

HARPERS FERRY

Sites 1-4 are located in lower town Harpers Ferry, where parking is limited.

SITE 1 – ENGINE HOUSE OF THE FEDERAL ARSENAL (JOHN BROWN'S FORT)

GPS Tag – 39°19'24"N, 77°43'48"W

Address – Shenandoah Street

The Engine House of the Federal Arsenal, commonly known as John Brown's Fort, is the site where abolitionist John Brown and 21 men, 16 white and five black (Lewis Sheridan Leary, Dangerfield Newby, John Anthony Copeland, Jr., Shields Green and Osborn Perry Anderson) attempted to seize the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry in 1859 to free the

slaves of Virginia. Since the battle, the Fort has been relocated several times, including on the Murphy Farm and the Storer College campus. The Fort is now located in lower town Harpers Ferry



on Shenandoah Street. A monument now stands at the original site of the Fort (on the hillside of Potomac Street near the railroad station).

SITE 2 – JOHN BROWN MUSEUM, HEYWARD SHEPHERD MONUMENT, & W.E.B. DU BOIS RESPONSE MARKER

GPS Tag – 39°19'24"N, 77°43'50"W

Address – High and Shenandoah Streets

John Brown Museum

The John Brown Museum is located in lower town Harpers Ferry at the intersection of High and Shenandoah Streets. The museum pays tribute to the heroism and cause of John Brown and the Provisional Army.



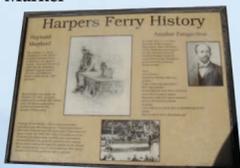
Heyward Shepherd Monument

In 1931, a stone monument was erected by the Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans as a memorial to Heyward Shepherd. Heyward Shepherd, a free black man, was the first person shot during John Brown's revolt in Harpers Ferry. During the original ceremony, the memorial was applauded by

some and denounced by others because of the docile tone of the inscription. The monument remains a source of controversy. It is located outside the north wall of the John Brown Museum, near the intersection of Potomac and Shenandoah Streets.

W.E.B. Du Bois Response Marker

In 1932, William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, founder of the Niagara Movement, and a founder of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), responded to the Heyward Shepherd Monument by penning these words: "Here John Brown aimed at human slavery a blow that woke up a guilty nation. With him fought seven slaves and sons of slaves. Over his crucified corpse marched 200,000 black soldiers and 4,000,000 freed men singing 'John Brown's body lies a moldering in the grave, but his soul goes marching on.'" The Du Bois marker is located next to the Shepherd monument, outside the north wall of the John Brown Museum, near the intersection of Potomac and Shenandoah Streets.



SITE 3 – AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM (BLACK VOICES)

GPS Tag – 39°19'24"N, 77°43'52"W

Address – Shenandoah Street

Located in lower town Harpers Ferry, the African American History Museum is exclusively dedicated to ancestors native to Harpers Ferry, but is relevant to all guests. This audio-visual museum takes visitors through the historical paths from slavery to freedom.



SITE 4 – STORER COLLEGE – NIAGARA MOVEMENT MUSEUM

GPS Tag – 39°19'24"N, 77°43'52"W

Address – Shenandoah Street

The Storer-Niagara Museum is located in lower town Harpers Ferry. It houses three rooms of exhibits dedicated to education and the struggle for equality. In the foyer, visitors are greeted with bold reminders of the journey toward freedom for all Americans. A tiny replica of a classroom, representative of the past, stimulates the imaginations of young visitors. A wealth of information to read is displayed on the walls in each room. One wall honors African American presidents of Storer College. Another bestows photographs of its graduates. The final room in the self-guided tour highlights the works of Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois, and other leaders and activists determined to eradicate Jim Crow laws and segregation.



