the Museum of Afro-American History. National Park Service seasonal interpreters will continue to be available at key sites such as the Shaw/54th Regiment Memorial during the summer, as previously discussed in the proposal. Assuming that a cooperative agreement is negotiated for the Smith School, there may be an opportunity to provide visitor orientation and exhibits there. Also, the small adjoining yard between the meetinghouse and the school might be used as an area for visitors to wait off the street for tours of both buildings to begin, and for some small outdoor exhibits. Access will be either through the fence gate on Smith Court or from the rear of the meetinghouse. The yard will be closed off at night. If a cooperative agreement for the school is not reached, orientation and exhibit space will have to be located elsewhere.

Site Themes

Each component of the Boston African American National Historical Site has its own particular story. In addition, each has a role in larger "site themes."

The purpose of identifying important site themes in the draft General Management Plan proposal is to establish a clear direction and a set of priorities for both interim and future interpretive development. The proposal calls for a site-wide interpretive prospectus to be developed, as well as exhibit plans for the African Meeting House and Smith School.

The themes are presented in two categories. Most of the "general themes" address important aspects of 19th century black life in Boston, and are not tied to the interpretation of a specific site. "Themes for Specific Areas" address topics that can be best understood in the context of a particular building or group of buildings. A brief description of each recommended theme in the two categories follows:

General Themes

The Social History of Boston's Afro-American Community. The economic and cultural development of the Afro-American community, with emphasis on the period when Beacon Hill was an important black neighborhood. A look at the everyday lives of ordinary working people.

The Demographic History of Boston's Afro-American Population. Why neighborhoods change—the forces and influences that shaped the demography of Boston.

Slavery, and the Development of the First Free Afro-American Settlements in the United States. A look at the social and economic transition from slavery to freedom, before emancipation.

Early American Social Protest. A look at the characteristics, commonalities, and connections between the abolition, equal-education and women's rights movements in the first half of the 19th century.

Afro-American Women. Women's roles in community development, the abolition movement and the struggle for equal rights, and the contributions of prominent 19th-century Afro-American women.

From David Walker to Monroe Trotter: The Development of Afro-American Journalism and Literature. A history of black pamphleteers, journalists and writers in Boston.

Afro-Americans and the Boston Maritime Industry. The importance of the maritime trades in the development of a free black community in Boston, and the perils of black seamen before abolition.

Afro-American Buildings on Beacon Hill. Early crafts and the development of building and architectural skills on Beacon Hill.

What's Left Behind. Archaeology on Beacon Hill.

Themes for Specific Areas

Abolition and the Underground Railroad. The abolition movement in Boston and resistance to the Fugitive Slave Law, and the part played by the HAYDEN HOUSE and the AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE.

A History of School Integration in Boston and the Fight for Equal Education. The importance of the PHILLIPS SCHOOL, the SMITH SCHOOL, and the MEETING HOUSE SCHOOL in the story of 19th-century school integration.

The Role of Religious Institutions in Community Development. The changing influences exerted by the AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE and the CHARLES STREET MEETING HOUSE on the Beacon Hill Afro-American neighborhood.

The 54th Regiment and the Afro-American Soldier. The history of the first black regiments, and the changing status of Afro-American soldiers in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Cooperative Study

Considerably more historical information is needed in order to understand and interpret the social history and related architectural development of the 19th century Afro-American community. The relatively recent research efforts of such historians as James Horton, Elizabeth Pleck and Robert Hayden have begun to shed light on some of the social issues and demographic pressures that were instrumental in shaping the Beacon Hill settlement. Through the work of the Museum of Afro-American History, much has been learned about the history of the African Meeting House and about the lives of prominent community activists such as the Rev. Paul David Walker and Lewis Hayden. In addition, "community historians" have played a critical role in providing many valuable recollections and important genealogical information.

All of these combined efforts represent only a beginning, however; only a relatively small part of the historical record has been researched and analyzed. For example, there is very little information about the day-to-day activities of the common people and what their lives were really like. Building exteriors are well-preserved, but no photographs have been unearthed showing the interiors of homes of that period. Little is known about Afro-American women and their role in the community—particularly their involvement with important issues of the time. Nor is much known about the cultural life and social fabric of the community—the influence and support systems that provided cohesion and strength in the face of economic and racial adversity.

Another problem is that much of the research that has been done is not in a form that can be communicated easily to people, especially students. This is a need felt acutely by the public school system, which has no city-wide curriculum that includes Boston's Afro-American heritage. It is not enough to research and uncover important information; that knowledge must be shared in imaginative ways that encourage learning and the actual participation of people in the process

of discovering their own history.

This proposal recommends that the National Park Service establish a cooperative agreement between itself, the Museum of Afro-American History and a consortium of two or three Boston-area universities and colleges, or predominantly black universities and colleges with programs in Afro-American and women's history. The purpose of the agreement would be to establish a framework for the joint identification and investigation of important historical and archaeological themes connected with the 19th-century Afro-American community. The agreement will involve community participation with an emphasis on developing historical and interpretive information in a popular and easily-communicated format.

Making the Site Accessible

The historic components of Beacon Hill itself—the old cobblestone and brick pavements, steep streets and alleyways, and rugged stone curbs without curb cuts—present conditions along the Black Heritage Trail that limit accessibility. The proposal recommends developing an alternate route that visits most or all sites, but avoids the steeper sections of streets and sidewalks. The National Park Service will work with the Beacon Hill community and the City of Boston, especially the Mayor's Commission on Handicapped Affairs, to introduce curb cuts at both ends of blocks that are part of the trail. The possibility of providing handicapped parking also should be explored.

In the interim, a slide show of the Black Heritage Trail should be prepared for those who are unable to visit the sites. A taped version of the walking trail brochure should be provided for visually impaired visitors, describing the physical setting and tactile qualities of buildings and statues. Interpreters skilled in sign language can lead groups of deaf visitors on a regularly scheduled basis, or by special arrangement.

The African Meeting House is the most important of the 16 historic buildings along the Black Heritage Trail. It will definitely be opened to the public. In an effort to make it accessible, the feasibility of the following actions should be investigated:

- 1) Accessible, marked parking spaces and curb cuts should be provided at the meetinghouse entrance.
- 2) The double entrance doors of the meetinghouse are narrow and heavy. Both need to be opened simultaneously to allow a wheelchair to pass through. Special hardware should be investigated, or other means should be developed, that would enable a handicapped person to open these heavy double doors. Provision needs to be made at all doorways for adequate wheelchair clearance.
- 3) Consideration should be given to a ramp that descends to the first-floor level, in addition to the stairs. Restrooms meeting all accessibility standards will be located on this level. A means also should be devised to transport those visitors who are unable to use the stairs, to the sanctuary on the second floor.
- 4) A handrail designed with an appropriate grippable cross-section and extending 18 inches beyond the top and bottom steps is recommended to aid those using the stairs to the sanctuary and balcony.
- 5) Future exhibits and displays should feature large type and tactile elements, and include an audio accompaniment (live or recorded).
- 6) Sign-language interpreters, or special mechanisms to amplify audio systems for hearing-aid users, should be available for any large public meetings scheduled at the African Meeting House.

