

OTHER PROGRAMS

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program commemorates, honors, and interprets the significance of the historic Underground Railroad not only in the eradication of slavery, but also as a cornerstone of the national African American civil rights movement. The program designates sites to be included in the Network to Freedom listing and administers competitive grants to sites, programs, and facilities listed in the Network to complete preservation and research projects.

Background

In 1998, Congress passed the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act, which created the Network of Freedom Program to better commemorate and interpret the Underground Railroad and those who experienced it. Through the program, the National Park Service partners with local, state, and federal agencies as well as private individuals and organizations to educate the public about the historical significance of the Underground Railroad; provide technical assistance to identify, document, preserve, and interpret sites; and develop a network of sites and programs associated with the Underground Railroad. The Network to Freedom now recognizes 695 sites in 39 states plus Washington, DC, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Between 2002 and 2014, \$2,086 million in grants for “preservation and related research” were awarded to 115 projects.



After escaping from slavery in Kentucky, Lewis and Harriet Hayden settled in Boston at 66 Phillips Street on Beacon Hill (pictured here). They established their home as the most active Underground Railroad safe house in Boston, sheltering scores of documented freedom seekers. The Lewis and Harriet Hayden House is part of the Black Heritage Trail® in Boston, Massachusetts.

PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FY 2023 Appropriations Request

Please support \$1.248 million to administer and enhance the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program in the FY 2023 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: ONPS Resource Stewardship

ACTIVITY: Park Management

SUBACTIVITY: Resource Stewardship

PROGRAM: The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program

Recent Funding History:

FY 2020 Enacted Funding:	\$1.109 million
FY 2021 Enacted Funding:	\$1.239 million
FY 2022 Enacted Funding:	\$2.500 million
FY 2023 President's Budget Request:	\$2.750 million
FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation:	\$2.750 million

JUSTIFICATION: Increased funding would provide additional support for the National Park Service to enhance the administration and expansion of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Listings by State*

The Network to Freedom is composed of sites, facilities, and programs that are important to the commemoration and interpretation of Underground Railroad history.

ALABAMA

3 sites

ARIZONA

1 program

ARKANSAS

3 programs

2 sites

CALIFORNIA

1 facility

3 programs

3 sites

COLORADO

1 site

CONNECTICUT

1 facility

1 site

DELAWARE

2 facilities

2 programs

11 sites

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

2 facilities

3 programs

13 sites

FLORIDA

2 facilities

3 programs

9 sites

GEORGIA

2 facilities

3 programs

5 sites

HAWAII

1 site

ILLINOIS

3 programs

23 sites

INDIANA

5 programs

22 sites

IOWA

22 sites

KANSAS

4 programs

2 facilities

16 sites

KENTUCKY

2 facilities

5 programs

2 sites

LOUISIANA

2 facilities

1 site

MAINE

3 sites

MARYLAND

5 facilities

17 programs

61 sites

MASSACHUSETTS

7 facilities

5 programs

22 sites

MICHIGAN

2 facilities

6 programs

24 sites

MISSISSIPPI

2 sites

MISSOURI

4 sites

NEBRASKA

2 program

11 sites

NEW HAMPSHIRE

1 site

NEW JERSEY

1 program

2 sites

NEW MEXICO

1 program

NEW YORK

10 facilities

10 programs

45 sites

NORTH CAROLINA

2 facilities

1 program

15 sites

OHIO

7 facilities

11 programs

74 sites



Moccasin Bend National Archaeological District is part of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Moccasin Bend (pictured here) was the site where many enslaved African Americans, including Jacob Cummings, made their first steps toward freedom. In 1839, Cummings crossed Moccasin Bend and made it as far as Canada where he became an active agent in the Underground Railroad, heroically working to bring others to freedom.

PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OKLAHOMA

1 site

PENNSYLVANIA

12 facilities

10 programs

31 sites

RHODE ISLAND

1 facility

1 program

SOUTH CAROLINA

1 facility

8 sites

SOUTH DAKOTA

1 site

TENNESSEE

1 program

4 sites

TEXAS

2 programs

1 site

VERMONT

1 site

VIRGIN ISLANDS

1 site

VIRGINIA

7 facilities

1 programs

30 sites

WEST VIRGINIA

1 facility

1 site

WISCONSIN

1 facility

1 program

8 sites

*As of January 2022