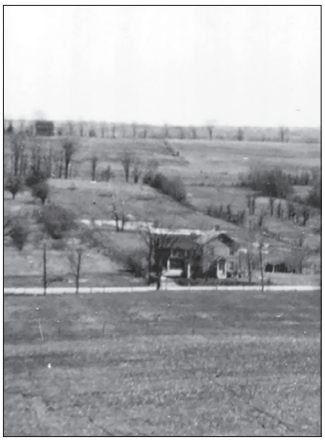
National Park Service
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Olmsted Center
*for* Landscape Preservation

# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

First Draft - September 2018



# Cultural Landscape Report

# Harriet Tubman

## National Historical Park

First Draft September 2018

Site History

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Existing Conditions

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Analysis and Evaluation

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Treatment Recommendations

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This report was developed by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation in partnership with the Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York. The Olmsted Center promotes the stewardship of significant landscapes through research, planning, and sustainable preservation maintenance. The Olmsted Center accomplishes its mission in collaboration with a network of partners including national parks, universities, government agencies, and private nonprofit organizations. Techniques and principles of preservation practice are made available through training and publications. The Olmsted Center perpetuates the tradition of the Olmsted firms and Frederick Law Olmsted's lifelong commitment to people, parks, and public spaces.

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Cover Image: The Harriet Tubman Home property and Tubman Farm, looking east, ca. 1943. (Norris family photographs, courtesy of Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners, Syracuse, New York)

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# INTRODUCTION

> The midnight sky and the silent stars have been the witness of your devotion to freedom and of your heroism. Excepting John Brown—of sacred memory—I know of no one who has willingly encountered more perils and hardships to serve our enslaved people than you have. Much that you have done would seem improbable to those who do not know you as I know you.
>
> Frederick Douglas, preface to Sarah H. Bradford's
> *The Life of Harriet Tubman*, 1868

Harriet Tubman was born a slave on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and defied odds to achieve a life of freedom in the North (fig. 0.1). At the time Douglas wrote his preface, she had settled on a seven-acre farm just outside the upstate New York city of Auburn. Here, supported by an active abolitionist community and a strong religious faith, she had started a life of freedom prior to the Civil War and returned after serving in the military to continue her pursuit of social justice. The farm allowed Harriet Tubman to be self-sufficient, and to open her home to the needy while also championing social issues for African Americans and women. As she grew old, she made plans with the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion Church to perpetuate her life's work through an institution named The Harriet Tubman Home. Established in 1895, the Home was charged with providing care for aged and indigent African Americans, and would go on to pursue other causes championed by Tubman. In 1913, at the age of 91, Harriet Tubman died at The Harriet Tubman Home and was buried from the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church on Parker Street. The A.M.E. Zion Church continued The Harriet Tubman Home through various incarnations to the present, envisioning it both as a philanthropic endeavor and a shrine to its famous namesake, known as the Moses of Her People.

This Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) is a comprehensive management document for the historic landscape of Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, officially established in January 2017 and composed of three of the four properties most closely associated with Harriet Tubman's free life: The Harriet Tubman Home (Home for the Aged) and the Tubman Farm (Tubman residence) on South Street (NY 34) that straddle the City of Auburn and Town of Fleming boundary; and the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church on Parker Street in the City of Auburn (fig. 0.2). The half-acre church property is owned by the National Park Service, while the thirty-two acres of The Harriet Tubman Home and Tubman Farm are owned by the A.M.E. Zion Church of America and managed by a non-profit organization established by the church, The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., in partnership with the National Park Service.

The CLR begins with an illustrated history of these landscapes, along with the Tubman gravesite in Fort Hill Cemetery. The history is documented on a series of period plans that illustrate historic conditions. The history is followed by an overview of existing landscape conditions and park management, and then by an analysis and evaluation to assess changes in the landscape's character since Tubman's death in 1913. The final part of the report provides treatment recommendations based on the goal of preserving and enhancing the historic character of the park landscapes as they transition to management by the National Park Service in partnership with The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc.

## PROJECT SCOPE AND METHODS

A Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) is the primary document for management of historically significant landscapes in the National Park System. This report for Harriet Tubman National Historical Park has been developed according to the G*uide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* (National Park Service, 1998). It includes CLR Part I (Site History, Existing Conditions, Analysis and Evaluation) and CLR Part II (Treatment Recommendations). A selected reference list and appendix are at the back of the report.

The project area for this report includes the twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property and seven-acre Tubman Farm (Tubman residence) that remain under the ownership of the A.M.E. Zion Church of America, collectively referred to as the South Street properties; and the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church on Parker Street that is owned by the National Park Service. Harriet Tubman's grave in the private Fort Hill Cemetery is outside the boundaries of the park, but is addressed in the history and existing conditions chapters. The context of Auburn and Fleming is also addressed to the extent it informs understanding of Harriet Tubman's life and the landscape of her farm, church, and the Harriet Tubman Home.

Overall, research for this Cultural Landscape Report has been undertaken at a thorough level of investigation. Most of the research on the historic period of Tubman's life in Auburn (1859–1913) was based on prior research and secondary sources, including research on the South Street properties by Douglas V. Armstrong, Professor of Anthropology at Syracuse University who has undertaken numerous archaeological investigations at the site over the past two decades; Judith Wellman, historian who has completed research on Underground Railroad sites in Central New York; Rebekah Krieger of the National Park Service Historic Architecture Program, through her work on a historic structure report for the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and parsonage; and Beth Crawford, of Crawford & Stearns Architects and Preservation Planners through her work on the restoration of the Tubman residence, Tubman barn,

frame house (Home for the Aged), and Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church. The latter history of the South Street properties by the A.M.E. Zion Church and The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. was based on newspaper research, materials in the Syracuse University archives, photographs at the Harriet Tubman Memorial Library, published church histories, and interviews with current staff and friends of the site. The archives of the A.M.E. Zion Church at Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina, which may have records on church management of the Harriet Tubman Home property dating back to the 1890s, were not available for research.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

[to be completed]

### SITE HISTORY

The site history is a narrative of the physical development of the landscape and related contexts from prior to Harriet Tubman's ownership that began in 1859 to the present.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Existing Conditions chapter provides a narrative and graphic overview of the park landscape that includes a description of the existing setting beyond park boundaries, and an overview of park operations. The description of the park landscape is organized by the three historic properties within park boundaries (Harriet Tubman Home Property, Tubman Farm, and Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church).

### ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The Analysis and Evaluation assess the historic significance and character of the park landscape. The first section provides an overview of the historical significance of the landscape according to the criteria established through the National Register of Historic Places. Recommendations are provided for updates to the National Register/National Historic Landmark documentation based on the findings of the CLR. The second part of the chapter inventories and evaluates the park landscape according to National Park Service cultural landscape methods to assess changes in landscape character since the end of the historic period (1913).

### TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The treatment chapter articulates a management philosophy for the landscape based on its history, existing conditions, historical significance and character, and park planning; identifies existing treatment issues; provides general treatment guidelines; and recommended treatment tasks to enhance the historic character of the landscape within the context of current park operations



Figure 0.1. Portrait of Harriet Tubman taken during her life in Auburn, ca. 1875. (Harvey B. Lindsley photograph, Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-7816)

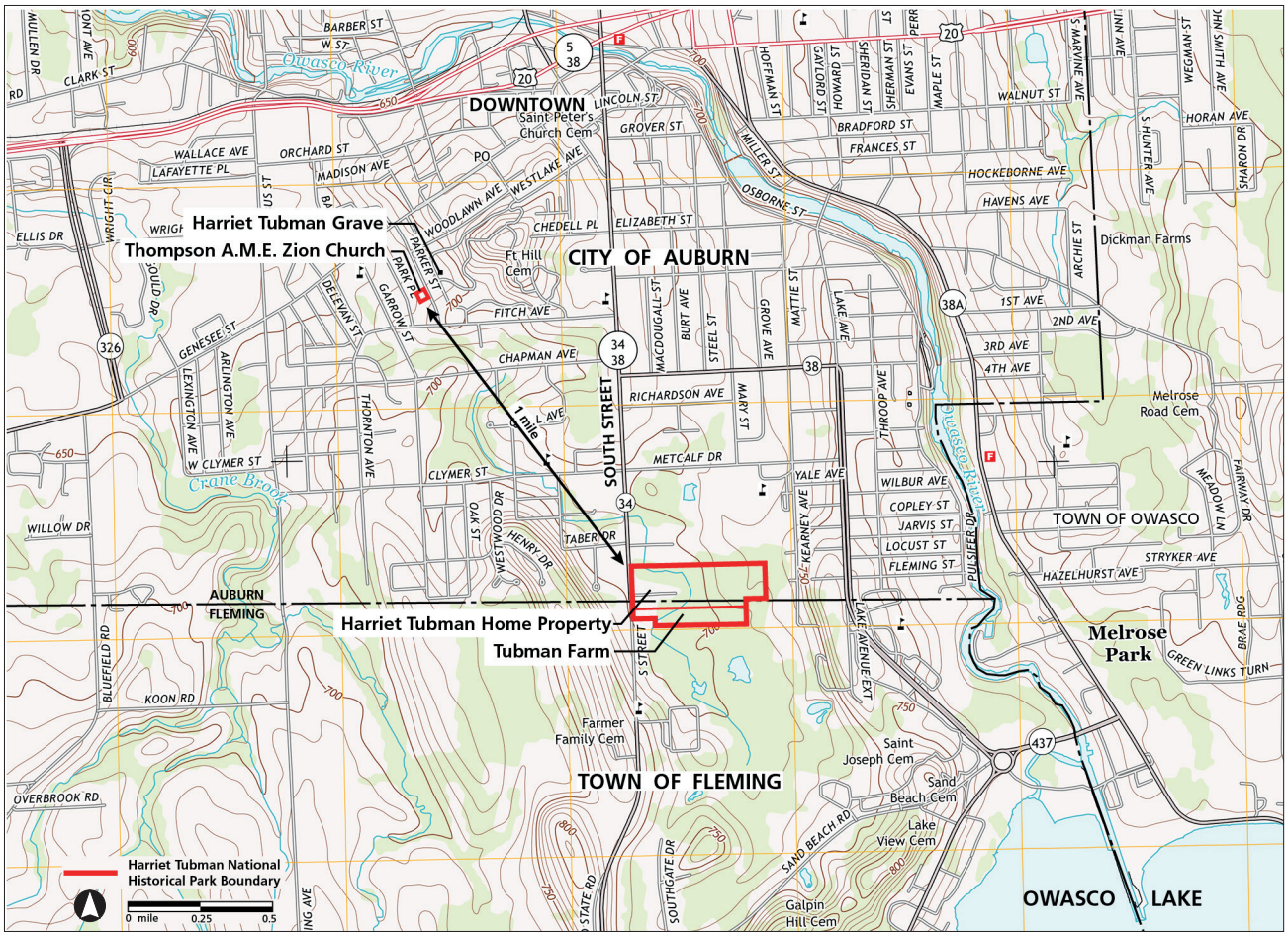



Figure 0.2. Map of Auburn and Fleming showing location and context of the three historic properties that comprise Harriet Tubman National Historical Park. (Detail, U.S. Geological Survey, Auburn 7.5 Series Quadrangle map, 2013, annotated by SUNY ESF)

# SITE HISTORY

The properties in Auburn and Fleming associated with Harriet Tubman's free life straddled the worlds of a prosperous city and modest rural community that had been the ancestral homeland of the Cayuga people. During the early 19th century, this area of New York had been transformed through turnpikes and canals into a region of flourishing farms, industries, and socially progressive communities that supported the Underground Railroad. The area was a stark contrast to the rural and remote Eastern Shore of Maryland, where Harriet Tubman grew up enslaved.

The places that shaped Harriet Tubman's life as a free citizen and as a champion of social justice provided both physical and spiritual sustenance. Her own farm and the Harriet Tubman Home property on South Street were on the rural outskirts of the City of Auburn, but close enough that Aunt Harriet, as she was known locally, could walk to the city's churches, stores, and meeting halls. Her walks and rides took her past some of the city's wealthiest residences that shared the same South Street address, as well as through the city's rural burial grounds, Fort Hill Cemetery. A devoutly spiritual person, Harriet Tubman sought out the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion Church to continue her life work of caring for the indigent. Following her death in 1913, the church would remain as stewards of the Tubman properties in Auburn through decades of extensive change in the rural landscape.

## LANDSCAPE ORIGINS, TO 1859

Harriet Tubman settled near the north end of Owasco Lake, one of the eleven Finger Lakes that extended through the northern edge of the Allegheny Plateau, an area of uplifted sedimentary rock deposited in ancient seas during the Devonian age, 418 to 360 million years ago. The lakes originated as a series of northward-flowing streams that were scoured by glaciers, most recently during the last ice age that ended approximately 10,000 years ago. This glacier deposited till that dammed the old stream valleys to create the lakes, and shaped the surrounding land into valleys and low hills (fig. 1.1). The area of the Tubman sites north of Owasco Lake formed into a relatively smooth plain created by sediments deposited in lakes as the glacier retreated to the north. Low ridges of approximately eighty feet above the plain (780 feet above sea level) formed east and west of the South Street properties, while a higher ridge at an elevation of 860 feet above sea level created a natural barrier to the south (fig. 1.2). Another rise of 805 feet to the north would become the site of Fort Hill Cemetery. Owasco Lake, which settled at an elevation approximately 700 feet above sea level following retreat of the glacier, drained north through the Seneca and Oswego rivers and

into Lake Ontario. Not far south of Owasco Lake, the land drained south in the watershed of the Susquehanna River, which provided a natural route toward Tubman's home along the Chesapeake Bay in Dorchester County, Maryland. [1]

As the climate of the Lake Ontario region warmed following the end of the last ice age, the land transitioned from primarily fir, spruce, and pine forest to oak-hickory forest on well-drained ridgetops and slopes, and beech-maple forest on moist, well-drained soils. Other trees and shrubs found in these upland forests included hickory, hop hornbeam, basswood, elm, flowering dogwood, witch hazel, shadbush, choke cherry, and viburnum. Along stream corridors and wet areas, such as Wood Creek through the South Street properties, there may have been Northern white cedar swamp with red maple, hemlock, yellow birch, and ash.[2]

#### CAYUGA HOMELAND

The Finger Lakes region supported human culture long before European settlement that began at the close of the 18th century. After the end of the last ice age, nomadic people formed small hunting and fishing camps in the tundra-like environment. As the climate warmed, the land became more hospitable and by 2,000 years ago, people were beginning to establish permanent villages and practice agriculture. In the 12th century (CE), five peoples or nations united to form the Haudenosaunee Confederacy: the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk. The homeland of the Cayuga, the "People of the Great Swamp" (the swamp at the north end of Cayuga Lake, now the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge) was between the Seneca to the west and the Onondaga to the east, surrounding Cayuga and Owasco lakes. Like other people of the Confederacy, the Cayuga lived in longhouses within palisaded villages, and farmed the surrounding land with orchards and crops. In the late seventeenth century, French Jesuit missionaries told of three main Cayuga villages.[3]

According to a European historian writing in the nineteenth century, one of the Cayuga's principal villages, known as *Osco,* pronounced "Was-Kough," was located near the head of Owasco Lake, and included a sacrificial mound and fortification on high ground west of the Owasco Outlet, later the site of Fort Hill Cemetery. It was a long-established village that may have been built in part by the Cayugas' predecessors, the Alleghans. The word *Osco* described a nearby crossing of the outlet on stepping stones. Europeans settlers later adopted the name for the lake and outlet. It is likely that a large area of land surrounding *Osco*, encompassing the core of Auburn and perhaps extending to the Tubman properties on South Street, was farmed by the Cayuga people. [4]

## EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

During the Revolutionary War (1775-1783), the Cayuga Nation remained neutral, but in 1779 became the target of US military attacks during the Sullivan-Clinton Expedition, which broke the power of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. After the war, the federal government settled with the Haudenosaunee nations in the Treaty of Canandaigua (1789), which required that the nations give up their homelands in exchange for smaller sovereign reservations. The Cayuga's reservation of 64,000 acres was at the head of Cayuga Lake; the land around Owasco Lake was surrendered, including the village of *Osco*.[5] Of this land, 1,800,000 acres were set aside as bounty for those who served in the war. Known as the Military Tract, the survey completed in 1790 established twenty-six towns, each subdivided into six-hundred-acre lots, laid out in squares as local conditions permitted. Fifty-acre squares at the corners of each allotment were intended to meet the cost of the survey, while other squares were set aside for churches and schools. The twenty-six towns were given names of famous leaders of ancient Greece and Rome. The site of *Osco* and the Tubman properties fell within Aurelius, Town No. 8, formed on January 27, 1789—named after Emperor *Marcus Aurelius* who ruled during the Golden Age of the Roman Empire (figure 1.3). The orthogonal boundaries of the survey determined the boundaries of subsequent subdivisions, including those of the Harriet Tubman Home property and Tubman Farm on South Street. [6]

### Founding and Growth of Auburn

The Town of Aurelius enjoyed an auspicious place within the Military Tract due to its location along major roads and the Owasco Outlet, which connected with the navigable Seneca and Oswego rivers (see fig. 1.3). The primary east-west road across upstate New York, the Great Genesee Road, headed west 120 miles along Indian trails from Fort Schuyler (Utica) to Canandaigua. Military Tract allotment #47, where the road crossed the Owasco Outlet, was purchased in 1792 by Colonel John L. Hardenburgh, who had served in the Sullivan-Clinton Expedition and was one of the surveyors of the military tracts. Here, Hardenbergh built grist and saw mills along the Owasco Outlet beginning in 1793, and soon a village known as Hardenburgh's Corners developed around them, along the Great Genesee Road. Hardenbergh owned slaves and used them to clear and improve his land. Although New York passed an act in 1799 that freed slave children born after this time, it was not until 1827 that the state passed a law giving freedom to slaves born prior to 1799.[7]

The economic importance of Auburn increased with improvement of the Great Genesee Road as the Seneca (or Great Western) Turnpike in 1800, and extension of the Cherry Valley Turnpike east to near Auburn that same year. In 1805, Hardensburgh's Corners was given the shorter and more pleasant-sounding

name of Auburn when it was designated the new seat of Cayuga County, created in 1799. In 1810, Auburn had a population of 4,642, and in 1815 was incorporated as a village, the largest in Central New York at the time. [8] The prosperity of the young village was noted in a gazetteer of the state published two years earlier:

> On this turnpike [Seneca Turnpike], stands the elegant village of Auburn, the capital of the county, on the outlet of the Owasco lake, near the eastern boundary of the Township of Aurelius. This village contains 100 houses and stores, with many elegant private mansions, the county buildings, and a considerable number of mills, manufactories, &c. &c. [9]

Construction of the Erie Canal, which began in 1817, bypassed Auburn eight miles to the north, with no navigable connection. While the village's prominence on the state's transportation routes waned and it was eventually surpassed in size by Syracuse to the east and Rochester to the west, Auburn remained a prosperous industrial town and commercial center for the surrounding agricultural region. A busy commercial district developed along the old great road, known as Genesee Street (fig. 1.4). Railroad access beginning in the late 1830s provided new connections, reinforcing Auburn's wealth and prominence. A plat published in 1837 showed the city's optimism about its future growth: four wards expanding out from the established core, laid out in grids with small lots (fig. 1.5). In 1848, Auburn was incorporated as a city, and by the late 1850s had a population of 10,986.[10]

The main road heading south from Auburn's downtown along Genesee Street toward Ithaca, located at the south end of Cayuga Lake, was called Main Street South, and later South Street. Here, in the more pastoral quarters away from the busy industrial areas but close to the commerce of Genesee Street, lived many of the city's wealthy merchants, industrialists, and politicians. Instead of the small lots proposed on the 1837 plan for the city, the wealthy built stately homes on multiple lots. One of these was the ten-room brick Federal-period house at 33 South Street near Genesee Street (today's Seward House), built in 1816 by Elijah Miller, a wealthy county judge (fig. 1.6).[11] In 1824, Miller's younger daughter, Frances, married William Henry Seward, who was Elijah Miller's law partner. The couple made the South Street house their home. Seward went on to achieve high political offices, including New York State Senator in 1830, New York State Governor in 1838, and United States Senator in 1848—an office he would hold until 1860. Seward was a staunch abolitionist and was known in Auburn for assisting black and immigrant families. While his father had owned slaves, William Henry spent his childhood attending school with them; he later remembered he preferred "the conviviality of the slave kitchen to the severe decorum" of the parlor.[12] Upon Elijah Miller's death in 1851, he left his estate to his two daughters and named Seward executor. The estate included the brick house and grounds, as well as farmland along South Street south of the city

boundary, including the seven acres that would be acquired by Harriet Tubman in 1859.[13]

While Auburn's antebellum population was overwhelmingly white, there was a small black community by the 1820s, just outside of town along the Owasco Inlet, about 2,000 feet east of the Miller-Seward house on South Street. Known as New Guinea, the area by 1837 consisted of about ten houses along Mechanic Street (now Osborne Street), downstream of the main industrial area and above the Cumpston flour and saw mills (fig. 1.7). By the 1850s, African Americans began to move to Auburn's north side near the state prison, where an African American school was opened in 1839 on Washington Street. In 1847, this building became home to Auburn's African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (later renamed Thompson AME Zion Church), founded that same year. By 1855, there were 271 African Americans living in Auburn. [14]

#### Fort Hill Cemetery

About 1,500 feet southwest of the Miller-Seward House was the Cayuga village site of *Osco* with its ancient Indian mound, which European settlers called Fort Hill or Fort Alleghan (see fig. 1.7). Through the first half of the nineteenth century, the site remained undeveloped and covered by mature trees; the village government designated the site a park in its expansion plan of 1837, but the park was never developed. In 1851, civic leaders chose the ancient mound as the site for Fort Hill Cemetery, intended to replace the crowded North Street Burial Ground with a landscape garden for the dead (fig. 1.8). Elijah Miller, William H. Seward's father-in-law, was instrumental in the cemetery's establishment and was the first person to be buried there, on November 13, 1851. Part of the mid-nineteenth century Rural Cemetery Movement, Fort Hill Cemetery featured a picturesque landscape designed to capture the beauties of art and nature, with curving drives, groves of trees, and artistic grave monuments. The burial sections were given romantic names that referred to the site's natural beauty and Native American heritage, including Laurel Hill, Mount Hope, Glen Alpine, Council Grounds, and Fort Alleghan—the latter a large circular burial section on the Indian mound. An open area to the west, where Harriet Tubman would one day be buried, was named the West Lawn.[15]

Perhaps in response to the Miller-Seward family's concern for social justice, the Fort Hill Cemetery Association developed the cemetery with a sensitivity to its Native American heritage that was remarkable for the time. The association portrayed the cemetery's development as an opportunity to set right the wrongs perpetrated by European settlers—to behold the cemetery's ancient landforms and old-growth trees "…with solemn interest, and carefully preserved as precious relics of American antiquity."[16] This regard for Native people was evident during the cemetery's dedication on July 7, 1852, such as in the

introductory remarks given by M. S. Myers, the president of the cemetery's board of trustees. He spoke of the people who once dwelt in the cemetery, that "…we may well believe that their mouldering dust is mixed with the soil beneath us; nor would it be a wild stretch of imagination to fancy that their immortal spirits may be permitted to hover near us, and to witness the solemn ceremonies of this day."[17]