Other Alternatives Considered

A number of different plans for the Boston African American National Historic Site were considered. These different approaches fell into two categories: planning alternatives for park management, and planning alternatives for the African Meeting House, the site's primary asset.

Planning Alternatives for Park Management

Of the three possible approaches to managing the site, all proposed some cooperative agreements between the site and individual building owners for the preservation and maintenance of the historic properties involved. Ultimately, Management Alternative C—"Emphasis on Group Tours and Cooperative Activities"—formed the basis for the proposal, described at length in Chapter V of this report. The other two options are summarized below, as part of the planning record:

Management Alternative A:

Continuation of Existing Conditions (No Action)

With this approach, fire damage to the African Meeting House might not be repaired and the building may remain closed to the public. The National Park Service would continue to proceed with the negotiation of cooperative agreements with private owners. As funds permit, some exterior repairs will be made to the meetinghouse and perhaps on one or two additional structures that have cooperative agreements.

The administrative offices of the Boston African American National Historic Site would likely remain at Boston National Historical Park headquarters on State Street. Tours of the site would be primarily self-guided, utilizing the Black Heritage Trail brochure and perhaps some new publications about individual structures. Guided tours would be available primarily in the summer although group requests would be accommodated year-round. The site will continue to offer special Afro-American historical and cultural exhibits at the Boston National Historical Park's State Street Visitor Center, such as **I Was Born on Beacon Hill** and **Negro Cloth**.

Management Alternative B:

Emphasis on Self-Guided Walks and Group Tours of the African Meeting House (Minimum Requirement)

This approach would have the National Park Service open the African Meeting House to the public, but would rely primarily on outdoor exhibits and self-guided walks to tell the story of the Boston African American National Historic Site. An administrative office would be located in the Boston National Historical Park, or in a small leased storefront on Beacon Hill. The African Meeting House would be the only building open to the public. The staff of the Museum of Afro-American History would conduct tours of the meetinghouse. National Park Service staff would initiate and manage cooperative agreements with property owners for the preservation of historic buildings. Signs and markers along the Black Heritage Trail would be used in conjunction with site brochures to assist a variety of self-guided tours.

Planning Alternatives for the African Meeting House

Four possible ways of treating the meetinghouse were considered. After review of public comment on the four alternatives, the National Park Service and the Museum of Afro-American History decided to proceed with the restoration of the meetinghouse. The other three options are summarized below, for the planning record:

African Meeting House Alternative B:

Non-Period Adaptive Use of the Meeting House

Under this approach, the historic character of the meetinghouse's interior would be maintained, preserving as much of the remaining historic interior as possible, but there would be no attempt to recreate all of the architectural detail of a particular period. For example, more up-to-date lighting fixtures and seating might be installed to permit a greater range of public activities.

African Meeting House Alternative C:

Continuation of Existing Conditions (No Action)

Basic stabilization and maintenance activities (keeping the roof tight and the doors secure) would continue under the existing cooperative agreement between the Boston African American National Historic Site and the Museum of Afro-American History. The building's exterior would be maintained; the interior, however, would remain nonfunctional.

African Meeting House Alternative D:

Opening the Meeting House with Limited Repairs (Minimum Requirement)

This approach involves the same stabilization/maintenance activities proposed in Alternative C. It would, in addition, open at least part of the meetinghouse to visitors. Additional work would be undertaken to identify and preserve whatever remains of the building's historic features, for possible full restoration at a later date. Partial interior restoration and repair would be accomplished to allow at least a limited number of visitors to safely enter and tour a part of the building. Photographic panels could be used to illustrate the original appearance and early history of the meetinghouse.

Consequences of the Proposal and Other Alternatives

The major consequences of the planning alternatives are summarized below:

Consequences of the Alternatives for Park Management

Historic Preservation

Management Alternative A, "Continuation of Existing Conditions," would include only one or two additional cooperative agreements beyond those already in effect. Many of the properties within the Boston African American NHS might not receive the preservation attention they need.

Management Alternative B, "Emphasis on Self-Guided Walks," seeks cooperative agreements with all site property owners for preservation maintenance. However, it does not provide for the adaptive use of the Smith School. This means that the administrative and interpretive functions that should be located near the meetinghouse will have to remain at the Boston National Historical Park's Visitor Center on State Street.

Management Alternative C, "Emphasis on Group Tours and Cooperative Activities"—the proposal—seeks cooperative agreements with all property owners and also provides for the exterior preservation and interior adaptive use of the Smith School.

Management Alternatives B and C both recommend the restoration of the African Meeting House to the 1855 period. This ensures the preservation and interpretation of one of the most important Afro-American historic sites in the United States.

Visitor Use and Interpretation

Under Alternative A, "Continuation of Existing Conditions," and Alternative B, "Emphasis on Self-Guided Walks," many of the important site themes would be impossible to interpret, due to the lack of currently available information. Some existing programs would continue, such as the Afro-American Literature Collection at Suffolk University and the "Blacks in Boston" history conference hosted by Boston College. Visitor programs would be minimal. Most interpretation would be self-guided; Alternative A does provide for some guided tours during the summer. The restored African Meeting House would be open to the public but special exhibits and programs may be limited. And the Smith School—the key site dealing with the important theme of Boston school integration—would not be open for interpretation or visitor orientation.

Alternative C—the National Park Service proposal—provides for cooperative research efforts between the Park Service, the Museum of Afro-American History and various universities. Important historical themes can be studied and developed for interpretive programs and publications. In conjunction with the Boston public school system and other educational organizations, these programs can be offered year-round. The National Park Service proposal would keep the African Meeting House open on a regular basis, featuring a variety of exhibits and audio-visual presentations. A portion of the Smith School also would be open for interpretation and visitor orientation.

