

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is doing this study?

A professional team of National Park Service planners, landscape architects, and historians including coordinators from the NPS National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program. Input from outside experts and activists and environmental, community, and political leaders is crucial.

How does the study relate to the National Park Service Underground Railroad program?

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program supports sites, facilities, and programs which apply for official designation. Although Harriet Tubman is most well-known through her work in the Underground Railroad, her life and work are broader than that activity, just as there were many more people besides Tubman working in the Underground Railroad.

Who initiated the Harriet Tubman special resource study?

The Harriet Tubman study was requested by Congress through a law sponsored by Senators and Congressmen from New York and Maryland. The National Park Service does professional evaluation studies and reports to Congress with a range of management options and a recommendation.

Could there be more than one national site dedicated to Harriet Tubman?

The study could conclude that, since there is more than one area where Tubman lived and worked, a combination of sites might be appropriate if they meet the established criteria.

Let's say a national park area is created by Congress, what happens then?

The NPS begins a long-range plan evaluating the resources in depth and setting up programs for the public. Such plans are done with a great deal of consultation with the general public and specific stakeholders. It takes many years for a national park area to become fully operational.

How long will it take to finish the study?

The final report and environmental document are expected to be completed in 2006.

Where can I get more information?

Check the website

www.HarrietTubmanStudy.org

or get in touch with the project directors

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Harriet Tubman

Special Resource Study



HARRIET TUBMAN SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY

Explore with us the life and work of Harriet Tubman and the places where she left her mark. This 19th century heroine had multiple roles - she was a “conductor” in the Underground Railroad, a nurse and spy and scout in the Civil War, a suffragist, and a humanitarian. In her later years she founded a home for the indigent aged. She is an American icon - - a legend - - yet the actual places associated with her life and her work are not well known. This study is exploring those places and the stories they tell.

In 2000, Congress requested that the National Park Service look at options for protecting nationally significant resources related to Harriet Tubman following an earlier NPS study of Underground Railroad sites.



Brick residence of Harriet Tubman in Auburn, New York

The Study

The special resource study has a multidisciplinary, multiracial NPS team that includes four coordinators in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. The team has been collecting and evaluating information on historic and archeological sites and landscapes significant to Harriet Tubman’s career and expects to produce a draft report by early 2004, with a final report at the end of that year.

Milestones in Harriet Tubman’s Life

- ♣ c. 1822 Born in Dorchester County, Maryland
- ♣ 1849 Emancipated herself and fled north
- ♣ 1851-60 Returned repeatedly to bring out family members & friends
- ♣ 1859 Contracted with William Seward to buy seven acres of land and a house in



Auburn, NY

- ♣ 1862-64 Worked with Union troops in South Carolina
- ♣ 1865 Settled in Auburn, where she continued to support reform movements
- ♣ 1913 Buried with military honors in Fort Hill Cemetery, Auburn

Tubman is popularly known as a “conductor” in the Underground Railroad, but she is less well-known as a Civil War nurse, a scout, and a spy. In her later years, she established and operated a home for the aged in Auburn, New York, where she died in 1913.

“I had crossed the line. I was free but there was no one to welcome me to the land of freedom. I was a stranger in a strange land.”

Harriet Tubman

Places

The primary places being examined by the study team are in Auburn, New York, and Dorchester and Caroline counties, Maryland, as the law directs. In addition, since Tubman worked in several other states, sites from South Carolina to Canada are being investigated.



Study team visits archeologists at possible Tubman site

Involving the Public

The public is invited to share information on Harriet Tubman and to suggest ideas for commemorating and honoring Harriet Tubman. Public meetings have been held in Auburn and Buffalo, New York; Cambridge, Maryland; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Wilmington, Delaware; Beaufort, South Carolina; and St. Catharines, Ontario. The National Park Service is seeking further information from anyone with particular knowledge of Tubman and the places where she lived and worked.

Comments are always welcome through the study website.

www.HarrietTubmanStudy.org



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Cambridge, Maryland, adjacent to Tubman’s childhood home

