



Network to Freedom



August 2002

Network to Freedom Grants Awarded

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act was amended in October 2000, by P.L. 106-291, Title I, Section 150, to give the Secretary of the Interior authority to make grants for the preservation and restoration of buildings and structures associated with the Underground Railroad, and for related research. Funding—\$500,000—was appropriated for the Network to Freedom Grants for the first time in fiscal year 2002. Of this amount, \$250,000 was earmarked in the appropriations bill for the Delaware Underground Railroad Coalition. The remaining \$250,000 was made available, on a matching basis, through a competitive process, to members of the Network to Freedom.

Proposals were submitted for nineteen projects totaling over \$340,000. The proposals represented ten sites, six programs, and three facilities that are listed in the

Network to Freedom. The variety of projects and partnerships described in the applications indicate an impressive level of activity and creativity in preserving and telling the story of the Underground Railroad. The applications were reviewed and ranked by a committee and NPS was able to fund the top fourteen projects.

The range of projects is reflected in the following examples. Restoration projects include the interior of the John P. Parker House (Ohio) and a wall and foundation of the Milton House (WI), both National Historic Landmarks. The Maryland State Archives is teaming with the Commission to Coordinate the Study, Commemoration, and Impact of Slavery's History and Legacy in Maryland, Morgan State University, Goucher College, and Maryland Public Television to

sponsor an internship program. Interns will extract Underground Railroad related data from a variety of public and governmental records held at the archives; digital imaging of the documents will allow internet based access for the public. In Kansas, the Watkins Community Museum is expanding their research on the Underground Railroad in the Lawrence area, developing a new permanent exhibit, and collaborating with Native American artist Wayne Wildcat on a mural sized painting that will illustrate and honor local Underground Railroad participants. The Indiana Freedom Trails Educational and Research Program is addressing fragmentary information about routes through the State by focusing research on nine counties where little information is known. The project will begin to connect the journeys of freedom seekers as they moved through the state.

Preservation Award for Brookline, MA UGRR group

A preservation award from the Town of Brookline's (Massachusetts) Preservation Commission has been awarded to the Brookline Underground Railroad Committee (Sheila Parks, Chair; Lori Altman, Dotty Bell, Steve Bressler, Barbara Brown, Scott Garren, Bonnie Kanter) for its efforts in recognizing Brookline's heritage. Members of the committee will be honored at their annual ceremony on September 12 2002. Recipients are chosen for their dedication to historic preservation. This prestigious award acknowledges the work of the Brookline Underground Railroad Committee in successfully nominating the Tappan-Philbrick House and the Samuel Ingersoll Bowditch House to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and for placing plaques at the two houses.

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Brookline Underground Railroad Committee wins Preservation Award

The Brookline Selectpeople proclaimed June 23, 2002 Brookline Underground Railroad Day and issued a beautiful proclamation. That day, a widely attended public dedication was held to unveil plaques at both houses which read:

The Tappan-Philbrick House at 182 Walnut Street was a station on the Underground Railroad before the Civil War. Abolitionists Eliza and Samuel Philbrick provided safe haven for enslaved Americans of African descent escaping the

South. Ellen and William Craft, by posing as master and slave, fled Georgia and hid here. We honor these people and are inspired by them.

and

The William I. Bowditch House at 9 Toxteth Street was a station on the Underground Railroad before the Civil War. Abolitionists Sarah and William Bowditch provided safe haven for enslaved Americans of African descent escaping the South. Henry "Box" Brown, who shipped

himself in a box to gain freedom, was welcomed here. Others whose names are lost to us were given refuge. We honor these people and are inspired by them.

Both plaques have the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom gorgeous logo on them, as well as the designation date this was awarded (May 17, 2001).

The Brookline Selectpeople proclaimed June 23, 2002 Brookline Underground Railroad Day

Network to Freedom Grants Awarded

State	Project Name/Network Listing Name	Award Amount
California	Extending program impact through new research and media/Meet Mary Pleasant	\$25,000
California	Research for development of UGRR study tour in California/Footsteps to Freedom Study Tour	\$23,385
Indiana	Research in Nine Indiana Counties on the UGRR/Indiana Freedom Trails	\$14,395
Kansas	Historic Preservation Plan/Free State Capitol	\$7,500
Kansas	"Quest for Freedom: The UGRR in Douglas County, Kansas"/Watkins Community Museum	\$20,470
Maryland	Beneath the UGRR: Assisted Flight and the Conspiracy against Slavery in Maryland, 1830-1860/Maryland State Archives	\$25,000
Michigan	Cass County Collaborative Free Soil Research Project/Free Soil Tours	\$10,151
Mississippi	Escapes, Uprisings and Maroons Proving Mississippi River a Major UGRR Route/Forks of the Road Enslavement Market Terminus	\$7,500
Missouri	Neighborhood Pride/Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing	\$24,955
New York	Building a Niagara County UGRR Education Resources Center/Murphy Orchards	\$15,394
Ohio	James & Sophia Clemens Farmstead Restoration Project/James & Sophia Clemens Farmstead	\$25,000
Ohio	Parker House—Interior Restoration/John P. Parker House Historic Site	\$25,000
Tennessee	Understanding the African American Experience at Forts Henry, Heiman & Donelson/Fort Donelson National Battlefield	\$1,250
Wisconsin	Milton House Wall & Foundation Restoration Project/Milton House Museum	\$25,000
	14 projects funded	\$250,000

