

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway

Driving Tour Guide



**HARRIET
TUBMAN**

UNDERGROUND
RAILROAD BYWAY





VisitMaryland.org

Larry Hogan
Governor

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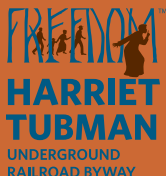
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Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway

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The Maryland section of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway is a designated All American Road, recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation as one of the best scenic driving routes in the country for its national significance.

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway Driving Tour Guide and Map was developed through a partnership between the Maryland Office of Tourism, Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, National Park Service, Dorchester County Tourism, Caroline County Tourism, Delaware Tourism Office, Delaware Department of Transportation, Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau, Kent County & Greater Dover Convention and Visitors Bureau, and in alliance with Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau.



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Cover photo *Another Blackwater Sunset* by Alexander Erkiletian | Cover artwork of Harriet Tubman by Calvin Coleman

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Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway



Dear Friends,

As Maryland's Governor, I am proud to honor the enduring legacy of Harriet Tubman and her tireless work on behalf of many women and men whom she led to freedom. Through this guide, you can retrace her steps, visit key historic sites, and learn more about the woman whose steadfast belief in justice and equality helped to shape our nation.

Among the stops on this driving tour is a visit to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, where you can experience a wilderness landscape nearly untouched since Tubman's time. Visit the Bucktown Village Store, where Tubman made her first public act of defiance. See the historic Linchester Mill, a possible river crossing point for freedom seekers, and explore other places on Maryland's Eastern Shore that were graced by Tubman and others who helped women and men find freedom on the Underground Railroad.

While in the area, I also encourage you to visit the new Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, where you can become a part of the fight for freedom experience through a number of informative exhibits. Learn about Harriet Tubman's early years and her decision to join the resistance, as well as discover new information about the Underground Railroad and its place in Maryland's history. A walking path outside the Visitor Center offers an ideal place for reflection.

Maryland is a place rich in history, and we are excited to celebrate the life and tremendous contributions that Harriet Tubman not only made to Maryland, but to the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Larry Hogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Larry Hogan
Governor

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Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway

WELCOME TO TUBMAN COUNTRY

Born into slavery in Dorchester County, Maryland in 1822, Harriet Tubman made the fateful decision to escape in 1849 when she was about to be sold at auction. Traveling by night and hiding by day, she traversed open fields, rivers, marshes and woodlands. Leaving Maryland, she headed northward through Delaware, eventually reaching Philadelphia and freedom.

Soon, Tubman realized she didn't feel free without her loved ones close by. Pained by their separation, she returned to Maryland's Eastern Shore about 13 times to rescue family members and friends. Tracked by slave catchers, Tubman risked her life to selflessly help more than 70 enslaved people find freedom. Many of these journeys ended in St. Catharine's, Ontario where her charges were safely across an international border.

Today, this byway crosses a landscape that looks much like it did close to two centuries ago when Tubman was born and raised in slavery and risked her life for freedom. It takes visitors to places where Tubman was enslaved, and roughly follows one of her routes northward, connecting sites where she rescued others, received assistance and found safety. Many of these sites have been recognized by the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

Your journey tracing Tubman's travels is about to begin. Along the way you will find interpretive markers, audio tour stops, exhibits, museums, historic structures and more that help the stories come to life. As you encounter these places, allow yourself to be transported back to another time and reflect on the lives of these ordinary people who did extraordinary things in pursuit of freedom.

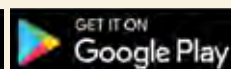
Getting Your Bearings



The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway travels 125 miles through the Eastern Shore of Maryland before crossing into Delaware at Sandtown. It continues for another 98 miles, connecting through Dover to Wilmington. Our route then follows the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway into Pennsylvania where highways and local

roads take you to Philadelphia, Tubman's first destination once she found freedom.

While traveling, use the accompanying map to help you navigate. Download or stream the free Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway Audio Guide from www.harriettubmanbyway.org, or download the free audio tour mobile app from Google Play or the Apple App Store. The audio tour corresponds with this guide and will enhance your experience through dramatic presentations of authentic Underground Railroad escape stories. A key at the top of each byway site lets you know which track(s) to play on the audio tour.



In Maryland, many of the sites are interpreted through byway markers that are easily recognizable at a distance due to their signature shape. These markers can help you find your way and locate stops.

Within this guide, icons on each page indicate if the byway site has exhibits, programs or tours, and whether it is motor coach accessible. A National Park Service logo or National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom logo tells you that site is a National Park Service site or a member of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Sites with byway markers are indicated with a Byway Marker label next to their name. While most sites have a place to pull over and stop, a few sites have drive-by access only. These sites are depicted with a gold square on the maps, rather than a red circle.

See the legend below for more information.



1 Dorchester County Visitor Center

BYWAY
MARKER

2 Rose Hill Place
Cambridge, MD 21613
410 228-1000
www.VisitDorchester.org



Track 1a. Also listen to 1b while driving to Site 2: Harriet Tubman Memorial Garden

Interior Exhibits

Overlooking the Choptank River, the Dorchester County Visitor Center is the perfect place to begin your byway adventure. Inside the center, an exhibit provides background information on Harriet Tubman and Underground Railroad activity in the area. Knowledgeable staff can assist you in planning your tour and will provide information on events, accommodations, dining opportunities, shopping, and outdoor experiences.

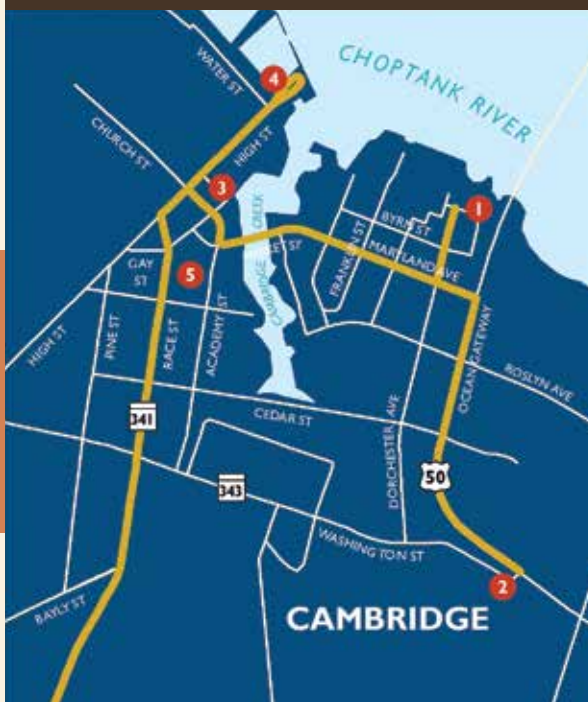
Dorchester's Roots

In 1608, English Captain John Smith met Native Americans here when he explored the Chesapeake Bay. As the colony flourished, so did demand for cheap labor. In 1664, the General Assembly codified a system of slavery that for 200 years supported an economy based on the labor of enslaved workers. In time, Dorchester's proximity to free states made it a hotbed of Underground Railroad activity, until emancipation came to Maryland slaves at the end of the Civil War in 1864.

The waterfront park offers a sandy beach, playground, picnic tables, a riverfront walkway and a fishing pier. The visitor center is open daily 8:30 – 5:00. Contact us to learn more about visiting Dorchester County.



Dorchester County Visitor Center at Sailwinds Park East is designed to recall the heyday of sail, when schooners, clippers, and fleets of oyster boats plied the Chesapeake Bay.



Next Site

Return to Route 50, via Maryland Avenue. Turn right/east on Route 50, Sunburst Highway. Drive about one mile. From right lane, take the exit located about 100 feet past the light at Crusader Road. Turn left at the stop sign and park on the left.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

US 50 at Washington Street
Cambridge, MD 21613



Track 2



Mural
Exterior Exhibits



The Memorial Garden is located adjacent to Route 50 East, near a variety of accommodations and services.

Relatives of Harriet Ross Tubman still live in Dorchester County, as do descendants of the enslaved and slave holders. Members of the local community chose to honor Tubman at this quiet roadside garden. People across the country can join them in paying their respects to this American hero. Tubman's story, that of a young slave who freed herself, then returned to rescue family and friends, inspires emotional and artistic expression in works of literature, music, sculpture, paint, and performance. One of Tubman's relatives, Charles Ross, painted the murals here. Exterior exhibits describe her life and Underground Railroad activities in the area.

The Memorial Garden is located adjacent to Route 50 East, near a variety of accommodations and services.

Explore Downtown Cambridge

Established in 1684, the City of Cambridge embraces its Colonial and maritime heritage. Step back in time while strolling brick-paved streets in the historic district. Enjoy a guided walking tour or find a variety of restaurants, galleries, boutiques, and museums nearby. You can also visit the waterfront park, public marina and boat launch, and the Choptank River Lighthouse. To learn more, visit: www.VisitDorchester.org.

Next Site

Leave the parking lot and turn right on Washington Street. Take the first right onto Crusader Road and then make an immediate left at the signal onto US 50-W / Sunburst Highway / Ocean Gateway. Travel close to a mile on US 50-W and then turn left at the third light onto Maryland Avenue. Continue on Maryland Avenue for 1/2 mile and then cross over the Cambridge Creek Bridge. Turn right at the signal onto Academy Street after crossing the bridge. Continue to the signal at High Street, turn right and park near the Dorchester County Courthouse.

Previous Site

Head southwest on Washington Street toward Crusader Road/Pinks Lane. Turn right on Dorchester Avenue. Continue about 0.6 mile. Turn right onto Rose Hill Place.

BYWAY
MARKER206 High Street
Cambridge, MD 21613

Track 3a. Also listen to Track 3b along High Street while driving to Site 4: Long Wharf.

Exterior Exhibit

In 1850, Harriet Tubman's niece, Kessiah, and her two children escaped from the auction block at the front of the courthouse. On the day of the auction, Kessiah and her children stood before buyers when the bidding started. Kessiah's husband, John Bowley, a free black ship carpenter, outbid everyone. When an official appeared to collect payment, no one came forward. Kessiah and her children were missing. John had secretly whisked them away and transported them by boat to Baltimore, where Harriet met them and led them to Philadelphia.

The original courthouse from this auction scene burned in 1852. This Italianate building, constructed in 1854, stood at the center of Cambridge's political and economic life. Many records from the slavery era survived the courthouse fire, and are now part of the research collections at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis.

Several significant incidents occurred at this site during the height of the Underground Railroad. In 1857, Samuel Green, a free black farmer, Methodist preacher and Underground Railroad agent, drew national attention when he was tried here and sentenced to 10 years in prison for owning a copy of the anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. In 1858, Hugh Hazlett, an Irish laborer and Underground Railroad conductor, was captured and brought by boat to be imprisoned here. He escaped, was recaptured and later sentenced to 44 years for assisting fugitive slaves.



Long Wharf and Dorchester County Courthouse are located in historic downtown Cambridge, just steps from restaurants, shops, galleries, and museums.

High Street offers the Dorchester Center for the Arts, several shops, a bed and breakfast and restaurants and pubs nearby. Pick up a walking tour brochure at the Dorchester Visitor Center at Sailwinds Park.

Next Site

Continue down High Street and listen to the next mobile track as you drive toward Long Wharf. Park at the end of the road near the water.

Previous Site

Head southwest on High Street toward Church Street. Turn left onto Spring Street. Continue onto Academy Street. Turn left onto Washington Street. Continue about 0.6 mile. The park is on the left.

LEGEND



Audio Tour



Exhibits

Network to
Freedom Member

Motor Coach



Programs & Tours



Before the Bay Bridge opened in 1952, Eastern Shore commerce was dependent on water and rail service. Local watermen supplied the thriving seafood packing and shipping industries in Cambridge.

Ships from Africa and the West Indies brought kidnapped Africans and sold them along this waterfront until the trans-Atlantic slave trade was outlawed in 1808. Soon, southern states began cultivating cotton, increasing their need for enslaved labor. About the same time, wheat prices plummeted causing a surge in the sales of enslaved people from the Eastern Shore. Thousands were eventually shipped from this wharf to plantations in the Deep South, never to see their homes or families again.

"We had a little slave boy whom we had hired from someone, there in Hannibal. He was from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and had been brought away from his family and his friends, half way across the American continent, and sold."
Mark Twain, *Autobiography of Mark Twain: The Complete and Authoritative Edition Volume I*

At Long Wharf, you will find free parking, the Choptank River Lighthouse, a public marina, and educational tours aboard the skipjack *Nathan of Dorchester* on the Choptank River.

