



Harriet Tubman

Special Resource Study

STUDY UPDATE

July 2008

**A report to
communities in
Maryland and
Auburn on the
National Park
Service Tubman
study**

The National Park Service study of Harriet Tubman-associated sites has narrowed its focus to Maryland and New York. The study team has had ongoing scoping with groups of the public, has investigated many sites thought to be related to Tubman, analyzed Tubman research, and consulted with relevant agencies, organizations, and experts. In this progress report the study team presents preliminary management alternatives for Harriet Tubman sites in both locations.

Preliminary Management Alternatives

Using ideas from the public, site research, and current historical research, the study team has developed alternative concepts for potential Tubman sites (described on the next page). The concepts focus on the home that Tubman owned and the church where she worshipped in Auburn, NY, and the area where she was born and grew up, in the Choptank River Region of Maryland.

One of the “action” alternatives would require minimal National Park Service involvement, and the other would have two Tubman sites established if Congress so decides.



**Tubman Residence in Auburn, NY, and
Dorchester County landscape, Maryland**

Federal guidelines require that studies of this type include an alternative described as “no action,” which is intended to describe the future if Congress declined to take any action.

ALTERNATIVE A

No Action

Sites, organizations, and programs devoted to commemorating Harriet Tubman, including those in **Auburn, New York**, and the Choptank River Region of **Maryland**, would continue to operate independently without additional NPS management or assistance other than that available through existing authorities.

The Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn, New York, would continue to be owned and managed by the AME Zion Church, and the Church would continue to provide programs and interpretive opportunities at the site.

The State of Maryland would continue to plan and develop the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park in Dorchester County. State and local authorities would continue to purchase agricultural and other open space easements that may preserve some portion of Harriet Tubman related resources in Dorchester and Caroline counties.

Discussions would continue for creating an interstate commemorative byway among involved states.

ALTERNATIVE B

Affiliated Area in Auburn, NY, & National Memorial in Maryland

In **Auburn, New York**, the Tubman Home, residence, and Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church would be an affiliated area of the National Park system. It would continue to be owned without easements and managed by the AME Zion Church. NPS would be authorized to provide limited technical and financial assistance for resource protection and interpretation. The Church would continue to provide programs and interpretive opportunities at the site.

In Dorchester County, **Maryland**, a Harriet Tubman National Memorial would be designated at the site of the future Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park. NPS may provide financial assistance to the state for the construction of a memorial to Tubman. The State would manage and operate the National Memorial as part of the state park. State and local authorities would continue to purchase agricultural and other open space easements that may preserve some portion of Harriet Tubman related resources. The State, working with others, would continue the initiative to create an interstate commemorative byway dedicated to Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

ALTERNATIVE C

National Historical Parks in Auburn, NY, and Maryland

In **Auburn, New York**, the Tubman Home, residence, and Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church would potentially be established as a unit of the National Park System. NPS would be authorized to hold an easement on the property. The site would be managed jointly by the AME Zion Church and NPS. NPS may be authorized to provide 50:50 matching financial assistance for the protection and improvement of resources, and to conduct interpretive programs at the site. The Church would continue to provide programs at the site in coordination with the NPS.

In **Maryland**, a unit of the National Park System would potentially be established in Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot counties to protect existing rural resources of the historic Tubman landscape. NPS may be authorized to provide the state of Maryland and others up to 50% matching financial assistance and technical assistance for land conservation and construction of visitor facilities currently planned by the State of Maryland. NPS would be authorized to enter cooperative and interagency agreements relating to Tubman resources in the park.

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Please send your comments through this website, www.HarrietTubmanStudy.org, or to National Park Service, Tubman Planning, 15 State Street, Boston MA 02109. Or contact the project managers: **Barbara Mackey**, NPS Northeast Region, 617-223-5138 Barbara_mackey@nps.gov, or **Barbara Tagger**, NPS Southeast Region, 404-562-3108 x518 Barbara_tagger@nps.gov