Candidates for Round Four of the Network to Freedom

Sites

State	Name	City
Arkansas	Fort Smith National Historic Site	Fort Smith
Delaware	Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery in the City of Wilmington	Wilmington
	Market Street Bridge	Wilmington
	The Rocks- Fort Christina State Park	Wilmington
	Thomas Garrett Home Site	Wilmington
	Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park	Wilmington
Illinois	Phelps Barn	Elmwood
Kansas	Captain William Mitchell Homestead	Wamego
	Dr. John Doy Homesite (archeological ruins)	Lawrence
	Henry and Ann Harvey Farmstead	Harveyville
	Mission Creek Township Cemetery/Keene Cemetery	Maple Hill
	Wabaunsee Cemetery	Wabaunsee County
	William K. and Elizabeth Sackett Beach Homestead	Maple Hill
Maryland	Sotterley Plantation	Hollywood
Missouri	Old Courthouse/Jefferson National Expansion Memorial	St. Louis
New York	First Baptist Church of Elmira	Elmira
North Carolina	Fort Raleigh National Historic Site	Manteo
Ohio	Boyhood Home of Dr. William E. Thompson	Bethel
	Burial Site of U.S. Senator Thomas Morris	Bethel
	Clermont County Courthouse	Batavia
	Marcus Sims—Charles Huber Tannery	Williamsburg
	Office of the Philanthropist Newspaper	New Richmond
	Robert E. Fee Burial Site	Moscow
Pennsylvania	The Johnson House	Philadelphia
Virginia	Bruin's Slave Jail	Alexandria
	Gadsby's Tavern	Alexandria
Washington, D.C.	Emancipation Group	Washington, D.C.
State	Name	City
Delaware	Historical Society of Delaware	Wilmington
Florida	Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC)	Tallahassee
Michigan	Cass District Library Local History Branch	Cassopolis
Virginia	Thomas Balch Library	Leesburg

Facilities

State	Name	City
Delaware	The Long Road to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in Delaware	Wilmington
Michigan	Michigan Underground Railroad Consultant Assistance and Programs	Grand Rapids
	Underground Railroad Living Experience at Historic 1st Congregational Church of Detroit Living Museum	Detroit
	Sojourner Truth Technical Training Center at Adrian College	Adrian
Missouri	Dred Scott Trial Program, Old Courthouse/Jefferson National Expansion Memorial	St. Louis
New York	H. Lee White Museum – Underground Railroad Exhibit	Oswego

Listings Accepted in Round Three of the Network to Freedom

Sites

State	Name	City
Illinois	Lucius Read House	Byron
Indiana	Levi Coffin House Historic Site	Fountain City
Iowa	James C. Jordan House	Des Moines
	Nishnabotna Ferry House	Lewis
Maryland	Ferry Hill Plantation, Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NHP	Sharpsburg
Massachusetts	Ross Homestead	Northampton
New York	Harriet Tubman Home	Auburn
	Orson Ames House	Mexico
Ohio	Bloomington Presbyterian Church	Bloomington
	Charles B. Huber Farm	Williamsburg
	Clemens Farmstead	Greenville
	Gus West Site/Abolition Road	Washington Court House
	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

Facilities

State	Name	City
New York	Oswego School District Public Library	Oswego
	Richardson-Bates House Museum	Oswego
Virginia	Alexandria Archeology Museum	Alexandria
	The Library of Virginia	Richmond

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	Spring Hill Historic Home Tour	Massillon

National Underground Railroad Family Reunion Festival

The William Still Underground Railroad Foundation Inc. has partnered with The National Park Service and others in its first annual event, *The National Underground Railroad Family Reunion Festival Inc.* This three-day monumental event was created to unite the custodians of UGRR history who have inherited stories, artifacts, and memorabilia from the era of the Underground Railroad under one forum to share their legacy and to also network with other families and descendants involved in the Underground Railroad.

