

# Map & Guide

## Exploring City's rich, untapped history

This publication represents a new chapter in ongoing efforts by local historians to gather and share many well-known and some lesser-known facts of people and places important in the City's African-American heritage. This Map & Guide was designed to encourage deeper exploration of these stories and to continue research toward a better understanding of the African-American experience.

Sites located mainly within the 4-square-mile area of Lancaster's original town plan, plotted in 1735. These themes and time periods are illustrated here:

**The Struggle for Freedom-** Colonial Era, faith community inclusion and schisms, origins of the Underground Railroad, to Civil War.

See sites marked **T-1** for **Theme No. 1**.

**From Oppression to Opportunity-** Emancipation, "Jim Crow," growth of black entrepreneurs and early 20th century civil rights advancement.

See sites marked **T-2** for **Theme No. 2**.

Please note that some themes & time periods overlap

### Perspectives on Lancaster's African-American Experience:

\*Represents a people whose original migration was imposed on them, resulting in a heritage told almost exclusively through the perspective of slavery...or not at all.

\* Has always been a vital part the City's history, resisting, overcoming and sometimes fleeing bondage, establishing a sense of community and pursuing equality.

\* Provides an outstanding opportunity for local residents and visitors to find broader meaning in the American experience, and to see direct relevance between contemporary issues and the history of our City, County, Commonwealth and Country.

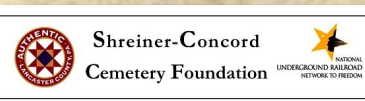
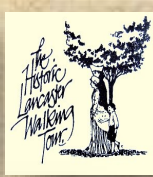


Designates sites with an Underground Railroad connection, listed in the Network to Freedom, a program of the National Park Service/U.S. Department of the Interior.

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The Walters Trust of the  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster, PA  
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Historic Lancaster Walking Tour, Est. 1976

The African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the Walters/Unitarian Church Trust, an endowment to the church from Arthur and Selma Walters, in making this Map & Guide a reality. In awarding this grant, the UUCL Board has acknowledged the contributions of the Society, a volunteer-supported program affiliated with Crispus Attucks Community Center of Lancaster, toward achieving the vision of inclusiveness among all humans as well as respect for the dignity and worth of each individual, as promoted by the Walters Trust and UUCL.

### SPONSORED BY



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# AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MAP & GUIDE



Thaddeus Stevens  
1792-1868



William Whipper  
1804-1876

# African-American Heritage

## Notable people, places & stories

### 1 Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad

Former right-of-way from 1835-1930  
North Queen & East Chestnut Streets



Underground Railroad pathway, c.1835. False-end box cars owned by Columbia's noted black entrepreneurs, Stephen Smith and William Whipper, transported people formerly enslaved to Lancaster, Philadelphia and other destinations north. Right-of-way into city center relocated to northern municipal line, circa 1930.

### 2 Thaddeus Stevens Home & Office/ Kleiss Tavern

South Queen at East Vine Street

Republican Congressman (1792-1868) assisted freedom seekers here, c. 1848. Was cistern in his backyard modified and used as a safe house for the Underground Railroad in the 1850s?



### 3 Lydia Hamilton Smith Home

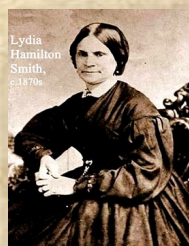
East Vine & South Christian Streets

Property manager and confidante of Thaddeus Stevens, from 1848-1868. Mrs. Smith (1815-1884) purchased this home from the Congressman in 1860 for \$500, demonstrating the importance of property ownership as a path toward attaining social equality.

### 4 Graves of Lydia Smith & Her Sons — St. Mary Roman Catholic Cemetery

Park Avenue near Maple Street

Business-minded woman of color & pioneering owner of several city properties. Eldest son William was likely an early UGRR operative. Son Isaac a Civil War vet, barber and musician, as was his father, Jacob.



Lydia Hamilton Smith  
1815-1884

### 5 Shreiner-Concord Cemetery

North Mulberry & West Chestnut Streets

A public cemetery that accepted burials of all people, regardless of race or religion, est. 1836. Stevens chose his burial place near U.S. Colored Troops and those who could not afford gravestones.



### 6 Bethel A.M.E. Church

East Andrew and East Strawberry Streets

African Methodist Episcopal faith community supported freedom seekers, circa 1820 -1860. Many burials of U.S. Colored Troops. *Living the Experience* live presentations dramatize local Underground Railroad episodes.

### 7 African American free school

Rear of Bethel AME's property

School existed here from 1841-1883. First black teacher there was Lewis Hood, father of Solomon Porter Hood. The latter attended this school before Lincoln University. S.P. Hood became a bishop, A.M.E. Church and U.S. Emissary to Liberia, Africa, 1920s.

### 8 Fulton Hall, built on foundations of Old County Jail & Workhouse

North Prince near West King Street

Site of 18th century county jail, the Fulton Opera House was built in 1851 on the workhouse foundations. In 1835 two women illegally detained by slave catchers were aided in their escape by Abolitionist Sheriff "Dare Devil Dave" Miller. In 1858, at Fulton Hall, Congressman Stevens gave a pioneering speech advocating women's suffrage.