SITE 5 – HILLTOP HOUSE HOTEL

GPS Tag – 39°19'35"N, 77°44'11"W

Address – East Ridge Street

The historic Hilltop House sat on a mountaintop overlooking the Potomac River. The original proprietor of the Hilltop House was Thomas Lovett, a third generation African American property owner in Harpers Ferry. The Hilltop House provided accommodations for visitors to Storer College. Meetings for the Niagara Movement were held at the Hilltop House as well as on the Storer College campus. From its beginning in 1888, the historic Hilltop House hosted other notable such as Alexander Graham Bell, Mark Twain, and President Woodrow Wilson. Ownership of the Hilltop Hotel remained in the Lovett family until it was sold in 1926. The site of the original Hilltop House can be viewed from a distance. Directions: From lower town Harpers Ferry, proceed west on High Street which turns into Washington Street (Bolivar). Turn right on Jackson Street. At the top of the hill, turn right onto East Ridge Street.

SITE 6 – STORER COLLEGE

GPS Tag – 39°19'26"N, 77°44'27"W

Address – Filmore Street

Storer College was located on Filmore Street in the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The Soldiers Gate is at the entrance to the Storer campus. This gate pays tribute to Storer's alumni who served in the Civil War, the Spanish American War, and World War I. Founded at the end of the Civil War through the combined efforts of the Freedmen's Bureau and the Freewill Baptist missionaries, the school opened on October 2, 1867, in a government-owned building known as Lockwood House, which served as dormitory, church and classroom. There were 19 students and two teachers. John Storer from Maine, donated \$10,000 to open a school for newly-freed slaves. He stipulated that the school must be integrated and co-ed. From its beginnings, Storer functioned as the only state institution of higher education for black students until the West Virginia Colored Institute opened in 1891. Storer College closed in 1955. Frederick Douglass served on the Storer College Board of Trustees.



SITE 7 – THE GREAT TABLET

GPS Tag – 39°19'26"N, 77°44'27"W

Address – Filmore Street

In 1932, the NAACP planned to erect the Great Tablet on the Storer College campus in tribute to John Brown. The NAACP request was refused by the College President and the Board of Trustees, for fear of racial violence. In July 2006, during the 97th Annual NAACP Convention in Washington, DC, the Great Tablet was placed on the Storer College campus by NAACP delegates, with its original inscription from May 21, 1932.



SITE 8 – ANTHONY HALL (STORER COLLEGE ROOM)

GPS Tag – 39°19'26"N, 77°44'27"W

Address – Filmore Street

Anthony Hall, as it was called during the Storer College era, was later renamed the Mather Building. It stands stately in the center of the gated Storer College campus, semi-surrounded by former college classroom buildings and pictorial markers. The Storer College Room, dedicated to the legacy of the college, is located in this building. This brick edifice is now part of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and is used as a federal training facility.

SITE 9 – CURTIS MEMORIAL CHAPEL

GPS Tag – 39°19'30"N, 77°44'28"W

Address – Filmore Street

The Curtis Memorial Chapel (formerly known as the Curtis Free Will Baptist Church) is located opposite the former Storer College campus. The Free Will Baptist missionaries from New England came to the south to establish churches and schools for newly freed slaves. For more than two decades, worship services were held at Storer College, first in Lockwood House, and after 1869, in the college chapel in Anthony Hall. The present Chapel was dedicated on May 27, 1896, and continued to provide a place for worship to Storer College students and faculty until 1955 when the college closed. Much of the interior wood work and exterior stone and brick work of the Chapel were done by students from Storer College under the direction of Hamilton

Hatter, a native of the county, and a teacher and former student at Storer.

