

Boston African American National Historic Site

14 Beacon Street • Suite 503 • Boston • MA • 02108
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Photo Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

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SPN/EA

African Meeting House

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Learn about the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, the first Black fighting unit from the North to serve in the Civil War. See Augustus Saint-Gaudens' world-renowned **Robert Gould Shaw Memorial** honoring Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the men of his regiment, who marked their place in history at the battle of Fort Wagner, South Carolina, in 1863.

Visit the **African Meeting House**, the nation's oldest standing Black church and the center of Black Bostonians' struggles against slavery, racism, and injustice. Stand where Frederick Douglass, Abby Kelley, William Lloyd Garrison, Maria Stewart and others led the charge for racial justice and equality in the years before the Civil War.



NIAP/x

Abiel Smith School

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Explore the **Abiel Smith School**, the focal point of the African American community's struggles against segregation and unequal education in Boston. Closed in 1855 when segregation was abolished in Massachusetts, the Abiel Smith School now houses exhibits and the Museum Store.



Abolitionist
Lewis Hayden



BOAF

Lewis & Harriett Hayden House

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Tour Beacon Hill's North Slope, where Black activists of the nineteenth century lived and worked. Hear exciting stories of local heroes such as **Lewis Hayden**; as a station master on the Underground Railroad, he harbored fugitive slaves in his "safe house" on Beacon Hill.

A Partnership Park

Boston African American National Historic Site was established in 1980 as a cooperative partnership with the Museum of Afro-American History. The site interprets the history of the 19th-century free Black community living on the North Slope of Beacon Hill. Ranger-led tours explore the 14 historic structures along the Black Heritage Trail, including the African Meeting House and the Abiel Smith School.*

The Black Heritage Trail

A 1.6-mile walking tour through historic Beacon Hill. Includes uphill walks over brick sidewalks that may be difficult for some visitors. Free public tours begin at the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial on the corner of Park and Beacon Streets across from the Massachusetts State House. Tours are limited to a maximum of 30 people.

Summer Season Tours: (Memorial Day - Labor Day) daily at 10 am, 12 noon, and 2 pm. Call in advance for groups of more than 10.

Winter Season Tours: (Labor Day - Memorial Day) Monday through Saturday, with 24-hr advance notice.

The African Meeting House

The oldest standing Black Church in America, is owned by the Museum of Afro-American history. Meeting House talks are available upon request.

Note: The upper floors of the African Meeting House are not handicapped-accessible.

The Abiel Smith School

The first Black public school in America houses the Museum of Afro-American History and Museum Store. The building is fully accessible and open to the public during the summer season from 10 am to 4 pm daily; in the winter, closed Sundays. The Smith School offers interactive displays and a video amphitheater, as well as two floors of exhibits.

* Please note that the historic buildings on the Trail are privately owned, many are not open to the public.

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, 1848.

Directions:

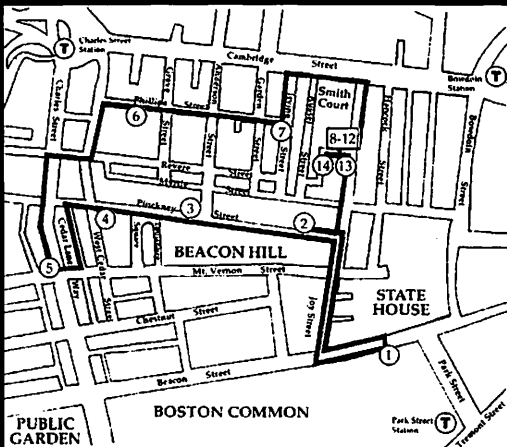
From the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) heading east, take the Copley Square exit to Stuart Street, then turn left onto Charles Street (Route 28) to Boston Common.

From Route I-93, take Storrow Drive to Copley Square exit, turn left on Beacon Street, right on Arlington Street, left on Boylston Street and left on Charles Street (Route 28). Driving and parking are difficult on Beacon Hill, but there are several parking garages within walking distance to the site.

Public

Transportation:

Park-and-Ride facilities at MBTA subway stations is an option to driving into the downtown area. MBTA subway stops closest to the site are the red and green lines, available at Park Street Station.



A MAP AND GUIDE TO THE BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL* CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE AND BY WRITING OR CALLING TO REQUEST ONE. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:
BOSTON AFRICAN AMERICAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
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