Not to limit awareness of the cemetery' s Native history to the dedication ceremonies, the cemetery trustees devoted a large part of its guidebook published in 1853 to the subject. The book's opening "Suggestions to Visitors" set a context that was probably quite startling to many visitors, but was not unlike Harriet Tubman's concerns for the rights of all people:

> Visitors are reminded that the precincts of the City of Auburn, now waving with yellow corn, smiling with thrifty villages, and teeming with pale inhabitants, are consecrated with the name of the native proprietors. The Cayugas are now gone…yet a century ago they were proprietors, in possession of this delightful grove, which the Great Spirit permitted them to occupy in all its primitive beauty and sublimity. They remained here with title undisputed, and possession undisturbed until advancing columns of civilization pushed them from their hunting grounds, and ultimately denied them the right to the land of their birth, and the soil that entombed the bones of their fathers…And so long as there shall remain any vestiges of their occupancy of the country we inhabit, it will be difficult to repress emotions of poignant sorrow and regret at the wrongs which they have been doomed to suffer.[18]

#### Auburn's Rural Outskirts

Prior to the Civil War, South Street quickly transitioned within a few blocks of the commercial district along Genesee Street to rural precincts of the city, where some of the farmland was owned by wealthy city residents, including the Sewards, as part of their estates or as tenant farms. [19] This rural landscape extended uninterrupted into the Town of Fleming, which had been subdivided from the Town of Aurelius in 1823. Named after one of its early settlers, General George Fleming, the town was predominantly rural, with approximately ninety percent of its 13,710 acres consisting of "improved" farmland during the middle of the nineteenth century. Near the center of the town, five miles south of Auburn, was the unincorporated village of Fleming. It was a cross-roads hamlet with a post office, stores, a school, two churches, and a population of about 200 prior to the Civil War (fig. 1.9).[20]

By the late 1840s, Fleming was connected to Auburn by an improved road—the Auburn and Fleming Plank Road, which was a continuation of South Street (present NY 34, South Street Road). Perhaps once an Indian trail that headed south between Owasco and Cayuga lakes, the road was probably in use by European settlers after opening of the Military Tract in 1790. By the 1820s, the

road was hosting a daily "Post Coach" between Auburn and Ithaca. In 1847, when New York State passed an incorporation law for plank road companies and just a year after the first plank road in the country was built north of Syracuse, the Auburn and Fleming Plank Road Company was chartered. The company laid down a plank travel lane along the old road to create a stable surface for heavy wagons in both wet and dry seasons. To pay for construction and maintenance as allowed under state law, the company operated a tollgate attached to a small house, located north of the Auburn city line and south of Wood Creek (fig. 1.10, see also fig. 1.8). The Auburn and Fleming Plank Road was one of six principal plank roads by the late 1850s that connected Auburn with nearby villages. A short distance to the east and running roughly parallel was the Auburn and Moravia Plank Road (present NY 38).[21]

Little is known about the origins of the seven-acre farm that Harriet Tubman contracted to acquire in 1859, the twenty-five-acre farm to the north that she purchased in 1896, or adjoining farms. By 1851, both Tubman properties were owned by Elijah Miller, who had probably acquired them long before this date. Since they straddled two great lots in the original Town of Aurelius (represented by the Auburn city line), the Miller ownership reflected property boundaries created after the original military tract was surveyed in 1790 (fig. 1.11). Miller left the property to his daughter, Frances Miller and her husband, William H. Seward. The property was known as the Burton Farm, perhaps after William Burton who first appears in Town of Fleming tax records in 1840. The farm included a house on a fieldstone foundation (site of existing Tubman house), facing the plank road and probably with a gable front. A barn would have been at the rear. These buildings could have dated back to 1840, or may have been built after 1853 since they do not appear on a map published that year (see fig. 1.10). To the south of the farmstead, the Sewards owned another seven acres, which may have been part of the same Burton Farm.[22]

On the twenty-five acres north of the Burton House (Harriet Tubman Home property), there was a building documented on the 1859 map of Auburn (see fig. 1.8). This was most likely the same house that stood when Harriet Tubman acquired the property in 1896 (current Home for the Aged / frame house). The origins of this house are not certain, but it may have been built by the Sewards or another owner for a tenant farmer after 1853, since it is not shown on a map published that year (see fig. 1.10). It could have been one of the several houses that William Seward and his son built in and around Auburn for black and immigrant families.[23] It had an unusual placement compared to other houses along the plank road, set back and facing south rather than west toward the plank road. This orientation and location related to the subdivision platted by the Village of Auburn Corporation in 1837, which indicated a south-facing lot at the house site (see fig. 1.5). It was a two-story five-bay house with a side-gable roof

and a center entrance—a traditional house form in use since the late eighteenth century—but built with balloon frame (or light frame) construction, a technique developed in the 1830s that was dominating house construction in the US by the 1850s. The space between the wall studs was filled with brick, and the house was built on a foundation of waster brick. These bricks most likely came from nearby brickyards.[24]

Most farms in the vicinity of Auburn on the eve of the Civil War featured rectangular boundaries that were a legacy of the Military Tract 600-acre lots, with fenced fields, orchards, and a farmstead—a cluster of farm buildings—close to a public road. A typical farmstead built prior to the Civil War was that of Canfield and Terrissa Jarrod, located in the rural outskirts of Auburn (fig. 1.12). In layout and building style, the farmstead was probably similar to the Burton Farm on South Street that Harriet Tubman would acquire in 1859. The Jarrod house was in a vernacular Greek Revival style that remained popular through the 1850s, characterized by a gable front with classical details along the eaves and front door. Like most farmhouses in the region, it was built of wood and was on a stone foundation. The small front yard was lined by a picket fence and included a specimen tree and a walk to the front door. The field to the side had fruit trees (orchard) and at the rear of the house was the barn yard, which included a barn and small sheds. According to a county history published in 1879, Mr. Canfield Jarrod was a "…firm Republican, using his influence for the liberation of the slaves, and his house was one of the stations on the 'underground Railroad,' where many a sable traveler, bound for Canada, found refuge, sympathy, rest and refreshment."[25]

Aside from farms, other uses of the rural landscape in Fleming included brick making, which relied on the clay deposits found in lowland areas that originated in the sediments of Pleistocene-era glacial lakes, such as along Wood Creek. By the late 1850s, the John W. Farmer property along Wood Creek south of the Burton Farm had a brick yard that had been owned or operated by the Wilcox family in 1853 (see fig. 1.10). The Farmer house, on the east side of the plank road, was a Greek Revival-style house, built of brick in ca. 1835. Brickmakers such as the Farmers enjoyed a steady market in the robust economy of the region, where locally produced brick had an advantage over brick that required shipment over long distances. Most local brick yards were small family operations.[26]

#### LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW, 1859

In 1859, Harriet Tubman's future seven-acre farm, twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property, and her burial plot in Fort Hill Cemetery had already taken on a shape or use that would persist throughout her life. Only the

Thompson AME Zion Church property bore little resemblance to how it was developed later in the nineteenth century. While the boundaries and overall character of these properties are found on period maps, there is little documentation on the details of the landscapes.

#### Tubman Farm and Harriet Tubman Home Property (Drawing 1.1)

In 1859, the property along South Street later owned by Harriet Tubman straddled the municipal boundary between the City of Auburn and Town of Fleming that corresponded to the boundary between Town of Aurelius Lots 57 and 66 platted in 1790. To the north, the crossing of South Street by Wood Creek, and the plank road toll gate most likely served as physical markers of the boundary between Auburn and Fleming, and between urban and rural. The landscape was characterized by wide open fields and broad views framed by rises of land to the east, west, and south, and by the City of Auburn to the north.

