the UNDERGROUND RAILROAD in NEW ENGLAND

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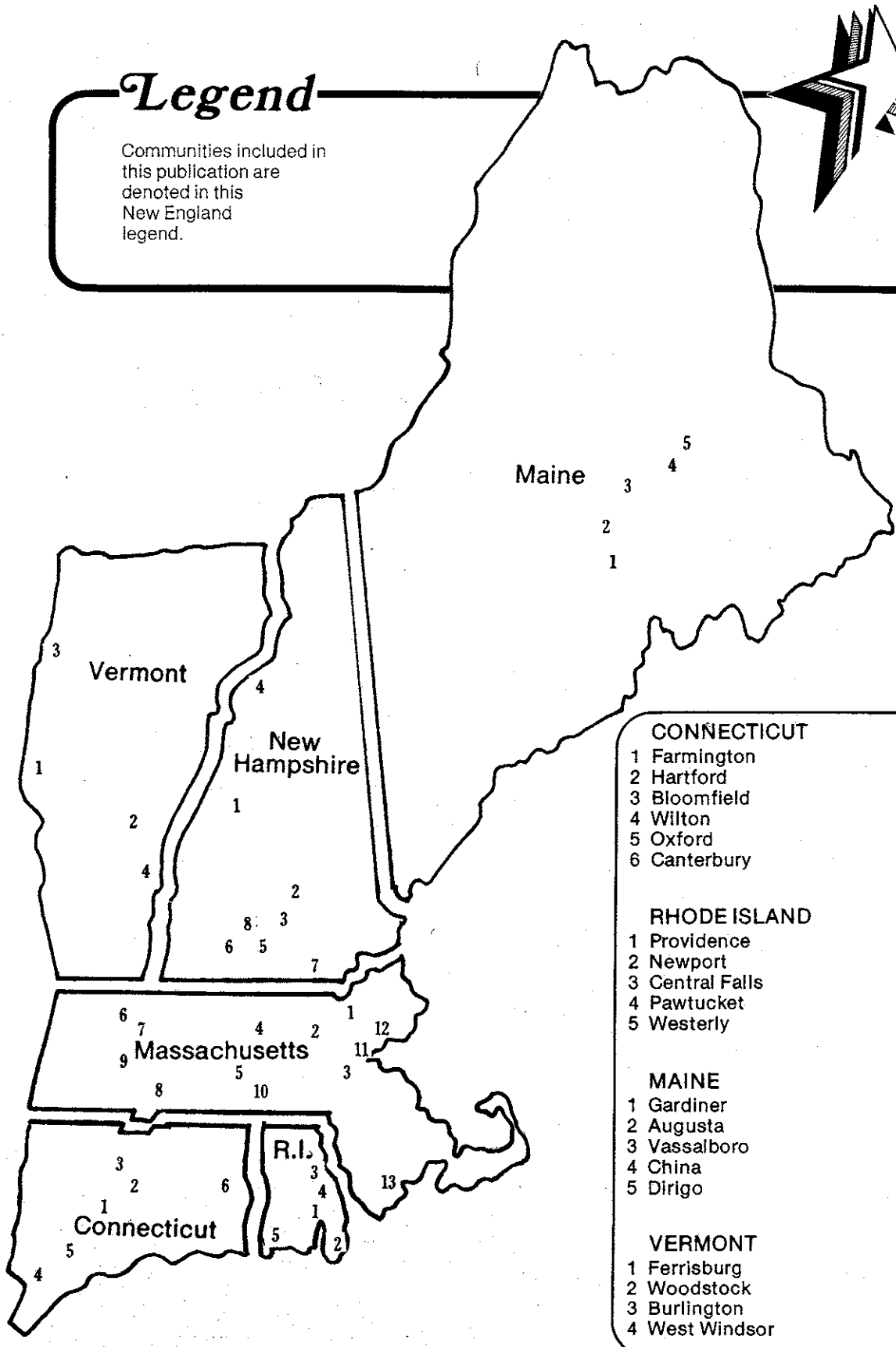
Legend

Communities included in this publication are denoted in this New England legend.



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CONNECTICUT
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4 Wilton
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RHODE ISLAND
1 Providence
2 Newport
3 Central Falls
4 Pawtucket
5 Westerly

MAINE
1 Gardiner
2 Augusta
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VERMONT
1 Ferrisburg
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3 Burlington
4 West Windsor

MASSACHUSETTS
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2 Concord
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The people of New England were among the first to declare themselves on the side of freedom at the time of the American Revolution. They carried on this tradition as leaders in the fight for freedom for the men, women and children suppressed by the institution of slavery. Many were publicly committed to the abolitionist cause and engaged in writing and debating the ideological differences between the North and South during the early nineteenth century. Others moved clandestinely to develop a system of escape for the slaves. The series of stations and transportation routes formed came to be known as the Underground Railroad. The network stretched across the New England states and terminated in Canada.

Introduction

Fugitives were secreted in private homes, barns, and churches, behind panels, in earthen tunnels, in attics and in small spaces likely to be overlooked by bounty hunters. They walked, rode or found their way over rivers and lakes, usually in the dark of night, on their journey north. The North Star served as a beacon — a heavenly guide to freedom — and eventually became a symbol of this search for liberty.

The entire operation was conducted in secrecy, and although most people knew of its existence, few knew the names of the persons involved or the location of the hiding places. Safety in this illegal activity required that the individuals operating stations or providing transportation know little beyond the immediate range of their activities. In spite of the danger, participation cut across economic, racial and religious lines, uniting whites, free blacks and brave escapees.

The history of the Underground Railroad has been clouded by the same obscurity which protected it during the peak of activity, so that tracing it is a difficult task. It is necessary to rely upon oral legend passed down from generation to generation and the few records kept by private families which contain references to fugitive slaves hiding in their homes or being conducted to safety by a family member.

It is the hope of those working on this project that our interest will stimulate additional research leading to the identification and preservation of important examples of this endeavor, which resulted in liberty for tens of thousands.

* * *

The sites in this publication do not include all the stops on the Underground Railroad. The work is intended as a representation of some of the more prominent stations.

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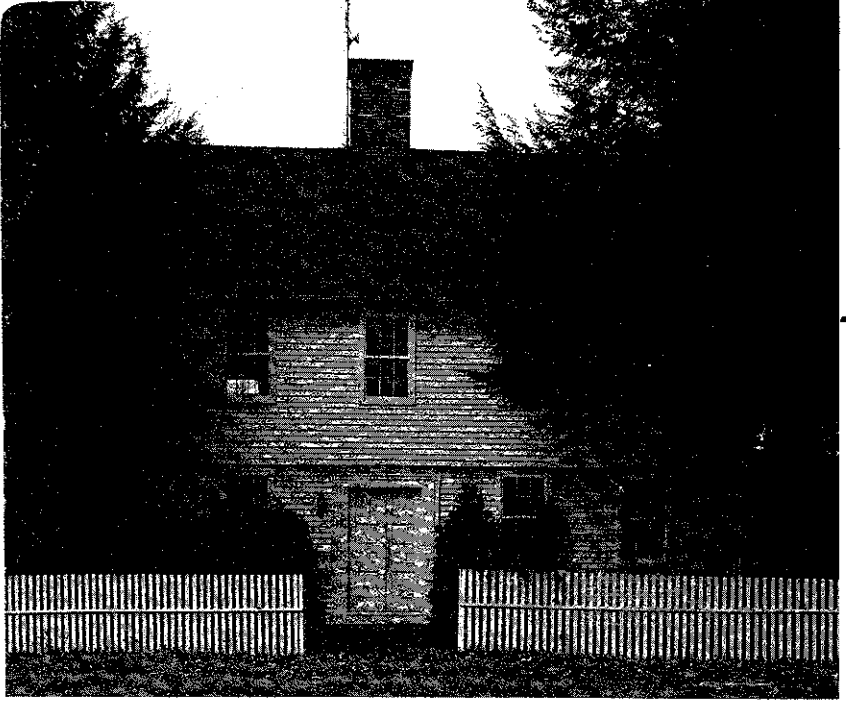
See back cover for the street address (where available) of each site.

The cover design represents the North Star, the guide which fugitive slaves followed as they traveled north to freedom. It came to symbolize the spirit and the cooperation that existed between blacks and whites as they worked toward their common goal.

