**African-American Heritage**

Notable people, places & stories

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**1 Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad**
Former right-of-way from 1835-1930
North Queen & East Chestnut Streets


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**2 Thaddeus Stevens Home & Office/ Kleiss Tavern**
South Queen at East Vine Street
Republican Congressman (1870-1883) assisted freedom seekers here, c. 1848. Workhouse backyard modified and used as a safe house for the Underground Railroad in the 1850s.

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**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 $520, demonstrating the importance of property ownership as a path toward attaining social equality.

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**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.

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**5 Shriner-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.

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**6 Bethel A.M.E. Church**
East Andrew and East Strawberry Streets


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**7 African American free school**
Rear of Bethel A.M.E.'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. Emmissary to Liberia, Africa, 1920s.

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**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 "Dame Devil Dave" Miller. In 1858, at Fulton Hall, Congressman Stevens gave a pioneering speech advocating women's suffrage.

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**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.

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**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 A.M.E. Church. Formerly enslaved, Dinah 'The Fortune Teller' McIntyre, 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 milestones early mid 20th century.

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**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 and other destinations north. Right-of-way into city center relocated to northern municipal line, circa 1930.**

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**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, resiliency, overcoming and sometimes fleeing bondage, establishing a sense of community and achieving 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.

**From Oppression to Opportunity- Emancipation:**

- Jim Crow,” growth of black entrepreneurs and early 20th century civil rights advancement.
- "Supports 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.

**Sponsored by:**

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May 2016

**Support by generous grants from:**

- The Walters Trust of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster, PA
- 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 UUC 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 UUCCL.

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Federal Park Service/U.S. Department of the Interior

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Notable people, places & stories

11 Lancaster County Courthouse
East King at North Duke Street
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, competed 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.

13 Site of Elite Hotel
30 South Queen Street
Only hotel in Lancaster to provide rooms to African Americans, early 20th century; many guests were travelling performers booked at Fulton Opera House.

14 First Reformed Church UCC
East Orange Streets
Another majority church that provided baptisms and marriages to blacks, including Robert Boston who married his wife Melissena 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
Early African American Church out, 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 Feagleville
Old Clay at North Prince Street
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.

17 Stevens-Greeniland Cemetery
South Duke Street, south and adjacent to Riverview Cemetery
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
A rowdy band of teenage volunteer firefighters, formed in 1852 with help from Thaddeus Stevens, who served as company president until his death in 1866. Did this private group, headed by Lydia Smith’s son William (1835-1868), establish the tactics that created an “urban Underground Railroad”? Read the source of this theory in Ellis & Evans’ “Spy” (1883), page 391.

19 Site of James Clendenin Home
Vicinity of 500 block, Howard Avenue
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
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 - 1898 to 1914.

21 Rustin speeches at YWCA
Corner of North Lime & East Orange Streets
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. Whiteley and Dr. Henry Williams, local organizers.

22 Crispus Attucks Community Center
407 Howard Avenue
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.

23 See above for:
Wheatland & President History.org

24 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.

Sources, credits & acknowledgements: Cover image, composite of sketch view of West King Street, Lancaster, first block, view east, 1850. From an ambrotypes by W.B. Fahnstock, with portraits of Congressman Thaddeus Stevens, Lydia Hamilton Smith and William Whipper. For additional sources and citations for images used here, visit www.underground originspa.org.