

YOUR GUIDE TO THE HISTORIC SITES THAT SERVED AS A REFUGE FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS ON A QUEST FOR FREEDOM

PHILADELPHIA'S

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD



JOHNSON HOUSE



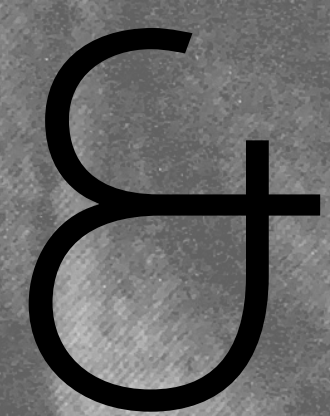
LIBERTY BELL CENTER



MOTHER BETHEL

Photos by J. Fusco, R. Kennedy, J. Sterling Ruth & G. Widman for VISIT PHILADELPHIA®

PHILADELPHIA



THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Philadelphia, home of the 17th-century Quaker abolitionist movement and the city where a young Harriet Tubman found freedom, played a vital role in the Underground Railroad. For centuries, Philadelphia's Historic District was an active port where African individuals and families were brought to be sold, separated and sent off to enslavement. And yet, this same district was home to the nation's largest neighborhood of free African-Americans, the Seventh Ward (between Spruce and South Streets and 6th and 23rd Streets), and the first African Methodist Episcopal Church (Mother Bethel).

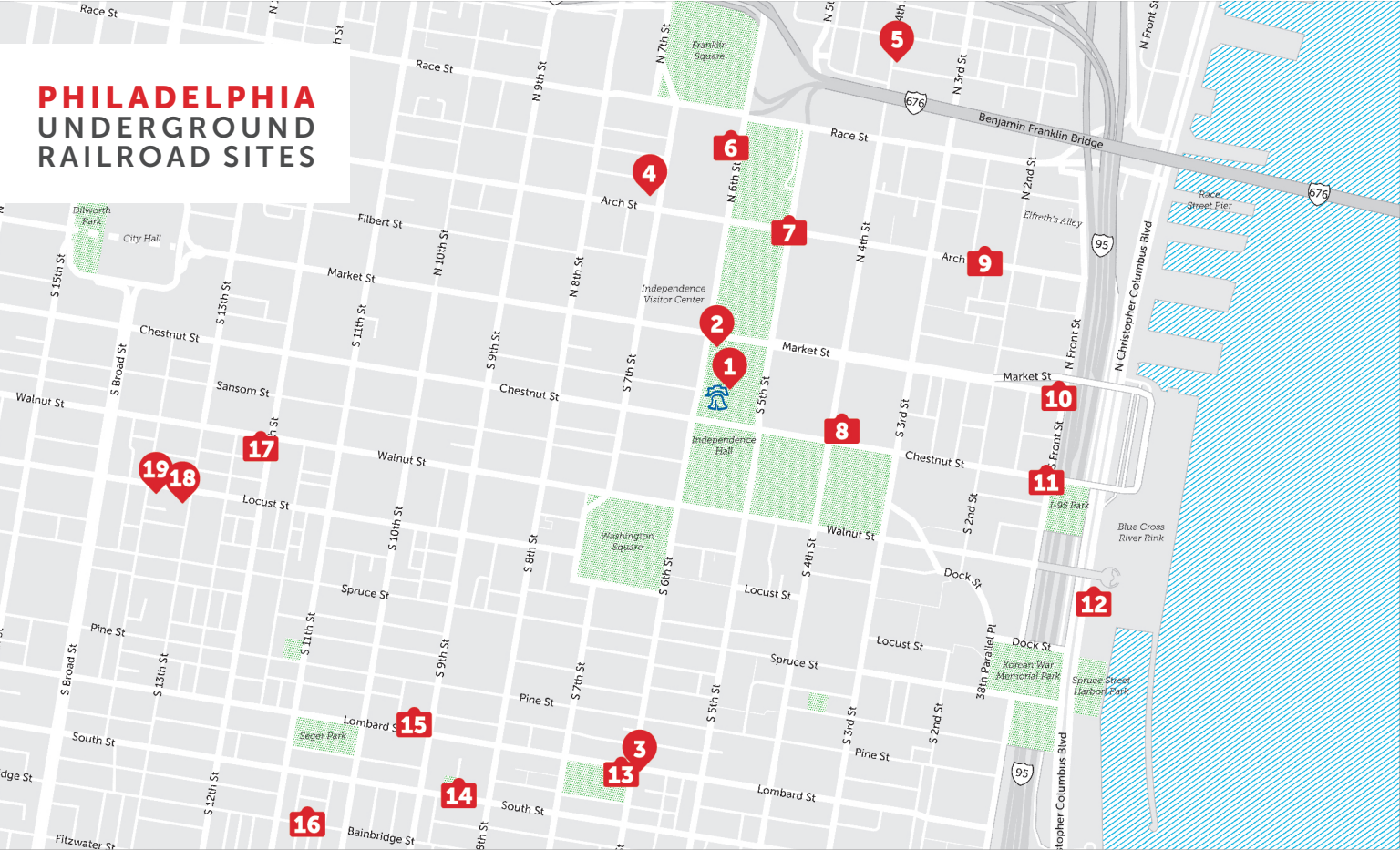
Freedom was the goal for the thousands of enslaved Africans on the Underground Railroad, a secret network of safe houses, churches and farms that offered shelter and safety, which many found in the Philadelphia region. Here, you'll find notable Philadelphia sites and Philadelphians who bravely worked to keep the railroad running.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD LANDMARKS