The event will happen June 27, 28, and 29 primarily in Philadelphia, PA. Festivities will kick-off on Friday June 27 at 7:30am with a "Reuniting the Spirit of Freedom Breakfast", followed by an unveiling of a statue to commemorate *William Still* known as "the Father of the Underground Railroad". There will also be oral history interviews, genealogy workshops, and Underground Railroad exhibits and re-enactments in various locations throughout the weekend. Underground Railroad tours of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania will be scheduled during the week of the event.

In addition there will also be a UGRR Gala to honor awardees of the "Voices of Freedom Award: Women of the UGRR Past, Present

& Future, and also the "Angel of Philadelphia Award" which will be given to a person who has shown excellence and achievement in humanitarian efforts within the region.

Also the William Still UGRR Foundation and its sponsors will present a Gospel & Folk Exhibition, Sunday, June 29 at the Camden Waterfront, in Camden N.J. The Gospel & Folk Exhibition, like all of those featured throughout the weekend are family-oriented and will cross multicultural and ethnic barriers. For more information about this event please contact Eve Elder at (513) 699-0297 or visit the website at www.undergroundrr.com and go to the UGRR Family Festival link.

Tubman Study

One outcome of the mid-1990s study of the Underground Railroad was to recognize that sites related to Harriet Tubman warranted a closer look to see if they might be included in the National Park System. Now that closer look is under way. The National Park Service (NPS) has started a Special Resource Study of Tubman sites in Auburn, NY, Cambridge, MD, and elsewhere.

Launched this spring with a team that includes four coordinators from the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, the study is expected to be completed in 2004. It is based at the NPS Boston Support Office, but brings together a far-flung team that has visited the Auburn

and Cambridge sites, met constituents in both areas, and held two public meetings.

A Special Resource Study is a professional evaluation process ending with a range of options and a recommendation. It follows certain criteria in its evaluation of a site or a place: the national significance, the suitability and the feasibility of having a new area of the National Park System, and whether there is need for management by the NPS.

Congress named five Tubman sites in Auburn and two in Dorchester County, Maryland, in its November 2000 law mandating the Special Resource Study. Dorchester County, Maryland is where Tubman was born and grew up. Auburn, New York, is where she made her home for more than 40 years; there too, she established a Home for the Aged and was laid to

rest in 1913.

Congress also directed NPS to analyze the potential for a National Heritage Corridor including the named sites and other sites associated with Harriet Tubman. Anyone familiar with Harriet Tubman sites around the country is encouraged to contact the team with information for the study. And, anyone wishing to be on the Harriet Tubman Study mailing list should contact the project coordinator: Barbara Mackey, NPS, 15 State Street, Boston MA 02109, Tel. 617-223-5138, Fax 617-223-5164, or email Barbara_Mackey@nps.gov.

In Fall 2002, a new website will provide current information to a broader audience. Look for HarrietTubmanStudy.org.

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



NATIONAL
 UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
 NETWORK TO FREEDOM

Announcements

Proposal Writing Seminars

Conducted by the authors of our classic *Foundation Center's Guide to Proposal Writing*, these seminars offer the novice fundraiser and the nonprofit executive a nuts-and-bolts presentation on the proposal writing skills needed to secure grants from foundations and corporate sources. This course has been approved for continuing education credit / .6 CEU by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Continuing Education Review Board. Contact: <http://www.fdncenter.org> ; 79 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY 10003; tel 212 620 4230.

Network to Freedom Contact Information

The previous newsletter announced that Barbara Tagger, Southeast Regional Coordinator for the Network to Freedom program would be working on a detail with the Harriet Tubman Special Resource

Study and that her states within the Southeast Region would be temporarily re-assigned. Ms. Tagger will continue as a co-team leader for the Tubman study. However, because 3 other Network to Freedom coordinators have been included in the team, Ms. Tagger will continue her work with the Network to Freedom Program. She will remain as the contact for the states in the Southeast Region.

Network to Freedom Application Workshops

The NPS Network to Freedom Coordinators will be offering workshops on how to complete the Network application form. Currently scheduled workshops are Philadelphia, PA, September 19; Orlando, FL, October 1; Indianapolis, IN, October 4. Contact your regional coordinator.

Network to Freedom Website

NPS is pleased to announce that new features on the program's website will soon be available. The Network application

can be obtained on-line, and a pre-registration step can be completed electronically. The section for "Share with the Underground Railroad Community" will allow users to post their upcoming events, share stories, and post research queries. The website may be accessed at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr>.

Network to Freedom Public Review Meeting

The next public meeting to review applications to the Network to Freedom will be October 10 in the vicinity of Cleveland, Ohio. Contact James Hill at 402-221-3413

Passages to Freedom

A national conference on the Underground Railroad and America's struggle over slavery and abolition will be held at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC from February 27 to March 1, 2003. Contact Orloff Miller 513-412-6913