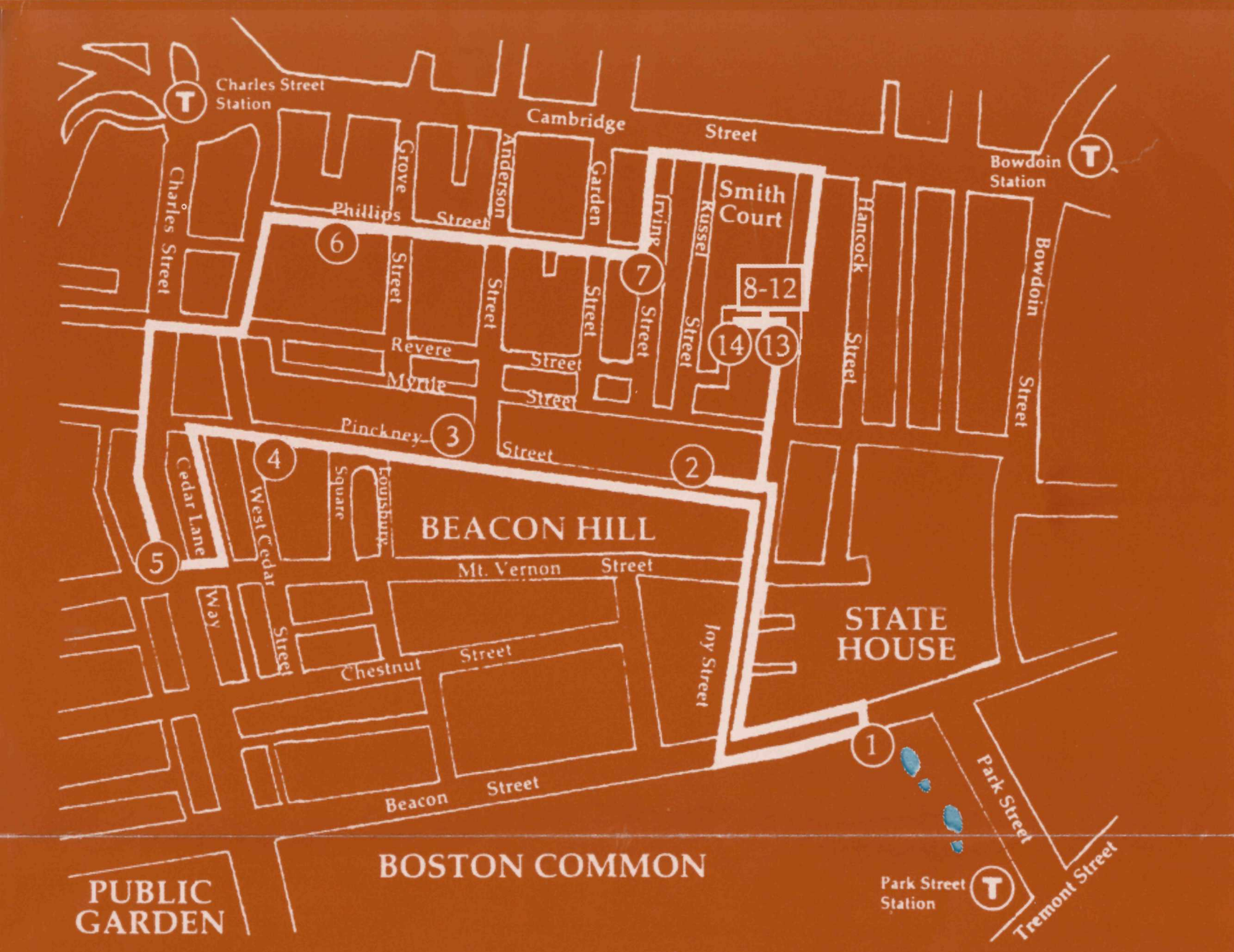


SOULS OF BLACK FOLK

“Celebrating 100 Years of African American Arts and Letters”



THE BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL®

The Black Heritage Trail® in Boston explores the history of the 19th-century free Black community that resided on the North Slope of Beacon Hill.

GUIDED TOURS

SUMMER SEASON
MEMORIAL DAY - LABOR DAY
 Tours depart daily from the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial (FOOTSTEPS ON MAP*) at 10am, 12noon, and 2pm, Monday - Sunday.

WINTER SEASON
LABOR DAY - MEMORIAL DAY
 Tours depart by appointment only from the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial* at 10am, 12noon and 2pm, Monday - Saturday.

GUIDED TOUR SCHEDULING & INFORMATION

Call for more information or to schedule a tour: Boston African American NHS at 617.742.5415.