Tubman's seven-acre farm property, located entirely in the Town of Fleming, was owned by William Seward in 1859. Known as the Burton Farm, it may have been part of a larger farm property owned by the Sewards that included seven acres to the south (Seward Orchard Lot) and the twenty-five-acre farm to the north (Harriet Tubman Home property). The landscape consisted of open fields with lowlands crossed by Wood Creek on the western half, and uplands on the eastern half. A frame farmhouse on a stone foundation, measuring 22 by 28 feet (same as existing Tubman house), faced the Auburn and Fleming Plank Road (South Street Road) and most likely had a barn at the rear. A farm road most likely extended to the western upland half of the property, requiring a crossing of Wood Creek. Fields were probably enclosed by rail or plank fences.

In 1859, the twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property was most likely also owned by the Seward family and may have been part of the same Burton Farm. Its boundaries were rectangular, with an inset at the southeastern side at the old 50-acre allotment of Aurelius Lot #66. Like the Tubman Farm property, the landscape consisted of open fields with lowlands crossed by Wood Creek on the western half, and uplands on the eastern half. Deciduous trees may have lined portions of the north and east property lines.[27] There was a house on the property, probably the same building referred to today as the Home for the Aged (frame house), a five-bay one or two-story house set back from the Auburn and Fleming Plank Road (South Street), with its front facing south. This orientation was most likely due to the building's site within a south-facing lot in Auburn's 1837 plat. A farm road, the current entrance road later named Danforth Street, connected the house with South Street.

#### Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and Tubman Gravesite [28]

In 1859, the property that today contains the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and parsonage was part of a farm field west of Fort Hill Cemetery (see fig. 1.7). Although the city had platted streets and lots there in 1837, there was no development by 1859. The field was part of a farm or estate that had a house and orchard to the north off Genesee Street.

While Fort Hill Cemetery had been established for six years by 1859, the West Lawn section, where Harriet Tubman would be buried, was undeveloped. Most of the early graves were placed in the Fort Alleghan and surrounding sections at the wooded eastern part of the cemetery. A loop drive may have extended through the West Lawn area (see fig. 1.7), but it was later realigned when the section was subdivided into grave plots.

#### ENDNOTES, TO 1859

[1] Lewis, H. G., et al, *Soil Survey of Cayuga County, New York* (Washington, D.C.: US Department of Agriculture, 1922), 1024; New York State Museum, "Generalized Bedrock Geology of New York State," Map & Chart #15; US Geological Survey, Auburn Quadrangle map, 1899.

[2] New York Natural Heritage Program, *Ecological Communities of New York State* (Unpublished report, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, ca. 1992), 35, 55, 57.

[3] Cayuga Nation, cayuganation-nsn.gov/index/html (accessed March 28, 2018); Elliot G. Storke and Jas. H. Smith, *History of Cayuga County, New York* (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1879), 26.

[4] *Hand-Book of Fort Hill Cemetery* (Auburn: Published by the Fort Hill Cemetery Association, 1853), 21. This book devotes a substantial number of its pages to the history of the Cayuga people at the cemetery site.

[5] The Cayugas subsequently lost their entire reservation, which became in part the site of the Village of Seneca Falls.

[6] Handbook of Fort Hill Cemetery, 42; Storke, 32-33, 138.

[7] "When Did Slavery End in New York State?", New-York Historical Society, http://www.nyhistory.org/community/slavery-end-new-york-state (accessed March 29, 2018).

[8] Storke, 139, 143, 146.

[9] Horatio Gates Spafford, *A Gazetteer of the State of New-York* (Albany: H. C. Southwick, 1813), 126.

[10] Storke, 151; US Census, cited on Wikipedia, s.V. "Auburn, New York."

[11] Storke, 228.

[12] Quoted from Seward autobiography, Seward House Museum website, "William Henry Seward," http://www.sewardhouse.org/history/william-henry-seward (accessed April 2, 2018).

[13] Seward House Museum website, "The Seward House," http://www.sewardhouse.org/history/seward-house (accessed April 2, 2018); Kate Clifford Larson, *Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman: Portrait of an American Hero* (New York: One World Ballantine Books, 2003), 163.

[14] Judith Wellman et al., "Sites Relating to the Underground Railroad, Abolitionism, African American Life" (Unpublished report prepared for the Auburn Historic Resources Review Board and Cayuga County Historian's Office, 2005), 35; 1857 New York State census, cited in Bonnie Crarey Ryan and Douglas V. Armstrong, "Archaeology of John Brown Hall at the Harriet Tubman Home: Site Report" (Syracuse University Archaeological Research Report, Volume 13, 2000), 7.

[15] *Hand-Book of Fort Hill Cemetery* (Auburn: Published by the Fort Hill Cemetery Association, 1853), 61, 69, 88; Lydia J. Rosell, *Auburn's Fort Hill Cemetery* (Acadia Publishing, 2001), back cover.

[16] *Hand-Book of Fort Hill Cemetery*, 3.

[17] *Hand-Book of Fort Hill Cemetery,* 71.

[18] *Hand-Book of Fort Hill Cemetery,* 1-3.

[19] F. W. Beers, *Atlas of Cayuga County, New York*, 1875, indicates most of the farm land in the city west of South Street was owned by "W. C. Beardsley."

[20] Storke, 376-377.

[21] "New Daily Line of Post Coaches Between Auburn and Ithaca," New York *Spectator*, May 16, 1826, http://stagecoachdays/blogspot.com/2011/10/daily-service-from-auburn-to-ithaca.html (accessed February 20, 2018); Daniel B. Klein and John Majewski, "Plank Road Fever in Antebellum America: New York State Origins," *New York History*, January 1994, 41-44, 45; "O'Hearn's Histories," vol. 5, no. 12 (February 1, 2005), 6, www.ohearnshistories.com (accessed February 20, 2018); *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Cayuga County, N. Y. for 1867-1868* (Auburn: Journal Office, 1868), 47. The first documented plank road in the United States was the Salina-Central Square Plank Road, which ran north from Syracuse, completed in 1846. Plank roads typically consisted of a single plank lane consisting of planks laid on sills (sleepers), with an earth passing lane on one side and drainage ditches. By 1854, there were some 340 plank road companies in New York State that built more than 3,000 miles of plank roads (Klein and Majewski, 47).

[22] Ryan and Armstrong, 16; Fleming tax records, 1840-1920 compiled by Crawford & Stearns, noting Seward ownership of 7 acres south of Tubman Farm by 1854; Seward farm ledger, "South Street Peach & Pear Orchard," 1881, Seward House archives, researched by Crawford & Stearns; William H. Seward Papers, microfilm reel 193, file 6579, Cornell University Library, researched by Rebekah Green; Douglas V. Armstrong and Anna Hill, "Uncovering Inspiration: Current Archaeology Investigations of Harriet Tubman in Central New York," The African Diaspora Archaeology Network, June 2009 Newsletter, 4, http://www.diaspora.illinois.edu/news0609/news0609.htm (accessed April 6, 2018). The Seward Papers contain the contract for the seven-acre farm purchased by Tubman on May 25, 1859: "Mrs. Harriet Tubman holds article from Estate of E. M. [Elijah Miller, Seward's father-in-law], for 7 acre lot Burton Farm with house thereon." The Map of Cayuga and Seneca Counties (1859), Fleming insert, does not show a house on the seven-acre farm, but this is probably a mistake, unless the house was built in 1859. The existence of a stone foundation for the house was documented through archaeological investigation under the direction of Prof. Douglas Armstrong around the existing brick Tubman House, which was rebuilt on the old foundation following a fire in 1880.