Next Site

Return on High Street toward downtown. Turn left onto Poplar Street, which becomes Race Street. Stop at 424 Race Street.

Previous Site

Head west on High Street. Travel 0.3 mile.

424 Race Street
Cambridge, MD 21613
410 228-0401
www.harriettubmanorganization.org



Track 5a. Also listen to track 5b while driving to Site 6: Stanley Institute.

Interior Exhibits

The Harriet Tubman Organization is one of the oldest community organizations dedicated to the memory of Harriet Tubman. Over the past three decades, their efforts have included memorials to Tubman, tours of significant sites associated with her life, museum exhibits, educational programming, celebrations and community outreach.

Founded in the mid-1980s, the Harriet Tubman Organization is dedicated to preserving Tubman's connection to the local community and to helping young people see Tubman as a role model. The Organization hosts numerous programs throughout the year, including an annual memorial banquet in March.

The organization's members have inspired community action and encouraged interpretation and research into Harriet's life and legacy. Inside the museum, visitors will find exhibits and resources. Volunteer members of the organization answer questions and provide information on Harriet Tubman and the region. Step-on guided tours of area sites associated with Harriet Tubman are available by appointment. The museum has a gift shop and literature about area attractions.

"I should fight for my liberty as long as my strength lasted, and when the time came for me to go, the Lord would let them take me." — Harriet Tubman to Sarah Bradford in *Harriet, The Moses of Her People*, 1886



A large, hand-painted mural is the centerpiece of the Harriet Tubman Museum.

Next Site

Continue south on Race Street to the intersection with MD 16, Church Creek Road. Turn right heading west on MD 16. Drive 0.9 mile to Bayly Road and turn right onto Bayly Road. Pull over at Stanley Institute on the right.

Previous Site

Head north on Race St. toward Gay St. Turn slight left onto Poplar St. Turn right onto High St. Travel 0.4 mile to park.

BYWAY
MARKERMD Route 16
Cambridge, MD 21613
410 228-6657

Track 6a. Also listen
to track 6b while
driving to Site 7:
Church Creek.

Exterior
Exhibits,
Museum



Stanley Institute is open by appointment and is located on the edge of the City of Cambridge.

During a three week period in October 1857, 44 enslaved people in two large groups successfully escaped from farms near here and in Cambridge. Five families – the Vineys, Anthonys, Cornishes, Ambys, and Hills – carried 20 children with them. Heavily armed, the freedom seekers were determined to avoid capture by bounty hunters. Almost caught near Wilmington, Delaware, the freedom seekers reached Philadelphia and then Canada with the help of black and white Underground Railroad agents. National newspapers called the escapes a “Stampede of Slaves.”

Sadly, some of these self-liberators were forced to leave loved ones behind. The story of the Underground Railroad is not always one of triumph and liberty, but rather, it is also the story of the people who could not or would not leave, and those who were left behind.

Before the Civil War, it was a crime to teach a slave to read, and there were few opportunities to learn. In 1867, this one-room schoolhouse was moved here. The Rock School, now called the Stanley Institute, is an early example of a post-Civil War African-American school built and run independently by the local black community. It stands as a testament to the black community's determination to educate their children in a segregated school system. This school was used until the 1960s. The Christ Rock Church, across the street, was built in 1875.



Next Site

Continue southwest on MD 16 for 3.7 miles. After passing Brannock Neck Road, turn right into Church Creek Park.

Previous Site

Head east on MD 16 E/ Church Creek Rd toward Rock Dr. Turn left onto Race St. Continue straight to stay on Race St.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

1929 Church Creek Road,
Church Creek, MD 21622



Track 7a. Also listen
to track 7b while
driving to site 8:
Malone's Church.

Exterior
Exhibit

Church Creek was a thriving shipbuilding center on the waterfront during the 1830s. Workers in the maritime trades – shipwrights, caulkers, sail makers and blacksmiths – labored and mingled at the wharves with highly mobile, free black sailors. These “Black Jacks” were part of a secret communication network that spanned not only coastal American towns, but also across the Atlantic. They brought news, ideas, and information to enslaved communities, spreading notions of liberty and equality, as well as gossip. Sometimes they provided a means to escape. In the early 19th century, a large community of enslaved and free black families lived and worked between here, Harrisville and White Marsh Roads.

Church Creek sits along Route 16, which follows an ancient pre-colonial Indian trail used for seasonal migrations and trade between the Chesapeake and Delaware bays. The great majority of enslaved people who fled this county before the Civil War came from places along this road, which begins in Taylors Island to the west and continues northeast through Cambridge. The freedom seekers followed the direction of this route and headed into Caroline County, Maryland and onto Delaware. Access to information and escapes via vessels likely secured this route's reputation as a Highway to Freedom.



The site of this peaceful waterfront scene was once Church Creek's thriving shipbuilding center in the 1830s. Look for the Church Creek Community Park where you will find the byway marker with more information about this historic community.



Next Site

Continue west on MD 16 for about 4.7 miles. Turn left on White Marsh Road. Malone's Church is about one mile on the left.

Previous Site

Head northeast on MD 16 E / Church Creek Rd for 3.7 miles to Bayly Rd and turn left. Pull over on the right at Stanley Institute.

LEGEND



Audio Tour



Exhibits



Network to
Freedom Member



Motor Coach



Programs & Tours

8 Malone's Church

BYWAY
MARKER

White Marsh Road
Madison, MD 21648



Track 8



The congregation of Malone's Methodist Episcopal Church no longer holds services here, and has merged with New Revived United Methodist Church in Smithville. Church supporters work to restore the historic building, and the cemetery is in active use.

Next Site

Return to Route 16. Turn left. In about 100 feet, turn right onto Madison Canning House Road.

Previous Site

Head north on White Marsh Rd to MD 16 E. Turn right onto MD 16 E/ Taylors Island Rd. Travel about 4.7 miles to Church Creek Park on the left.

For decades before the Civil War, four nearby communities, connected by footpaths through the woods, provided a strong social network among free and enslaved blacks. Founded in 1864, Malone's Methodist Episcopal Church was the first African-American church to be established by these communities on the eve of emancipation, indicating that strong faith communities existed long before freedom came.

Beginning in the 1790s, a small but growing free black community established itself on lands surrounding this church. Over the years, more free families settled this area between Harrisville and White Marsh roads, known as Peter's Neck. Many intermarried with enslaved families held in bondage by the local

white landowners. This community created an important social world for Harriet and her family. The people timbered the land, farmed and worked the docks in nearby Madison.

Araminta Ross or "Minty," later known as Harriet Tubman, was probably born in 1822 at Anthony Thompson's farm on nearby Harrisville Road. Thompson cultivated grains and other foodstuffs, but timbering the white oak, pine, walnut and maple on his lands occupied the majority of his enslaved people's efforts. By the time Harriet was born, Thompson enslaved nearly 40 people, including Ben Ross, her father. Ben was one of Thompson's most valuable men. As a timber cutter and inspector, Ben's skills increased the profitability of Thompson's lands.

Tubman's mother Rit belonged to Thompson's stepson, Edward Brodess, who later moved Rit and five of her children, including young Araminta (Harriet Tubman), to his farm in Bucktown. By 1840, Rit, Tubman, and several siblings were back living on Thompson's farm. Harriet Tubman's birth site is on private property. Nearly 200 years after her birth, no structural evidence of slave quarters remains at the site.

Oral tradition suggests that Harriet Tubman worked and lived near the historic Malone's Methodist Episcopal Church with her free husband, John Tubman.

MD Route 16 and Madison Canning House Road
Madison, MD 21648



Track 9a; also listen
to Track 9b while
driving to site 10:
Stewart's Canal.

Exterior
Exhibit

Harriet Tubman spent her formative years around Madison. After living in Bucktown as a young child and adolescent, teenaged Harriet Tubman was hired out to work for John T. Stewart, who owned farms, a shipyard and businesses here. She toiled in the Stewarts' house (no longer standing), then in their fields, on the docks and in their timber business.

Working for the Stewarts brought Harriet back near the community where her father lived and where she had been born. Tubman's father, Ben Ross, was set free in 1840, and he worked in Stewart's lumbering operation. Harriet learned important outdoor survival skills while laboring with her father in the woods, such as how to navigate by the stars, and find food and fresh water. These skills later proved vital as she confidently guided passengers along the Underground Railroad to freedom.

Harriet Tubman successfully led away Winnebar Johnson, enslaved by Samuel Harrington, from here in early June 1854. Johnson later passed through Underground Railroad agent William Still's office in Philadelphia, where Still noted that Johnson had been "brought away by his sister Harriet two weeks ago." Johnson was passed along to the bustling port of New Bedford in Massachusetts, where he lived and worked with other freedom seekers, some from Dorchester County.



The sleepy village of Madison belies its bustling maritime past.

In Madison, you will find parking, picnic facilities, camping, and water access for boating.

In December 1854, Tubman had a coded letter sent to Jacob Jackson, a free black farmer who lived west of Madison. The postmaster read the letter and confronted Jackson, who denied knowing what it meant. But Jackson quickly notified Tubman's brothers that she planned to lead them north from their parents' home at Poplar Neck in Caroline County. When Harriet Tubman's three brothers made it to freedom in Philadelphia, they chose as their aliases: James Stewart, John Stewart, and William Henry Stewart – the names of the white Stewart brothers.

Next Site

Return to Route 16 W. Turn right to continue heading west on Route 16 for about three miles. Look for the bridge over Parson's Creek/ Stewart's Canal.

Previous Site

Head south on Madison Canning House Road toward MD 16 W. Turn left on 16 E. Turn right onto White Marsh Rd. Malone's Church is about one mile on the left.

MD Route 16 and Parson's Creek
Taylors Island, MD 21669

NO PUBLIC ACCESS



Track 10



Joe and Nelly Keene escaped slavery with their eight children via Stewart's Canal in April 1832. The canal is now recognized as a Network to Freedom site.

Next Site

Continue southwest on MD 16 past Stewart's Canal and take the first left onto Smithville Road. Travel for about 0.5 mile and stop at New Revived Church on the right.

Previous Site

Head east on MD 16 for about 2.5 miles to Madison Canning House Road. Turn left onto Madison Canning House Road. Turn right and park by the boat ramp behind the fire station.

Over a period of 20 years, 1810-1832, enslaved and free blacks dug this seven-mile canal through the marsh by hand. It was a grueling and sometimes deadly endeavor.

The wealthy, powerful, and slave-holding Stewart family owned large tracts of timber, shipyards, a store, and a mill near here. Joseph Stewart, Anthony Thompson, and nearby landowners designed this canal to float their logs and agricultural products to the ships at nearby wharves in Madison Bay.

Through her work on the docks and in the forests, Harriet learned the secret networks of communication that were the provenance of African-American men, particularly those employed as mariners, carrying timber and other goods to cities

and towns around the Chesapeake Bay and into Delaware, Pennsylvania and New England. Beyond the watchful eye of white masters, they spoke of freedom in the North, the safe places along the way and the dangers in between. Feeding her own growing resentment of slavery's injustices, the free world beyond the shores of Dorchester County emboldened Harriet.

In December 1854, after she had escaped to the north, Tubman communicated to her three brothers through Jacob Jackson, a Madison resident and free black veterinarian. Hearing through the secret maritime communication network that her brothers were about to be sold, she let Jackson know through a coded letter that she was ready to rescue them. Jackson lived south of this canal, and his former home site is now protected as part of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park.

A few miles down the byway, just past Smithville Road, you will find a restaurant, a marina, and camping.

11 New Revived Church

BYWAY
MARKER

4350 Smithville Road
Taylors Island, MD 21669



Track 11a; also
listen to Track 11b
while driving to site
12: Button's Creek.

The New Revived United Methodist Church, once known as Jefferson Methodist Episcopal Church, was established in Smithville in 1876. Before the Civil War, Methodist Camp Meetings were popular in the area.

Following the Civil War, four African-American churches, including this one, were built in nearby local communities. In 1864, Malone Methodist Episcopal Church on White Marsh Road was the first to be established, followed by Christ Rock Methodist Episcopal Church near Cambridge in 1875, then Jefferson Methodist Episcopal Church here in 1876, and St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Harrisville in 1880.

One by one, the churches closed their doors following World War II as families moved away and the number of congregants declined. Today, people from each of these four congregations are part of the New Revived United Methodist Church congregation.

Harriet Tubman's brother, William Henry Ross Stewart, married Harriet Parker, a free woman from Smithville, around 1850. In late 1854, Harriet Tubman helped three of her brothers escape to Canada, including William Henry. His wife joined him with their two small children in 1855. Marriages between members of these neighboring communities illustrate the social interaction between free and enslaved people before the end of the Civil War and emancipation.