***Only those sites denoted with an asterisk are open to the public.**



necticut

Fugitive slaves entered Connecticut from a number of points. Those entering from Stamford, New Haven or Old Lyme usually made their way to Farmington, the "Grand Central Station" of Connecticut, and then north to Westfield or Springfield, Massachusetts. Those entering from New London or Westerly, Rhode Island traveled north through Norwich to Putnam. From Putnam they moved on to Worcester, Massachusetts.

Farmington

The town of Farmington was the center for Underground Railroad activity in Connecticut. A number of forces brought this about but two are most significant.

One of those forces was the celebrated Amistad incident of 1839-41. While awaiting the decision of the United States Supreme Court concerning their status, the Amistad blacks were brought to Farmington in the spring of 1841. These men were very well liked by the townspeople. Their popularity helped break down local prejudice and establish an abolitionist fervor within the community.

The other event was the invitation by the respected and beloved Farmington minister Dr. Noah Porter to the Reverend Mr. James W.C. Pennington of Hartford to exchange pulpits. The intellect and eloquence of this former slave and outstanding black minister further broke down prejudice and paved the way for Underground Railroad activities in Farmington.

Geographically, Farmington was located on a system of turnpikes which linked with the state's capitals, New Haven and Hartford. In 1828 the Farmington Canal was opened for service. This convergence of transportation routes in Farmington made passage into and out of the community quick and efficient.

ELIJAH LEWIS HOUSE

Elijah Lewis was an active agent for the Underground Railroad. He was known to hide former slaves in his home and help them on their way north through Simsbury or via the Francis Gillette House in Bloomfield. From this point the runaway was taken north to Westfield, Massachusetts.

In the base of the huge chimney stack of the Lewis House a removable stone has been found. Squeezing through this tight place a fugitive could hide for hours until it was safe to move out.

AUSTIN F. WILLIAMS HOUSE

Austin Williams was one of the local citizens who made the provisions for receiving the Amistad Blacks into Farmington. Williams' carriage house was used to house them while they stayed in the community.

The cellar under the carriage house was a refuge for runaway slaves. The present owners of the house uncovered five layers of sound-deadening flooring over the trap door leading into the cellar.

SAMUEL DEMING HOUSE

This house is now the home of the headmaster for the Miss Porter's School. Samuel Deming lived here during the 1840's and was a colleague of Austin Williams. Deming's name is traditionally associated with Farmington's Underground Railroad activity and the Amistad Blacks.

SMITH-COWLES HOUSE

Horace Cowles was one of three known stationmasters in Farmington. Unfortunately, the Cowles residence has not remained intact, as is true of the other two stationmasters' homes. The chimney is all that remains as it stands as a lonely sentinel along the Waterville Road just before one reaches Avon.

TIMOTHY WADSWORTH HOUSE

Traditionally, this house has been linked to the Underground Railroad, but at present there is no documentation to confirm it. However, a concealed room in the cellar under the "ell" was discovered during restoration. A "slot" just below the roof peak over the old kitchen was also found. Both would have been ideal for hiding fugitive slaves from the bounty hunter.

Hartford - Bloomfield

Hartford was home for one of the most distinguished fugitive slaves in New England, Reverend James W. C. Pennington. Pennington was born a slave in Maryland in 1809, but escaped at the age of 20 and fled to Philadelphia.

By 1838 he had received a license to preach and began a long career as the pastor of the Talcott Street Congregational Church, where he became an active antislavery spokesman. The church was destroyed in the 1950's, but a plaque marking the site is at the corner of Talcott and Market Streets in downtown Hartford.

Photo: *Elijah Lewis House, 738 Farmington Avenue, Farmington*

FRANCIS GILLETTE HOUSE

Francis Gillette was the most prominent antislavery leader in the Hartford area. He was a trained lawyer, but chose to give his time to the family's ancestral farm and to work for social causes. By marriage he was related to the famous Henry Ward Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe,author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin".

In 1853 he and his brother-in-law, John Hooker, purchased a one hundred acre plot known as Nook Farm just west of Hartford. Many very distinguished people were attracted to build homes there, including Harriet Beecher Stowe and Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain). The Stowe House has been fully restored and is open to the public daily in Hartford.

Gillette served in the General Assembly of Connecticut in 1832 and 1838. During this time he fought to pass a bill to give blacks the right to vote. In 1854 he was elected to the United States Senate where he voted against the Kansas-Nebraska Act. This act would have opened all the unorganized territory of the Union to the evil of slavery.

In his large stone home in Bloomfield he reportedly welcomed and gave shelter to many runaway slaves. It is said that he sat with them and exchanged stories, and very likely none of them knew that they had enjoyed the security and hospitality of a United States Senator.

When Gillette later moved to Hartford, he used his barn as a shelter for the north-bound runaways. Unfortunately, the barn no longer stands.

Wilton

THE OVALS

Wilton was a center for fugitives entering Connecticut overland from New York. The name most associated with the activity there was the Wakeman family. Records of the Anti-Slavery Society list Levi Wakeman as secretary for several years. The name of William Wakeman was familiar throughout as both stationmaster and conductor. He would receive coded letters from other stationmasters concerning the arrival of new runaways so that he could make preparations to conduct them to Plymouth or Middletown.

Wakeman was a bold and tireless worker. He often personally conducted fugitives to Middletown, over 50 miles away. It was not unusual for him to work openly during the day carrying "packages of hardware and dry goods" to the next station. He was frequently threatened but never molested.

Oxford

WASHBAND TAVERN

This site was operated as a tavern by the Washband family for 125 years. It became known as the Civil War Tavern because it was used to harbor fugitive slaves making their way north over the western portion of Connecticut's Underground Railroad.

This is one of the few sites where there is sound documentation in the form of a family diary. Entries in the diary tell how fugitives were safely kept in the attic room of the tavern until they could be safely conducted on to Farmington or sometimes Torrington.

Eastern Connecticut

The eastern Connecticut spur of the Underground Railroad is very difficult to follow because most of the sites associated with known agents or conductors have been destroyed. This is especially true in Norwich, where most runaways coming from New London or Westerly, Rhode Island gathered to make their way north to Worcester, Massachusetts.

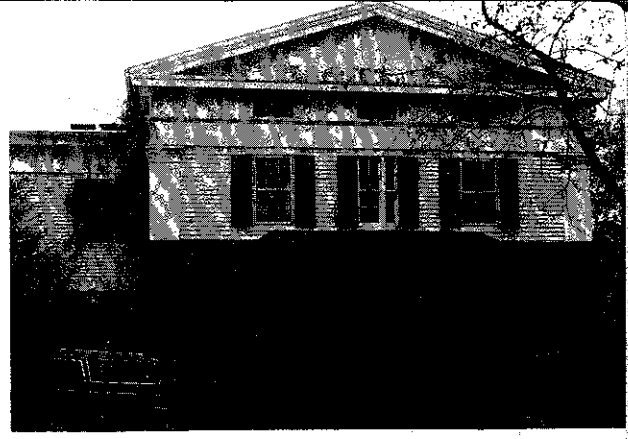
There is substantial oral tradition to link the Hempstead House in New London, and the Amon Tinker House in Old Lyme to the Underground Railroad.