[23] Larson, 163. The 1859 map of Cayuga and Seneca Counties, City of Auburn insert, shows a building on the 25-acre property corresponding to the location of the existing frame building, but closer to the road. An overlay of this map on existing map of tax parcels and building locations shows that the existing frame building is close in location to the building shown on the 1859 map, although the latter shows the building closer to the road. There is no mention of improvements on the 25-acre property in an 1864 deed of sale by the Sewards: William H. Seward and Frances Adeline Seward, and Lazette M. Worden (executor of Elijah Miller estate; Lazette and Frances were Miller's daughters), to John W. Farmer, February 1, 1864, book 106, page 51, Cayuga County land records; copy in Owasco Abstract Corp., "Abstract of Title, No. A733, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of American, 180-182 South Street, Tax Map No. 123.38-1-12, 123.03-1-40.1" (Unpublished report, ca. 1990).

[24] Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989), 36; Douglas Armstrong, Syracuse University Professor of Anthropology, presentation of history of Tubman properties to SUNY ESF landscape architecture studio, February 3, 2017; Photograph of dismantled frame house with brick between the studs, ca. 1940, Seward House collection. No investigations of the existing building's original framing have been undertaken to

better document a date of construction. The building was substantially rebuilt in the early 1950s, possibly with new framing.

[25] "Canfield Jarrod," Storke, 198.

[26] "J. Farmer Brick Yd" shown on O. W. Gray, "Map of Cayuga and Seneca Counties, New York," 1859; clay pit remnants visible on Google earth aerial, 2016; Robert V. Anderson, "The Kelsey-Harvey Brickyard, Auburn, New York," *The Crooked Lake Review,* April 1996, http://www.crookedlakereview.com/articles/67_100/97april1996/97anderson.html (accessed April 4, 2018); Judith Wellman, Project Coordinator, "Uncovering the Freedom Trail in Auburn and Cayuga County, New York" (Cultural Resources Survey Sponsored by the City of Auburn Historic Resources Review Board and the Cayuga County Historian's Office, 2004-2005), 158-159.

[27] Based on the existing location of old-growth trees. These trees have not been accurately dated.

[28] No period plan is provided for this period due to a lack of documented landscape features at the church and Tubman grave site in 1859.




**Figure 1.1. Early nineteenth-century map showing location of the Tubman sites (identified by red arrow) in relation to the Finger Lakes and river systems south of Lake Ontario. (Horatio Gates Spafford, *A Gazetteer of the State of New-York*, 1813, annotated by SUNY ESF)**

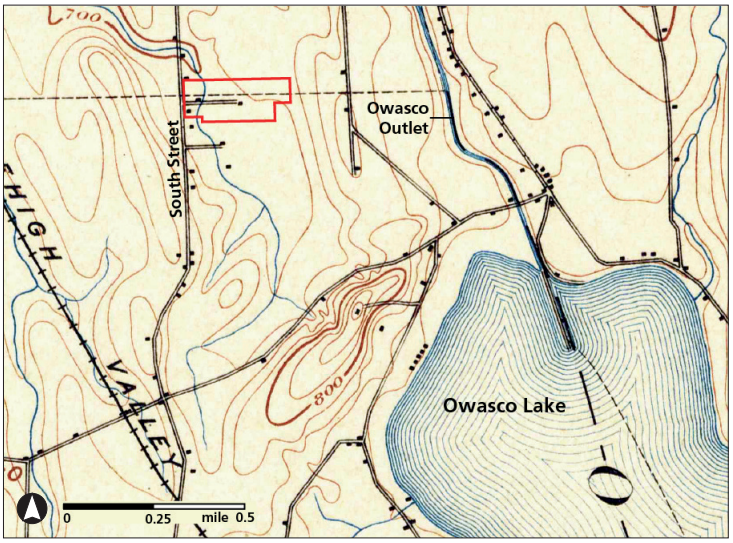



**Figure 1.2. Landforms around the South Street properties and relationship to Owasco Lake, as shown on an 1899 topographic survey. The red line indicates the current boundaries of the South Street properties. Contour interval: 20 feet. (US Geologic Survey, Auburn Quadrangle map, 1899, annotated by SUNY ESF)**

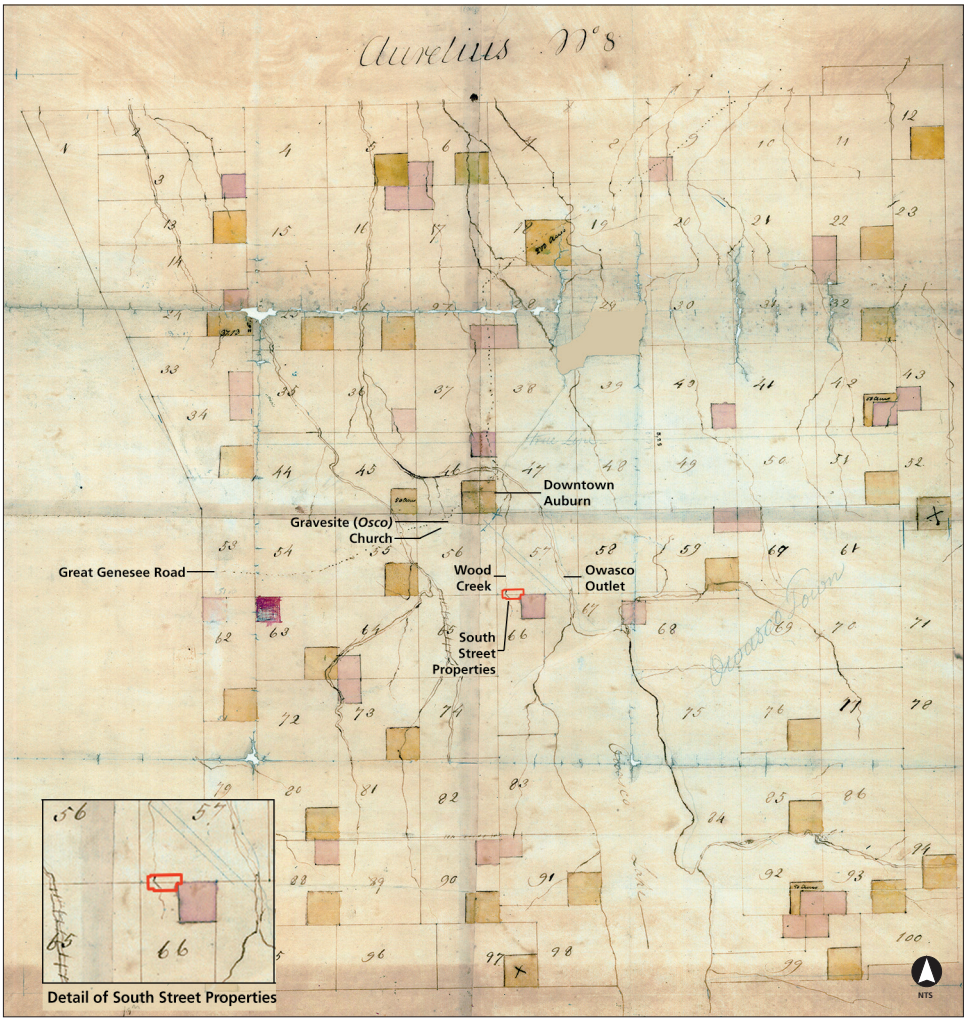



**Figure 1.3. Military Tract survey of Aurelius, Township Number 8 showing approximate current location of the Tubman properties and downtown Auburn within allotments 56, 57, and 66, ca. 1790. The large numbered squares are the 600-acre allotments; the smaller pink squares are probably the fifty-acre allotments intended to satisfy the cost of the survey, while the larger yellow boxes may be allotments for churches and schools. (New York State Engineer and Surveyor, "Aurelius No. 8," New York State Archives, A0273-78_108, annotated by SUNY ESF)**




**Figure 1.4. The prosperous commercial district of Auburn along Genesee Street, showing the eastern part near the Owasco Inlet, published upon the completion of the Erie Canal, 1825. (The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: New York Public Library Digital Collections, 510d47d9-7f65-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99)**