New Revived Church is one of four traditionally black churches in the area that were founded immediately following the Civil War and emancipation.



Next Site

Continue east on Smithville Road for about 6 miles to Hip Roof Road. Turn left onto Hip Roof Road and follow it for just under 3 miles to MD 335 (Golden Hill Road). Turn left on MD 335 heading north for under 3 miles. Stop at the boat ramp on the left just north of the Blackwater River.

Previous Site

Head northwest on Smithville Rd. toward MD 16 E. Turn right on MD 16 E. Travel for 1.3 miles to the bridge over Parson's Creek.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

12 Buttons Creek

MD 335 and Blackwater River
Church Creek, MD 21622



Track 12

Exterior
Exhibit



Miles of water trails provide an experience viewing wildlife and the watery environs that were once Tubman's homeland.

Jane Kane was enslaved by Horatio Jones, whom she described as "the worst man in the country." Jones' plantation sat along Buttons Creek and the Blackwater River, west of this landing on property that is now part of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Harriet Tubman's brother, Ben Ross, had hoped to marry Jane, but Jones refused to allow them to do so. Ben arranged for Jane to join him when he and his brothers planned to flee during the Christmas holidays in 1854.

Just before the escape, Ben hid a suit of men's clothing in one of Jones' gardens. On Christmas Eve, Jane put on the clothes and slipped quietly away from the plantation. Though she was soon discovered missing, the other slaves on the farm failed to recognize that the "young man" walking up from the garden, "as if from the river," was actually Jane. Cleverly disguised in men's clothing, she successfully executed a daring plan to flee her heartless master.

She was soon on her way to be with Ben and to secretly rendezvous with Harriet Tubman at Poplar Neck in Caroline County.

This site can be viewed by canoe, kayak or small boat on one of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge's water trails. The boat launch on Route 335 near the state park is the closest access to Buttons Creek.



Next Site

Continue north on MD 335. Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park will be on your left.

Previous Site

Head south on MD 335 and travel about 3.7 miles. Turn right onto Hip Roof Road and travel for 2.8 miles. Turn right onto Smithville Road and travel 6.2 miles. Arrive at 4350 Smithville Road. New Revived Church will be on the left.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

13 Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center

BYWAY MARKER

4068 Golden Hill Road
Church Creek, MD 21622
410 221-2290
dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/eastern/tubman.aspx
nps.gov/hatu



Track 13

Exterior and
Interior Exhibits
and Visitor Center

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center is operated by the Maryland Park Service in partnership with the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park to honor Harriet Tubman.

The 10,000 square foot visitor center includes exhibits as well as a theater that tell the stories of Harriet Tubman's life and work. It also includes a classroom, museum store, and library. The state park's 17 acres include a meditation garden, nature trails and an outdoor pavilion available to rent.

Exhibits feature information about Harriet's childhood and young adulthood, living and laboring under slavery here in Dorchester County and neighboring Caroline County. The center immerses visitors in the secret networks of the Underground Railroad and Harriet's own daring rescue missions. Exhibits also feature Harriet's actions during the Civil War, and her later years as a suffragist, civil rights worker and humanitarian.

The landscapes in the vicinity of the park have changed little since Harriet's childhood, when she lived, worked and traveled similar environs.



The LEED Certified Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center is the centerpiece of the state park, where visitors can get oriented to the byway and better understand Tubman's life. The visitor center is co-managed by the National Park Service and Maryland Park Service.

Check online or at the information desk inside the visitor center for a schedule of upcoming ranger-guided programs and tours to enhance your visit.

Next Site

Continue north on MD 335. Turn right onto Key Wallace Dr. Look for the entrance to the Blackwater National Wildlife Visitor Center on your right.

Previous Site

Head south on MD 335 for 0.8 mile. Look for the boat ramp on the right just before the Blackwater River.



14 Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

BYWAY MARKER

2145 Key Wallace Drive
Cambridge, MD 21613
410 228-2677
www.fws.gov/refuge/Blackwater/



Track 14

Exterior and
Interior Exhibits
and Visitor Center



Located on the Atlantic Flyway, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge provides habitat for many thousands of migrating songbirds and waterfowl, such as these Canada Geese.

The trails and waterways at Blackwater offer a place to see birds, wildlife and environs that were a part of Tubman's life. Wildlife Drive offers viewing platforms, photography blinds and overlooks that provide a closer look at wildlife. Stop into the refuge's visitor center for information and exhibits about what you may see along the way.

Next Site

Continue eastward on Key Wallace Drive to the entrance of the refuge's Wildlife Drive. Little Blackwater Bridge will be in front of you. Turn right onto Wildlife Drive and pull-off on the right. There is a fee to enter Wildlife Drive.

Previous Site

Turn left to head west on Key Wallace Dr. Turn left onto MD 335 S. The state park will be on your right.

The forests, marshes, and waterways that characterize the 28,000-acre refuge are largely unchanged from the time that Harriet Tubman lived and worked in Dorchester County. The refuge is situated halfway between where she spent portions of her childhood on Edward Brodess' farm near Bucktown and the plantation where her father labored and where she was born at Peter's Neck.

Knowledge of the terrain was vital to survival while hiding and trying to flee. Tubman and others had to successfully navigate the land and waterways, trap and forage for food, and hide from their pursuers. Fleeing slaves often lacked proper clothing to protect them from the elements, and they suffered from weather extremes and insects, in addition to the terror of drowning or being caught.

Though Harriet Tubman is not known to have liberated others from this area, several escapes did occur within the refuge boundaries.



Entrance to Wildlife Drive near Key Wallace Drive and Little Blackwater River
 Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge
 Church Creek, MD 21622
 410 228-2677
www.fws.gov/refuge/Blackwater/



Track 15

A bridge has crossed the Little Blackwater near here since the 1700s, when Harriet Tubman's grandmother, Modesty, was enslaved on Atthow Pattison's tobacco farm, situated across the river on the southeast side. Modesty gave birth to Harriet's mother, Rit Green, there. When Pattison died in January 1797, he gave the enslaved girl "Rittia" to his granddaughter, Mary Pattison, with the stipulation that Rit and all of her future children be set free when "she and they arrive to forty-five years of age."

Rit later moved to Madison when her owner, and young widow, Mary Pattison Brodess, married Anthony Thompson in 1803. There, Rit met and married Ben Ross and they started their own family. Atthow Pattison's wish that Rit and her children eventually be set free was never honored.

Years later, Ben and Rit's child Minty, the young Harriet Tubman, was hired to work for the James Cook family who lived near this bridge. Initially, Minty was expected to learn the trade of weaving. Instead, she was sent into the nearby marshes to watch Cook's muskrat traps. It was harsh, dangerous work for a child, done in the winter, which is when muskrat furs are at their finest.



While crossing the Little Blackwater River Bridge, be watchful for anglers and sightseers alongside the road.



Next Site

From here you may continue to the overlook and turn around to return the same way and exit onto Key Wallace Drive, or you may take the rest of Wildlife Drive. Once at Key Wallace Drive, turn right - heading East. Continue to Maple Dam Road and turn left. Then bear right onto Greenbriar Road and continue for 1.5 miles. The Brodess Farm will be on the right.

Previous Site

From here, take the rest of Wildlife Drive to MD 335. Turn right heading north. Once at Key Wallace Drive, turn right - heading east. The Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center will be on the right.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

16 Brodess Farm

BYWAY
MARKER

Greenbriar Road



Track 16



Exterior
Exhibit



For decades, visitors have made pilgrimages to Harriet Tubman's childhood home site at the Brodess Farm.

The buildings visible from the road are not related to the historic Brodess farm and were built much later. Please respect the owners' privacy.

Next Site

Continue on Greenbriar Road heading east to the intersection with Bucktown Road and Bestpitch Ferry Road. Stop at the Bucktown Store at the intersection.

Previous Site

Turn left heading west on Greenbriar Rd for 1.5 miles. Continue onto Maple Dam Rd. Turn right onto Key Wallace Dr. Cross the Little Blackwater River Bridge, then turn left onto Wildlife Drive in Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Pull over to the right. There is a fee to enter Wildlife Drive.

Edward Brodess, Harriet Tubman's enslaver, lived at this site. He moved Tubman's mother Rit and her children to his farm in Bucktown after 1823 or 1824. Tubman spent her early years here and on nearby farms. No trace remains of Brodess' original home that once sat near the existing house at the end of the lane.

Edward Brodess, with a small farm and few livestock, did not have enough work to fully employ all of his slaves. However, he had eight children to support, so he frequently hired his enslaved people out to neighboring farmers. Rit and her children suffered both emotionally and physically from these separations, one of the many injustices of the institution of slavery.

Harriet Tubman later told an interviewer that she seldom lived with the Brodesses. He was "never unnecessarily cruel; but as was common among slaveholders, he often hired out his slaves to others, some of whom proved to be tyrannical and brutal to the utmost limit of their power." Harriet's brothers, Ben and Robert, recalled harsher treatment at the hands of the Brodesses. Robert felt Edward Brodess "was not fit to own a dog." Ben was more to the point: "Where I came from," he later recalled, "it would make your flesh creep, and your hair stand on end, to know what they do to the slaves."

LEGEND



Audio Tour



Exhibits



Network to
Freedom Member



Motor Coach



Programs & Tours

17 Bucktown Village Store

BYWAY
MARKER

4303 Bucktown Road
Bucktown, MD 21613
410 901-9255



Track 17; also listen
to Track 18 while
driving to Site 18:
Bestpitch Ferry.

Exterior
Exhibit and
Museum

In 1835, Bucktown was a busy community with two stores, a shopkeeper's home, blacksmith shop, and surrounding farms at this crossroads. Shipyards were nearby on the Transquaking River.

Hired out to a nearby farmer, Harriet Tubman and the farm's cook went to a store at this crossroads to purchase some goods for the house. At the same time, a slave belonging to another master left his work without permission. His overseer pursued him to the store and ordered Tubman to help him tie up the man, but she resisted. Suddenly, the slave broke free and ran. The overseer grabbed a two-pound weight off the counter and hurled it toward him. It struck young Tubman in the head, almost killing her and causing a severe injury that troubled her for the rest of her life.

Tubman recalled "My hair had never been combed and it stood out like a bushel basket ... I expect that thar hair saved my life." The blow from the iron weight cracked her skull. "They carried me to the house all bleeding an' fainting. I had no bed, no place to lie down on at all, and they lay me on the seat of the loom, and I stayed there all that day and next," she later recalled. She was forced "to work again and there I worked with the blood and sweat rolling down my face till I couldn't see."



Today, Bucktown Village Store has been lovingly restored by its owners to its late 19th-century condition.



The Bucktown Store welcomes visitors to explore Harriet Tubman's daring act of defiance. An outfitter offers tours via kayak or bicycle at a nearby location on the Little Blackwater River.

Next Site

Continue driving south on Bestpitch Ferry Road for over 4 miles to the one-lane bridge. Stop and turn around in the parking lot just before the bridge on the right.

Previous Site

Head west on Greenbriar Rd. for 1 mile. The Brodess Farm will be on the left.

18 Bestpitch Ferry Bridge

BYWAY
MARKER

3706 Bestpitch Ferry Rd.
Bucktown, MD 21613



Listen to Track 19
on the return drive
on Bestpitch Ferry
Road heading
toward Site 19:
Scott's Chapel.



Bestpitch Ferry Bridge, a one-lane wooden bridge, is located at the site of a former ferry over the Transquaking River.

The parking areas on both sides of the bridge provide water access for boating, fishing and kayaking. Pick up a water trail map for the Transquaking River at the Dorchester County Visitor Center.

No buses on the bridge! Be aware that the wooden bridge is one lane and cannot handle buses or heavy loads. Buses and cars should enter the Department of Natural Resources lot on the right, approaching the bridge to park and turn around.

Bestpitch Ferry Bridge is located at the site of a former ferry over the Transquaking River. This historic wooden bridge provides a view of Dorchester County marshlands. In this countryside, knowledgeable local people could hide for days, even weeks, and follow the waterways north toward Underground Railroad connections in the East New Market area, Caroline County, and onto freedom.

Many free and enslaved African-American watermen operated ferry crossings throughout the region. They transported agricultural and timber products along the region's many rivers on rafts. This provided opportunities for freedom seekers to hitch a ride or stow away in the holds and sail away to freedom.

