



Network to Freedom



March 2002

More than “safe houses”

The Underground Railroad refers to efforts of enslaved African Americans to gain their freedom by escaping bondage. Wherever slavery existed, there were efforts to escape, at first to maroon communities in remote or rugged terrain on the edge of settled areas. Their acts of self-emancipation made them “fugitives” according to the laws of the times, though in retrospect “freedom seeker” seems a more accurate description

Connections to the Underground Railroad and the resistance to slavery through flight can encompass various activities. The most commonly recognized association is the safe house where shelter and food were provided. However, by focusing on the act of self-liberation, the Network to Freedom recognizes a variety of additional associations. The following list suggests some of the possible associations. The list is meant to be fluid

to incorporate and encourage new and original investigations, interpretations, and commemorative activities around the country.



As a result of the Union victory in April 1862, Fort Pulaski became a haven for African American refugees.

- Transportation routes, including landscapes, water routes, caves, swamps
- Churches associated with congregations active in the Underground Railroad
- Sites associated with legal challenges to slavery
- Enslavement sites with documented escapes
- Rebellion sites
- Maroon communities
- Destination sites

- Sites associated with kidnappings
- Sites associated with rescues of freedom seekers
- properties associated with prominent persons
- cemeteries
- military sites, such as battlefields where “contraband” were protected

While the Underground Railroad existed in the context of abolitionism and anti-slavery thought, those associations alone are not sufficient to

include a site, facility, or program in the Network to Freedom. Participation in the Underground Railroad was a violation of the federal fugitive slave acts and hence illegal. Through their acts of civil disobedience, these individuals demonstrated a higher level of commitment to the principles of freedom and self-determination. It is this level of commitment that is recognized in the Network to Freedom.

39 New Listings in the Network to Freedom

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program preserves and commemorates the history of the Underground Railroad, a significant heritage related to resistance to enslavement and the flight to freedom. The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce that, as a result of the second round of applications received by July 15, 2001, the Network has accepted an additional 39 listings—29 sites, 8 programs, and 2 facilities.

Listing in the Network to Freedom provides national recognition to well-documented historic sites, programs, and facilities. Network to Freedom listings will be featured on the Program’s web site (www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr). Sites, programs, and facilities that have been accepted in the Network will have the privilege to use and display the Network to Freedom logo. This

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39 New Additions to the Network to Freedom

validation of their Underground Railroad associations can be an important tool for site preservation and seeking funding. Inclusion in the Network to Freedom is also required to be eligible for Network to Freedom grants, when funding is available.

As the Network to Freedom expands, information will be available to assist researchers in gaining a new appreciation of the complexity of this rich tapestry illustrating the quest for freedom. For example, at the Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing in Missouri, a group of enslaved Africans seeking their freedom crossed the Mississippi River, just north of St. Louis. On the Illinois side, they were met by a group of police and owners resulting in the death of one organizer, the arrest of Mary Meachum, and the sale of another woman in the party. Further up the Mississippi

River, north of Alton, Illinois was an area known as Rocky Fork, now known as Camp Warren Levis. Here, in an area that became a settlement for escaped African Americans, was one of the first “Free” state stops for freedom seekers leaving Missouri. The community lasted long after 1865, with many descendants still in the area, holding the oral traditions of their families. In New York, the Oswego Market House was used as the seat of local government. It was the location of the Liberty Party’s 1850 annual convention where Gerrit Smith was nominated for the presidency of the United States and, Samuel R. Ward, a fugitive from enslavement, was nominated for the vice presidency.

Equally important to sites, are the programs and facilities accepted in the Network to Freedom. Pro-

grams such as the Footsteps to Freedom Study Tour for California educators and the living history based “A Fugitive’s Path—Escape on the Underground Railroad” interpret this history to people of all ages and help to keep the memory alive. Similarly facilities such as the River Road African American Museum and Gallery in Louisiana help to tell the story of the origins of the Underground Railroad in the deep South.

We encourage eligible Underground Railroad sites, programs, and facilities to apply. We welcome your participation in the Network.