### 9 Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, est. 1730

South Duke & East Mifflin Street

Oldest congregation in Lancaster, this faith community ministered to those enslaved and to free black families; many Africans mentioned in pastoral records from the Colonial era.

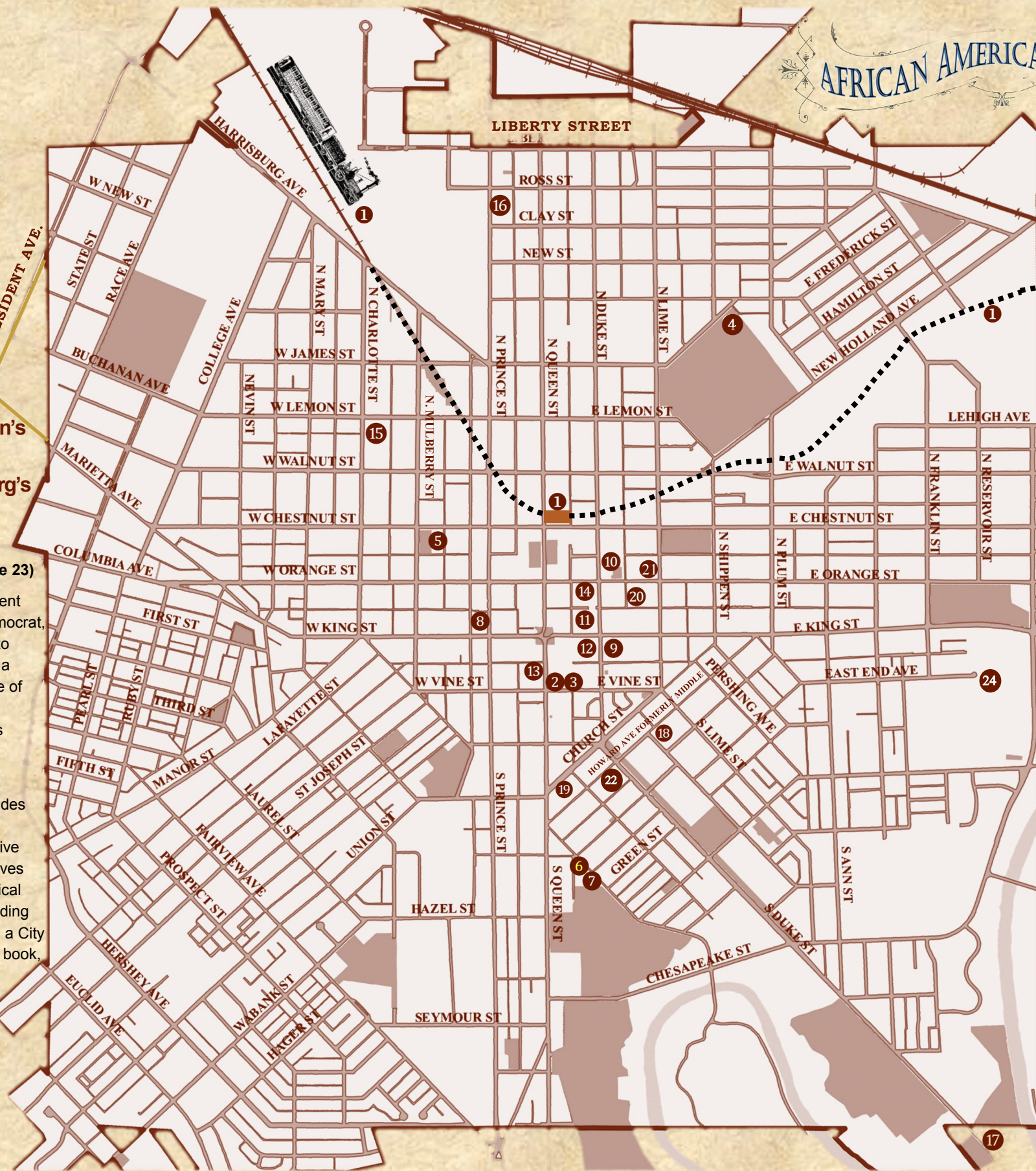
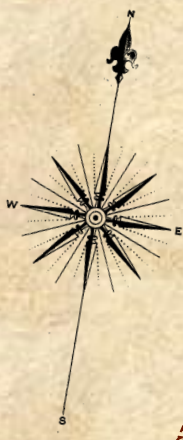


### 10 Saint James Episcopal Church, est. 1744

North Duke & East Orange Streets

Ministered to enslaved and free blacks as well as slave owners. African-American members left to established separate congregation in 1817 that became Bethel AME Church. Formerly enslaved, Dinah "The Fortune Teller" McIntire, owned property. She died at age 113; buried here in 1819. Rev. Samuel Bowman (1800-1861) planned for burial of black maid, Louisa Wells, in his family plot, 1867. Extensive social justice ministries early-mid 20th century.