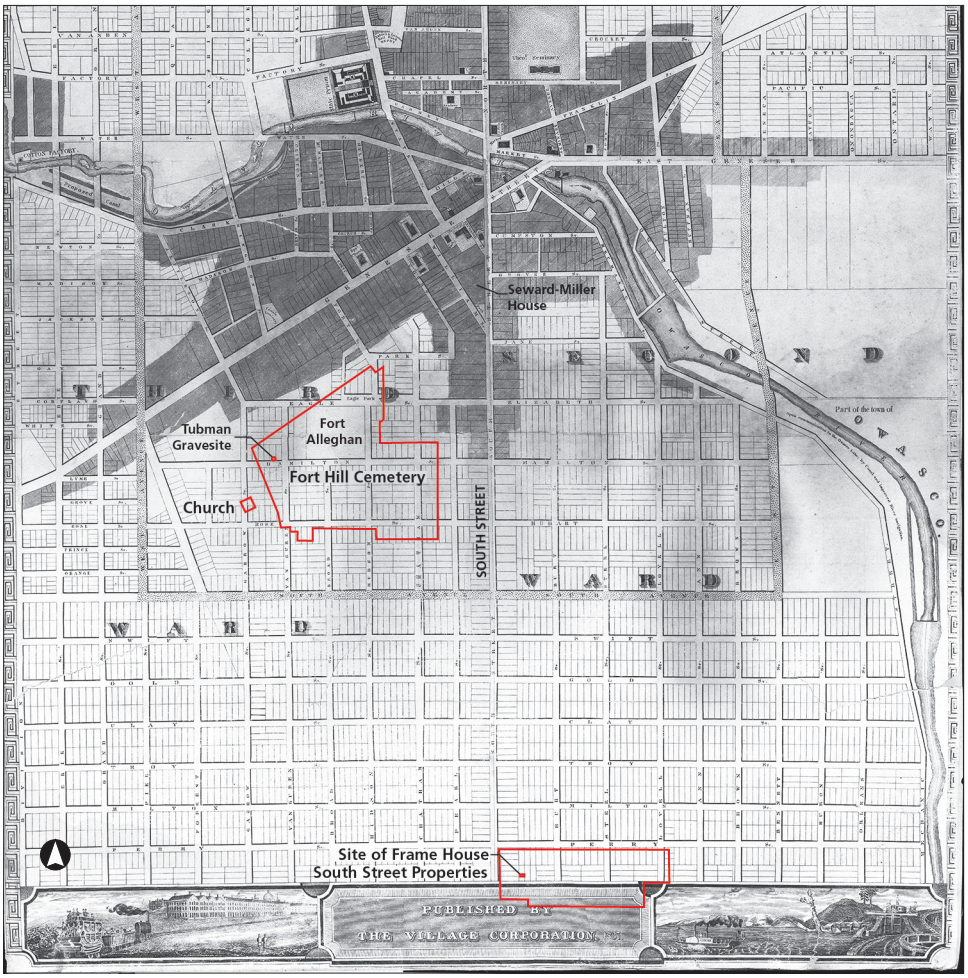



**Figure 1.5. Map of Auburn showing proposed expansion in blocks and relation to current boundaries of the Harriet Tubman properties and Fort Hill Cemetery, 1837. The dark areas were the developed limits of the city in 1837. The mound known as Fort Alleghan, part of the Cayuga village of *Osco,* was proposed as a park. Note the future location of the frame house on an interior lot away from South Street. (Detail, Hagaman and Peabody, "Map of Auburn from Actual Survey, Published by the Village Corporation, 1837," annotated by SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 1.6. The Miller-Seward House and grounds on South Street, looking south west, ca. 1853. At the rear is an Italian Villa-style addition completed in 1848. ("Residence of Gov. Seward, Auburn, New York," published in George E. Baker, editor, *The Works of William H. Seward,* vol. 3, 1853)**

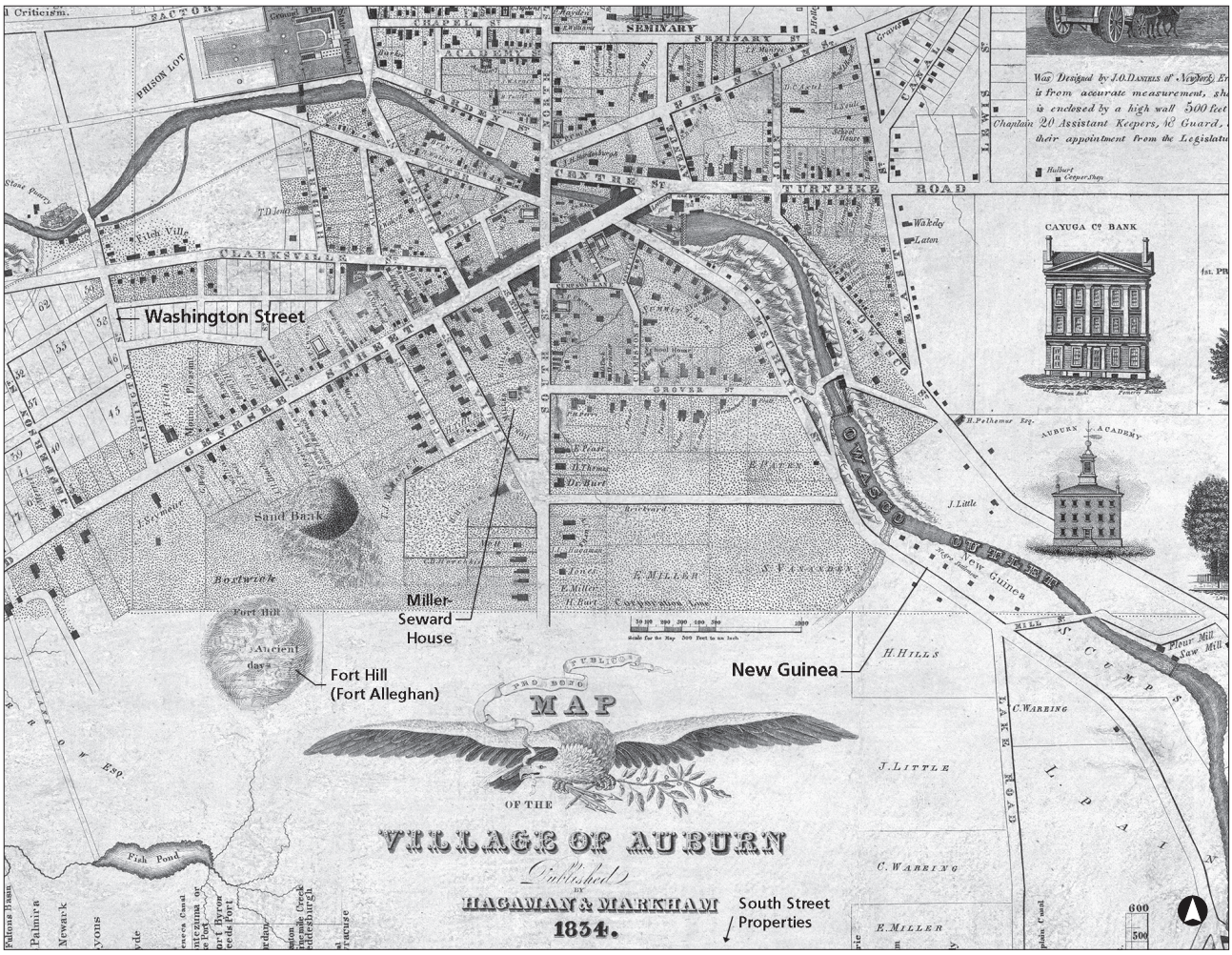



**Figure 1.7. Map of Auburn showing location of the black community of New Guinea along the Owasco Inlet, 1834. Washington Street, site of another African-American community in the 1850s, is at the upper left side of the map. (Detail, Hagaman & Marhkham, "Map of the Village of Auburn," 1834, New York Public Library Digital Collections, 59564f30-2dob-0135-c630-3bf782c8581c, annotated by SUNY ESF )**