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Network to Freedom Grants

Thanks to support from the Delaware congressional delegation, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom has been allocated \$500,00 for community grants, of which \$250,000 will go to the Underground Railroad Coalition of Delaware. The tar-

geted grant application period for the remaining \$250,000 is April 1-May 15, 2002. A minimum requirement for application will be listing in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Sites, programs, and facilities that were accepted through the first three rounds of Network to Freedom applications

will be eligible for grants in fiscal year 2002.. Grant funding is appropriated by Congress on an annual basis. For further details, contact your regional coordinator or Diane Miller at diane_miller@nps.gov or 402-221-3749.

Candidates for Round 3 of the Network to Freedom

Programs

State	Name	City
Massachusetts	Resisting for Justice- The African Meeting House and the Rescue of Shadrach Minkins	Boston
Michigan	Free Soil Underground Railroad Sightseeing Bus Tour	Vandalia
Ohio	Plantation Quilts and Gifts	Columbus

Facilities

State	Name	City
Florida	Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC), NPS	Tallahassee
New York	Oswego School District Public Library	Oswego
	Richardson-Bates House Museum	Oswego
Virginia	Alexandria Archeology Museum	Alexandria
	The Library of Virginia	Richmond

State	Name	City
Illinois	Lucius Read House	Byron
Indiana	Eleutherian College	Madison
	Levi Coffin House Historic Site	Fountain City
	Lyman Hoyt House	Madison
Iowa	Nishnabotna Ferry House	Lewis
Maryland	Antietam National Battlefield	Sharpsburg
	Ferry Hill, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP	Sharpsburg
Massachusetts	Ross Homestead	Northampton
New York	Harriet Tubman Home	Auburn
	Orson Ames House	Mexico
Ohio	Benjamin Lundy House/Free Labor Store	Mount Pleasant
	Bloomington Presbyterian Church	Bloomington
	Charles B. Huber Farm	Williamsburg
	Dr. John Roger Homesite	New Richmond
	Fee Villa	Moscow
	Gus West Site/Abolition Road	Washington Court House
	Haines House	Alliance
	New Richmond, Ohio Waterfront	New Richmond
	Old Cavalry Methodist Church	Moscow
	Roger Fee Homesite	Moscow
	Spring Hill Historic Home	Massillon
	Sugar Tree Wesleyan Church Cemetery	Bethel
	Will Sleet Homesite	Felicity
Virginia	Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial	Arlington
	Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery	Alexandria
West Virginia	Harpers Ferry NHP	Harpers Ferry

Listings Accepted in the Second Round of the Network to Freedom Sites

State	Name	City
District of Columbia	Frederick Douglass National Historic Site	Washington
Illinois	Camp Warren Levis	Godfry
	Dr. Richard Eells House	Quincy
	Kimzey Crossing/Locust Hill	Tamaroa
	Owen Lovejoy Homestead	Princeton
Iowa	Hitchcock House	Lewis
	Todd House	Tabor
Maryland	President Street Station	Baltimore
Massachusetts	Nathan and Polly Johnson House	New Bedford
Michigan	Guy Beckley House	Ann Arbor
Missouri	Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing	St. Louis
New York	Asa Wing	Parish
	Bristol Hill Church (First Congregational Church and Society of Volney)	Fulton
	Buckout-Jones Building	Oswego
	Edwin W. Clarke House	Oswego
	Gerritt Smith Estate	Peterboro
	John B. and Lydia Edwards House	Oswego
	Hamilton and Rhoda Littlefield House	Oswego
	Oswego Market House	Oswego
	Sarr Clark Tin Shop	Mexico
Ohio	Charles B. Huber Homesite	Williamsburg
	Dr. L.T. Pease Homesite	Williamsburg
	Felicity Wesleyan Church	Felicity
	Homesite of Dr. William E. Thompson	Bethel
	Lindale Baptist Church and Cemetery	Amelia
	Tate Township Cemetery	Bethel
	Williamsburg Cemetery	Williamsburg
Pennsylvania	Independence National Historical Park	Philadelphia
Tennessee	Fort Donelson National Battlefield	Dover

State	Name	City
California	Footsteps to Freedom Study Tour	Riverside
Georgia	From Africa to Eternity (Traveling Exhibit)	Brunswick
Indiana	Indiana Freedom Trails Educational and Research Program	Indianapolis
	"The Underground Railroad in Floyd County, Indiana"	New Albany
New York	Tudor E. Grant: From Fugitive Slave to Oswego Businessman	Oswego
Ohio	"A Fugitive's Path—Escape on the Underground Railroad"	Bath
	Clermont County Trail Tour	Batavia
	Clermont County Underground Railroad Public Education Program	Batavia