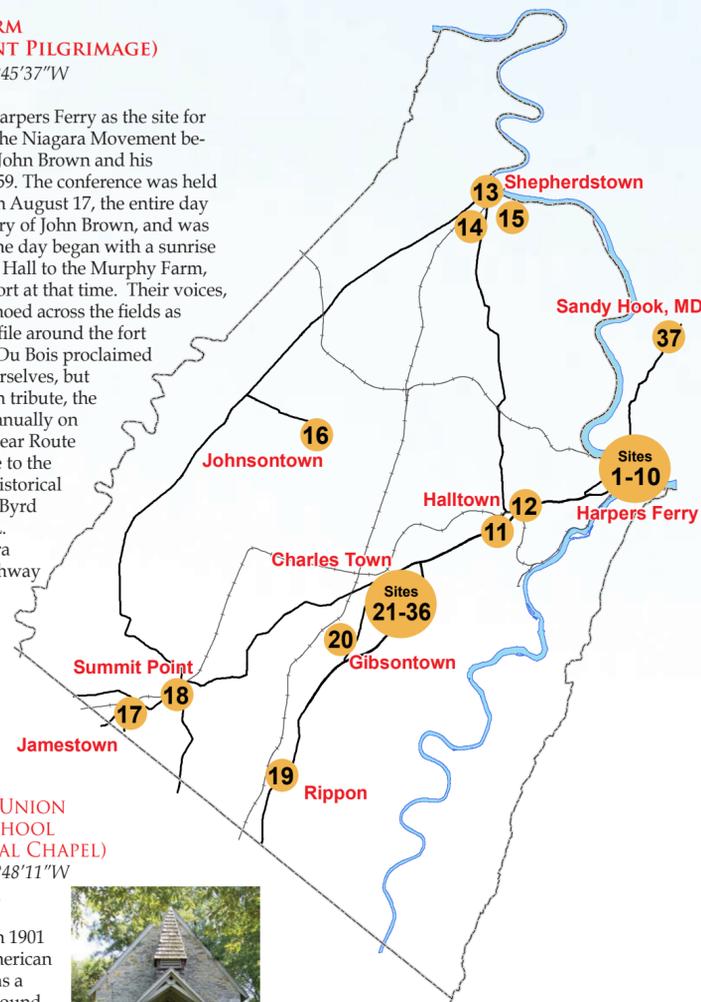


SITE 10 MURPHY FARM (NIAGARA MOVEMENT PILGRIMAGE)

GPS Tag – 39°18'45"N, 77°45'37"W

Address – Murphy Lane

W.E.B. Du Bois selected Harpers Ferry as the site for the second conference of the Niagara Movement because of its connection to John Brown and his effort to end slavery in 1859. The conference was held on August 15-19, 1906. On August 17, the entire day was devoted to the memory of John Brown, and was called John Brown Day. The day began with a sunrise pilgrimage from Anthony Hall to the Murphy Farm, the site of John Brown's Fort at that time. Their voices, numbering 100 strong, echoed across the fields as they sang, walking single file around the fort as a light rain fell. W.E.B. Du Bois proclaimed it was "a battle, not for ourselves, but for all true Americans." In tribute, the pilgrimage is reenacted annually on Murphy's Farm, located near Route 340 and the main entrance to the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. U.S. Senator Robert Byrd and NAACP's Benjamin L. Hooks dedicated a Niagara Movement Memorial Highway Marker in August, 2006. Directions: Turn right on Shoreline Drive, then a sharp right on Campground Road to a left on Murphy Lane.



HALLTOWN

SITE 11 – HALLTOWN UNION COLORED SUNDAY SCHOOL (HALLTOWN MEMORIAL CHAPEL)

GPS Tag – 39°18'34"N, 77°48'11"W

Address – Halltown Road

The Halltown Memorial Chapel was constructed in 1901 by Halltown's African American community. What began as a thriving Sunday school around 1900 evolved into a Baptist congregation, and finally served as a community chapel between 1901 and the mid-1960s. The chapel fell into disrepair for nearly 20 years, but was restored and reopened in 1984 for community use and social events such as weddings. This picturesque one-room chapel is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



SITE 12 – HALLTOWN COLORED SCHOOL

GPS Tag – 39°18'34"N, 77°48'11"W

Address – Halltown Road

The Halltown Colored School was built in 1908, and it still stands directly behind the Halltown Memorial Chapel. This one-room school educated African American students, and remained in use until 1930.



SHEPHERDSTOWN

SITE 13 – TOLIVER BUILDING

GPS Tag – 39°25'48"N, 77°48'14"W

Address – Princess and German Streets

J.M. Toliver, an African American, owned a successful business in downtown Shepherdstown. In 1894, his well-established restaurant burned down. He later built the large brick building located on the corner of Princess and German Streets, where he owned and operated a restaurant and an ice cream parlor.