The Blackwater and Transquaking rivers and their tributaries provided opportunities for local residents to hunt, fish and gather food for survival. Abundant fish and fowl live and breed in these waters, and many small and larger animals, including muskrats, rabbits, squirrels and deer live in nearby marshes and woods. Nuts, berries and a variety of roots and herbs round out the possible food and medicinal supplements available to 19th-century residents.

Next Site

Head north on Bestpitch Ferry Rd. for over 4 miles. Bear right on Bucktown Rd. Travel 0.5 mile. Scott's Chapel is on the left.

Previous Site

Head north on Bestpitch Ferry Rd. for over 4 miles. The Bucktown Store is on the right at the intersection of Greenbriar and Bucktown roads.

Bucktown Road
Bucktown, MD 21613
There is no public access.

Harriet Tubman's master, Edward Brodess, was a member of the congregation founded here in 1812. Tubman, her mother, and siblings may have worshipped here with other enslaved families and their owners. Traditionally, the enslaved were required by their masters to attend church services with them, sitting in the back of the church or in balconies, separate from white congregants. The current building was constructed in 1891. The church had separate graveyards with blacks buried just east of Bucktown Road and whites buried behind the church and grove of trees. Members of the Bucktown community from Harriet Tubman's time are laid to rest in this cemetery.

Faith brought free and enslaved people together. Camp meetings were also common in this area, and they provided one of the few legal ways blacks could gather in groups. During the summer and fall, enslaved and free blacks could worship together at outdoor Methodist camp meetings here in Bucktown and express their faith freely. Their spiritual practices strengthened family and friendship bonds and sustained them through the dark days of slavery.



This is an active community church. Please respect the sanctity of the grounds and services.



Methodist Camp Meetings, outdoor worship and revival services, took place in Bucktown.

Next Site

Drive north along Bucktown Road for 0.5 mile to the intersection with Decoursey Bridge Rd. The Meredith Farm is on the left. There is no public access. Begin audio tour mobile listening track at this intersection as you drive north on Bucktown Road.

Previous Site

Head south on Bucktown Rd. for 0.5 mile. Bear left onto Bestpitch Ferry Rd. Travel over 4 miles to the one-lane bridge. Turn around in the parking lot just before or after the bridge.

Bucktown Road and Decoursey Bridge Road
Bucktown, MD 21613
There is no public access.



Track 20a; also listen to tracks 20 b, 20c and 20d while driving to Site 21: Faith Community United Methodist Church



Harriet Tubman provided instructions for the Underground Railroad to the Dover Eight, one of the few successful escapes by enslaved people from the Bucktown area.

By continuing north on Bucktown Road, you will pass the Cambridge – Dorchester Regional Airport where Kay's Country Kitchen is a favorite local eating establishment and a great place to take a break and watch planes take off and land.

Next Site

Drive north along Bucktown Road for several miles until you come to Route 50. Turn right onto Route 50 East. Travel about 2 miles, move into the left lane, and turn left onto MD 16 E at signal. Continue driving north on MD 16 E. Turn left on Mt. Holly Rd. to stay on 16. Continue north on MD 16 E. Turn right onto MD 14 (Railroad Avenue). Cross Rt 392, then stop at Faith Community Church on the right.

Previous Site

Drive south on Bucktown Rd. for 0.5 mile. The chapel is on the right.

The flight of the "Dover Eight" made national headlines on March 8, 1857 when eight slaves escaped together from the Bucktown area, two of them from this farm. The group first sought help from Reverend Samuel Green in East New Market. Then they found assistance from Harriet Tubman's father, Ben Ross, at Poplar Neck in Caroline County. Eventually they found their way to Thomas Otwell, a black Underground Railroad conductor in Delaware. Tubman trusted Otwell with the group's safety. Instead, he betrayed her trust and lured them to the Dover jail so he could collect the \$3,000 reward for their capture. With quick thinking and a show of force, the group successfully broke out of the jail and fled to Wilmington, DE, then Philadelphia, and finally to Canada.

Local slaveholders sought swift and stern justice for anyone who assisted the "Dover Eight." The Reverend Samuel Green was arrested and jailed on suspicion of aiding the group's escape. Ben Ross nearly experienced the same fate, but Tubman rescued him just in time. Two of the eight escapees temporarily joined John Brown's small army in Canada before the raid on Harper's Ferry.

LEGEND



Audio Tour



Exhibits



Network to Freedom Member



Motor Coach



Programs & Tours

21 Faith Community United Methodist Church

BYWAY
MARKER

509 Railroad Avenue
East New Market, MD 21631
410 943-4383
www.umc.org/find-a-church/church/79030



Track 21a; also listen to 21b and 21c on your drive to Site 22; Jacob and Hannah Leverton House

Sarah Young, a free black woman, deeded land to establish the Colored People's Methodist Episcopal Church in 1844. Now known as Faith Community United Methodist Church, this church is the second structure to house this still-active congregation.

African-Americans regarded southern white ministers as part of the system of slavery. These ministers stressed obedience and patience. Free black preachers, such as Rev. Samuel Green, a highly respected church trustee, offered hope and resistance. His preaching did not escape close scrutiny by white overseers, however.

Green purchased his freedom in 1834. He was able to buy his wife Kitty's freedom, too, but his children remained enslaved. His son, Sam, Jr., fled to Canada in 1854, but Green's daughter, Sarah, was sold away from her two little children and never seen again.

Green turned anger into action. As an Underground Railroad agent, he helped Harriet Tubman and many other freedom seekers, including the "Dover Eight" in March 1857. He was caught and brought to trial. The white jury acquitted him. He was soon charged with possession of Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a violation of Maryland's law governing people of color. He was sentenced to ten years in prison.



The Reverend Samuel Green was one of the original seven trustees who established the Colored People's Methodist Episcopal Church. He became known for his arrest following the escape of the Dover Eight.



Next Site

Head west on Railroad Ave toward Main St. Turn right onto MD 16 E/ Main St. Continue to follow MD 16 E for 7.3 miles. Make a right on Seaman Rd. Travel 0.6 miles. The pull-off will be on your right.

Previous Site

Take MD 16 W on Railroad Ave. toward Main St. Turn left onto Main St. Continue onto MD 16 W/Cambridge Avenue. Follow MD 16 W for 5.4 miles. Make a slight right onto US 50 W. Turn left onto Bucktown Rd. Travel for 6.7 miles. Scott's Chapel Cemetery will be on the right.

BYWAY
MARKER3531 Seaman Road
Preston, MD 21655*Leverton House is owner-occupied, private property.*

Track 22

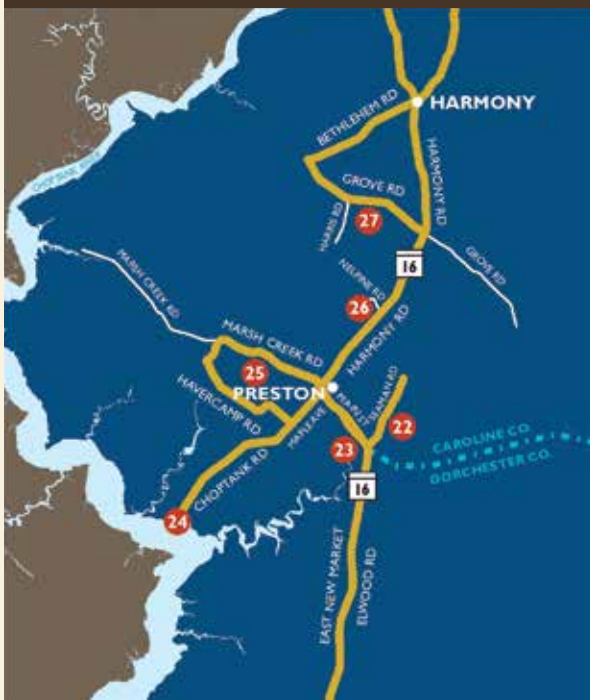


The Leverton House is authenticated as an Underground Railroad safe house and is recognized by the National Park Service Network to Freedom Program.

Refugees from slavery found sanctuary here. One morning in the mid-1840s, a young enslaved woman, in bloodstained clothing, walked up to the Leverton farm. Jacob and Hannah took her in, nursed and fed her, and gave her clean clothing. Jacob was seen later that night traveling northward in his carriage with an unidentified guest. The young woman's enslaver inquired about her at the Leverton home the next day. Jacob told the man that he had helped the girl and then "let her pass on." The infuriated slave owner sued Jacob Leverton. Ordered to pay a large fine, Jacob became ill and soon died. His wife Hannah most likely continued their Underground Railroad efforts.

Jacob and Hannah Leverton were white, Quaker abolitionists. Their house has been described as "the main stopping place for the Underground Railroad in the region." Along with the Levertons, free black millwright Daniel Hubbard and Quakers Jonah and Esther Kelley provided havens on their properties to help slaves reach freedom.

You are now in Caroline County. A visitor center at Crouse Memorial Park, a few miles away in Denton, welcomes you and is a great resource on things to see and do here. Before you leave Preston, visit the 19th-century recreated village at Linchester Mill, where you can explore a one-room schoolhouse and other buildings from the time period.

**Next Site**

Head southwest on Seaman Rd. Turn right onto MD 16 E / MD 331 N / Main Street. Turn left onto Linchester Rd / MD 817. Linchester Mill will be immediately on the left.

Previous Site

Head southwest on Seaman Rd. Make a slight left onto MD 16 W / MD 331 S. Continue to follow MD 16 W for 7.3 miles. Turn left onto Railroad Ave. The church is on your right in 0.1 mile.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

23 Linchester Mill

BYWAY
MARKER

Route 331 and Linchester Road
Preston, MD 21655
410 310-9202
www.carolinehistory.org/places/linchester-mill-campus/



Track 23

Museum

Daily life around Linchester Mill provided fertile yet dangerous ground for those seeking freedom. Whites and blacks, free and enslaved, would have regular contact here, at the general store or the post office. Free and enslaved African Americans worked side-by-side, providing a constant flow of information and support to freedom seekers. Quakers and free blacks who lived near the mill secretly helped fleeing slaves pass through the area.

A series of water-powered grist and sawmills operated here from the 1680s until 1979. The mill was situated amidst a secret network of safe houses: the Levertons, the Hubbards and the Kelleys on the west side, and Harriet Tubman's parents Ben and Rit Ross at Poplar Neck on the east side. Daniel Hubbard, a known Underground Railroad conductor who lived less than a mile away, probably worked at the mill and may have helped build it.

The milldam provided a possible crossing point over Hunting Creek for fugitives headed to the Ross home at Poplar Neck, to Marsh Creek, or Preston and beyond. Such crossing points helped freedom seekers stay dry, particularly important in cold weather, and to avoid unwanted attention.



Linchester Mill was likely a hub of Underground Railroad activity conducted by Quakers, abolitionists, and free blacks living in the area.

There is fuel and food in the town of Preston. Linchester Mill has ample parking and seasonal special events. Docent volunteers staff the Mill on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from June through September. On site you will find a 19th-century village environment with a one-room school house, the original miller's house and an assistant miller's house. You will also find a picnic area and restrooms. Tours can be arranged by appointment.

Next Site

Turn right on Linchester Rd. Turn left on MD 16 E/MD 331 N/Main St. Travel 1 mile. Turn left onto Maple Ave., which becomes Choptank Rd. Travel 3 miles to Water St. Turn left and park in the lot on the right.

Previous Site

Turn right on Linchester Rd. Turn right on MD 16 W/ MD 331 S. Travel 0.2 mile and turn left onto Seaman Rd. Travel 0.7 mile to the driveway on the right.



BYWAY
MARKER

Choptank Road at Choptank River
Preston, MD 21655

www.carolinemd.org/facilities/facility/details/Choptank-Marina-9



Track 24a; also
listen to track
24b on your
drive to site 25:
Mount Pleasant
Cemetery.

Exterior
Exhibit



Choptank Landing sits near Poplar Neck, the point of land just to the north, where Harriet Tubman's parents lived and worked on Dr. Anthony Thompson's plantation.

Josiah Bailey, a skilled shipwright, escaped slavery in November 1856 by rowing a boat at night six miles from Jamaica Point in Talbot County up the Choptank River. He passed by here on his way to Poplar Neck. Then he met with Ben Ross, Tubman's father; to plan his escape the next time Tubman was ready to go.

In March 1857, Ben Ross was suspected of aiding the escape of eight slaves called the Dover Eight. Harriet Tubman rushed to the Eastern Shore to rescue her parents at great risk to herself before her father could be arrested. Cobbling together a makeshift, one-axle wagon, she rigged up a horse with a straw collar and drove her parents toward Delaware. They eventually made their way to St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada with the help of numerous Underground Railroad agents along the way.