Programs

State	Name	City
Louisiana	River Road African American Museum & Gallery	Gonzales
New York	Mexico Museum	Mexico

Facilities

Good News for Community Organizations

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) offers help for beleaguered partners. Check www.neh.gov or call (202) 606-8287. The following are directed at non-profit organizations or local governments:

- Preservation Assistance (4 page-form), up to \$5000, for non-profits with one professional staffer, no grant track record necessary. The grant pays a professional consultant to prepare a preservation plan (cemetery, archives, collection) or for preservation training or supplies. Half the appli-

cations are currently accepted. Ask for a sample application. Apply by April 3, 2002.

- Consultation for Public Programs (10 page-form), up to \$10,000, for any non-profit, no track record necessary. The planning projects should focus on requests for academic or technical help with humanities programming (outreach, media, exhibits) by libraries, museums, historical organizations or community organizations. NEH staff will give advice on drafts. Deadlines are April & September.
- **NEW!** Special Initiative for Local History, \$10,000-100,000, matching 1:1 from non-federal sources for non-profits. Prefer-

ence goes to institutions with annual budgets under \$100,000 or for long-term initiatives like an endowment, permanent lecture series, continuing exhibit series, or community walking tours. Apply by May 1, 2002.

- Challenge Grants, for non-profits, private or public, \$25,000 to \$500,000 requiring a 1:3 match from non-federal donors over 4 years Part of NEH money can go for a part-time development officer's salary. Grants can go to a state or local government, humanities council, public library, or statewide UGRR organization for public programming, conservation, or cataloguing collections. Apply by May.

Calendar of Events

March 16 *Illinois Underground Railroad Association "Gathering"*, Governors State University, University Park (near Chicago), Illinois; Terry Ransom, 217-525-3554 or Diane Banta, 312-886-1437

March 22-24 *"Culturalisms in America"* MORARE Conference; St. Louis, Missouri; Angela da Silva, 800-490-3773

April 3 *NPS Network to Freedom application review public meeting*; New Orleans, Louisiana; Diane Miller, 402-221-3749

April 19 *"Gathering" at Frederick Community College*, Frederick, Maryland; Jenny Masur 202-690-5166

April 26 *Discussion session "The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Initiative; The Next*

Steps...where do we go from here" as part of a preservation conference sponsored by Indiana DNR, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Historic Landmarks Foundation, Indianapolis; Jeannie Regan-Dinius, 317-232-1646

May 3 *Lantern Hike into History: Routes to Freedom and Prosperity*, an NPS ranger led 3-mile hike on the Ohio & Erie Canal, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio; Scott Van Houten, 330-650-4636

May 4 *Gerrit Smith National Historic Landmark and Network to Freedom dedications*, Peterboro, New York; Tara Morrison, 215-597-9123

May 31-June 2 *"Underground Railroad Activities on the Maritime Great Lakes"* conference, Detroit, Michigan; Diane Miller, 402-221-3749

June 8 *Juneteenth Celebration*, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio;

Pam Machuga, 330-650-4636

July 7-10 *Mosaic in Motion 2002*, a conference on forging connections between people of color and America's national parks and public lands, Stone Mountain, Georgia; Alicia Seyler, 202-223-6722

August 10 *Indiana Freedom Trails Annual Summit*, Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Jeannie Regan-Dinius, 317-232-1646

August 21-25 *Association of African American Museums annual conference*, Washington, DC

This is a partial listing of upcoming events, based on information available to NPS at time of publication. If you would like your event included in future newsletters, contact Diane Miller at 402-221-3749.

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MIDWEST REGION
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**OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300**



**NATIONAL
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
NETWORK TO FREEDOM**

New NPS Contact Information

Northeast Coordinator Tara Morrison has relocated from Boston to Philadelphia. She continues to have the same states and responsibilities. She can be reached at:

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200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
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Pacific West Coordinator Guy Washington will also be covering the Intermountain Region, including Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. He can be reached at:

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The Alaska Coordinator is now Linda Cook. She can be reached at:
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Southeast Coordinator Barbara Tagger has accepted a detail appointment to work on the Harriet Tubman special resource study. Until the end of 2002, other regional coordinators will assist in covering the Southeast Region as follows:

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