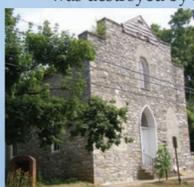


SITE 14 – OLD ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH)

GPS Tag – 39°25'56"N, 77°48'24"W

Address – Church and High Streets

The members of this church believe its origin dates back to 1859. This information was not documented, but is supported by the fact that Asbury's first building, located on Rocky Street in Shepherdstown, was destroyed by fire during the Civil War. It is believed the forebearers of Asbury were St. Andrew's Episcopalians who, after the Civil War, became African Methodist Episcopalians. As slaves, they could not purchase property, so their deed to the church building was held by the white congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church. On December 19, 1867, Asbury's trustees purchased a building at Church and High Streets in Shepherdstown from Trinity Episcopal Church. This was the same structure that the slave congregation of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church had purchased and held worship services in. St. Andrew's was dissolved in 1900.



SITE 15 – THE OLD SCHOOL

GPS Tag – 39°26'01"N, 77°48'34"W

Address – 104 Brown's Lane

The Old School on Brown's Alley was the oldest known school for black students in Shepherdstown. This one-room structure was built in 1866 with bricks from the armory buildings in Harpers Ferry. The Old School closed in 1883, and today it is a private residence.

JOHNSONTOWN

SITE 16 – JOHNSONTOWN

GPS Tag – 39°20'25"N, 77°53'26"W

Address – Johnstown Road

Johnstown was founded by free African Americans, George W. and Betty Johnson, in 1848 on 12 acres. It was the first free black community in the state. The Johnsons and other families built a number of homes and a log, one-room graded school, which also served as a meeting place and housed religious activities until Zion Baptist Church was erected in 1898. Many burials in the adjacent cemetery represent former families. During World War I, 12 black women of the Johnstown Auxiliary of the Jefferson County Red Cross made garments for the refugee children of Belgium and France. The auxiliary met in the "colored school house" in Johnstown.



SUMMIT POINT

SITE 17 – JAMESTOWN

GPS Tag – 39°14'20"N, 77°59'00"W

Address – Jamestown Road

Only a few remnants of this black community remain. The Jamestown Cemetery is co-located with the Prosperity Baptist Church, which is approximately 120 years old. It is the burial site for many African American soldiers from the Korean War and World War II, and perhaps World War I. Today, the cemetery is known as Prosperity Cemetery. The church formerly was situated a few miles away in Summit Point. It was dismantled and hauled by wagons to its current location.

SITE 18 – SLAVE CABIN AT MT. ELLEN PLANTATION

GPS Tag – 39°15'07"N, 77°57'01"W

Address – 3427 Summit Point Road

A slave cabin and one slightly larger cabin that was used as a tollgate house are present at Mt. Ellen Plantation. The two cabins were moved there from the nearby Mt. Pleasant area. Today, both cabins are refurbished with new roofs and rebuilt chimneys, but the authenticity of the original workmanship remains. The Mt. Ellen Plantation (once known as Grantham's Mansion) is privately-owned.



RIPPON

SITE 19 – OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST CHURCH

GPS Tag – 39°13'00"N, 77°54'24"W

Address – Rt. 340 South

The Old School Baptist Church was the first African American church in the Rippon community. It was torn down years ago; however, it was just a stone's throw away from the New School Baptist Church, known today as the Sylvannah Praise, Worship and Healing Center. The Rippon Community Cemetery, which contains gravesites dating back to the 1800s, was between the two churches. The cemetery is now situated on private property. This historic site is west of the Sylvannah Center, just off Rt. 340, the main artery between Rippon and Charles Town.