National Park Service Management

Under Alternatives A and B, the site office would either remain in the Boston National Historical Park's State Street Visitor Center or move to a small leased storefront on Beacon Hill. Either action would probably be cheaper in the short term than occupying space in the Smith School. Boston African American NHS staffing would remain at its current level, or possibly—in the case of Alternative B—decline due to the hiring of fewer summer seasonal employees. In either case

the site would likely become more dependent on BNHP to supply most administrative, maintenance, security and visitor services.

Also, neither of these alternatives includes a strong commitment to cooperative agreements. In the case of the African Meeting House, this may result in the Museum being unable to keep the meetinghouse open to visitors on a regular basis by itself. If the Park Service wanted the building to remain open, it would then have to consider staffing the meetinghouse and detailing additional personnel there from BNHP.

Under Alternative C—the National Park Service proposal—the site office would move to the Smith School. (The Park Service would work with the City of Boston to find an alternative location for the USO office currently using part of Smith School.) A National Park Service staff presence at Smith School would provide additional supervision and security at Smith Court, mitigating the effects of increased visitation on site neighbors. It also would increase overall Park Service accessibility to the properties comprising the Boston African American NHS. This alternative would add three permanent positions to the Boston African American NHS staff, to assist with the operation of Smith School and to help initiate cooperative activities. The National Park Service would strongly support cooperative agreements, encouraging the Museum and other private organizations to provide important visitor services and programs.

Parking and Transportation

No visitor or staff parking, except possibly for the disabled, would be sought on Beacon Hill in any of the alternatives; motor vehicle access to Beacon Hill is strongly discouraged. Public parking is available in the garage underneath the Boston Common. Future site brochures will contain information about public transportation routes.

The Natural Environment

None of the three management alternatives would have a measurable effect on the natural environment. Technical assistance offered under cooperative agreements with site owners will include advice on pest control for the buildings and their grounds. The alternatives propose no National Park Service activities within the 100- and 500-year flood plains and are in compliance with Executive Order 11988.

Consequences of the Alternatives for the African Meeting House

Since Planning Alternative A—the restoration of the African Meeting House—has already been implemented, the three other alternatives for its treatment will not be addressed.

Summer 1983

Boston
African
American
National
Historic Site

The North Star

A Planning Bulletin

Welcome to The North Star!

Escaped slaves following the Underground Railroad were guided by the north star. THE NORTH STAR was also the name of an early antebellum abolition newspaper. Many of the buildings composing Boston African American National Historic Site played a role in the Abolition Movement and the Underground Railroad and, in remembrance, we have adopted the name THE NORTH STAR for our Planning Bulletin.

In the first Bulletin, we described the major effort underway to find out what the African Meeting House looked like when it was a center for Afro-American religious, educational and political activity in Boston late into the 19th Century. This investigation, conducted by Ms. Barbara Pearson of the National Park Service's North Atlantic Region Historic Preservation Center, is now complete and a final report is being published. With this important information on hand, we can make specific plans for the future of the African Meeting House and the entire Boston African American National Historic Site.

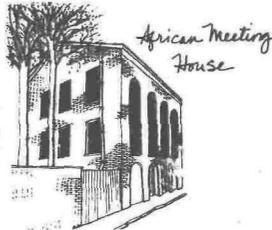
We have some choices to make in guiding the future of the Site. In this issue of THE NORTH STAR we describe what those choices are and what a chosen plan will accomplish. A General Management Plan for the Site will be completed by the fall of 1983.

We have included a postage-paid mailback form for your comments. Please take a moment and share your thoughts with us . . . we would appreciate your help in guiding future planning decisions.

If you would like to like to learn more about the Site and upcoming programs, contact Dorothea Powell, Site Manager, Boston African American National Historic Site, at 242-3623. If you would like to know more about our Planning Alternatives, contact Ruth Simmons, Planning Coordinator, North Atlantic Regional Office, at 223-2236.

Mystery of the Meeting House - SOLVED!

After microscopic examination of wallpaper, plaster and mortar, chemical testing of paint, unearthing of hundred-year-old documents and comparative analysis of many rusty nails, Barbara Pearson has completed the long-awaited Historic Structures Report for the African Meeting House. Ms. Pearson, an Architectural Conservator, spent more than six months on the project gathering documentary and physical evidence. The result of her efforts has been the determination that sufficient information is available (historic building fabric and documentation) to do an accurate restoration of the African Meeting House.



The time period recommended for restoration of the African Meeting House is 1855. This is the date for which we have the most documentary information and physical evidence. It was at this time that the original 1806 Meeting House was remodelled and assumed its basic appearance as we know it today. Areas recommended for restoration include the exterior of the building, the entry, foyer, sanctuary and gallery.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

(Clip this page and mail.)

☆ Comments on
Park Management Alternatives



☆ Comments on
The African Meeting House Alternatives

Public Involvement in the Development of the Proposal

The development of the General Management Plan has been an open process. An early objective was to identify interested organizations and concerned individuals, and to work with them to develop a reasonable consensus on the major issues regarding the future of the site.

The Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office was contacted at the start of the planning process and has been kept informed on the development of the draft General Management Plan.

Presentation of the Planning Alternatives

With the assistance of the Museum of Afro-American History, a mailing list has been developed of persons who wish to be informed and involved in the creation of a plan. Special exhibits such as **Negro Cloth** and **I Was Born on Beacon Hill** have helped to introduce people to the Boston African American NHS. The mailing list has expanded to almost 2,000 individuals and groups, including Beacon Hill neighbors, historical societies, churches, schools and universities, and neighborhood associations. The mailing list includes not only Boston-area residents, but also a large number of persons outside New England, particularly students and scholars of Afro-American history, and Afro-American religious organizations. The Boston African American NHS is regarded as one of the most significant Afro-American historic places in the country.

The mailing list is important, because it directs the distribution of *The North Star: A Planning Bulletin for the Boston African American National Historic Site*. This bulletin has been the greatest single vehicle for public involvement in planning for the site's operation. Its name was borrowed from Frederick Douglass's antebellum abolition newspaper, *The North Star*. That title in turn was taken from the fact that escaping slaves following the Underground Railroad would use the North Star as their guide.

The purpose of the planning bulletin is threefold: 1) to make people aware of the site and the plan being prepared for it; 2) to involve this constituency in the formulation of the plan; and 3) to keep people informed about upcoming activities and programs sponsored by the site.

There have been three issues of the bulletin published to date. The first one introduced readers to the site and its planning objectives. The second issue outlined all of the planning alternatives being considered for the management of the site, and for the treatment of the meetinghouse, as described in Chapter VI of this report. Also included in that issue was a list of suggested social and historical themes to guide the interpretation of Boston's 19th century Afro-American community. These themes are treated in Chapter V. The third issue, which accompanies this draft plan, is a summary of the plan.