USE THIS MAP FOR

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOURS

OF THE BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL®

BOSTON'S BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTS AND LETTERS

"For it is not the color of the skin that makes the man or woman, but the principle formed in the soul. Brilliant wit will shine, and come from whence it will; and genius and talent will not hide the brightness of its luster."
 MARIA W. STEWART, 1833

"While freedom's cause her anxious breast alarms, She flashes in dreadful arms. See mother earth her offspring's fate bemoan, And nations gaze at scenes before unknown!"
 PHILLIS WHEATLEY, 1775

"Task no monument, proud and high, To arrest the gaze of the passers-by; All that my yearning spirit craves, is bury me not in a land of slaves."
 FRANCES E.W. HARPER, 1854

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 - BOAF - Boston African-American National Historic Site
 - NIA Pix - New Image Associates
 - Massachusetts Historical Society
 - Museum of Afro-American History
 - SPNEA - Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities
 - UMASS Press - University of Massachusetts Press
 - USNPS - United States National Park Service

1

Robert Gould Shaw & 54th Massachusetts Regiment Memorial

Boston Common

On July 18, 1863, the 54th Massachusetts Regiment valiantly fought for American freedom at the Battle of Fort Wagner, SC. The 54th was the first all-Black regiment recruited in the North to fight for the Union Army during the Civil War. Led by a White Colonel, Robert Gould Shaw, 25, the Black soldiers proved to the world that African-American soldiers would fight for liberty with pride and dignity. Though gravely wounded, Sargent William H. Carney crawled through enemy fire to rescue the Union flag. In 1900, he became the first African-American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for that heroic act. Sargent Carney, Colonel Shaw, and more than 1,000 members of the 54th Regiment are commemorated in this high-relief bronze monument created in 1897 by renowned 19th-century sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens.

2

George Middleton House

5-7 Pinkney Street

George Middleton was an early crusader for African-American freedom and rights, both on the local and national fronts. To combat racism and discrimination, Middleton helped found the Massachusetts General Colored Association with other African American leaders of early Boston. Before his death in 1810, he fought tirelessly for the abolition of slavery, for racial equality, and for equal education of Black children in the Boston public schools. His house, at numbers 5 to 7 Pinkney Street, was built in 1797 and is the oldest standing wooden structure on historic Beacon Hill.

3

The Phillips School

Anderson & Pinkney Streets

Erected in 1824 as one of the original sites of Boston's English High School, the Phillips School was one of the first integrated schools in the City of Boston. In 1844, the building was renamed the Phillips Grammar School, by then one of seven White public schools on Beacon Hill. In stark contrast to the Abiel Smith School (Heritage Trail site #13), the Phillips School was considered one of the best public schools in the city. During the School integration battle of the 1840s and 1850s, schools like the Phillips School symbolized the racial inequality in Boston's public school system. Following the 1855 integration of Boston public schools, the Phillips school educated Black and White children on Beacon Hill until the Black community's migration to other parts of Boston at the end of the 19th century.

4

John J. Smith House

86 Pinkney Street

John J. Smith - hairdresser, abolitionist, and state legislator - was a community leader in the struggle for racial equality. Born free in Virginia in 1820, he established a lucrative Boston barber shop, often the site of anti-slavery debate and abolitionist meetings. Smith's activities for abolition and equal rights helped the Black community to resist legal kidnapping after the Fugitive Slave Law was passed in 1850. Prior to serving in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in the 1860s and 1870s, he helped rescue fugitive slaves like Shadrach Minkins in 1851, and William and Ellen Craft in 1850. Smith lived at 86 Pinkney Street during the 1860s and 1870s, and continued to fight for racial and social equality until his death in 1906.

5

Charles Street Meeting House

Mt. Vernon & Charles Streets

Built in 1807 as the Third Baptist Church, the Charles Street Meeting House was key in attempts to desegregate Boston churches in the early 19th century. Like all local churches of the time, Third Baptist was racially segregated. In 1835, wealthy white parishioner Timothy Gilbert challenged the church's segregationist policy by inviting Black friends to sit in his front-row pew during services. Gilbert and other abolitionists eventually left Third Baptist to form the Free Baptist Church at Boston's Tremont Temple, the first integrated church in America. In 1876, the Meeting House became Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal Church, also influential in social and cultural activities. In 1895, the National Federation of Afro-American Women was formed at Charles Street. Its 1939 relocation made it the last African-American institution to migrate off Beacon Hill in the 20th century.