GIBSONTOWN

SITE 20 – GIBSONTOWN

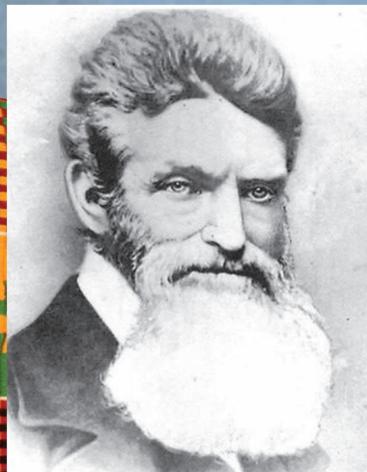
GPS Tag – 39°16'07"N, 77°52'28"W

Address – Gibsontown Road

Gibsontown was a small African American community located a few miles south of Charles Town on Rt. 340 South. The main remnant of this community is the Fairview Cemetery, established in 1888. This cemetery, originally named "Ventosa", was the primary ancestral burial ground for the African American community in Charles Town through the 1970s, and remains in use today. Black Civil War and Spanish American War veterans, as well as former slaves, are buried in the cemetery. The entrance to the cemetery is Gibsontown Road, just past the Page Jackson Elementary School.



Jefferson County
West Virginia
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL



CHARLES TOWN



SITE 21 – PAGE-JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL

GPS Tag – 39°17'03"N, 77°51'40"W
Address – Mordington Avenue & Page-Jackson Way
Page-Jackson High School, named after Black educators, Littleton L. Page and Philip Jackson, was built in 1951. Located on Mordington Avenue and Page-Jackson Way, the building currently serves as the Jefferson County Board of Education. Page-Jackson was the first and only high school for Black students in Jefferson County. From 1938 to 1951, Page-Jackson High School and Eagle Avenue Elementary School occupied the same building on the corner of Harewood Avenue (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard) and Eagle Avenue. In 1951, Page-Jackson moved and became a separate school until it closed in 1965. Although there is no longer a high school, the name lives on through Page-Jackson Elementary School, located on Route 340 South.

Page-Jackson Memorial Plaque & Tree
On July 26, 1986, the Jefferson County Branch of the NAACP dedicated a memorial plaque and tree on the front lawn of the former Page-Jackson High School. The plaque and tree are dedicated to the former faculty and students of Page-Jackson High School.

Page-Jackson Room
At the request of the Jefferson County branch of the NAACP, the Jefferson County Board of Education set aside a room in their office building that was designated, "The Page-Jackson Room". Dedication services were held on July 26, 1986, by the NAACP. Shortly thereafter, the NAACP relinquished the management and the completion of this room to the Page-Jackson Alumni Association. The Page-Jackson Room Exhibit was unveiled and dedicated by the Alumni Association on July 24, 1993. This exhibit is open to the public during the regular office hours of the School Board.



SITE 22 – FISHERMEN'S HALL (GALILEAN TEMPLE)

GPS Tag – 39°17'08"N, 77°51'44"W
Address – S. West and Academy Streets
Fishermen's Hall was built by the Charles Town Industrial Association, an African American organization for the local tabernacle of the Grand United Order of the Galilean Fishermen. The group supported community development and economic empowerment of Blacks in Jefferson County. Over the years, the building has served as a black community center and a meeting place for Star Lodge Masons, John Brown Elks, Knights of Pythias, American Legion Post #63, church services, and finally a tavern.



Legendary showman and comic Silas Green, as well as other show business figures, performed in the hall. The cornerstone reads, "Galilean Temple June 6, 1885". The building is owned and has been restored by the African American Community Association of Jefferson County.

SITE 23 – TOLLGATE HOUSE

GPS Tag – 39°17'07"N, 77°51'47"W
Address – 114 Augustine Avenue
In 1903, Sezzie Wainwright, widow of Rev. Chester C. Wainwright, purchased the former tollgate house on Augustine Avenue from the County Court of Jefferson County for \$505.00. Sezzie Wainwright was the mother of Dr. Chester D. Wainwright, the first black physician in Charles Town.

SITE 24 – WAINWRIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH

GPS Tag – 39°17'09"N, 77°51'47"W
Address – W. Avis and S. West Streets
In 1868, Rev. Nathan Brackett of the Freedmen's Bureau donated land to a small group of freed slaves for their newly-organized church, the Colored Free Will Baptist Church of Charles Town. Rev. Chester C. Wainwright was its pastor from 1874 until his death in 1902. The church was, posthumously, renamed Wainwright Baptist Church. It is the oldest black Baptist church in Jefferson County.