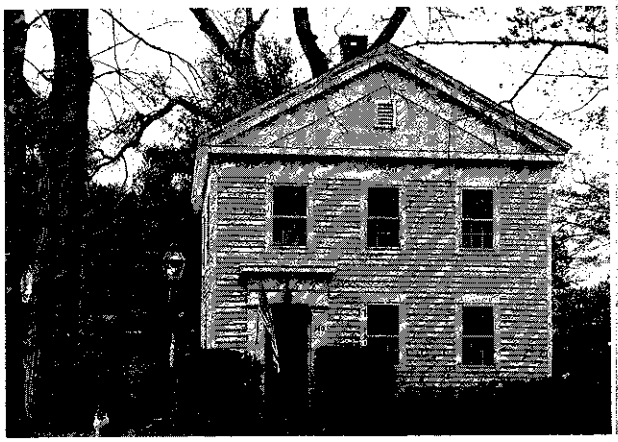
Canterbury

PRUDENCE CRANDALL HOUSE*

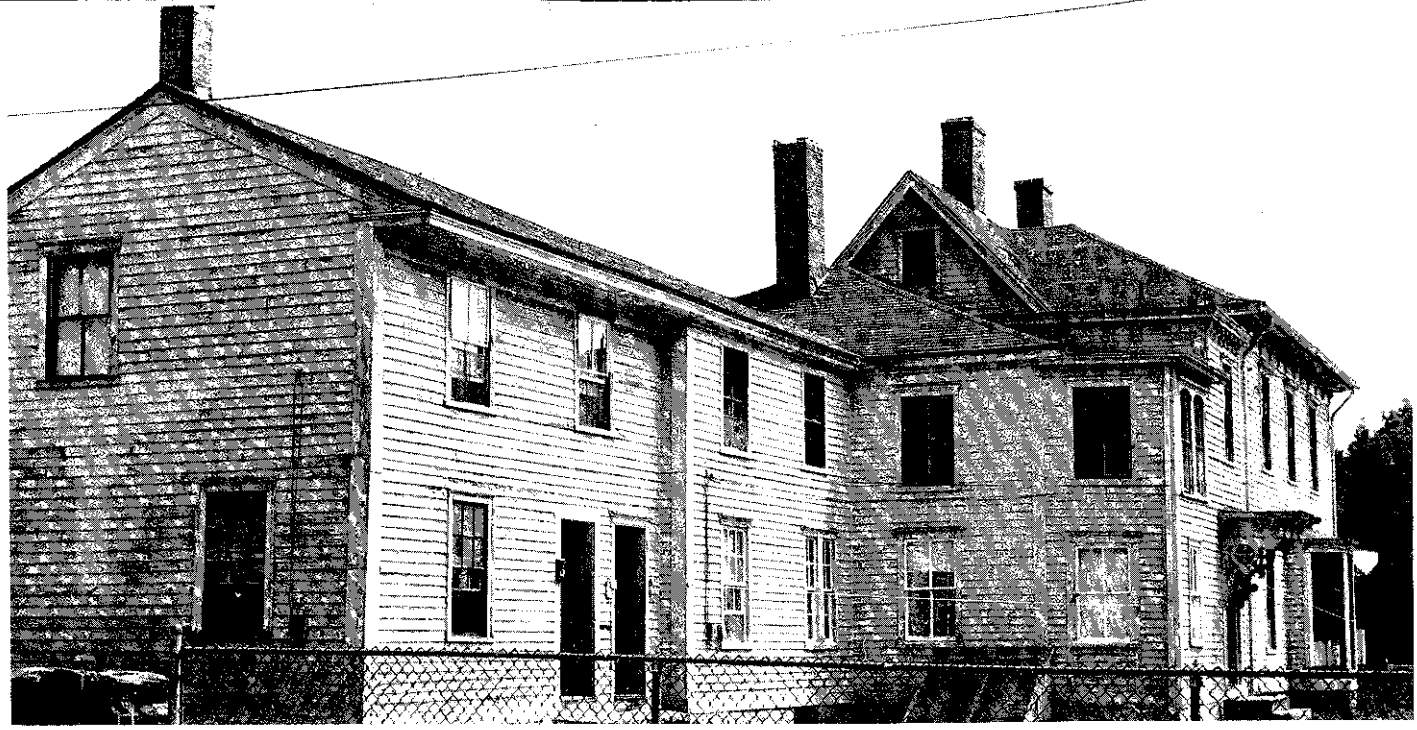
This house was not used to shelter slaves, but Prudence Crandall, who lived here from 1831 to 1834, was deeply involved with the abolitionist movement. She opened the first school for Blacks in New England at this site.

We do know that fugitive slaves came through Canterbury and likely stayed at a farm owned by Prudence Crandall's father.





Photos, top to bottom: *Austin F. Williams House, 127 Main Street, Farmington; Francis Gillette House, 511 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield; Timothy Wadsworth House, 340 Main St., Farmington; Prudence Crandall House, corner Routes 14 & 169, Canterbury.*



Rhode Island

Traveling toward the North Star under cover of darkness, a fugitive slave would reach Rhode Island and find shelter for a period of time. It might be for a stay of only one night, but often the shelter and the moral and financial assistance stretched out for months.

To reach Rhode Island many fugitives traveled by ship to New Bedford, Massachusetts, then overland to Fall River, Massachusetts, and finally to Rhode Island. From Rhode Island, they would continue their zig-zag route and move on to the more northern parts of Massachusetts.

Providence

MOSES BROWN HOUSE

In Providence the Underground Railroad stationmaster was Moses Brown, one of the great philanthropists of his time. Slaves who had escaped from their masters and blacks who were in danger of being sold into slavery found sanctuary in his home. Moses Brown's house, which was located on Wayland and Humbolt Avenues, is no longer standing. It was, however, one of the main stations on the Underground Railroad that ran from Quaker homes in New Bedford to inland Massachusetts. Although records of the escape route were scarce, references in Moses' correspondence suggest that he was considered the leader of the antislavery movement in New England. Appeals for financial aid received prompt and generous attention and he was always ready to go to the aid of a Negro in trouble with the authorities.

BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

Founded in 1795, the African Freedman's Society, which became the Bethel A.M.E. Church, was located on Meeting Street. Despite its own struggles for freedom of worship, the Society, led by Harriet Tubman, served as a station for runaway slaves.

Underground Railroad stations were kept secret, so it is difficult to get definite information about some sites. However, mentioned without documentation are two other churches, the historical First Baptist Church and the Pond Street Church.

Newport

ISAAC RICE HOMESTEAD

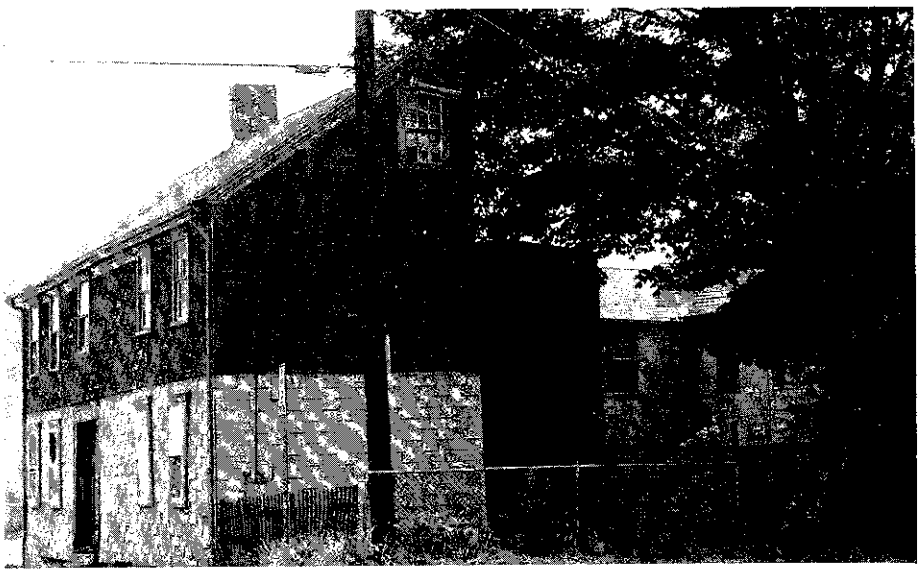
Born free in Narragansett in 1792, Isaac Rice was one of the outstanding black men in Newport and probably in Rhode Island. He was brought to Newport at an early age and lived there until his death in 1866. He spent many years as a gardner for Governor Gibbs and planted the trees that now grace Touro Park. He grew to manhood with an undying hatred of slavery. He had learned much of the horrors of this institution from the testimony of servants who spent summers in Newport with their masters. Rice's work in the antislavery cause was his most conspicuous service to his people. The Rice homestead at the corner of William and Thomas Streets in Newport was a station on the Underground Railroad. Both escaping slaves and abolitionists, such as Rice's friend Frederick Douglass, found food and shelter under Rice's hospitable roof. The home is still in the possession of the Rice family.

Central Falls

ELIZABETH BUFFUM CHACE HOUSE

There are many stories about the assistance given by women and even children to fleeing slaves during the era of the Underground Railroad. One of the outstanding women of the time was Elizabeth Buffum Chace, whose home, a very active station, is still standing in Central Falls. When she welcomed slaves, the town was called Valley Falls.