Public Response

Included in the second issue of *The North Star* was a postage-paid mailback form for public comments. *North Star* mailbacks and letters were received from business people, church groups, universities, community associations and individuals. Nearly every respondent wrote at least several paragraphs of general and specific comments, demonstrating considerable interest in the park and a rather passionate concern about its future. Not only was there strong support for the site, but there also was a remarkable degree of public consensus on the planning options presented. Since the responses were so thoughtful, and since they included many new ideas, a written summary of comments was prepared. This was then mailed back to everyone who had written. The comments quoted below were excerpted from this summary.

General Comments

I want to commend your careful and imaginative approach to the site. The site can make a vital contribution to the life of Boston.

Too long overdue. Involve Community Historians in the planning.

Thank you - this is great - Do you have meetings? I have beautiful portrait of Lewis Hayden that should be in his home - formerly property of the late E. Carter Brooks.

Thank you for your work. An excellent amount of Achievement And Black Pride.

Response to Park Management Alternatives

More than 80% of the people who wrote favored park Management Alternative C, in which the National Park Service would work closely with private organizations to develop educational programs, traveling exhibits, publications, guided tours and ongoing research and collection projects dealing with the social history of Boston's Afro-American community. For example, people strongly endorsed the concept of cooperative programming:

I concur with planning alternative C for management of Boston African American Historic Site. This concept of management involves the community and private sector organizations with expertise, funds, and ideology that will be beneficial to the National Park Service in accomplishing its mission in these austere economic times. However, caution should be exercised to ensure that all agreements are specific and clearly understood by all parties.

... We need activities to ensure the program doesn't become stagnant and lose the interest of the people, and I feel ongoing cooperative activities will have this effect.

There was particular interest in identifying opportunities for cooperative historical research:

I would like to express Suffolk University's enthusiastic support for Planning Alternative C, "Emphasis on Guided Tours and Cooperative Activities with Other Organizations." We are very interested in working on joint programs with the Museum of Afro-American History and with the African American Site.

I favor Alternative C, and would hope we could develop enough interest at Northeastern University to do cooperative activities.

Many people viewed Alternative C as the best way for Bostonians to rediscover their past and to apply that knowledge in dealing with current racial issues:

... Boston, despite its "historic wealth," has few sites that present the history of black people. Such a program, with commitment to involving groups in research projects, might ideally foster racial tolerance in this city.

... And the guided tour I brought a class on was excellent... they didn't even mind the cold (it was winter)! It's a shame more don't know about it and visit... Alternative C should help!

Response to African Meeting House Alternatives

About the same number of respondents—more than 80%—also favored African Meeting House Alternative A, the restoration of the African Meeting House to its appearance just prior to the Civil War. The meetinghouse would serve as a community cultural center, providing space for concerts, lectures and other public gatherings—much as it did in the late 19th century.

No other planning alternative generated as much enthusiasm as the restoration of the African Meeting House:

... Too long it has been a Dream for many of us, now I can almost see the light at the end of the tunnel. Let us move on and get in the building.

I hope that you will now move with all due speed to restore the Meeting House.

... It is unfortunate that restoration cannot be done for the time period prior to 1850. However, the "restored Meeting House" with opportunities for contemporary use is of the utmost importance.

What can the public do to encourage these efforts?

The symbolic importance of the restoration to Boston's black community was expressed very clearly:

... Boston prides itself on being the cradle of liberty and the center of the abolitionist movement. The African American Historic Site gives an opportunity to remind both Bostonians and visitors that black people played a role in these early struggles. I think the Park Service is doing a great job!

... I also favor Alternative A because I am deeply concerned about the virulent pervasiveness of racism in Boston and America. I think this positive and informative project is one of the many ways needed to eliminate racism.

There was also strong interest in seeing the meetinghouse used once again as a cultural center for the community:

Suffolk University strongly supports Meeting House Alternative A, which would restore the Meeting House to its pre-Civil War appearance. We believe that the historic building would provide a useful community center. The refurbishing would draw national and international attention and would represent an important symbolic act for Boston and New England.

... The meetinghouse will have even more meaning if community meetings and events take place in it—as if we were stepping back into the time.

There was also sentiment for having the private sector—particularly community organizations in Boston—contribute to the final restoration costs for the meetinghouse.

Response to Suggested Site Themes

The site themes proposed in *The North Star* drew many thoughtful comments. Some people asked that certain themes be modified:

The Social History and Afro-American Women themes I feel are most important.... The biographies of prominent Bostonians should also be featured. Collaboration with the Black Women's programs at Radcliffe and Wellesley should also be established to enhance Afro-American women.

I am the Education Coordinator of the King Middle School in Dorchester. I have arranged field trips for the students from King. I would like to see the themes of the History of School Integration and Early American Social Protest emphasized for Boston and other public school groups.

I would like to see the program developed which would emphasize the spirit and uniqueness of the black community in Boston during the 1850's. Early American Social Protest sounds very interesting.

All of the themes should be incorporated into a general history of the area. Afro-American history is useful when incorporated into documented, already-researched history. The Afro-American did not live in isolation from his white counterpart.

Some people felt certain prominent Afro-Americans needed more attention:

Of course special attention would have to be given to the Massachusetts 54th Regiment. For the earlier period attention would have to be given to figures such as Phillis Wheatley and David Walker.

Other people felt that not enough attention had been given to the lives of ordinary people.

How about more themes centered around less prominent people in the black community—e.g., artisans, lifestyle, children, etc.

There were quite a few recommendations for expanding the themes dealing with the role of women:

Am positively interested in Afro-American women and their role. We need to interview and record for posterity women involved in the various women's groups in the greater Boston community—Margarita Winthrop, Black Women church groups, social welfare agencies, Day Care Advocates, etc.

Could you include a woman or two? I noticed a nameplate on a building near the end of the tour marked "Chas. Sumner." Was he the same man who represented Sarah in the Smith case? If so, perhaps he could be included.

I think that the general themes should be connected to the national history of Afro-American People's movement into urban centers... and the role of women should be placed in a national perspective.

The story/role of Afro-American women would be more effectively presented if it were woven into each of the other themes.

People also felt that more could be said about African American literature:

If as I hope, Planning Alternative C for Park Management is adopted, literary themes could be developed making use of the collection of Afro-American literature through a cooperative agreement with the Museum of Afro-American History and Suffolk University. An example of a literary theme would be: Anti-slavery writings by Afro-Americans in Boston.