SITE 25 – STAR LODGE #1 F&AM (OLD STONE HOUSE 1795)

GPS Tag – 39°17'12"N, 77°51'41"W
Address – W. Avis and S. Lawrence Streets
This building is one of the oldest stone structures in Charles Town. The land was purchased from Charles Washington in 1791. John Locke erected the building around 1795. Star Lodge #1 F&AM and Queen of the Valley Lodge #1558, Order of the Odd Fellows sold their share of the building to the Star Lodge in June 1927. The Free and Accepted Masons still own the structure. It is a Charles Town Historical Landmark.



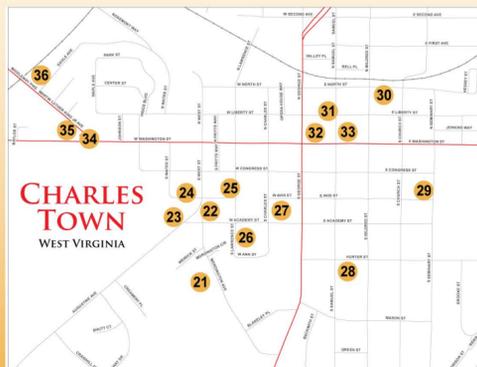
100 Year Time Capsule of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of West Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc.
In June 1977, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge buried a 100-year time capsule on the site containing Masonic and other memorabilia, which is to be opened in June 2077 by the Prince Hall Masonic Brethren. It is intended to celebrate 200 years of Prince Hall masonry in West Virginia. Star Lodge is the oldest Prince Hall Masonic Lodge in West Virginia, chartered in 1877 by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland.

Martin Robison Delany Marker (1999)

Martin Robison Delany was born free in Charles Town on May 6, 1812. The Delany marker, which was dedicated on August 1, 1999 by members of Star Lodge, is believed to be the only public tribute to Martin Delany in West Virginia. Delany, a physician and newspaper publisher, was closely associated with Frederick Douglass and John Brown. After a meeting with President Lincoln, Delany was recommended and commissioned the rank of Field Major by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. A portrait of Delany hangs in the Jefferson County Museum. South Lawrence Street was subnamed Martin Delany Way on May 5, 2001.

SITE 26 – ST. PHILIP'S PAROCHIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, ST. PHILIP'S ACADEMY, ST. PHILIP'S SEWING SCHOOL

GPS Tag – 39°17'08"N, 77°51'39"W
Address – 409 S. Lawrence Street
These three schools figured prominently in the history of St. Philip's Church. Young women were trained in a sewing school started by Mrs. William Craighill from Zion Episcopal Church in 1875. In 1900, St. Philip's Parochial and Industrial School was started in the Parish Hall under the leadership of St. Philip's Church minister and principal Rev. John Deaver, and teachers Mrs. Sarah D. Tolbert and Mrs. J. N. Deaver. The church newsletter was printed by the school. The St. Philip's Day School (or Academy, as it was sometimes called) was organized in the 1920s and the 1930s by Rev. Joseph H. Hudson and paid teachers Miss Nethersole Ross and Miss Marion Ridgley. Subjects included reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, and printing. Weekly tuition fees of \$.25 to \$.45 financed the school. The school was closed as a result of the Great Depression. St. Philip's also served as an emergency hospital for African Americans during the 1918 Influenza epidemic. Hundreds of blacks and whites died from the highly contagious virus disease.



JEFFERSON COUNTY FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration (January)
- Black History Month Celebration (February)
- Martin Robison Delany Birthday Celebration (May)
- Juneteenth Celebration (June)
- Don Redman Jazz Concert (June)
- Page-Jackson Alumni Association Reunion (July)
- Storer College Alumni Association Reunion (August)
- Murphy Farm (Pilgrimage Walk & Ceremony) (August)
- Jefferson County African-American Culture & Heritage Festival (August)

For information on any of these events, contact the Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society, P.O. Box 569, Ranson, West Virginia, 25438.