Photo: *Buffum Chace House, Hunt & Broad Streets, Central Falls.*



Elizabeth Buffum was brought up to despise slavery. Her grandfather's house had been a refuge, and in her autobiography she tells of one family staying for several months. Her grandfather had established them in a farm house and employed the man of the house and the older children. When a New York slave master came with an officer from Providence to get his slaves back and have Mr. Buffum arrested, Elizabeth was called upon with the rest of the children to form a barricade. With the help of neighbors the irate slave holder drove away empty-handed.

When she married Samuel Chace she found a companion as dedicated as herself to the cause. They first lived in Fall River and later moved to Valley Falls. Slaves who reached New Bedford were transferred to Fall River and then to the Chace's. They were then accompanied by Mr. Chace a short distance on the Providence and Worcester Railroad. They were left in the conductor's care to be transferred at Worcester to the Vermont Road. This circuitous journey is typical of many Underground Railroad routes.

Pawtucket

PIDGE FARM

Fugitive slaves also found shelter and help in a large barn on the Pidge Farm in Pawtucket. Owned by Ira Pidge, the barn was located on Pidge Avenue, and is at present the site of the Outlet Service Center. A mural in the Pawtucket City Hall is said to be a copy of the old Pidge House.

Westerly

CHARLES PERRY HOME

Still standing in Westerly, Rhode Island at 4 Margin Street is the home of Charles Perry. It has been written that the Perrys were as numerous as blackberries. In this maritime town antislavery activists were not popular. Charles Perry was greeted with scorn and mockery when he escorted Frederick Douglass to a meeting. The meeting was enlivened with missiles, eggs, and even pails of water from the gallery. Charles Perry sheltered fugitives in one of the strangest hideaways of the Underground Railroad. In a wooded area between King Tom's Farm and Shumuncanoc were stone huts topped with saplings and a sod roof. Here, far from pursuing southern sheriffs, slaves lived and waited until it was safe to continue their northward journey to Canada.

Another prominent figure in Underground Railroad activities was Jacob Babcock. Born in nearby Hopkinton on January 20, 1789, he was a man of talent and ability. In his youth he was sickly and not able to do manual work. From the ages of 16 to 21 he spent his time teaching school and music. He spent four years in Coventry learning to become a machinist and was later called to Schenectady, New York to establish a machine shop. After his marriage to Elizabeth Almy of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, he spent some time in Cornwell running a grist mill and a cotton carding industry. In 1831 he bought property now called Bethel and converted it into a woolen mill. Ostracized by friends and neighbors for his support of temperance reform, he had the courage and zeal to turn his home into a depot for the Underground Railroad. His home did a thriving business and "Uncle" Jacob became widely known as a friend of humanity. He lived to see the slaves freed and to receive congratulations for his labor from some of the very people who had previously scorned him.

Photos, top: *Isaac Rice House, 54 William Street, Newport;* bottom: *Charles Perry Home, 4 Margin Street, Westerly.*

Massachusetts

Four primary paths carried slaves through Massachusetts on their way to Canada. They entered Massachusetts by the Connecticut River, by rail carriers from Norwich, Connecticut, and Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and through the port of Boston on vessels from the south. Underground Railroad activists in the state then hid the fugitives in homes, mansions, hideaways, and even earthen tunnels, until movement further northward could be camouflaged by darkness.

Over fifty Underground Railroad sites, covering all sections of Massachusetts, have been mentioned in oral accounts passed through generations. About a third of the sites identified through oral tradition have been confirmed by written records.

Andover

THE JENKINS HOUSE

William Jenkins was born in Andover in 1795. Living on a farm owned by his grandfather, Jenkins became a strict abolitionist and immersed himself in the Underground Railroad movement. In an early history the farm, tucked into the thickly forested region of South Andover, was identified as a station on the route to Canada. It was often visited during the period by Harriet Beecher Stowe. Jenkins' headstone in Spring Grove Cemetery reads: "William Jenkins, 1796-1878. He lived to see the fulfillment of his great desire, the abolition of slavery in America." The present owners of the property have confirmed the existence of secret cellars used to hide slaves at this station on the Underground Railroad.

Concord

JONATHAN BALL RESIDENCE*

Currently the home of the Concord Art Association, the Jonathan Ball Residence contains hiding space around the beam and paneled chimney which is said to have been a haven for slaves. (Jonathan Ball, born in 1691 in Concord, was a goldsmith. His works in precious metal are on display at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.) Fugitive slaves would be brought to this station to be harbored overnight, then sped to West Fitchburg before daylight. Concord's Dr. Bartlett, more often than not, drove the slaves by stagecoach to West Fitchburg, and Henry David Thoreau usually went along as escort.

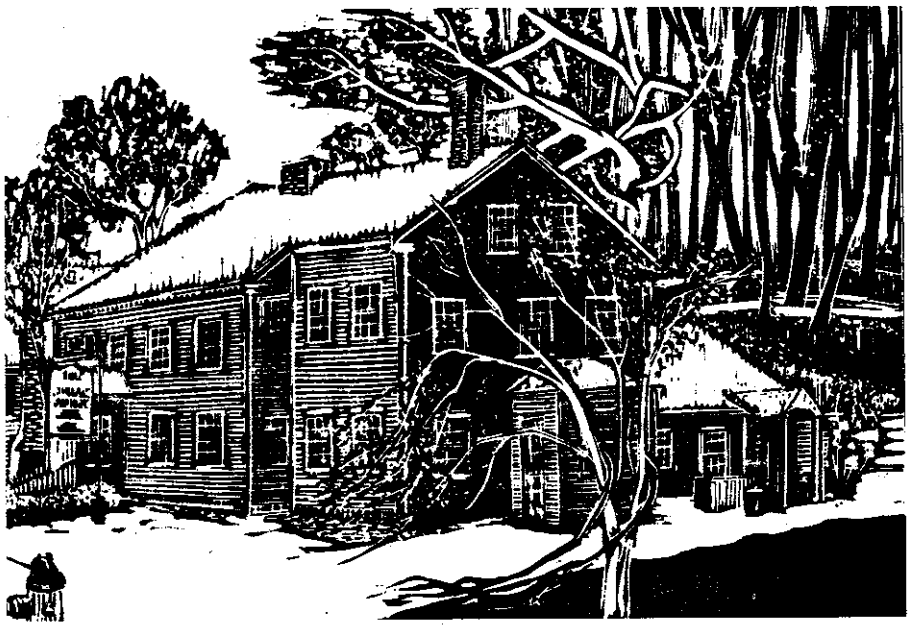
Newton

THE JACKSON HOMESTEAD*

In 1874 Ellen D. Jackson, daughter of William Jackson, wrote a vivid account of Underground Railroad activities at the Jackson Homestead. Peb-

Litho: *William Jenkins House, 89 Jenkins Road, Andover.*

bles tossed against the elder Jackson's window in the dead of night signalled the arrival of escaping slaves who had to be harbored for the night. They would hide between two chimney supports which were covered by boards and racks of vegetables in time of danger. Masters of the fugitives were often in Boston searching for the escapees. Boston, therefore, had to be avoided as the connecting point for transportation to Canada. Slaves were instead sent miles west to make the connection. The author writes of sewing circles convened at the homestead to sew clothes for the destitute slaves, and, in moving language, describes the compassion held by the ladies of Newton for the fugitives.



Leominster

JOHN DRAKE HOME AND EMORY STEARNS SCHOOLHOUSE

These two sites, as steeped in tradition as any stations on the Underground Railroad, are documented thoroughly in newspaper accounts and historical commission works.

John Drake, a Jacksonian Democrat born in Hampton, New Hampshire in 1804, became a shoemaker and lived in Lowell and Boston before settling in Leominster. His antislavery meetings at the Emory Stearns Schoolhouse attracted abolitionists like Isaac and Joel Smith, Edward Wilder, Benjamin Snow, and Samuel Crockery. William Lloyd Garrison, George Thompson, and Wendell Phillips were speakers during those meetings.

The famous slave Shadrack was harbored at these Leominster sites following his escape from a Boston courthouse. He was later moved along the railroad system to freedom in Canada. Written accounts relate the formation of "man hunting leagues" dedicated to restraining visiting slave owners, by force where necessary, until fugitives could be safely hidden or moved along the Underground Railroad toward freedom.