I'd like to see a theme on Afro-American literature with special regards to Boston. I'm not sure, but I believe there were blacks living in Boston who made a contribution to our literature in the 18th and 19th century and if I'm not wrong even in the 17th century.

People also felt that the history of slavery, and in particular the role of African Americans in the abolition movement, were critical themes for the site:

We must emphasize the role of Afro-American from the beginning of our nation and the accomplishment of free blacks before the Civil War and their role in the abolition of slavery... Have you considered the history of slavery in Massachusetts?

1) Evolution and movements of Boston's black community, stressing continuing patterns of extreme segregation from 1600 to the present. 2) Pre-Civil War history of Boston's blacks, dealing with slavery and freedom, types of employment, abolitionist activity, the "underground railroad", etc.

The above responses to *The North Star*, and the many others received, demonstrate a remarkable degree of consensus on the basic objectives of a General Management Plan for the Boston African American NHS. The clarity and insight of people's ideas, and their specific recommendations, have helped to shape the proposal that is presented here.

List of Preparers

Planning Team

Rolf Diamant, Planning Coordinator, Landscape Architect, North Atlantic Region, NPS

Mary Ann Lasch, Landscape Architect, North Atlantic Region, NPS

Rep. Byron Rushing, Director, Museum of Afro-American History

Dorothea L. Powell, Site Manager, Boston African American National Historic Site, NPS

John Burchill, Superintendent, Boston National Historical Park, NPS

Hugh D. Gurney, former Superintendent, Boston National Historical Park, NPS

Wendell A. Simpson, Deputy Superintendent, Boston National Historical Park, NPS

Dwight T. Pitcaithley, **Regional Historian**, Division of Cultural Resources, North Atlantic Region, NPS

Barbara E. Pearson, Architectural Conservator, North Atlantic Historic Preservation Center, NPS

Sharon K. Ofenstein, Technical Publications Editor, North Atlantic Historic Preservation Center, NPS

Consultants

Cynthia E. Kryston, Interpretive Specialist, North Atlantic Region, NPS

E. Blaine Cliver, Chief, Historic Preservation, North Atlantic Historic Preservation Center, NPS

Raymond W. Bloomer, Jr., Disability Specialist, North Atlantic Region, NPS

Ted Fowler, Park Ranger, Boston African American National Historic Site, NPS

Lawrence A. Sorli, Historical Architect, North Atlantic Historic Preservation Center, NPS

Christine Amell, Planning Technician, North Atlantic Region, NPS

Paul O. Weinbaum, Historian, Boston National Historical Park, NPS

Edward L. Kallop, Jr. Regional Curator, North Atlantic Region, NPS

Appendices

Appendix A

Management Objectives

Boston African American National Historic Site

1. To preserve the character and historic setting of designated sites within the Boston African American site, to be accomplished by establishing cooperative agreements with all property owners.
2. To interpret for the education, inspiration and benefit of present and future generations, the history of the 19th-century Afro-American community on Beacon Hill, with particular emphasis on the antebellum period.
3. To establish and maintain a cooperative agreement with the Museum of Afro-American History, for the preservation and interpretation of the African Meeting House, and to complete the restoration of the African Meeting House and the installation of interpretive exhibits.
4. To take advantage of partnerships with the Museum of Afro-American History and other private-sector organizations to develop interpretive programs, leveraging NPS resources and skills wherever possible with those of the private sector.
5. To support the continuing efforts of the Museum of Afro-American History and Suffolk University to expand the Afro-American Literature Collection.
6. To establish a cooperative agreement with a consortium of universities and colleges for the identification and investigation of important historic themes connected with Boston's 19th century Afro-American community.
7. To move the office of the Boston African American National Historic Site to a location on Beacon Hill.

Appendix B

Visitor Profile

In 1983, 16,846 people visited the Boston African American National Historic Site. This statistic represents visitation to all components of the site. The Col. Robert Gould Shaw/54th Regiment Memorial and the African Meeting House are the only sites that now have ranger interpreters during the summer months. The Shaw/54th Regiment Memorial is clearly the most popular of the sites. It drew 90 percent of the visitors. Nine percent of the visitors came to participate in Black History Month or school programs, while one percent of the visits were to the African Meeting House and other sites. However, visitation to the meetinghouse is expected to increase significantly after its restoration is complete. If the Abiel Smith School is opened to the public, this will further increase visitation.

Additional statistics on 1983 visitors are provided below:

Distribution of Visitors by

Age

0-12 years	25%
13-17 years	8%
18-61 years	61%
62+ years	6%

Group Affiliation

Alone	3%
Peer Group	28%
Organized tour	1%
Nuclear family	45%
Other	23%

Special Populations

Handicapped	1%
Non-English speaking	5%
Minority	30%

Destination

Day trip	58%
Through visit	35%
Extended stay	7%

Facility Use

Incidental to site's primary resources	5%
Dependent on site's resources	95%

Interpretive Services Used

Personally conducted or presented activities	30%
Information-oriented services	95%
Non-program users	4%

Season

Fall (many brief visits by organized foliage tours)	25%
Winter	10%
Spring (many school groups)	15%
Summer	50%

Appendix C

Public Law 96-430
96th Congress

An Act

To provide for the establishment of the Boston African American National Historic Site in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes.

Oct. 10, 1980
[H.R. 7434]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Boston African
American
National
Historic Site,
establishment.

TITLE I—BOSTON AFRICAN AMERICAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

SEC. 101. In order to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States as a national historic site certain historic structures and properties of outstanding national significance located in Boston, Massachusetts, and associated with the creation and development of a free African American community within Beacon Hill prior to the Civil War, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to establish the Boston African American National Historic Site, including the African American Meeting House, within the area generally depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Boston African American National Historic Site", numbered BOAF-80,000 and dated March 1980. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

Authorization.
16 USC 461 note.

Map, public
availability.

SEC. 102. At such time as the Secretary determines that sufficient properties within the boundary of the site are the subject of cooperative agreements pursuant to section 103, he may establish the area as the Boston African American National Historic Site. Pending such establishment and thereafter, the site shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the provisions of law generally applicable to the administration of national historic sites, including the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4) and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461-467).

Administration.