Next Site

Head northwest on Water St. toward Poplar Neck Rd. Continue onto Choptank Rd. Travel 2.5 miles. Turn left onto Havercamp Rd. Travel for 1.9 miles. Turn right onto Poplar Neck Rd. Travel 0.4 mile. Turn right onto Marsh Creek Rd. Travel 0.5 mile. Mount Pleasant Cemetery will be on the right.

Previous Site

Head northwest on Water St. toward Poplar Neck Rd. Continue onto Choptank Rd. and travel for 3 miles. Continue onto Maple Ave. Turn right onto MD 16 W/ MD 331 S/Main St. Travel 1 mile. Turn right onto Linchester Rd. Linchester Mill is on the left.

Harriet Tubman's parents were active in the Underground Railroad in this area, and she most likely made her first escape from near here. Dr. Anthony C. Thompson employed Tubman's father, Ben Ross, on his 2,200 acres of heavily forested land in Poplar Neck during the late 1840s and 1850s. He also employed large numbers of free and enslaved black laborers in his timbering operations and sawmill.

On Christmas Day 1854, Tubman led her three brothers to freedom from Poplar Neck. Robert, Ben and Henry, and several others hid in a corncrib until dark, when they could begin their journey north. At nightfall, Tubman safely led them towards freedom, traveling through Delaware, Pennsylvania and across upstate New York to St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

You will find free parking at Choptank Landing, as well as a picnic table and restrooms (closed in winter). A small beach and kayak launch, public dock and a boat ramp make water sports accessible here. A National Park Service Network to Freedom interpretive sign discusses the Choptank River's role in the Underground Railroad.

22446 Marsh Creek Road
Preston, MD 21655



Track 25

This is the site of the original Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church, an African-American church community established in 1849 when local Quakers sold this land to free blacks, so they could build their own church. The congregation later moved to the town of Preston, where they still meet for services. This cemetery is still used by the church.

The cemetery may have served as a meeting place for fugitives on the Underground Railroad. Harriet Tubman was known to have used a cemetery as a rendezvous point for some of her escapes north. Laws restricted blacks from meeting in groups, and Tubman preferred to meet those who were fleeing with her in secret places away from their homes. She "was never seen on the plantation herself."

Choosing a meeting place, sometimes miles distant, protected Harriet from discovery should any of the fleeing slaves get caught by their masters. A group of slaves gathering in a cemetery might not arouse the same attention as a group of black people gathering in a home, or even secretly in the woods, which was specifically forbidden by law.



Harriet Tubman was known to have used a cemetery as a rendezvous point for some of her flights to freedom in the North.

James H. Webb, a free African-American who built the Webb Cabin nearby, is buried at this cemetery with his family.

This is an active cemetery. Please respect the solemnness of these grounds.

Next Site

From the cemetery, turn right onto Marsh Creek Rd. Travel 0.8 mile. Turn right onto Main St. Travel 0.1 mile. Turn left onto MD 16 E/Harmony Rd. Travel 1.5 miles. Jonestown Community Park will be on your left.

Previous Site

From the cemetery, turn left onto Marsh Creek Rd. Travel 0.5 mile. Turn left onto Poplar Neck Rd. Travel 0.4 mile. Turn left onto Havercamp Rd. Travel 1.9 miles. Turn right onto Choptank Rd. Travel 2.5 miles. Continue onto Water St. to Choptank Landing.

LEGEND



Audio Tour



Exhibits



Network to
Freedom Member



Motor Coach



Programs & Tours

Jonestown Community Park
4472 Nelpine Road
Preston, MD 21155



Track 26



Stop at Jonestown Community Park to listen to the audio track and discover this historic African-American community.

Jenkins Jones established Jonestown as a community of free African-Americans in antebellum years. Jenkins and other free blacks wished to improve their destiny through education, so they founded a school and hired teachers to stay in the community and teach their children. The courageous Jonestown residents had the common bond of faith in God, which gave them hope for their future. They used this faith to empower themselves to create positive change. The people of Jonestown may have had connections in assisting Harriet Tubman and her rescue missions. Today, descendants of the original founders of Jonestown are successful professionals with firm roots in this community.

In Jonestown, at the community park, you will find a playground, a trail and an open field.



Next Site

Head northeast on MD 16 E. Travel 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Grove Rd. Travel 1 mile to the Webb Cabin on your left.

Previous Site

Head southwest on MD 16W/Harmony Rd. Travel 1.5 miles to Preston. Turn right onto Main St. Travel 0.1 mile. Turn left onto Sunset Blvd. Travel 0.3 mile. Continue onto Marsh Creek Rd. for 0.8 mile. Mount Pleasant Cemetery will be on your left.

Many of Jonestown's early residents are buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Jonestown's one room school and church stood at the center of this vibrant free community.

Grove Road
Preston, MD 21655
www.carolinehistory.org/places/james-h-webb-cabin/



Track 27

Interior
Exhibits

James H. Webb, a free African-American farmer, built this hand-hewn log home around 1852 and lived here with his enslaved wife and their four children – Charles, Elizabeth, John and Ann, and Webb's father, Henry. The family were members of nearby Mount Pleasant Church. The one-room home, with its "potato hole," open fireplace, and loft accessed by a crude ladder, was built of materials found nearby. It sits on its original ballast-stone foundation from ships that plied the Chesapeake Bay.

Typical of housing for most African Americans at the time, this cabin is a rare survivor today. It also represents the kind of housing that sheltered many poor white families during the early and mid-19th century. Harriet Tubman's father and mother, Ben and Rit Ross, probably lived in a very similar structure at nearby Poplar Neck.

The lack of resources and primitive characteristics of such buildings have long precluded preservation of many structures like this one. Webb's cabin has been preserved for generations and utilized for a variety of purposes. The structure is owned and maintained by the Caroline Historical Society and sits on a one-acre plot of land owned by Caroline County.



In restoring the Webb family's cabin, craftsmen used a sensitive approach to re-creating the specially milled weatherboard siding to protect the original logs and flooring.

On site at the Webb Cabin, you will find a picnic area. The cabin interior is viewable from the door opening. When seasonally open to the public, guests can explore inside the cabin including the "potato-hole", which represents a place freedom seekers could have hidden.

In the area, on Todds Wharf Road, Outstanding Dreams Alpaca Farm offers unique, hand-made products, such as rugs, and knitted, crocheted and felted projects using sheared fleece. The public is invited to visit during wool shearing time.

Next Site

Head east on Grove Rd. Travel 1 mile. Turn left onto MD 16 E. Travel 2.2 miles. Just past the point where MD 16 and MD 578 merge, turn left onto Gilpin Point Rd. Travel 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Holly Park Dr. Travel 0.1 mile. Gilpin Point Landing will be on your left.

Previous Site

Head east on Grove Rd. Travel 1 mile. Turn right onto MD 16 W. Travel 1.5 miles. Jonestown Community Park is on the right.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

BYWAY
MARKER

Holly Park Drive
Harmony, MD 21655
410 479-8120
www.visitcaroline.org/outdoor-recreation/marinas-boat-ramps-landings/



Track 28

Exterior
Exhibit

This once-busy landing filled with people boarding steamboats is now a tranquil natural setting at the confluence of the Choptank River and Tuckahoe Creek.

Forty-year-old Joseph Cornish was enslaved by Captain Samuel LeCompte, married to a free black woman, and the father of five children. On December 8, 1855, Cornish most likely knew about the secret network Harriet Tubman relied upon in Philadelphia and New York, when he started out on “foot for Gilpins Point.” He had heard there was a vessel about to sail. He “worked his passage” to Baltimore, and then he made his way to Underground Railroad agent William Still in Philadelphia on Christmas Day. From there, Cornish was forwarded to agent Sydney H. Gay in New York City. He eventually made his way to St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, where Harriet Tubman, her brothers and many others from Maryland’s Eastern Shore were settling into their freedom.

In the mid-19th century, Gilpin Point was one of the busiest wharves along the Choptank River. It served as a landing for passenger ships and merchant vessels. It sat just upriver from Dr. Anthony C. Thompson’s plantation where Harriet Tubman’s parents lived and where Harriet herself conducted several of her most famous escapes.

At Gilpin Point, you will find parking, a beach, a picnic area, and a place to launch kayaks. There is also a National Park Service Network to Freedom wayside exhibit on site.

**Next Site**

Head northeast on Holly Park Dr. toward Gilpin Point Rd. Turn left and travel 1.2 miles to Wilkins Branch Rd. Turn left and travel 0.9 miles. Turn left onto MD 16 E. Travel 3.8 miles. Turn right onto Detour Rd. Travel 0.3 mile. Turn right to access Caroline County 4-H and Youth Park.

Previous Site

Head northeast on Holly Park Dr. toward Gilpin Point Rd. Turn left onto Gilpin Point Rd. Travel for 2.3 miles. Turn right onto MD 16 W. Travel 2.2 miles. Turn right onto Grove Rd. Travel 1 mile. The Webb Cabin will be on your left.

LEGEND

Audio Tour



Exhibits

Network to
Freedom Member

Motor Coach



Programs & Tours

4-H Park
Detour Road
Denton, MD 21629
www.carolinemd.org/facilities/facility/details/Caroline-County-4H-Youth-Park-53
and www.carolinehistory.org



Track 29

Interior
Exhibits

William Still's mother Sidney and four of her children lived in a house similar to this on Alexander "Saunders" Griffith's plantation. Her husband, Levin Still, had been set free in 1798 by his young enslaver and resettled in New Jersey, hoping to bring his family there. Around 1806, Sidney escaped with her four children, but was soon recaptured.

After being locked away for three months, she was released and promptly fled again. In a heartbreaking decision, she was forced to leave behind two sons, Peter and Levin. Enraged by her actions, Griffith sold the two boys to slave traders from Kentucky. After joining her husband in New Jersey, Sidney renamed herself Charity, and the Stills raised a large family there. William, born in 1821, was the youngest of 18 siblings.

William Still became educated and moved to Philadelphia where he became Chairman of the Philadelphia Vigilance Committee of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, assisting in the escapes of an estimated 1,500 freedom seekers. Harriet Tubman frequently passed through Still's office, seeking protection and support for her rescues.

In 1850, Still realized that one of the men he was assisting was his own lost brother Peter, who had been sent to Alabama by his Kentucky enslavers



William Still recorded important documentation on the people, places, conditions and methods of escape of those fleeing slavery through his office in Philadelphia. His records were published in 1871 as *The Underground Railroad*.

years earlier. Peter's later memoir, *The Kidnapped and the Ransomed*, raised enough funds to purchase his enslaved family. William Still's documentation of more than 1,000 freedom seekers was published in 1871 as *The Underground Railroad*, one of the most important and authentic records of the operations of the Underground Railroad in history.

The Interpretive Center celebrates the Still family's own daring and heart-wrenching struggle for freedom from bondage through escape, resettlement, and later, Underground Railroad activity. The center, housed in a historic one room "cottage" from 1820, features a period "slave cabin" interior, exhibits and a "garden patch" highlighting foodstuffs common in gardens cultivated by Eastern Shore enslaved people.

The Still Center is on the grounds of the Caroline County 4-H Youth Park. There are picnic pavilions, restrooms, exhibits, and a conference center in the complex.

Next Site

Turn left onto Detour Rd. Turn right onto MD 16 E. Travel 0.3 mile. Turn left onto MD 313 N / MD 404 W for 3.4 miles. Turn left onto Legion Rd. Turn right onto 5th Ave. Turn left onto Market St. and travel 3 blocks to the corner of 2nd and Market streets. The Caroline Courthouse will be on your right. Metered parking is around the courthouse.

Previous Site

Turn left onto Detour Rd. Turn left onto MD 16 W. Travel 3.8 miles. Turn right onto Wilkins Branch Rd. Travel 0.9 mile. Turn right onto Gilpin Point Rd. Travel 1.3 miles. Turn right onto Holly Park Dr. Gilpin's Point Landing pocket park will be on your left.

BYWAY
MARKERCourthouse Square
109 Market Street
Denton, MD 21629

Track 30

Exterior
Exhibit

This historic courthouse, constructed following the Civil War, is still in use today.

Although reconstructed after the Civil War, the courthouse's place in the middle of town is symbolic of the central role it played in the past. The courthouse symbolized white legal, political, economic and social power during the antebellum period. A slave market was located here, where slaves were auctioned to buyers and traders. Courthouse Square was also the site of the jail where captured runaways and Underground Railroad conductors, like Hugh Hazlett, were held. Hazlett, a 27-year-old Irishman, was arrested in Greensboro for assisting seven people to escape slavery in 1858. After being jailed, Hazlett and the seven others were transported to Cambridge by steamboat for trial. Greeted by an angry mob, Hazlett was sentenced to 44 years in prison.