(Center City locations are numbered. Asterisks(*) denote locations beyond Center City.)

- 1 Liberty Bell Center**
6th & Market Streets, nps.gov/inde
Daily, fall through spring, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; extended hours in summer
"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" reads the biblical inscription atop this famously cracked Bell and symbol of the abolitionist movement. Exhibits and videos trace the evolution of the Bell into international icon of freedom.
- 2 President's House: Freedom and Slavery in the Making of a New Nation**
6th & Market Streets, nps.gov/inde
Daily, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.
In the shadows of Independence Hall stand the remnants of the home where President George Washington enslaved nine Africans. In 1796, one of them, Oney Judge, used the help of Philadelphia's community of free blacks to escape bondage. This open-air site provides visitors with different perspectives of this powerful story.
- 3 Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church**
6th & Lombard Streets, motherbethel.org
Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sunday following 9:30 a.m. service.
Founded by Bishop Richard Allen, Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church sits on the oldest parcel of land continuously owned by African-Americans and serves as the "mother" church of the nation's first black denomination. Allen and his wife, Sarah, offered escaped Africans refuge here. Harriet Tubman, Lucretia Mott, Frederick Douglass and William Still spoke from Mother Bethel's still-active pulpit. Visitors can view the Allens' tombs and early artifacts.
- 4 African American Museum in Philadelphia**
701 Arch Street, aampmuseum.org
Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday noon-5 p.m.
The country's first museum dedicated solely to African-American history has on permanent exhibit *Audacious Freedom: African Americans in Philadelphia 1776-1876*. It features a narrated timeline and video portrayals of Bishop Richard Allen, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Octavius Catto and more trailblazers and activists. The museum also hosts rotating art exhibitions exploring the modern black experience.
- 5 Historic St. George's Methodist Church**
235 N. 4th Street, historicstgeorges.org
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
In 1784, Reverends Richard Allen and Absalom Jones became the first licensed African-American Methodist ministers, but the two led a walk-out when the leaders of St. George's restricted seating for its black members. In 1787, the pair founded the Free African Society, a nondenominational "mutual aid" society that helped fugitive slaves and new migrants.

PHILADELPHIA UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SITES



PRESIDENT'S HOUSE



AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

- * Belmont Mansion (6 miles from Historic District sites)**
2000 Belmont Mansion Drive, Fairmont Park, belmontmansion.org
Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed for renovation in spring 2018)
This 1742 mansion belonged to Judge Richard Peters, who purchased slaves in order to free them, and hid fugitives in his attic. The site's Underground Railroad Museum tells of Cornelia Wells, a freed African-American woman.
- * Historic Fair Hill (3.5 miles from Historic District sites)**
2901 Germantown Avenue, historicfairhill.com
Daily, daylight hours only. Tours every second Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
This 1703 Quaker burial ground is the final resting place of Lucretia Mott, Robert Purvis and other abolitionists. Today, it's also an environmental education center. Six murals depicting Civil War themes surround the site.
- * Johnson House (11 miles from Historic District sites)**
6306 Germantown Avenue, johnsonhouse.org
Walk-in tours on Thursday-Friday, February-June and September-November, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Saturday, year-round, 1-4 p.m.
This circa 1768 Germantown home belonged to devout Quakers Samuel and Jenet Johnson, who, in the early 1800s, took in escaped slaves. Secret hiding spots, including a trap door in the attic, are visible today. William Still visited the house and, according to family lore, so did Harriet Tubman.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

Although time has taken its toll on many Underground Railroad landmarks, these historical markers recount the people, places and events that paved the way to freedom for those who dared and, ultimately, helped end the practice of slavery.