Worcester

LIBERTY FARM

Documented in the writings of Wilbur H. Siebert and Zelotes W. Coombs, the Liberty Farm in Worcester was a central rendezvous point on the Underground Railroad, and was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in September 1974. The old home is also referred to in the 1898 publication of a Siebert work that depicts the clandestine transportation provided from Boston to Worcester to the Stephen and Abby Kelley Foster place in the Worcester suburbs. That site became known as Liberty Farm. Abby Kelley was the first woman to speak out against slavery, and the Fosters later became famous for their refusal to pay taxes on their property because Abby was denied the vote.

Woodcut: *Jonathan Ball Residence (Concord Art Association), Lexington Road, Concord;* bottom: *John Drake Home, 21 Franklin Street and Emory Stearns Schoolhouse, 51 Franklin Street, Leominster.*

West Hatfield

THE COWLES HOUSE

The Cowles House, located on the escape route bordering the Connecticut River, is documented in the records of the Hatfield Historical Commission as a regular station on the Railroad. Further information has come to us orally from Howard B. Abbott and his mother, former owners of the property. Although remodeled twice through the years, the Cowles House still offers evidence of its antislavery history.

Florence

ROSS FARM AND CRITCHLOW FACTORY

Both sites in the Florence community are documented in published accounts as shelters for fugitive slaves. Austin Ross, according to author Charles A. Sheffeld, harbored a young fugitive for a year and a half in one of his chambers and employed him as a night watchman at the Greenville Cotton Mill. The slave, William Wilson, later returned south and came back with a young son. They then both went south in search of Wilson's daughter and sister. The younger man returned but William was captured and returned to slavery.

A.P. Critchlow worked in concert with abolitionists Samuel Hill and a gentleman named Hammon, and often provided employment for fugitives in his daguerreotype factory. Critchlow helped blacks to escape, and provided finances to help the former slaves make a start as free people.

Northampton

SETH HUNT HOUSES

The two houses owned by Seth Hunt in Northampton, located on the Connecticut River route, were prominently identified with the movement of fugitives along the Underground Railroad. Typical of the attitude of Northampton residents at the time, Hunt was outspoken against slavery. He was treasurer of the Connecticut River Railroad and one of the knowledgeable activists along the escape route.

East Longmeadow

ELIJAH BURT HOUSE

Originally known as Aaron Burt's Vineyard, where Burt lived as a hermit with his collection of animals and eccentricities, the property was the only known station in the community for fugitive slaves. To the left of the livingroom fireplace, a secret closet concealed a hidden staircase to an underground passageway. The tunnel exited deep in the woods behind the property so that fugitives could, under the cover of darkness, connect with the Railroad heading north to Canada. The property was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in early 1976.

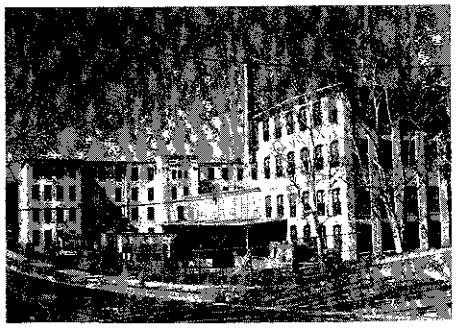
Millbury

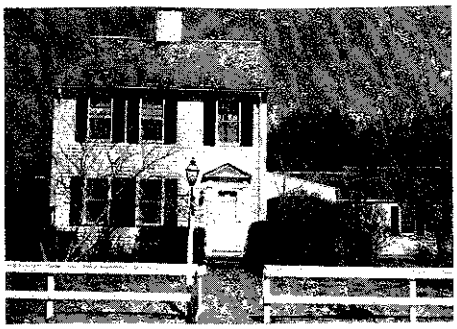
ASA WATERS II MANSION AND AUNT DELIA'S MANSION

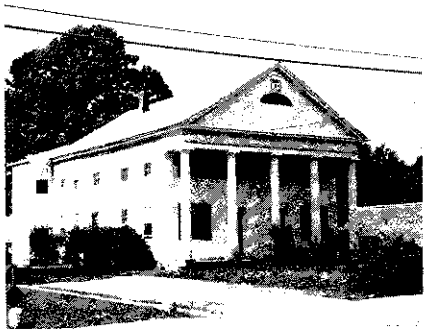
These twin sites, on opposite sides of Elm Street in Millbury, are known by oral legend as stations on the Underground Railroad, according to the Millbury Historical Society. The Asa Waters II Mansion has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Both sites are accessible to the Blackstone River and Canal, which are considered to have been routes for fugitives.

Litho: *William Jackson Homestead, 527 Washington Street, Newton*

Litho: *Liberty Farm, 116 Mower Street, Worcester*







In 1975 Lynn Johnson wrote vividly of the Millbury locale and fugitive operation: "It is a quiet route. No shrill whistle sounded, no bell was rung to warn of the approaching train, but silently and noiselessly it moved on in the darkness of night time, freighted with trembling, oppressed human beings excluded from God's sunlight which was created for all his creatures, black as well as white."

Access to these station hideaways could only be gained by scaling the steep cliffs of the Blackstone River.

BOSTON

THE FARWELL MANSION

Built by William Rice Carnes, this old brownstone mansion in the heart of Boston was his second effort. His first home, built nearby, did not meet his high standards.

The building is lavishly decorated with hand-carved furnishings and ornate gold and brass chandeliers. The first floor newel post is topped by a fascinating wood sculpture of a handsome setter, the pet of the builder's family.

Fugitive slaves were harbored in this residence until danger of discovery appeared imminent. The abolitionists would then hide the fugitives in the original mansion, which was kept in total darkness to give the appearance of being uninhabited. When danger passed, the fugitives would then be returned to the new residence.

The property is currently owned and maintained by the League of Women for Community Service, a benevolent society of Boston.

LEWIS HAYDEN HOUSE

The four-story building on Beacon Hill owned by Lewis Hayden, a slave who escaped from Kentucky in 1816, became a haven for fugitives after passage of the Fugitive Slave Law in 1850. Hayden worked with his wife Harriet and with Harriet Tubman to establish this station on the Underground Railroad. Hayden was one of two blacks elected to the Massachusetts Legislature in 1873. After his death in 1889 a scholarship fund at Harvard University was established in his name by his widow.

Photos, counter-clockwise starting top right: *Ross Farm, Meadow Street, and Critchlow Factory, Pine Street, Florence; Seth Hunt Houses at 22 Conz Street and 115 Bridge Street, Northampton; Elijah Burt House, 201 Chestnut Street, East Longmeadow; Asa Waters II Mansion and Aunt Delia's Mansion, both on Elm Street, Millbury.*

Lynn

GEORGE WASHINGTON RADDIN HOUSE

Several accounts of abolitionist activity in the City of Lynn were uncovered by the research of free-lance writer Nathan Gass.

In the period 1830-1860 families of pioneering businessmen (the Newhalls, the Breeds, the Silsbees, the Bassetts, the Mudges, the Boyces, the Buffums and others) were part of the movement to aid fugitive slaves. William Bassett was president of the Lynn Anti-Slavery Society.

Homes on Essex, Nahant and Boston Streets as well as the Hutchinson's residences at High Rock were reputed stations on the Underground Railroad.

The Raddin home still stands at 768 Boston Street. It was documented as an Underground Railroad site in a newspaper feature by the Lynn Item in 1911.

New Bedford

NATHAN JOHNSON HOME

Published as one of the city's bicentennial projects, "Guide to New Bedford's Black Heritage Trail" specifically refers to the Underground Railroad station operated by Nathan Johnson. The site is one of many purported, in oral tradition, to be a stop along the system.

New Bedford was recognized as a safe haven for fugitives who chose the sea as their route of escape. One such example is that of Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, who arrived in Newport from the South at the age of 21. He and his wife were provided transportation to New Bedford by Samaritans William C. Taber and Joseph Ricketson. It was Nathan Johnson who urged Bailey to change his name to the one we now recognize — Frederick Douglass.

Photo: *Farwell Mansion, 558 Mass. Avenue, Boston.*

Maine

Maine, surrounded as it is on three sides by Canada, and on the fourth by the Atlantic, was an ideal place for giving runaway slaves a boost toward freedom. Smuggled into a vessel bound for a Maine port, a fleeing slave, through the aid of well-wishers, would be only a short distance from Canada and freedom.