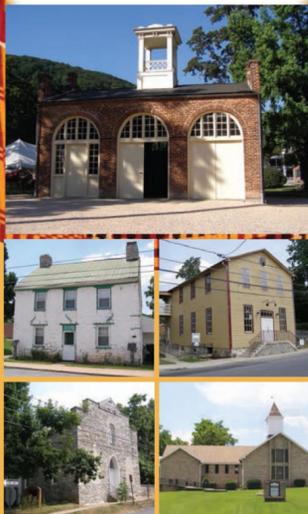
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society would like to thank everyone involved in the creation of this African American Heritage Map, which is dedicated to those who paved the way for all of us to follow. Special thanks to the Jefferson County GIS (Geographic Information System)/Addressing Office for creating the base maps.

This brochure was proudly funded in part by American Public University System in support of the academic, social, and historical preservation contribution provided by the efforts of the Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society.



Jefferson County West Virginia AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL



Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society
www.jcblackhistory.org

African American history in Jefferson County, West Virginia, cannot be separated from American history. From slavery to the massive farms throughout the county, to the blow against slavery in Harpers Ferry, to the Niagara Movement against economic discrimination to end Jim Crow – it all took place in Jefferson County, and it all greatly influenced change in the social structure in America.

As you travel through this historical path, you will note colored (also coloured), Negro, black, and African American are used interchangeably, illustrating the vernacular used during a specific era.

Visit Jefferson County and learn more about historical figures such as Frederick Douglass, Martin Delany and W.E.B. Du Bois and their connections with Jefferson County. Travel the roads, view the scenery, tread the streets, touch the doorknobs, enter the same buildings that past generations of African Americans crafted.

We hope you enjoy your journey through African American history, Civil War history, and Civil Rights activism in Jefferson County. Don't forget to share what you learn with others! The GPS (Global Positioning System) coordinates of each site are included. The following website can be used to convert latitudes and longitudes to decimals: <http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/bickel/DDDMSS-decimal.html>



SITE 27 – MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1867)

GPS Tag – 39°17'12"N, 77°51'36"W
Address – 303 S. Charles Street
In 1867, 33 people organized the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, the first black Methodist church in Charles Town. The rear of the edifice was completed in 1867, and the front was completed in 1887. Mt. Zion was added to the name around 1887.



SITE 28 – JOHN BROWN'S HANGING SITE

GPS Tag – 39°17'10"N, 77°51'23"W
Address – S. Samuel Street
Between December 2, 1859 and March 1860, John Brown and six members of the Provisional Army were hanged in Charles Town for their revolt against slavery in Harpers Ferry. John Brown was hanged on December 2, 1859; John A. Copeland Jr., Shields Green (both were young black men), Edwin Coppic, and John E. Cook were hanged on December 16, 1859; and Albert Hazlet and Aaron Stevens were hanged on March 16, 1860. The hanging site is located on South Samuel Street, and is a Jefferson County Historical Landmark.

SITE 29 – CHARLES TOWN'S POTTERS FIELD ("COLOURED" GRAVE YARD)
GPS Tag – 39°17'21"N, 77°51'16"W
Address – South Seminary and Avis Streets
This ninety foot square lot was deeded to the Trustees of Charles Town on December 16, 1836. The lot was to be used as a "potters field and burying place for coloured persons." A mock burial ceremony was held here in 2006 for Shields Green and John Copeland Jr., since there was no service following their executions.



SITE 30 – THE WEBB-BLESSING HOUSE

GPS Tag – 39°17'30"N, 77°51'29"W
Address – 303 E. North Street
The left portion of this house represents one of the earliest stone structures built and owned by free Blacks in the antebellum period. It was built between July 18, 1829 and October 25, 1830. Following the Civil War, John Blessing acquired the property and connected the old stone portion, known as the Webb House to the Blessing home and used the former as the kitchen. In 1859, John Blessing, a baker and confectioner, prepared meals for John Brown during his incarceration in the Charles Town Jail. In return for his kindness, Brown presented Blessing with his Bible before going to the gallows.

SITE 31 – FIRST BLACK SCHOOL IN CHARLES TOWN

GPS Tag – 39°17'14"N, 77°52'13"W
Address – W. Liberty and Samuel Streets
In 1865, the Freedmen's Bureau, working with the American Missionary Association, established schools in Jefferson County for the newly freed slaves. The first school established in Charles Town was at the residence of Achilles Dixon, a free African American blacksmith. It was located on the corner of Liberty and Samuel Streets. The home served as a school until the county began its own system for providing public education for black students sometime between 1867 and 1874.