In 1853, African-American residents celebrated the escape and return of Richard Potter, a free black youth, who had been kidnapped by a local farmer and smuggled to a Delaware boat captain to be sold as a slave. Punishments for "stealing slaves" or "enticing slaves away" or outright kidnapping included long prison terms, heavy fines, and confiscation of property.

Historic Denton is the Caroline County seat. Here you will find restaurants, information kiosks, shops and metered street parking. The Museum of Rural Life adjacent to the courthouse has Underground Railroad exhibits and is open every Saturday from April through November.



Next Site

From Market St. travel 0.2 mile. Continue straight crossing Gay St. Daniel Crouse Memorial Park is straight ahead.

Previous Site

Proceed down Market St. Turn right onto 5th Ave. Turn left onto Legion Rd. Turn right onto MD 404 E/ MD 313 S. Travel 1.8 miles. Turn right onto MD 16 W and travel 1.6 miles. Turn left onto Detour Rd. The Caroline County 4-H Youth Park is on the right.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

Moses Viney

Daniel Crouse Memorial Park

BYWAY MARKER

5 Crouse Park
Denton, MD 21629
410 479-2050 or 410 479-2730
www.carolinemd.org/facilities/facility/details/Daniel-Crouse-Memorial-Park-42



Track 31

Exterior Exhibit
and Visitor
Center

Moses Viney was born into slavery in Talbot County, but escaped on Easter morning in 1840, after learning he might be sold to slave traders in the Deep South.

As a child, Moses played with his master's son – Richard Murphy – who shared Moses' birthday. When they turned seven, they weren't allowed to play together anymore. Mr. Murphy sent Moses out to work in the fields. When Mr. Murphy passed away, Richard decided to sell Moses to the highest bidder.

Two men fled with him: Hinson Piney and Washington Brooks. Their flight from Talbot County brought them to Caroline County near Denton on the Choptank River. The slavecatchers' hounds were fast on their scent, tracking them down. But Moses had prepared for this moment. He had been kind to those dogs for months – fed them, patted them. When the dogs approached Moses, he told them to go on home. The dogs wagged their tails, and bounded away.

Moses found a canoe nearby without paddles. He took two fence posts and used them to row across the Choptank River near here.

The men traveled by night, hid out by day. They took a steamboat from Smyrna, Delaware to Philadelphia, then eventually reached Schenectady, New York. Moses worked as the personal



At Crouse Memorial Park, you will find a wayside exhibit that tells the story of Moses and the hounds.

carriage-driver to the president of Union College, Eliphalet Nott.

Ten years later in 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law, allowing any slave owner to reclaim his "property" at any time, in any state. While Moses was driving President Nott's carriage through town, there on the corner was Richard Murphy – his childhood friend and former enslaver – looking to reclaim his property. Moses rushed to Nott and begged for help. Nott helped Moses escape to Canada and paid Murphy \$250 to leave Moses alone. Eventually, Moses came back from Canada, having escaped slavery for the second time.

Next Site

Head east on Gay St. Turn right at the first cross street to stay on Gay St. Continue over Choptank River on MD 404 BUS W/Meeting House Rd. Travel 0.4 mile. Turn right at the light onto MD 328 E. Travel 0.3 mile. Turn right onto River Landing Rd. Travel 0.4 mile. The heritage center is on the left after 0.4 mile.

Previous Site

Head east on Gay St. Turn left onto Market St. Caroline Courthouse will be on the left in 0.1 mile.

10219 River Landing Road
Denton, MD 21629
410 479-0655

www.carolinehistory.org/places/choptank-river-heritage-center/



Track 32

Exterior Exhibit
and Museum



The Maryland Steamboat Company once operated from this scenic wharf on the Choptank River, providing weekly service between Denton and Baltimore.

During the 1850s, steamboats loaded with freight and passengers made weekly departures from Denton to Baltimore. Enslaved African Americans worked in shipyards here on the Choptank River. When Underground Railroad conductor Hugh Hazlett was arrested for assisting enslaved people to flee, he boarded a steamboat here in 1858 on his way to trial in Cambridge, downriver, where he faced possible mob violence.

The Choptank River played a role in the history of slavery as much as any plantation field. At this point, it was still wide and deep enough to serve as a barrier to escape for freedom seekers. Imagine the challenges they faced in trying to ford or cross waterways or hide away on vessels.

Denton boasted not only an active port, but also a ferry crossing, and the Eastern Shore's first moveable bridge structure spanned the Choptank here in 1811.



From Crouse Memorial Park, walk along the waterfront to see the murals "A Snapshot in Time: The Denton Wharves, 1904."

Next Site

Head northeast on River Landing Rd. Travel 0.4 mile. Turn left onto MD 328 W. Travel 0.3 mile. Turn right onto MD 404 BUS W. The meeting house is on the right, adjacent to Choptank Electric Cooperative.

Previous Site

Head northeast on River Landing Rd. Travel 0.4 mile. Turn left onto MD 328 W. Travel 0.3 mile. Turn left onto MD 404 BUS E/ Meeting House Rd. Continue straight onto Market St. Make a sharp left to stay on Market St. Continue straight onto Gay St. The park is straight ahead.

LEGEND



Audio Tour



Exhibits



Network to
Freedom Member



Motor Coach



Programs & Tours

Meeting House Road
Denton, MD 21629
410 479-0655
www.carolinehistory.org/places/tuckahoe-neck-meeting-house/



Track 33

Built in 1803, this was one of five Quaker meeting houses in Caroline County whose members sustained a local Underground Railroad network. Quakers also supported women's equality and the end of slavery. By 1790, Quaker meetings on Maryland's Eastern Shore were free of all slave owners. Quakers then became some of the earliest and most effective activists to end slavery in America and abroad. They quickly began establishing a loose network of individuals with shared values who could help escaping slaves find their way north, and provide support and shelter once they arrived. Abolitionist Hannah Leverton from the Linchester Mill area spoke here and was married here.

Quakers were at the forefront of the fledgling Women's Rights Movement in the mid-19th century. Quaker women like Lucretia Mott, her sister, Martha Coffin Wright, and many others participated in the first women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New York. Other powerful abolitionists and like-minded men and women supported them. Harriet Tubman would become close to many of these women, and through them, she would become involved with the women's suffrage campaigns of the 19th and early 20th centuries.



The plain design and austere furnishings of the Tuckahoe Neck Meeting House reflect the Quaker value of simplicity.



You will find parking, fuel, accommodations, restrooms and restaurants in the area and in downtown Denton.

Next Site

Head northwest on MD 404 BUS W. Travel 0.6 mile. Turn left onto MD 404 W. Travel 4.9 miles. Turn right onto MD 480 E. Travel 0.1 mile. Turn left onto Eveland Rd. Travel 2.0 miles. Adkins Arboretum is on the left.

Previous Site

Head northwest on MD 404 BUS W. Travel 0.6 mile. Turn right on MD 404 E. Travel 0.8 mile. Turn right onto MD 328 W. Travel 0.2 mile. Turn left onto River Landing Rd. The Choptank River Heritage Center is on the left in 0.4 mile.

BYWAY
MARKER

12610 Eveland Road
Ridgely, MD 21660
410 634-2847
www.adkinsarboretum.org



Track 34a; also
listen to track 34b
on your drive to
site 35:
Greensboro.

Exterior Exhibit,
Nature Center
and Audio Tour



Youth and family programs at the arboretum are an excellent way to explore the outdoors.

Adkins Arboretum is a 440-acre garden and preserve dedicated to promoting the appreciation and conservation of the region's native plants. Walking along streams, over wetlands, and through woodlands allows visitors to experience the kinds of landscapes that freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad passed through on their way north.

The arboretum offers programs year-round in ecology, horticulture and natural history for all ages, including special programming related to survival strategies used by fleeing slaves traversing these landscapes generations ago. Five miles of paths feature streams, meadows and rich bottomland forest.

The arboretum offers an audio tour about outdoor survival and navigation on the Underground Railroad. The tour program is recognized by the National Park Service Network to Freedom Program as providing authentic and accurate information. Other self-guided tours and public programs are avenues to discover the joys of nature. Stretch your legs and take a walk on a boardwalk or trail.



Next Site

Turn right onto Eveland Rd. Travel 2 miles. Turn left onto MD 480 E. Travel 8.3 miles to the cemetery on the left.

Previous Site

Turn right onto Eveland Rd. Travel 2.0 miles. Turn right onto MD 480 W. Travel 0.1 mile. Turn left onto MD 404 E. Travel 5.7 miles. Turn right onto MD 328 W. Travel 0.5 miles. Turn right onto MD 404 BUS W. Tuckahoe Neck Meeting House is on the right.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

Greensboro Cemetery
North Main Street and Cedar Lane
Greensboro, MD 21639



Track 35

Exterior
Exhibit

In 1797, Greensboro resident Peter Harrington was president of the Choptank Abolition Society, formed to promote the end of slavery in Maryland. Supported by Quakers, some Methodists, and others, regional societies like this worked on the local level. Petitions to the Maryland House of Delegates first focused on the trafficking of slaves and demanded an end to the exportation of slaves and free people of color.

Marketable goods were brought here, transferred to wagons and hauled to Delaware markets. Produce and timber products were delivered and shipped to ports near and far. Through these trade activities, Greensboro residents, free and enslaved, learned about religious revivalism, abolition and other new ideas.

The northernmost bridge over the Choptank River was located in Greensboro. Though freedom seekers traveling north were tempted to use bridges, they usually avoided them, as the threat of recapture was high at these obvious crossing points.



Peter Harrington, President of the Choptank Abolition Society, lived in Greensboro in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. He is buried here in this cemetery.

In 1849, the year Harriet Tubman escaped, scores of freedom seekers fled nearby Talbot County. The slaveholders knew many were moving through Caroline County on their way to Delaware and beyond. Some of them, no doubt, passed near here. In August 1852, two men from Sandtown, Delaware, tried to entice a slave named Tom to escape. Tom informed his master, and an ambush was set to capture the two men in Greensboro. News reports suggested that the men were going to kidnap Tom and sell him to slave traders in the Deep South.

There is limited roadside parking in Greensboro. You will also find fuel, restaurants and restrooms.

Next Site

From the cemetery, travel N on MD 480/Main St. for 0.7 mile to the intersection with MD 313. Turn left onto 313 N. Travel 1.3 miles. Turn right onto Red Bridges Rd. and right into Christian Park.

Previous Site

Head south on MD 480 W/ Main St. Travel 5.8 miles. Continue straight on MD 480 W for 2.4 miles. Turn right onto Eveland Rd. Travel 2 miles. Adkins Arboretum is on the left.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

Christian Park
Red Bridges Road
Greensboro, MD 21639
www.carolinemd.org/facilities/facility/details/Christian-Park-8



Track 36

Exterior
Exhibit

People of all ages enjoy fishing and exploring the Choptank River at Red Bridges.

This stream at the headwaters of the Choptank River was possibly near Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad route to Sandtown, Delaware. The current at this location is fast, yet the water is shallow.

Freedom seekers who followed the Choptank River to Delaware may have crossed here and at other shallow tributaries near the Choptank's headwaters. Like Harriet Tubman, fugitives relied heavily on the secret network of safe houses belonging to blacks and whites throughout central and northern Delaware. Harriet Tubman later told historian Wilbur Siebert that her preferred route was by way of her parents' home in Poplar Neck, to Sandtown across the Maryland border.

While fugitives made parts of their journeys unaided, the assistance provided by a secret network of sympathetic people and those who ran safe houses was invaluable to their success. Throughout Delaware, communities of Quakers and a large free black population helped hide and escort runaways northward on their way to Pennsylvania.



Next Site

Head northwest on Red Bridges Rd. Turn right onto MD 313 N. Travel 2.2 miles. Make a slight right onto MD 311 N. Turn right onto MD 287 E/Sandtown Rd. Travel 2.6 miles. Cross the Delaware State Line and continue on DE 10 E for 6.4 miles. The Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area is on the left.

Previous Site

Head northwest on Red Bridges Rd. Turn left onto MD 313 S. Travel 1.3 miles. Turn right onto MD 480 W/N Main St. Travel 0.7 mile to the cemetery on your right.

Christian Park at Red Bridges has a picnic area with places to fish and launch small watercraft.