Fold down to continue



**President Buchanan's Wheatland & LancasterHistory.org's Campus of History**

**President Avenue & Marietta Pike (PA Route 23)**

Our nation's 15th President James Buchanan, a Democrat, the only Pennsylvanian to serve as President, was a neighbor and political foe of Thaddeus Stevens over slavery and states' rights issues.

LancasterHistory.org's Campus of History, includes Wheatland, his home, a research library, decorative arts collection, and archives with extensive genealogical and public records, including *The Negro Entry Book*, a City of Lancaster registration book, established by legal ordinance, to keep tabs on black residents and visitors during the period 1820-1849.

**Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology**

**750 East King Street**

One of the nation's highest rated two-year technical colleges, this institution was founded in 1905 through a bequest from Congressman Stevens' estate. Funds were to be used to establish this school where, according to the Stevens' will "...No preference shall be shown on account of race or color in the admission or treatment. Neither poor Germans, Irish nor Mohammedans, nor any others on account of their race or religion, or their parents must be excluded."

Stevens' monument, portraits, furniture and personal artifacts on display here.

## Notable people, places & stories

### 11 Lancaster County Courthouse

East King at North Duke Street

T-2

Stevens' key speech on Reconstruction here, Sept. 6, 1865, called for seizing plantations and giving 40 acres & a mule to liberated black families in the "conquered Southern states."



### 12 Site of slave catcher's office

East King Street, across from Courthouse

Edward Rauch & Robert Boston, a barber, conspired in the 1840s with Thaddeus Stevens to infiltrate the ranks of the many bounty hunters who operated out of the office of George Hughes, who provided a support system for slavecatchers from out of town.



Stevens' 'spy' Edward H. Rauch 1820-1902

### 13 Site of Elite Hotel

30 South Queen Street

T-2

Only hotel in Lancaster to provide rooms to African Americans, early 20th century; many guests were traveling performers booked at Fulton Opera House.

### 14 First Reformed Church UCC

East Orange near North Duke Street

T-1

Another majority church that provided baptisms and marriages to blacks, including Robert Boston who married his wife Melesena here; he later became an AME minister and Underground Railroad activist.

### 15 Site of Isaac Gilmore's Church

North Charlotte south of West Lemon Street

T-1

Early African American Church est. by prosperous African American businessman in "Spring Garden." Gilmore and family baptized at Saint James, c. 1800. He followed the profession of his father, Isaac, Sr., a chimney sweep.

### 16 Site of Feagleyville

Old Clay at North Prince Street

T-2

Early black enclave & faith-based community est. soon after Civil War. Nothing remains here to mark where scores of black families once lived and worshipped. Churches here through the early 20th century were Saint John's Union American Methodist Episcopal, Antioch Mission Chapel and Saint Paul's UAME.



Feagleyville Church, 1914

### 17 Stevens-Greenland Cemetery

South Duke Street, south and adjacent to Riverview Cemetery

T-2

Established by Edward Millen, who served as a pall bearer at the funeral of Lydia Hamilton Smith, 1884. Several USCT members & Buffalo Soldiers buried here.

### 18 Site of Shiffler Volunteer Fire Co.

Corner of Middle & Rockland Streets

T-1

A rowdy band of teenage volunteer firefighters, formed in 1852 with help from Thaddeus Stevens, who served as company president until his death in 1868. Did this private group, headed by Lydia Smith's son William (1835-1860), establish the tactics that created an "urban Underground Railroad?" Read the source of this theory in Ellis & Evans' *History of Lancaster County*, (1883), page 391.

### 19 Site of James Clendenin Home

Vicinity of 500 block, Howard Avenue

T-1

Leader of an influential group of Africans from the membership of Saint James Episcopal Church, Clendenin (b.1755) left to establish an African church which later became chartered as Bethel AME. A painter and window installer, he owned his log-built home.

### 20 Lancaster Kitchen & Caterer's Supply Co.

137 East Grant Street

T-2

Caterer and premier chef, William G. Payne was born enslaved in Virginia. He served as Chief Steward at the exclusive Hamilton Club for about five years before starting his own firm here - 1906 to 1914.



William G. Payne circa 1847-1919

### 21 Rustin speeches at YWCA

Corner of North Lime & East Orange Streets

T-2

Bayard Rustin (1912-1987), leading strategist of the Civil Rights Movement 1955-1968 and advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke here on March 9, 1950, delivering speeches for young people & adults on non-violent protest, social inclusiveness and the dangers of nuclear proliferation. Sponsored by American Friends Service Committee: Dr. Paul L. Whitely and Dr. Henry Williams, local organizers.

### 22 Crispus Attucks Community Center

407 Howard Avenue

T-2

Citing dire need for day care and a physician in the black community, Lancaster's Negro Civic League, 1917, gave rise to a neighborhood organization that became Crispus Attucks, led from 1929 to 1959 by Wilberforce University graduate, Mrs. Ruby Payne Cook. Present building constructed in 1942.

See above for:

### 23 Wheatland & LancasterHistory.org

T-2

### 24 Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

T-2