SEC. 103. The Secretary may accept any gift or bequest of any property depicted on the map referred to in the first section of this Act, and he is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the city of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any of their political subdivisions, or any private person or organization, including the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission, to mark, interpret, restore, provide technical assistance, or any combination thereof, and for such other activities as may be necessary for the preservation of any properties depicted on such map. Cooperative agreements shall contain, but need not be limited to, provisions that (1) the Secretary, through the National Park Service, or some appropriate private group contracted to the National Park Service for this purpose, shall have the right at all reasonable times to interpret the exterior of the properties, and such portions of the interior as have been mutually agreed upon, and (2) no changes or alterations shall be made in such properties except by mutual agreement between the Secretary and the other parties to such agreements. The agreements may contain specific provisions which outline in detail the extent of the participation by the Secretary in the restoration, preservation, or maintenance of such historic properties. The Secretary is authorized in his discretion to assist with maintenance directly related to public visitation of those properties covered by cooperative agreements consummated pursuant to this Act. No funds may be expended on a property until after the Secretary determines that there is applicable to that property a binding written cooperative agreement which remains in force and effect assuring the preservation and historical integrity of such property. If any fees are charged for the use of a property covered by a cooperative agreement, and Federal funds are committed in the cooperative agreements, the income from such fees shall be applied to the costs of maintenance and renovation of that property. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal fees shall be charged for entrance or admission to the historic site.

Gifts or bequests;
cooperative
agreements.

Fees.

SEC. 104. The Secretary, in cooperation with other interested groups, may identify other significant sites relating to the nineteenth century free African American community on Beacon Hill, Boston, which are related to the historic site authorized by this Act, and, with the consent of the owners thereof, may mark them appropriately and make reference to them in any interpretive literature.

Site identification.

SEC. 105. Within three complete fiscal years from the effective date of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate, a comprehensive general management plan for the historic site, pursuant to the provisions of section 12(b) of the Act of August 18, 1970 (84 Stat. 825; 16 U.S.C. 1a-1 et seq.).

Management plan, submittal to congressional committees.

SEC. 106. Effective on October 1, 1981, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, authority to enter into contracts, to incur obligations, or to make payments under this Act shall be effective only to the extent, and in such amounts, as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

Appropriation authorization.

Appendix D

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
and
THE MUSEUM OF AFRO AMERICAN HISTORY

This agreement made and entered into this 4th day of August, 1981, by and between the United States of America acting by and through the National Park Service Department of the Interior (hereinafter called the SERVICE) and the Museum of Afro American History, a Massachusetts charitable corporation (hereinafter called the MUSEUM);

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Title I of the Act of October 10, 1980 (Public Law 96-430) declared it a national policy to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States as a national historic site certain structures and properties of outstanding national significance located in Boston, Massachusetts, and associated with the creation and development of a free African American community within Beacon Hill prior to the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the African Meeting House is one of the outstanding historic sites mentioned in the Act as being worthy of inclusion in the Boston African American National Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, the African Meeting House is presently listed on the National Register as a National Historic Landmark, and is associated with the creation and development of the free African American community within Beacon Hill and known as the West End neighborhood prior to the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the said Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with the City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any of their political subdivisions, or any private person or organization, to mark, interpret, restore, and/or provide technical assistance for the preservation and interpretation of any of the properties listed; and

WHEREAS, the said Act provides that, as a condition precedent to the expenditure of any federal funds, a binding, written cooperative agreement assuring the preservation and historical integrity of the property in question must be executed and remain in force and effect; and

WHEREAS, the MUSEUM is the current owner of the African Meeting House; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the MUSEUM to promote the preservation, exhibition and interpretation of the African Meeting House as part of the Boston African American National Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the MUSEUM to cooperate with and assist in the interpretation of the significance of the free African American community within the City of Boston; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the SERVICE to cooperate with the MUSEUM in preserving the integrity of the African Meeting House and to assist in furthering its preservation for the benefit and inspiration of the American people as part of their national inheritance; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the SERVICE to assure that the significance of the 18th and 19th century free African American community in the City of Boston is fully and accurately interpreted;

Now, Therefore, in consideration of the mutual covenants hereinafter contained, and pursuant to the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, 41 U.S.C. 501 et seq., the parties hereto agree as follows:

I. The MUSEUM does hereby agree for itself, its successors, and assigns as follows:

a. The MUSEUM shall assume primary responsibility for the interpretation of the African Meeting House.

b. The MUSEUM shall exert its best efforts to preserve, protect, operate, and maintain the African Meeting House in a manner consistent with the "Management Policies" of the National Park Service.

c. The MUSEUM hereby grant the SERVICE the right of access to the site at all reasonable times and shall cooperate in making historical studies and related studies dealing with the historic fabric.

d. The MUSEUM shall provide for access by the public to all public portions of the property at all reasonable times, either without charge or for a reasonable admission fee.

e. The MUSEUM grants to the SERVICE the right to review and make suggestions regarding any changes in furnishings of public areas of the site.

f. The MUSEUM shall provide day-to-day staffing for the purpose of interpretive and visitor services, housekeeping and janitorial services at a standard acceptable to both parties.

g. The MUSEUM shall not make any changes or alterations to the property except by mutual agreement with the SERVICE.

h. The MUSEUM shall neither erect nor place nor permit the erecting or placing upon the property of any monument, marker, tablet or other material without prior consultation with the SERVICE.

i. The MUSEUM shall maintain books of account in accordance with acceptable accounting practices and make same available for annual inspection during normal business hours by auditors representing the SERVICE.

j. The MUSEUM shall, prior to the commencement of each fiscal year, establish a tentative budget for the operation and maintenance of the property; and, after it has been examined by the SERVICE, adopt and adhere to the same. In the event there may be amendments to the budget that are advisable or necessary, the MUSEUM will present such amendments to a designated representative of the SERVICE for his examination.

k. The MUSEUM shall have the site identified as a unit of the Boston African American National Historic Site and will cooperate with the SERVICE in developing appropriate markers, signs, and exhibits.

l. The MUSEUM shall assist the SERVICE in the development and presentation of interpretive programs relating to the entire Boston African American National Historic Site. Programs may include personal services such as guided tours, as well as museum exhibits, audio-visual programs, outdoor signs and exhibits and publications.

m. The MUSEUM shall assist the SERVICE in the interpretation of the creation and development of the free African American ~~community~~ within Beacon Hill and elsewhere in the City of Boston so as to promote a general understanding of the national significance of the Boston African American National Historic Site.

n. The MUSEUM shall assist the SERVICE in preparation of publications dealing with the site, with the creation and development of the free African American community within Beacon Hill and elsewhere in the City of Boston.