SITE 32 – JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

GPS Tag – 39°17'21"N, 77°51'33"W
Address – Washington and George Streets
The Jefferson County Courthouse is the site where John Brown and six of his companions were tried, convicted, and sentenced to be hanged. The courthouse also witnessed the trial of William Blizzard, the alleged leader of striking coal miners in 1922. The trials of John Brown and William Blizzard were two of the three treason trials held in the United States prior to World War II. African Americans were involved in both trials.



SITE 33 – JEFFERSON COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

GPS Tag – 39°17'22"N, 77°51'29"W
Address – Samuel and E. Washington Streets
The museum houses an extraordinary collection of paintings, fine china, toys, textiles and humble objects our ancestors used daily. A collection of White House china dates from the days of James Buchanan. Unique documents tell the story of John Brown's 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry, including a rare "commission" signed by Brown. On display is the sturdy freight wagon that carried Brown to his execution, as well as two complete "pikes" of the 1,500 that Brown brought into Harpers Ferry. The collection features a poignant letter written by George Washington in the final months of his life. There is a display of Civil War uniforms, weapons, and personal letters. Mementos from both World Wars remind us of the sacrifices made by local residents. The museum's mission is "to bring the past to the present".

SITE 34 – ZION BAPTIST CHURCH (1881)

GPS Tag – 39°17'11"N, 77°52'04"W
Address – Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
The Zion Baptist Church, located on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, was founded in 1881. It was organized by former slaves, and was originally named the Second Baptist Church, since the Charles Town white congregation was named the First Baptist Church.



SITE 35 – THE SECOND BLACK SCHOOL IN CHARLES TOWN

GPS Tag – 39°17'12"N, 77°52'07"W
Address – Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
On October 12, 1867, the Charles Town District Board of Education purchased a lot on Harewood Avenue (now Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.). Between 1867 and 1874, a school was built on this lot next to the Zion Baptist Church. This school was known as the Charles Town District Colored Graded School, operating until a new school was built on Eagle Avenue in 1894. It is a Charles Town Historical Landmark.



SITE 36 – EAGLE AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (1894)

GPS Tag – 39°17'14"N, 77°52'13"W
Address – Eagle Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
This school was the alma mater for generations of African American students in Charles Town. In 1894, the Charles Town District Board of Education bought a lot on Eagle Avenue for a new, four-room school for Black students. This school was used until 1929, when a new Eagle Avenue School was built in the same area, but facing Harewood Avenue (now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard). In 1937, the school received its first state rating as a first class elementary school. The school was used for grades 1-8 until 1938, when the first high school for Black students began. The Eagle Avenue School was used for both elementary and high school students until 1951, when Page-Jackson High School was built. Eagle Avenue was destroyed by fire in 1966; only the steps that led up to the school and a retaining wall remain. Although the school is no longer present, it holds a special place in the memory and hearts of its alumni.

SANDY HOOK, MARYLAND

SITE 37 – JOHN BROWN FARM (KENNEDY FARMHOUSE)

GPS Tag – 39°22'47"N, 77°42'56"W
Address – 2406 Chestnut Grove Road, Sharpsburg, MD. The Kennedy Farmhouse, located near Sandy Hook, Maryland (across the bridge east of Harpers Ferry), was the headquarters where John Brown and his Provisional Army planned their daring revolt against slavery in Harpers Ferry in October 1859. The remote farmhouse has been restored to circa 1859. The interior is historically furnished, complete with figures of John Brown and several of his comrades. The grounds, which are open at all times, contain a stone memorial listing the names of the men in the Provisional Army. Entry to the interior is randomly open to the public, or must be scheduled in advance. The Kennedy Farmhouse is identified as a National Historic Landmark. Though the farmhouse is not located in Jefferson County, per se, its relevance to the battle against slavery waged in Harpers Ferry is inseparable.