- 6 Pennsylvania Hall**
6th Street near Race Street
First U.S. building specifically constructed as an abolitionist meeting space (1838); ransacked and burned four days after opening.
- 7 Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society**
5th & Arch Streets
Circa 1833 group of indomitable women, including Lucretia Mott, who organized to oppose slavery.
- 8 Anthony Benezet**
325 Chestnut Street
French Quaker, founded the Society for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage in 1775.
- 9 Cyrus Bustill**
Arch Street between 2nd & 3rd Streets
Emancipated African-American, served in the Continental Army, co-founded the Free African Society.
- 10 London Coffee House**
Front & Market Streets
From 1754, a coffee shop and pub where recently arrived Africans were sold by public auction.
- 11 Pennsylvania Abolition Society**
Front Street below Chestnut Street
Quaker-based group, founded in 1775, eventually litigated slaves' cases; Benjamin Franklin served as a society president.
- 12 Liberation of Jane Johnson**
211 S. Columbus Boulevard
Famously chose freedom for herself and her children in 1855, aided by William Still and five African-American dockworkers while traveling through Philadelphia.
- 13 Free African Society**
6th & Lombard Streets
Circa 1787 mutual aid society for fugitive slaves and new migrants founded by African-American leaders Absalom Jones, Richard Allen and Cyrus Bustill.
- 14 Robert Mara Adger**
823 South Street
African-American businessman and co-founder and president of the American Negro Historical Society.
- 15 William Whipper**
919 Lombard Street
African-American businessman, active in the Underground Railroad and co-founder of the American Moral Reform Society.
- 16 Frances E.W. Harper**
1006 Bainbridge Street, abolitionist, William Still collaborator, feminist and co-founder of the National Association for Colored Women.
- 17 William Still**
244 S. 12th Street
Home of African-American abolitionist, author of *The Underground Rail Road* (1872), agent along the Underground Railroad who helped 649 people and co-founder of the first black YMCA.
- * African Zoar Methodist Episcopal Church (1 mile from Historic District)**
4th & Brown Streets
Founded in 1794, the first home of Philadelphia's Underground Railroad and the meeting place for the Vigilant Committee.
- * Robert Purvis (1.5 miles from Historic District)**
1601 Mt. Vernon Street
Co-founder of the American Anti-Slavery Society and president of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society; helped over 9,000 slaves escape.
- * William Lewis (5 miles from Historic District)**
2450 Strawberry Mansion Drive
U.S. Attorney and District Court Judge who established the principle of Conscientious Objection and helped draft and pass an Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery (1780).

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & TOURS

- 18 Historical Society of Pennsylvania**
1300 Locust Street, hsp.org
Tuesday, 12:30-5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 12:30-8:30 p.m.; Thursday, 12:30-5:30 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Hundreds of documents relating to the abolitionist movement are part of this repository of 600,000 printed items and more than 21 million manuscripts and graphic items. Visitors can view Underground Railroad agent William Still's journal that documents the experiences of enslaved people who passed through Philadelphia.
- 19 Library Company of Philadelphia**
1314 Locust Street, librarycompany.org
Weekdays, 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m.
Among this Benjamin Franklin-established organization's holdings is the 13,000-piece Afro-American Collection, which includes documents and books about slavery and abolitionism, Frederick Douglass' narratives, portraits of African-American leaders and other artifacts.
- * Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection at Temple University (3 miles from Historic District)**
Sullivan Hall, 1330 W. Berks Street, library.temple.edu/collections/blockson
Weekdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
World-renowned for its vast collections, this library features narratives by Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass, first-edition works by Phyllis Wheatley and W.E.B. DuBois, correspondence by Haitian revolutionaries and other priceless items.
- * Chester County Historical Society (35 miles from Historic District)**
225 N. High Street, West Chester, chesterhistorical.org
Tuesday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Artifacts and manuscripts recount the region's abolitionist history and role in the Underground Railroad. A new permanent exhibit that delves into the subject more deeply is planned for 2018.
- * Kennett Underground Railroad Center (35 miles from Historic District)**
Tours every third Sunday, May through October. kennettundergroundrr.org
Volunteers offer guided and self-guided tours of key sites. Tours depart from the Brandywine Valley Tourism Information Center, 300 Greenwood Road, Kennett Square.
- * National Archives at Philadelphia (11 miles from Historic District)**
14700 Townsends Road, archives.gov/philadelphia
Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Part of the National Archives Federal Records Center, this Northeast Philadelphia site has microfiche, digital and paper versions of 18th- through 20th- century texts documenting military service, Freedmen's Bureau, courtroom transcripts and family search websites to research residents of Philadelphia, Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia.



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