II. The SERVICE, on behalf of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, agrees as follows:

a. The SERVICE shall assume primary responsibility for preservation, and restoration of the African Meeting House as mutually agreed upon by the parties, subject to the availability of funds.

b. The SERVICE shall assist the MUSEUM, when necessary, with maintenance and operation of utility support systems (water, electrical, heating, plumbing, and the like) and with renovation directly related to public visitation as mutually agreed subject to the availability of funds.

c. The SERVICE shall provide other technical assistance in a variety of fields associated with management of historic sites, including maintenance, interpretation, curatorial management, general management, protection, and the like, as agreed to by the parties; subject to the availability of funds.

d. The SERVICE shall, where appropriate, include the African Meeting House in pertinent literature and interpretive materials produced by the SERVICE or by others acting for or on behalf of the SERVICE.

e. The SERVICE shall review sales items and assist in locating appropriate books and literature and other sales material and suggest merchandising techniques as the MUSEUM may, from time to time, request.

III. The MUSEUM and the SERVICE agree as follows:

a. They will cooperate to the common purpose of protecting and preserving the historical integrity of the African Meeting House. No changes or alterations may be made to the property, its fixtures, or grounds except by mutual agreement of the parties, provided, such changes or alterations shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 106, United States Public Law 89-665, October 15, 1966, and known as the Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

b. They will cooperate and assist in preserving museum objects. No historical objects associated with the African Meeting House will be disposed of except by mutual agreement of the parties.

c. The MUSEUM will accept training and guidance from the SERVICE, when it determines that such training and guidance will benefit its employees.

d. They will consult on the hours of operation of the African Meeting House. If the MUSEUM is financially incapable of maintaining operating hours considered adequate by both parties, the SERVICE will maintain adequate operating hours by supplementing the MUSEUM's funds for interpretation, protection, and maintenance as directly related to public visitation subject to availability of funds.

e. They will cooperate in organizing and presenting appropriate special events, patriotic commemorations, and other public celebrations. The MUSEUM shall remain responsible for all matters relating to meetings at the site, including the issuance of permits for public assemblies, meetings, forums, and the like.

f. During the performance of this agreement, the cooperators agree to abide by the terms of Executive Order 11246 on non-discrimination and will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The cooperators will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed without regard to their race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

g. No member of, or delegate to, Congress or Resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made with a corporation or company for its general benefit.

h. This agreement may be terminated by either party upon sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other party; provided, however, upon such termination funds previously committed to any given project shall not be withheld and each such project shall be completed by the responsible party.

i. That nothing contained in this Article shall be construed as binding the SERVICE to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of appropriations made by Congress for that fiscal year, or to involve the SERVICE in any contract or other obligation for the future expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations.

IV. Unless sooner terminated as herein provided, this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for a term of five (5) years from the date of execution hereto.

In Witness Whereof the parties hereunto have, on the day and year above written, caused these presents to be signed, sealed, and delivered by their respective representatives thereunto duly authorized.

(Seal)

Witness:

Marilyn Charak

(Seal)

Witness:

Ben Bauer

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

By:

Steven H. Lewis

MUSEUM OF AFRO AMERICAN HISTORY

By:

Byron R. Lewis

Appendix E

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
AMONG THE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
and
JOHN R. GIER, III and MARY E. WAY
and
THE MUSEUM OF AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY

This Agreement is made and entered into on this 3rd day of March, 1983 by and between the United States of America acting by and through the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (hereinafter called the SERVICE) and John R. Gier, III and Mary E. Way, owners of the Lewis Hayden House, 66 Phillips Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts (hereinafter called the OWNERS), and the Museum of Afro-American History (hereinafter called the MUSEUM):

WITNESSETH THAT,

WHEREAS, Title I of the Act of October 10, 1980, Public Law 96-430, declared it a national policy to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States as a national historic site certain historic structures and properties of outstanding national significance located in Boston, Massachusetts, and associated with the creation and development of a free African American community within Beacon Hill prior to the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis Hayden House, 66 Phillips Street, (formerly Southac Street) is one of the outstanding historic sites mentioned in the Act as being worthy of inclusion in the Boston African American National Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis Hayden House is presently listed on the National Register as part of the Beacon Hill Historic District, and is associated with the creation and development of the free African American community within Beacon Hill, known as the West End neighborhood, prior to the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any of their political subdivisions, or any private person or organization to mark, interpret, restore, and/or provide technical assistance for the preservation and interpretation of the properties listed, in connection with the Boston African American National Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, the said Act provides that, as a condition precedent to the expenditure or obligation of any federal funds, a binding, written cooperative agreement assuring the preservation and historical integrity of the subject property in question must be executed and kept in force and effect; and

WHEREAS, John R. Gier, III, and Mary E. Way are the current owners of the Lewis Hayden House; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the OWNERS to promote the preservation, exhibition and interpretation of the Lewis Hayden House as part of the Boston African American National Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the SERVICE to cooperate with the OWNERS in preserving the integrity of the Lewis Hayden House and to assist in furthering its preservation for the benefit and inspiration of the American people as part of their national inheritance; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the MUSEUM to cooperate with and assist in the interpretation of the significance of the free African American Community within the City of Boston:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants hereinafter contained, the parties hereto agree as follows:

I. The OWNERS do hereby agree for themselves, their successors and assigns that:

a. They will exert their best efforts to preserve, protect, and maintain the Lewis Hayden House in a manner consistent with standards acceptable to the Parties.

b. They will grant the SERVICE the right of access to the site at all reasonable times and cooperate in making historical studies and related studies dealing with the historic fabric.

c. They will allow the SERVICE to review and make suggestions regarding any changes in furnishings of public areas of the house.

d. They will make no changes or alterations to the exterior of the property or interior portions open to the public except by mutual agreement with the SERVICE.

e. They will grant the SERVICE permission to mark the house appropriately and make reference to it in any interpretive literature.

f. They will grant the SERVICE or an appropriate private group contracted by the SERVICE for this purpose, the right at all reasonable times to interpret the exterior of the property, and such portions of the interior as have been mutually agreed upon.

II. The SERVICE, on behalf of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, agrees that:

a. It will assist with preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of the exterior facade of the Lewis Hayden House, subject to the availability of federal funds.

b. It will assist the OWNERS, when necessary, with routine maintenance of exterior features as mutually agreed upon and subject to the availability of federal funds. Such maintenance could include repairs to the roof, gutters, masonry, windows and doors, walks and exterior grounds.

c. It will provide, subject to the availability of federal funds, other technical assistance in a variety of fields associated with preservation of historic buildings, such as maintenance, interpretation, curatorial management, and the like, as agreed to by the Parties.

d. It will include the Lewis Hayden House in pertinent literature and interpretive materials produced by the SERVICE or by others acting for or on behalf of the SERVICE.