37 Willow Grove

Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area
6693 Willow Grove Road
Camden Wyoming, DE 19934
302 284-4795
www.dnrec.delaware.gov



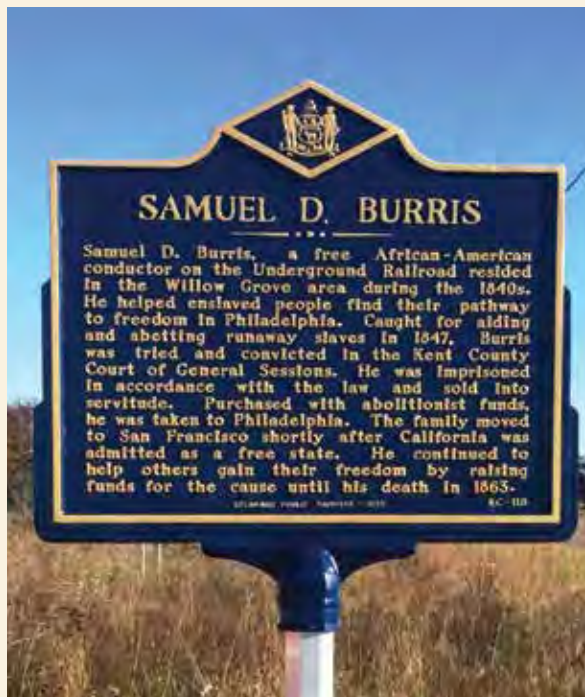
Exterior
Exhibits

Freedom seekers reaching the Delaware state line, also the Mason-Dixon Line, still were in a slave-holding state and had 75 miles to go before they reached the free state of Pennsylvania.

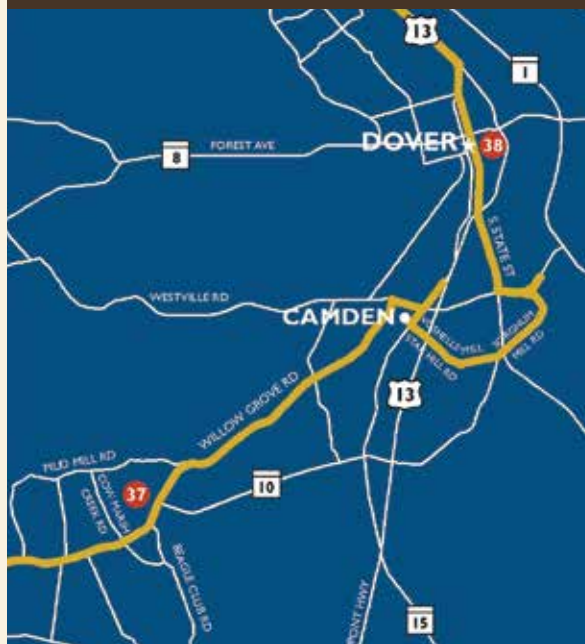
Harriet Tubman mentioned the crossroads of "Will' Grove" to historian, Wilbur Siebert, in an 1897 interview about her Underground Railroad journeys. She also noted other Delaware place names and key people. This byway route visits many of those sites. Willow Grove Road enters the state at Sandtown and travels through Willow Grove, where Quaker abolitionist Henry Cowgill and his family, and free black Underground Railroad conductor Samuel D. Burris lived. Across Willow Grove Road, abolitionist Henry Cowgill housed freedom seekers at his farm, according to oral tradition.

From this locale, fugitives could have chosen to venture to Camden, where free blacks Abraham Gibbs, and brothers Nathaniel and William Brinkley, joined forces to carry them further north. The travelers' movements varied, but likely included pathways near and through Dover, Smyrna, Blackbird, Odessa, New Castle and Wilmington.

The Mason-Dixon Line was surveyed by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon by 1767 to resolve a colonial border dispute. It was not made to separate states where slavery was illegal from those where it was legal.



The Historic Marker about Samuel D. Burris stands at the entrance to the Caulk Tract of the Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Management Area on Route 10/Willow Grove Road.



Next Site

To First State Heritage Park Welcome Center: Head northeast on DE 10/Willow Grove Road. In Camden, turn right onto Camden-Wyoming Avenue. Turn left onto US 13 N. Turn left onto Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, toward Legislative Hall and the Delaware Public Archives. The route will sweep right. Proceed to the Delaware Public Archives/First State Heritage Park Welcome Center.

Previous Site

To Red Bridges: Head southwest on DE 10 W for 6.4 miles. Enter Maryland and continue on MD 287 W/Sandtown Road. Travel for 2.6 miles. Turn left onto MD 311 S/Main St. Turn left onto Oldtown Road. Continue onto MD 313 S/Greensboro Goldsboro Road. Travel 2.2 miles. Turn left onto Red Bridges Road. Follow signs for Christian Park.

The Caulk Tract of the Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Management Area is used for deer, upland game and waterfowl hunting. Learn more about Samuel Burris' story at the Old State House in Dover and at the New Castle Court House Museum.

The Old State House
25 The Green
Dover, DE 19901
www.history.delaware.gov

First State Heritage Park Welcome Ctr
121 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Dover, DE 19901
www.nps.gov/frst/index.htm
www.destateparks.com/heritagepark

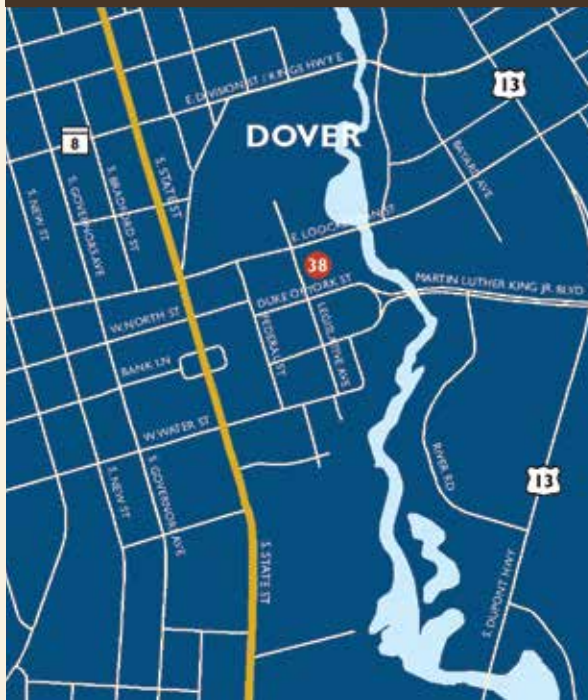


Interior
Exhibits

Guided
Tours



Built in 1791, the Old State House served as Delaware's capitol and is now the focal point of the Dover Green and part of First State National Historical Park.



Next Site

To Blackbird State Forest: Turn right out of the Delaware Public Archives parking lot and take the first right onto Legislative Avenue. At the light, turn right onto Loockerman Street. Continue east until the intersection with Route 13. Turn left and follow U.S. 13 N for 17 miles. Turn left at Blackbird Forest Road. Blackbird State Forest will be on the left in 1.9 miles.

Previous Site

To Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area/Willow Grove: From the First State Heritage Park Welcome Center, turn right out of the Delaware Public Archives parking lot and take the first right onto Legislative Avenue. At the light, turn right onto Loockerman Street. Continue east until the intersection with Route 13. Turn right and follow Route 13 to the intersection of E Camden-Wyoming Avenue, Route 10, and turn right. Follow DE 10 which turns left at Willow Grove Road. Continue west to the intersection with Henry Cowgill Road, and the Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area is on the right.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

In 1847, Samuel D. Burris, a free black Underground Railroad conductor, was arrested, tried, and convicted in the courtroom of the Old State House for aiding the escape of slaves. In addition to large fines and jail time, a free African American convicted of such a crime risked sale into slavery. Spared that fate, Burris moved his family to California in the 1850s, where he continued to support the fight for African-American freedom. On November 2, 2015, Delaware Governor Jack Markell pardoned Burris in the same courtroom where he was convicted 168 years earlier. Tours and programs at The Old State House explore Delaware's legislative debates on slavery and freedom.

The park also highlights the dramatic escape story of the "Dover Eight," a group of freedom seekers and friends of Harriet Tubman, who fled from Maryland in 1857. They were betrayed by a black Underground Railroad agent, Thomas Otwell, who lured them into the Dover jail for a \$3,000 cash reward. The group broke out of the jail in a dramatic altercation with the sheriff.

Start your visit at the First State Heritage Park Welcome Center (Delaware Public Archives) where you will find parking, amenities, and information on Park programming. The Center includes exhibits on Delaware history and founding documents. From there, it is a short walk to the Green, the Old State house and the John Bell House.

Blackbird State Forest
 502 Blackbird Forest Road
 Smyrna, DE 19977
 302 653-6505
dda.delaware.gov/forestry/forest.shtml

Harriet Tubman noted that a place called “Blackbird” was one of her landmarks as she journeyed through Delaware, but her precise pathways and stops here are not known. She may have been referring to one or more of the free black communities that once existed within the Blackbird Forest area. To the north are the historic towns of Middletown and Odessa, also important stops along the Underground Railroad.

The 6,000-acre Blackbird State Forest evokes some of the landscapes that fugitive slaves and their guides would have encountered in parts of Delaware. These rich natural resources both hindered and enabled freedom seekers on their perilous journeys to the north.

A short distance to the north is Middletown, a crossroads town between Odessa and Bohemia Landing, Maryland. Visitors will find a vibrant downtown of 19th-century historic buildings and shops, as well as suburban amenities. Toward the eastern end of town, the property of Middletown High School hosts a memorial park to the lives of freedom seekers and abolitionists. A marker tells the story of Quaker abolitionists and Underground Railroad agents, John Hunn and John Alston, who once farmed the land there. It also commemorates the bravery of operative Samuel D. Burris and the freedom-seeking Hawkins Family.



Blackbird State Forest offers 40 miles of trails and is popular with outdoor enthusiasts. Here you will find primitive campsites, picnic sites, seasonal hunting and catch-and-release fishing.



Next Site

To Historic Odessa Foundation: Travel northeast on Blackbird Forest Road/ DE 471. Turn left onto US 13 N. Proceed to DE 299 in Odessa and turn right (East). This becomes Main Street. The Visitors Center is at 201 Main Street, on the left.

Previous Site

Turn right onto Blackbird Landing Road and continue approximately 1.9 miles to the intersection with US 13. Turn right onto US 13 and continue south for approximately 19 miles. Turn right onto Court Street and veer right onto Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard N. The First State Welcome Center/Delaware Public Archives is on the right.

Historic Odessa Foundation
201 Main Street
Odessa, DE 19730
302-378-4119
www.historicodessa.org



Museum
Interior
Exhibits



The Corbit-Sharp House, c. 1772, was the home of Quaker abolitionists, Daniel and Mary Corbit.

Slavery in Delaware was truly a “peculiar institution.” The population struggled between powerful slave interests and defiant anti-slavery groups. Despite lobbying attempts by religious leaders, abolitionists and ordinary citizens to end slavery in the state, Delaware remained firmly proslavery. The town of Odessa stood at a crossroads both culturally and geographically. Odessa’s Quaker, abolitionist, and free black communities offered secret help on a heavily traveled Underground Railroad route.

The Historic Odessa Foundation’s exhibit, “Freedom Seekers: The Odessa Story” highlights the role these groups played in helping slaves escape, including Sam, a fugitive slave who approached the Corbit-Sharp House for help in the 1840s. He was hidden cleverly by Mary Corbit, and a sheriff’s posse failed to discover him. At dusk, Daniel Corbit provided food and money and sent him north.



Next Site

To New Castle Court House Museum: Head northwest on Main Street; turn right onto US 13 N. Turn right on DE 72 E towards Delaware City. At the refinery light, turn left onto Rt. 9 N. Follow Rt. 9 to New Castle, and bear right at South Street. Take the first left onto W. 6th Street. Turn right onto Delaware Street. The court house museum is on the left in 3 blocks.

Previous Site

To Blackbird State Forest: Head northwest on Main Street; turn left onto US 13 S. Turn right onto DE 471 / Blackbird Forest Road. The state forest will be on the left in 1.9 miles.