Gardiner

EPISCOPAL PARISH HOUSE

In the cellar of the Episcopal Parish House are twin arches about eight feet high. Beside one arch is a large square room of brick with a small entrance which was used to hide fugitive slaves. In another portion of the cellar is a large area of stone work against which is built another square room with an open doorway.

The secret room in the attic is a small square cubicle without windows, large enough for two persons. Entry was made by way of a pull-down stairway, which was pulled up after the person had entered the room. Another entrance, or exit, as the case might be, was across the chamber through the ell to the barn loft and down a set of stairs into the barn.

This house is located on the west bank of a river. The land sloping down to the river is heavily wooded and could easily hide a fugitive slave from view.

THE LAMB HOUSE

The Lamb House is a large Colonial home located about 200 feet from the west bank of the Kennebec River. Fugitive slaves came up the river by boat to this point and then were concealed in the Lamb home. In the cellar is an archway, now a storage area, which is said to have been the hiding place. There was also a large attic, now made into bedrooms, where the runaways were hidden under the eaves.

Augusta

THE NASON HOUSE

Built in 1804, the Nason House is said to be the fourth oldest house in Augusta. Behind a large bookcase is a removable panel which opens to reveal a secret room large enough to hold two people. It seems to have exited through to the cellar, from which the fugitive slaves could leave the house and continue their journey.

It is believed that this house was used to secrete slaves, who could then be guided to the Reuel Williams House across the river, and thence to the Farwell Mansion just over the Vassalboro line.

Photo: *Episcopal Parish House, 83 Dresden Avenue, Gardiner.*

THE REUEL WILLIAMS HOUSE

The Reuel Williams House played a large part in the Underground Railroad movement in Maine. This house, no longer standing, was a lovely mansion of fourteen rooms and halls, beautiful furnishings, and tapestry-like wallpaper. Surrounded by well-kept grounds, the back door of the house was on Cony Street, while the front was toward the river.

Vassalboro

THE FARWELL MANSION

Just over the Vassalboro town line stands a beautiful mansion with five white columns in the front. It was built by Capt. Ebenezer Farwell in 1842, but he and his family never lived in the house. Capt. Farwell was engaged in the slave market and was killed on a voyage to Africa.

Following Capt. Farwell's untimely death, his wife sold the property to Israel Weeks. Mrs. Isabelle Weeks Savage, a great, great granddaughter of Israel Weeks, was told many stories concerning runaway slaves who were secretly kept in the tunnel that opened into the cellar of the house.

China

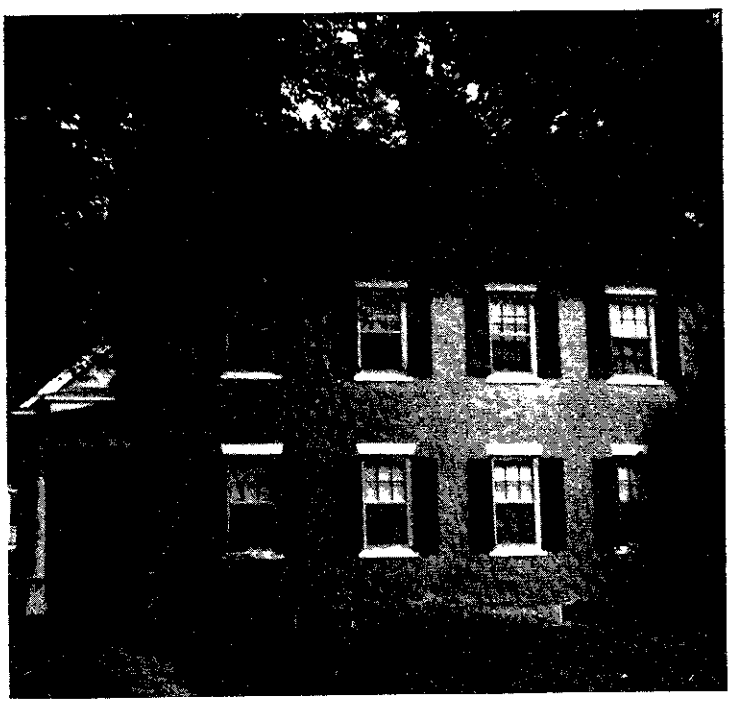
ABEL CHADWICK HOUSE

The name of Abel Chadwick of Kennebec County is frequently mentioned in Maine antislavery materials, for he was a known agent for the Underground Railroad. His home stood along Maine Route #3 in China, although the exact location cannot be determined.

Dirigo

THE AUGUSTINE JONES HOUSE

Fugitive slaves were brought to South China, China or Dirigo from Vassalboro. Augustine Jones kept a written journal for his children which contains a reference to the Underground Railroad activity in this area. The exact address of the house is not known because the journal only makes general reference to its location.



Photos, top: *Lamb House, 220 Main Ave., Gardiner;* bottom, left: *Nason House, 12 Summer Street, Augusta;* bottom, right: *Farwell Mansion, Riverside Drive, Vassalboro.*

New HampShire

Although no official action was taken by the State of New Hampshire to offset the effect of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, the moral climate developed by the antislavery movement within the state during the two-to-three decades prior to that time supported efforts to obstruct its provisions. This sentiment was in evidence as early as 1796 when it was demonstrated to the first President that there was opposition to the first fugitive slave act. In that year George Washington wrote to Joseph Whipple, Collector of Customs in Portsmouth, to return an escaped female slave unless the action would "incite a mob or riot, or even uneasy sensations in the minds of well-disposed citizens." Whipple replied that return would be impossible, public sentiment being too strong against it — "the first recorded refusal on moral grounds to return a slave."

Following the establishment of the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1833, state and local units were established, and by 1835 "The Abolitionist", soon renamed "The Herald of Freedom", was added to the list of sympathetic newspapers. In 1838 Nathaniel Peabody Rogers, "save possibly William Lloyd Garrison . . . the greatest newspaper champion of antislavery in the United States," became editor, leaving his Plymouth law practice and home to take the post.

There is evidence that Underground Railroad activities were operating in New Hampshire throughout this period of moral and political turmoil.

Canaan

FURBER-HARRIS HOUSE

Here, on the Underground Railroad route that came from Salem, Mass. and on to Lyme and Vermont, lived James Adams Furber and his father-in-law, John Hough Harris, both documented operators. Hough had helped fugitives toward Canada as early as 1830. Furber made trips to Lyme with fugitives about once a fortnight.

Their house has been so extensively rebuilt that only the original frame appears to have been incorporated within the present structure. The ante-bellum barn is little modified.

Across the road is the house in which fourteen blacks enrolled in nearby Noyes Academy were protected from harm when, in 1835, anti-abolitionists used 95 yoke of oxen to drag the school into a swamp, where it was later burned.

Among the ardent abolitionists in what is now the Canaan Street Historic District was Dr. Timothy Tilton. The anti-abolitionist demonstration prompted him to request that "The Slaves' Friend" be inscribed upon his gravestone, which can be seen in the Canaan Street Cemetery.

Canterbury

JOHN A. CHAMBERLAIN FARM

John Abbot Chamberlain, documented Underground Railroad operator, lived on the route that came from Salem, Mass. and Concord, N.H. and went on to Meredith Ridge. On two occasions in the late 1830's his nephew Mellen conducted fugitives from Concord to the Canterbury farm.

Mr. Chamberlain was deeply involved in community affairs. He was a cousin of the famous Canterbury native, Stephen Symonds Foster, whose early antislavery agitation took the form of interrupting public worship services in the churches of Concord, and who in 1845 married reformer Abby Kelley. Their Liberty Farm in Worcester, Mass. figured prominently in the Underground Railroad movement.

Concord

WHITE FARM

Concord was on a route that extended into the state from Salem, Mass. It is a matter of record that the "hospitable home (of Nathaniel and Armenia White) was a veritable station on the Underground Railroad." A surviving granddaughter recalls her grandmother's stories about fugitive slaves arriving at the farm on foot or horseback and being sheltered in the attic or the haymow.

The Whites were among Concord's most prominent citizens and gave considerable energy and

financial support to a variety of local and state charitable and philanthropic efforts. They were members of the Anti-Slavery Society from its inception.