III. The OWNERS and the SERVICE agree that:

a. They will cooperate to the common purpose of protecting and preserving the historical integrity of the Lewis Hayden House. No changes or alterations may be made to the exterior of the property except by mutual agreement of the SERVICE and the OWNERS, provided such changes or alterations shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 106, United States Public Law 89-665, October 15, 1966, and known as the Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

b. Upon (1) expiration of this Agreement or any extension thereof, (2) termination of this Agreement or any extension thereof by either the SERVICE or OWNERS or (3) sale of the subject property, the OWNERS shall reimburse the SERVICE for the remaining undepreciated value of all federally-funded preservation maintenance work accomplished. Preservation maintenance may include repointing of brick-work, window caulking, construction of a new roof, exterior repainting or window frame replacement. Preservation maintenance does not include studies of any kind, technical advice, custodial maintenance or repairs requiring less than eight hours of labor and/or two hundred dollars in materials.

c. Reimbursement in accordance with Section III. b. (above) shall be based on the SERVICE'S investment in the property being amortized at a straight-line rate from the date of each such investment or investments spread over either (1) the remaining portion of the initial 20-year term or (2) the term of years in the scale below, whichever is longer.

Investment of \$ 10,001 - \$ 25,000:	5-years
Investment of \$ 25,001 - \$ 50,000:	10-years
Investment of \$ 50,001 - \$100,000:	15-Years
Investment of \$100,001 and over:	20-years

d. Upon execution of this Agreement, a Preservation Covenant and Restriction shall be placed on the subject property, and this Agreement, and the Preservation Covenant and Preservation Restriction shall be recorded at OWNERS' expense in the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds. The term of this Covenant and Restriction shall run for a period of twenty (20) years from the date hereof. The Preservation Covenant and Preservation Restrictions is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and designated as Appendix I.

e. This Agreement may be terminated by either the SERVICE or OWNERS upon sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other party; provided, however, upon such termination, funds previously committed to any given project shall not be withheld and each such project shall be completed by the responsible party.

f. This Agreement and the obligations of the SERVICE hereunder are subject to the availability of federal funds, and nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as binding the SERVICE to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of appropriations made by Congress for that fiscal year, or to involve the SERVICE in any contract or other obligation for the future expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations.

IV. The OWNERS, the SERVICE and the MUSEUM agree that:

a. They will cooperate in the common purpose of interpreting the site, including development of guided tours, publications, exhibits and other activities as may be appropriate.

b. They will cooperate in organizing and presenting appropriate special events, patriotic commemorations, and other celebrations.

c. During the performance of this Agreement, the cooperators agree to abide by the terms of Executive Order 11246 on non-discrimination and will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

d. No member of, or delegate to Congress or Resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement or any benefit that may arise therefrom, but the restriction shall not be construed to extend to this Agreement if made with a corporation or company for its general benefit.

V. Unless sooner terminated as herein provided, this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for a term of twenty (20) years from the date of execution hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereunto have, on the day and year first above written, caused these presents to be signed, sealed, and delivered by their respective representatives thereunto duly authorized.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Witness:

Sen. Pres. Hall and N. Bulger

By: *[Signature]*

Title:

*Richard Frank Notary Public
1100 Court R Boston, U.S.
Mr. [unclear] [unclear] 1936*

Witness:

Ronald L. Bellamy, Sr.

John R. Gier, III
JOHN R. GIER, III

Witness:

Donald L. Farrell

Mary E. Way Gier
MARY E. WAY GIER

MUSEUM OF AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY

Witness:

Thomas J. Wilkins

By: Bernard R. Perkins
Title: President

* * *

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Suffolk ss.

March 3, 1983

Then personally appeared the above-named JOHN R. GIER, III and MARY E. WAY and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be their free act and deed, before me.

William Fisher
Notary Public

My commission expires: May 1986

William Fisher
Notary Public
1 Clarendon R Boston MA

Appendix F

PRESERVATION COVENANT AND RESTRICTIONS

The parties to this Agreement are the National Park Service, North Atlantic Region, which has an office at 15 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, hereinafter referred to as the SERVICE, and John R. Gier, III and Mary E. Way, owners of the premises known as the Lewis Hayden House, 66 Phillips Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts 02109, hereinafter referred to as the OWNERS.

For good and valuable consideration the SERVICE imposes and the OWNERS accept the following Preservation Restrictions which shall be recorded herewith and with and affect the above-stated premises, which premises are described in a certain deed dated October 18, 1977 from Bruce and Jill Mac Dougal, Grantor, to the Transferee (OWNERS herein), recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 434, Page 21.

These Preservation Restrictions are set forth so as to ensure the preservation of the architectural and historical integrity of the Lewis Hayden House, so called, located at 66 Phillips Street, Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, which premises has been listed on the National Register as part of the Beacon Hill Historic District, and is associated with the creation and development of the free African American community within Beacon Hill, known as the West End neighborhood, prior to the Civil War.

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any of their political sub-divisions, or any private person or organization to mark, interpret, restore, and/or provide technical assistance for the preservation and interpretation of the properties listed, in connection with the Boston African

OWNERS agree that no exterior
(a) clearly of minor nature
and historical values, (b)
determined that it will not
and historical values after
plans submitted by the OWNERS,
other emergency promptly

See that the SERVICE may
inspect the premises from time to time during the length of
the restrictions to ensure that the OWNERS are in compliance
with reasonable standards of maintenance.

The burden of these Preservation Restrictions, enumerated in paragraphs 1 through 2 inclusive, shall run with the land and be binding upon all future owners of an interest therein for a period of twenty (20) years from the date hereof. The rights of enforcement of these restrictions shall be as provided in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 184, Section 32, as enacted by ACTS 1969, Chapter 666, Section 5, as it may be amended from time to time.

In the event the property is leased or sold to another party within the term of this Agreement, the Grantors (OWNERS

herein) agree to execute and record a legally enforceable instrument that binds any future owners or leasees to assume the responsibility of this Agreement enumerated in paragraphs 1 through 2 above (Preservation Restrictions) for the remainder of the twenty (20) year period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the OWNERS have hereunto set their hands and seals this 3rd day of March, 1983.

Witness:
Ronald L. Balling, Jr.

John R. Gier, III
JOHN R. GIER, III

Witness:
Donald L. Lowell

Mary E. Way
MARY E. WAY

* * *

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Suffolk ss.

March 3, 1983

Then personally appeared the above-named JOHN R. GIER, III and MARY E. WAY and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be their free act and deed, before me.

William F. [Signature]
Notary Public
1 Clarendon St. Boston

My commission expires: March 1984

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, and parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

Publication services were provided by the graphic staff of the Denver Service Center. NPS D-2