6

Lewis Hayden House

66 Phillips Street

One of Boston's most notable African-American community leaders of the 19th century was Lewis Hayden, a runaway slave, abolitionist leader, and conductor on the Underground Railroad. Escaped from slavery in Kentucky, Hayden opened a prosperous Beacon Hill used clothing shop and boarding house, which became Boston's leading stop on the Underground Railroad. It is estimated that 2/3 of all fugitive slaves who traveled to Boston on their road to freedom stayed at 66 Phillips Street at least once. Before his death in 1889, Hayden helped rescue fugitive slaves (including Shadrach Minkins in 1851), sponsored John Brown's ill-fated 1859 raid on Harper's Ferry, VA, recruited volunteer soldiers for the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, and continued to crusade for the rights of African-Americans and women.

7

John Coburn's Gaming House

2 Phillips Street

Built in 1843, John Coburn's Gaming House was one of the most profitable Black-owned businesses in 19th-century Boston. It was owned and operated by Coburn, an abolitionist who combated slavery and inequality through the substantial profits earned through the Gaming House. Coburn donated money to the Boston Vigilance Committee, a radical interracial group dedicated to resisting the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law. He also founded the Massasoit Guards in 1854, an all-Black military company that sought to support the Massachusetts military in the wake of developing tensions between the North and South in the years preceding the Civil War.

8 - 12

Smith Court Residences

3, 5, 7, 7A and 10 Smith Court

In the early 19th century, African-Americans in Boston began to migrate to the north slope of Beacon Hill, which was rapidly being developed by wealthy white proprietors from the south slope of Beacon Hill. Most of the houses were built as Americans moved to more wooden structures, built and owned by White housewrights. The five houses on Beacon Hill's Smith Court are some of the last structures still standing that African-Americans in Boston called home for almost a century. Number three, for instance, was the home of William C. Nell, African-American integrationist, activist, and crusader for equal school rights. Nell also was the country's first published Black historian; his *Services of Colored Americans, in the Wars of 1776 and 1812* was published in Boston in 1851.

13

Abiel Smith School

46 Joy Street

Constructed in 1835, the Abiel Smith School was the first schoolhouse in America built to educate Black children. Since 1787, when Prince Hall petitioned the state legislature to fund a Black school, the African-American community fought tirelessly for equal education. Faced with racism, discrimination, and inequality, Blacks educated their children at the African Meeting House until the Smith School opened. With inadequate funding and staffing, conditions at the school led community activists, like William C. Nell, to fight for integrated public schools in Boston through the 1840s and 1850s. As a result of court cases like *Roberts v. the State of Massachusetts* in 1849, and concerted efforts of Black parents, Boston's public schools were finally integrated in 1855 and the Smith School was closed. The building reopened in 1887 as the headquarters for Black veterans of the Civil War.

14

African Meeting House

8 Smith Court

Built in 1806, the African Meeting House is the oldest extant Black church building in America. Inspired by racial discrimination in 18th-century White churches, Baptist Minister Thomas Paul led African Americans to establish the African Baptist Church in the Meeting House, which also became the center of abolitionist activity during the 19th century. In 1831, White abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison founded New England's Anti-Slavery Society in the Meeting House, and Maria W. Stewart, an abolitionist and women's rights activist, became the first African woman to speak before a mixed audience on political themes to a standing room only crowd. Other famous speakers, whose voices of freedom and equality echoed through these walls during the 19th century were: Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Angelina Grimke, David Walker, and Governor John Andrew.

Boston African-American National Historic Site
 14 Beacon Street • Suite 503
 Boston • MA 02108

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE • \$300

Boston National Historical Park
 SUPERINTENDENT • Terry Savage

Boston African-American National Historic Site
 SITE MANAGER • Kenneth A. Heidelberg

Museum of Afro-American History
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • Beverly Morgan-Welch

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

TO AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE & ABIEL SMITH SCHOOL

From Storrow Drive, take the Government Center exit onto Cambridge Street. Continue on Cambridge approx. 1/2 mile, then turn right onto Hancock Street. Go to the top of the hill, then turn right onto Mt. Vernon Street. Go one block and turn right onto Joy Street and continue down to Smith Court. Guests may be dropped off at the Smith Court entrance; drivers proceed to the end of Joy Street for parking garages on Cambridge Street.

- **PARKING:** For weekend and evening events, \$5 validated parking is available at the Cambridge Street Garage (under the Holiday Inn).
- **FROM MBTA:** Take Green or Red Line to Park Street Station. Turn left onto Park Street, then left again onto Beacon Street. Go one block to Joy Street, and follow Joy to Smith Court.

The African Meeting House and Abiel Smith School are adjacent buildings located at 8 Smith Court and 46 Joy Street on Beacon Hill in Boston. ALL OF THE OTHER BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL SITES ARE PRIVATELY OWNED AND NOT ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.