Mr. White's business was in transportation. He held major shares in various stage lines and later in the railroad, delivering goods throughout New Hampshire and into Canada. This business ultimately became the American Express Company. There is no record of the enterprise ever having been tied into the Underground Railroad, but the possibilities are interesting to contemplate.

Littleton

THE CARLETON HOUSE

Edmund Carleton was a stationmaster on the Underground Railroad. Although a lawyer, he abandoned the profession and operated a lumber business. He was appointed by the State to direct the work of building a road through to the south of Franconia Notch.

His commitment to the abolitionist movement is indicated by his contacts with William Lloyd Garrison. The Library of Congress later purchased his collection of Garrison's newspaper, "The Liberator", which they called "one of the most perfect obtainable."

In 1837 and again in 1841 he and his wife Mary, whose zeal was largely responsible for the founding of the Littleton Anti-Slavery Society, began to prod the members of the local Congregational Church into severing relationships with churches admitting slaveholders to membership. This met with only partial success.

In 1842 Carleton used his training as a lawyer to defend Nat Allen and Erastus Brown after their arrest for interfering with the worship services of the church by making abolitionist statements. The men, whose cases were widely publicized by the press, were convicted and placed in the county jail after rejecting the choice of paying fines.

Milford

LEONARD CHASE HOUSE

Local histories record that the home of Leonard Chase was a station on the Underground Railroad. Chase was a leading force in a widely advertised, anti-slavery rally held in 1843 to protest the imprisonment of a local printer, Thomas Parnell Beach, for making public statements against slavery in Newburyport, Mass.

The other house in this handsome set of "twins" was built by Daniel Putnam, Chase's business partner, who shared his views on slavery and temperance.

Milford was also the home of the famous Hutchinson Family, singers whose anti-slavery and temperance songs made them popular at rallies throughout the North and in England.

Peterborough

DEACON MOSES CHENEY HOME

The western half of this brick house was the home of the ardent abolitionist Moses Cheney from 1835 to 1845. During this period it served as a station on the Underground Railroad. From here one of the Cheney boys would guide fugitives up Windy Row, a few rods to the west, and on to their next stop at Hancock. Frederick Douglass

Photos, top left to right: *Furber-Harris House, Back Bay & Fox Hill Roads, Canaan; Chamberlain Farm, West Road, Canterbury; White Farm, Clinton Street, Concord;* bottom: *Carleton House, 32 Carleton Street, Littleton.*

Salem

SITE OF THE PATTEE HOMESTEAD*

This amazing archeological site was long known locally as Pattee's Caves, a family of that name having held land in the vicinity since 1744.

The homestead that was built over a portion of the stone ruins burned in 1855.

According to Professor Wilbur H. Siebert, the site afforded refuge to fugitive slaves coming from Andover, Mass.

was a houseguest when he was in Peterborough to speak at a meeting of the New England Anti-Slavery Society in the old Town House early in 1840.

Oren Burbank Cheney, like his father, had an active anti-slavery record. The Free Will Baptist denomination that spread from its New Hampshire beginnings both nurtured his viewpoints and gained strength from him. In 1839 it took the step, virtually unprecedented at the time, of severing connections with communions that included slaveholders in their fellowhips. Four years later it organized an Anti-Slavery Society over which he at one time presided. As founder and first president of what became Bates College, the denomination's top educational institution in New England, Cheney introduced the policy of admitting blacks. Blacks also benefited from his efforts in establishing Storer College at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Meanwhile, between 1843 and 1845, he operated a branch of the Underground Railroad that extended from Portland, Maine to Effingham, New Hampshire.

Weare

MOSES SAWYER HOUSE

The home of Moses Sawyer, with the quarters for fugitives still preserved in the cellar, was a link in the Underground Railroad network.

Sawyer was a cousin of Robert Brown of West Newbury, Mass., who maintained Underground Railroad connections with Sawyer and with Thomas Folsom at the latter's Epping home, now known as The Latchstring. A Quaker, as were these others, Sawyer's humanitarian upbringing was reinforced by his acquaintance with John Greenleaf Whittier and William Lloyd Garrison.

The county history indicates that Frederick Douglass commenced writing his autobiography while visiting the Sawyer home.

Nearby is Clinton Grove Academy, established in 1834 by Moses A. Cartland, a Quaker teacher of reknown, whose family was closely associated with the Friend's Yearly Meeting School — later the Moses Brown School — in Providence, R.I. Mr. Cartland maintained close ties with his second cousin, John Greenleaf Whittier.

Photos, top: *Deacon Moses Cheney Home, Upper Union Street, Peterborough;* bottom: *Moses Sawyer House, N.H. Route 77, Weare.*

The Underground Railroad in Vermont developed in the late 1820's and continued to serve fugitive slaves through the early years of the Civil War. The system consisted of two major trunk lines, a western line from Bennington to Burlington and an eastern line from Brattleboro to Montpelier (where the route diverged into three branch lines). Though traffic along the Railroad was continuous during the 1830's, 1840's, and 1850's, the busiest period was from 1840 to 1850.

By 1837 there were nearly one hundred anti-slavery societies in Vermont. They had a combined membership of 8000 out of a population of 288,000. The anti-slavery societies and the Underground Railroad thus grew up together and are practically synonymous.

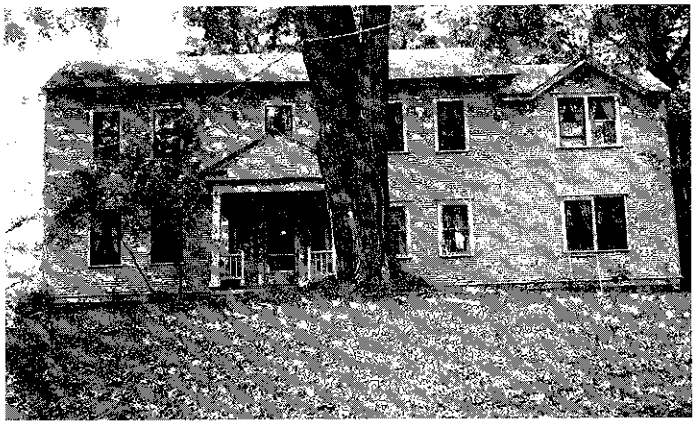
Vermont

Ferrisburg

ROWLAND T. ROBINSON HOUSE*

Rowland T. Robinson was a Quaker whose family moved to Vermont from Rhode Island in 1793. Robinson, a friend of Isaac T. Hopper, William Lloyd Garrison, Lucretia Mott, Rev. Samuel J. May, and Frederick Douglass, was the most active stationmaster in Ferrisburg. A room called the "east chamber" or "slave room" was reserved for fugitives. It adjoined the far end of a bedroom and was entered by an inconspicuous door. Fugitives were driven at night to the next station, either in North Ferrisburg, Charlotte, or even, if necessary, East Montpelier.

His home, known as "Rokeby", is now a museum open most weekdays to the public.

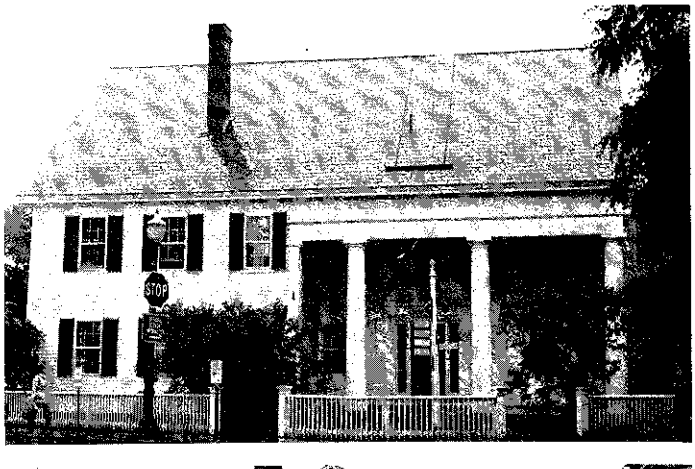


Woodstock

TITUS HUTCHINSON HOUSE

Titus Hutchinson, a former Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, was an active stationmaster in Woodstock. Fugitives would arrive at his home from South Woodstock and would be sent on to Royalton or Stafford (where they would meet fugitives arriving from Lyme, New Hampshire).