Tour the Corbit-Sharp House c. 1772, Wilson-Warner House c. 1769 and Collins-Sharp House c. 1770. Special interactive programs explore 18th-and 19th century domestic life, economics, crafts and politics. Annual festivals include the popular open-house event, Christmas in Odessa.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

211 Delaware Street
New Castle, DE 19720
302-323-4453
www.history.delaware.gov and
www.nps.gov/frst



Museum
Interior
Exhibits

Guided
Tours

Delaware's most prominent abolitionists and Underground Railroad stationmasters, Thomas Garrett and John Hunn, were tried and convicted here for aiding the successful 1845 escape of the Hawkins family from slavery in Maryland. Found guilty of violating the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793, Garrett and Hunn were fined thousands of dollars and faced financial ruin. The proslavery judge, Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice of the United States, presided over the trial. He would later deliver the controversial opinion in the Dred Scott case of 1857, denying African Americans citizenship. At the close of the trial in 1848, Garrett defiantly told the crowded courtroom, "if anyone knows a fugitive who wants a shelter, and a friend, send him to Thomas Garrett."

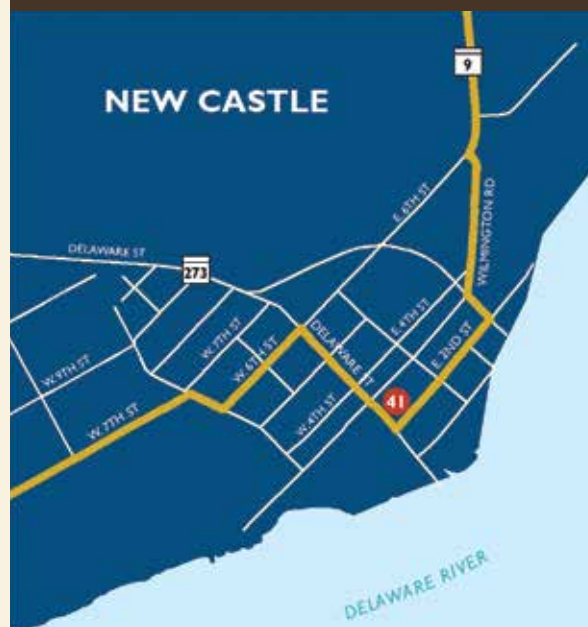
The conviction did not stop Garrett's activities. He continued to assist fugitives until the beginning of the Civil War.

In 1856, famed conductor and Garrett friend, Harriet Tubman, spent time in New Castle as she attempted to find aid in Wilmington for her group of freedom seekers. She lodged them in a "potatoe hole" for safety, at the home of an African-American friend somewhere in New Castle. Tubman's story was recorded by Sydney H. Gay, as she passed through New York City toward the end of this particular mission.

The New Castle Court House Museum is one of the oldest courthouses (1732) in the United States and was designated a National Park Service Network to Freedom site, due to the Garrett trial.



Built in 1732, the New Castle Court House was the Delaware State's seat of government until the capitol was moved to Dover in 1777.



Next Site

Head southeast on Delaware Street and turn left onto 2nd Street. Turn left onto Chestnut Street, and bear right onto Wilmington Road to cross the marsh. Bear left onto Wilmington Road. Merge onto Rt. 9 N, pass the exit for I-295, and turn left at Rogers Road. Bear right to merge with Business US 13 N. After crossing the Christina River, turn left onto 2nd Street. Turn left at King Street, which joins Market Street southbound. Proceed under the rail viaduct and turn left onto Rosa Parks Drive. Turn right into the first parking lot, and the park is adjacent to the east.

Previous Site

To Historic Odessa Foundation: Head northwest on Delaware Street and turn left on W. 6th Street. Turn right onto South Street, and immediately left onto W. 7th Street/Rt. 9. Proceed south on DE Route 9. At the refinery light, turn right onto DE Route 72 W. Turn left onto US 13 S. Turn left at DE Route 299/Main Street in Odessa. The visitor center is on the left at Second Street.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

Christina Riverfront
40 Rosa Parks Drive
Wilmington, DE 19801
302-425-4890
www.riverfrontwilm.com



Museum
Interior
Exhibits



The sculpture "Unwavering Courage in the Pursuit of Freedom" was installed in Tubman Garrett Park in 2012. The dynamic work is full of symbolism and invites contemplation. Credit: Chiodo Art

The park honors two of Delaware's most dedicated agents of the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman and Thomas Garrett. Born a Quaker in Pennsylvania in 1789, Garrett helped an estimated 2,700 enslaved people escape to freedom over four decades.

By the time Harriet Tubman escaped slavery in 1849, Garrett had been exposed as an Underground Railroad agent when he was caught helping the Hawkins family escape in 1845. Though financially ruined, he continued to help freedom seekers. Garrett's surviving correspondence reveals how he and Tubman collaborated on numerous occasions during the 1850s.

The park overlooks the Market Street crossing of the Christina River, the main southern entry into Wilmington during the 19th century. Tubman and her charges were once trapped on the south side of the river by the constables and slave catchers on the lookout for them. Garrett sent a false-bottomed wagon, driven by African-American bricklayers, who concealed the group beneath a load of bricks. They successfully passed over the bridge and by authorities unnoticed.



Next Site

To Delaware History Museum: Head southeast on Rosa Parks Drive, and turn left onto French Street at the Amtrak station. Proceed to 2nd Street and turn left. Turn right at Market Street. The museum will be on the right.

Previous Site

To New Castle Court House Museum: Head northwest on Rosa Parks Drive. At the light, turn left onto US 13 S. Turn left at Rogers Road, and bear right to merge onto DE 9 S. Stay in the left lane approaching New Castle, and go straight at the stop sign to remain on DE Route 9/W 6th Street. Turn left on Delaware Street. The Museum will be on the left.

Walk or bike the one-mile Christina Riverwalk for sweeping views of the river and see exhibits on Wilmington history.

Center for African American Heritage at the Delaware History Museum

504 N. Market Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
302-655-7161
www.dehistory.org



Exhibits

Guided
Tours

The Wilmington campus of the Delaware Historical Society features the stories of the Underground Railroad in two main locations, Old Town Hall and the Mitchell Center for African American Heritage. The Mitchell Center offers an exhibition, "Journey to Freedom," featuring the stories of the Underground Railroad in Delaware, including freedom seekers and conductors like Harriet Tubman, Quaker abolitionists like Thomas Garrett, and courageous African Americans who risked their lives to help others to freedom.

The Center presents the story of African Americans' struggle for human rights and dignity in Delaware and the nation. Two thematic sections, "Slavery in Delaware and the Struggle for Freedom" and "Beyond Bondage—Breaking Down Barriers," introduce key Delaware figures and experiences, from the founding of African Methodist churches to the Brown v. Board of Education decision and beyond.

Abolitionists' meetings were once briefly held at the Old Town Hall. The Town Hall's jail cells, however, were used to confine captured freedom seekers before they were returned to their enslavers. Tours are available. The Delaware Historical Society, a National Park Service Underground Railroad facility, has restored and preserved these historic buildings, allowing them to host educational programming where visitors can further explore the Underground Railroad.



A view from Market Street shows Old Town Hall and the Delaware History Museum. The Mitchell Center for African American Heritage includes oral history videos, music, poetry and thought-provoking artifacts.

Next Site

Head South on N Market Street. Turn right onto W. 5th Street and right onto N. Orange Street. Turn left onto W. 12th Street/DE 52 and continue onto Delaware Avenue. Bear left onto Pennsylvania Avenue/DE 52 N, which is the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway. Continue across the Mason-Dixon Line into Pennsylvania and follow the byway toward Longwood Gardens.

To get information about Underground Railroad sites in Kennett Square and the region, go to the Brandywine Valley Visitors Center at Longwood. To do so, turn left heading south on US Route 1, then right onto Greenwood Road. The center is located at 330 Greenwood Road, Kennett Square.

To continue to Philadelphia, return to US 1 N and travel to US 322 E. Turn right onto US 322 and follow to I-95-N. Travel toward Philadelphia and exit left on I-676 Independence Hall/Callowhill St. Exit. Follow signs to Independence Hall to turn left on 6th Street and left to 520 Chestnut St.

Previous Site

To Tubman Garrett Park: Head southwest on N Market St toward E 5th St. Pass under the rail viaduct, and turn left onto Rosa Parks Drive. Park in the first lot on the right, and the park is adjacent to the lot to the east.

Downtown Wilmington's cultural district offers music and entertainment venues, such as the Queen Theater and the Grand Opera House as well as award-winning restaurants and more.

44 Independence Hall

Independence National Historical Park
520 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, 19106
215 965-2305
www.nps.gov/inde



Interior
Exhibits



Guided
Program
Tours



Next Site

Head east on S. Chestnut Street. Turn right onto S. 4th Street and right onto Walnut Street. Travel 0.7 mile and turn left onto S. 12th Street. William Still's Last Residence will be on the right. Be careful to find legal parking. The marker is in front of a private residence. Do not block traffic or parked cars. Because parking is extremely difficult to find, it is best to see this site as a drive-by or walk the 1 mile from Independence Hall. (To return to Independence Hall, turn left on Pine St., left on 11th St. and right on Market St.)

Previous Site

From Independence Hall turn left on S. 5th St. and right on Market St. east to I-95 S. Travel south to exit at US 322 W toward West Chester. At US Route 1 S turn left and travel to Kennett Square. To stop at the Brandywine Valley Visitors Center at Longwood, turn right onto Greenwood Road to 330 Greenwood Road. Here you can get information about Underground Railroad sites in southeastern Pennsylvania. To continue to Wilmington, return to US Route 1 N and travel north to PA 52 S. Turn right heading toward Delaware. Follow signs for the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway. Route 52 will become Delaware Avenue in Wilmington. Turn slight left onto W. 11th Street and right onto N. Market Street. The Delaware History Museum will be on your left.



Important decisions about slavery and freedom, which charted the future of this nation, transpired at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, which is now a Network to Freedom site. Photo by J. Fusco for VISIT PHILADELPHIA®

Within Independence National Historical Park, several buildings all located on Independence Square have ties to the Underground Railroad. Important decisions about slavery and freedom, which charted the future of this nation, transpired at Independence Hall, Congress Hall and Old City Hall. The Square was the gathering place for abolition activities and the location for speeches made by abolitionist Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

At Independence Hall, the Declaration of Independence was signed, promising freedom. The U.S. Constitution was drafted, which regulated slavery as part of a series of compromises enacted by the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The resulting constitution included the three-fifths clause, which declared that for purposes of representation in

Congress, enslaved blacks would be counted as three-fifths of the number of white inhabitants of that state. Other clauses prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territories and ended U.S. participation in the international slave trade in 1807.

These compromises reflected Virginia Constitutional Convention delegate (and future U.S. President) James Madison's observation that "...the States were divided into different interests not by their...size...but principally from their having or not having slaves." While all northern states initially allowed slavery, most enacted gradual emancipation laws around the time of the American Revolution.

Also at Independence Hall, U.S. District Court trials were held concerning the 1851 Christiana riots and other fugitive cases.

In Congress Hall, the U.S. Congress passed the 1793 Fugitive Slave Act, which guaranteed the right of a slaveholder to recover an escaped slave and provided a mechanism by which that could be accomplished. Here, Congress also heard anti-slavery petitions. In Old City Hall, two mayors publicly demonstrated their support of the anti-slavery movement.

Independence Hall is a World Heritage site. The National Park Service provides tours and programs on site. Get information and begin your tour at the Independence Visitor Center located on Independence Mall on Market Street.

244 South 12th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=I-A-3EB
www.VisitDorchester.org



Exterior
Exhibit

Pennsylvania became a haven for freedom seekers. Slavery was abolished in this state in 1780. While some self-liberators made their way north with little or no help, Harriet Tubman and other freedom seekers trekked from Wilmington, Delaware to connect with free black and Quaker communities in Chester and Delaware counties in southeast Pennsylvania. These people helped Tubman and others find their way to Philadelphia, where William Still of the Philadelphia Vigilance Committee provided shelter, food, clothing, transportation and money for passage north.

Still kept records in a journal about those he assisted, including their names, where they came from, condition, and methods of escape. Keeping these records was risky, but they helped separated family members locate one another. Still's secret journal was published as *The Underground Railroad* in 1872.

When Tubman made her own escape to freedom in 1849, she settled in Philadelphia and worked as a domestic to earn money to support herself and her rescue missions. William Still supported her and documented her efforts to return to her homeland in Maryland to retrieve loved ones.

This home is privately owned. Parking on this side street can be difficult to find. Do not block parked cars. It is best to walk the 1 mile from Independence Hall.



William Still's Last Residence is a privately-owned home. An historic marker in front of the home briefly tells his story.



Previous Site

Continue south on S. 12th Street. Turn right onto Spruce Street, right onto S. 13th Street and then right onto Chestnut Street. Independence Hall will be on your right at 520 Chestnut Street.

Page numbers for sites on this map can be found on page 4 in the table of contents.