An underground tunnel running from the Hutchinson home to the Kedron River was recently discovered during construction for a bridge. The tunnel, which is approximately four tenths of a mile long, is closed. The Hutchinson house currently is used for business offices and a clothing shop.

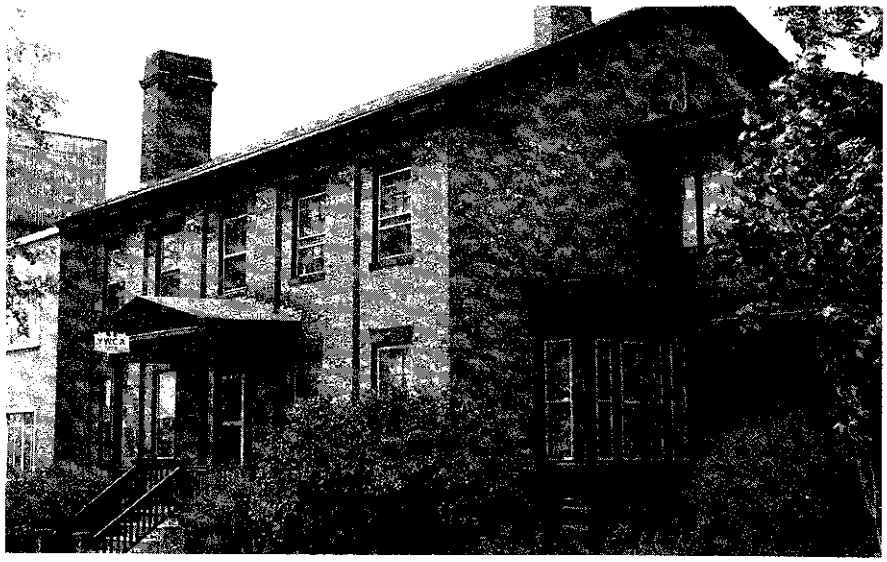


West Windsor

BEZALEEL BRIDGE HOME

The Bridge family home is located on Sheddsville Cemetery Road in the section of West Windsor that was originally known as Sheddsville. From 1848-1863 the house was owned by Bezaleel Bridge, Jr. Though there is no documentation on the subject, oral tradition in West Windsor indicates that fugitives stayed at the Bridge home in a hiding place behind the central chimney. The fugitives would then have moved on to South Woodstock or Hartland Four Corners.

Photos, top to bottom: *Rowland T. Robinson House, VT Route 7, Ferrisburg; Titus Hutchinson House, One the Green, Woodstock; Rev. Joshua Young Home, 98 So. Willard Street, Burlington.*



Burlington

REV. JOSHUA YOUNG HOME

The former home of the Reverend Joshua Young is on the corner of Willard and College Streets in Burlington. Reverend Young became pastor of the "new North Church" in the north end of Boston in 1849. In 1852 he moved to Burlington to become pastor of the Congregational Unitarian Church. He continued the practice of secreting fugitives that he had begun in Boston. Though he avoided taking them into his home, he did harbor fugitives in his barn as well as in various other cellars, garrets, barns, homes and offices in the area. It is believed that Mrs. Young and Mrs. Salmon Wires (who lived across the street from the Youngs) actually coordinated the comings and goings of the fugitives since the activities of the wives were less likely to be scrutinized.

In 1859 Rev. Young attended the funeral of John Brown and preached at the ceremony. The next day the Burlington newspaper denounced Young and, shortly thereafter, six of the most prominent families in his parish withdrew from the church. Rev. Young was socially ostracized and resigned within a year.

JOHN WHEELER HOME*

John Wheeler was a minister and the sixth President of the University of Vermont. In 1819 he lived in Charleston and Cambridge, South Carolina, and established religious services for slaves in those cities. When he returned to Vermont he kept informed on the slavery issue. According to oral tradition this interest led him to assist fugitives as they traveled north to Canada. The Wheeler home now houses the History Department of the University of Vermont.

MARK RICE HOUSE*

Mark Rice was the owner of a chair factory. He purchased this home from Moses Catlin, who was married to Ira and Ethan Allen's neice. (Ira Allen founded the University of Vermont.) Once again according to oral tradition, two basement rooms that were added to hold supplies and arms during the War of 1812 were later used to hide fugitive slaves. The house is two blocks from the Wheeler house.

Photos, top to bottom: *Mark Rice House, 278 Main Street, and Salmon Wires House, 118 So. Willard Street, Burlington; Bezaleel Bridge Home, Sheddsville Cemetery Road, West Windsor.*

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The Underground railroad in New England

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE
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Addresses of Underground Railroad Sites

CONNECTICUT

Elijah Lewis House
738 Farmington Ave.
Farmington, CT

Austin F. Williams House
127 Main St.
Farmington, CT

Samuel Deming House
66 Main St.
Farmington, CT

Smith-Cowles House
27 Main St.
Farmington, CT

Timothy Wadsworth House
340 Main St.
Farmington, CT

Francis Gillette House
511 Bloomfield Ave.
Bloomfield, CT

The Ovals
Seely Rd.
Wilton, CT

Washband Tavern
Oxford, CT

Prudence Crandall House
Corner of Rts. 14 and 169
Canterbury, CT

RHODE ISLAND

Moses Brown House
No longer standing
(Providence)

Bethel A.M.E. Church
No longer standing
(Providence)

Isaac Rice Homestead
54 William St.
Newport, R.I.

Elizabeth Buffum Chace House
Corner of Hunt & Broad Sts.
Central Falls, R.I.

Pidge Farm
Pidge Ave.
Pawtucket, R.I.

Charles Perry Home
4 Margin St.
Westerly, R.I.

MASSACHUSETTS

Jenkins House
89 Jenkins Rd.
Andover, MA

Jonathan Ball Residence
Lexington Rd.
Concord, MA

Jackson Homestead
527 Washington St.
Newton, MA

John Drake Home
21 Franklin St.
Leominster, MA

Emory Stearns Schoolhouse
51 Franklin St.
Leominster, MA

Liberty Farm
116 Mower St.
Worcester, MA

Cowles House
15 Vatley St.
West Hatfield, MA

Ross Farm
Meadow St.
Florence, MA

Critchlow Factory
Pine St.
Florence, MA

Seth Hunt Houses
22 Conz St.; 115 Bridge St.
Northampton, MA

Elijah Burt House
201 Chestnut St.
East Longmeadow, MA

Asa Waters II Mansion
Elm St.
Millbury, MA

Aunt Delia's Mansion
Elm St.
Millbury, MA

George Washington
Raddin House
768 Boston St.
Lynn, MA

Nathan Johnson Home
21 Seventh St.
New Bedford, MA

Farwell Mansion
558 Massachusetts Ave.
Boston, MA

Lewis Hayden House
66 Phillips St.
Boston, MA

MAINE

Episcopal Parish House
83 Dresden Ave.
Gardiner, ME

Lamb House
220 Main Ave.
Gardiner, ME

Nason House
12 Summer St.
Augusta, ME

Reuel Williams House
No longer standing (Augusta)

Farwell Mansion
Riverside Dr.
Vassalboro, ME

Abel Chadwick House
Rte. 3
China, ME

Augustine Jones House
Exact site unknown
Dirigo, ME

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Furber-Harris House
Corner of Back Bay and
Fox Hill Rds.
Canaan, N.H.

John A. Chamberlain Farm
West Rd.
Canterbury, N.H.

White Farm
Clinton St.
Concord, N.H.

Carleton House
32 Carleton St.
Littleton, N.H.

Leonard Chase House
15 High St.
Milford, N.H.

Deacon Moses Cheney Home
Upper Union St.
Peterborough, N.H.

Site of the Pattee Homestead
Rte. 111; follow signs for
Mystery Hill
Salem, N.H.

Moses Sawyer House
Rte. 77
Weare, N.H.

VERMONT

Rev. Joshua Young Home
98 So. Willard St.
Burlington, VT

John Wheeler Home
Corner of Main and So.
Prospect Sts.
Burlington, VT

Salmon Wires House
118 So. Willard St.
Burlington, VT

Mark Rice House
278 Main St.
Burlington, VT

Rowland T. Robinson House
Rte. 7
Ferrisburg, VT

Titus Hutchinson House
One the Green
Woodstock, VT

Bezaleel Bridge Home
Sheddsville Cemetery Rd.
West Windsor, VT

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL
1776-1976