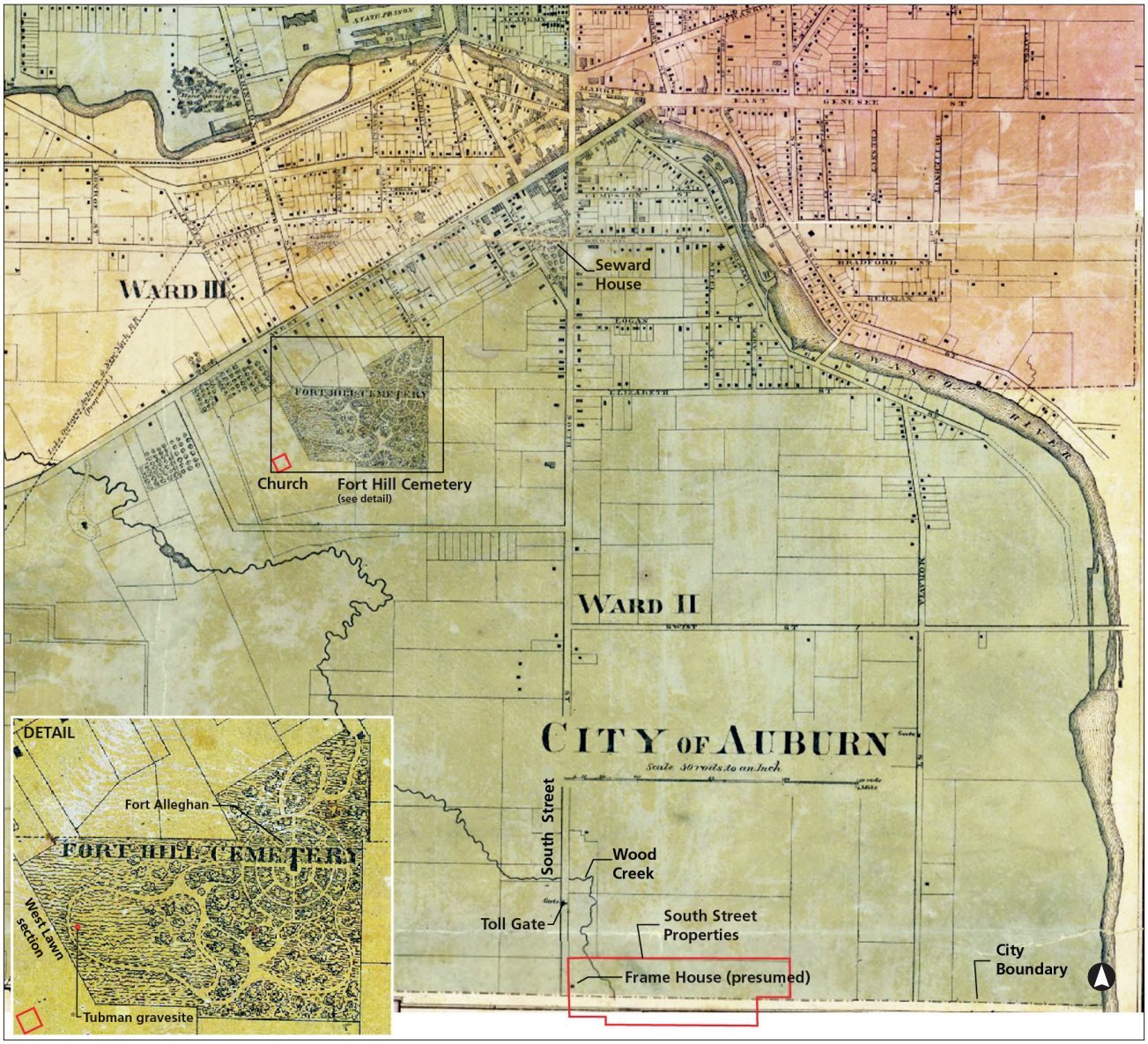



**Figure 1.8. Map of Auburn showing Fort Hill Cemetery in relation to the current park boundaries and Tubman grave site, 1859. The map also documents a building at or near the current frame house (Home for the Aged) on the South Street, and a tollgate to the north, south of Wood Creek. (Detail, O. W. Gray, "Map of Cayuga and Seneca Counties, New York," 1859, Library of Congress, G3803.C31859.G7, annotated by SUNY ESF)**

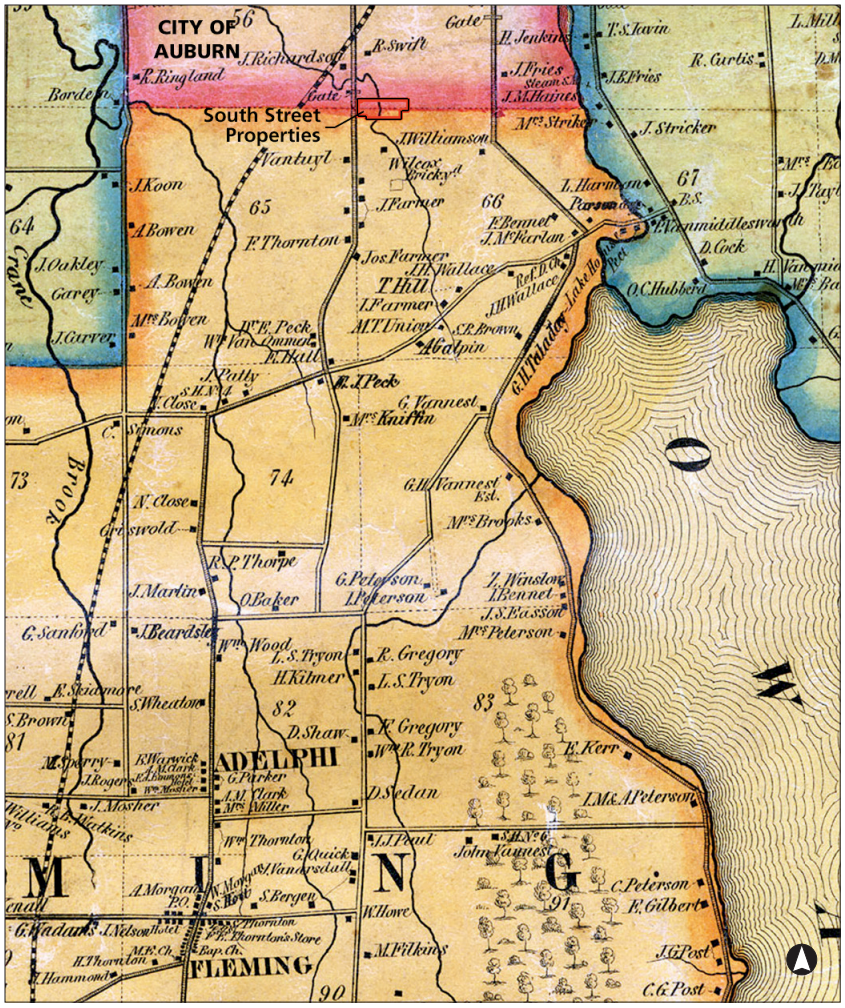



Figure 1.9. Map of Town of Fleming showing location of South Street properties along the Auburn-Fleming Plank Road (Route 34) straddling the City of Auburn boundary, 1853. The map does not show the Burton farmhouse (future Tubman house) or frame house on the twenty-five-acre property (see fig. 1.10 for detail of the area around the South Street properties). The numbers refer to the Military Tract 600-acre allotments (1790). (Detail, Samuel Geil, "Map of Cayuga County" wall map, 1853, Cayuga County Historian's Office, annotated by SUNY ESF)

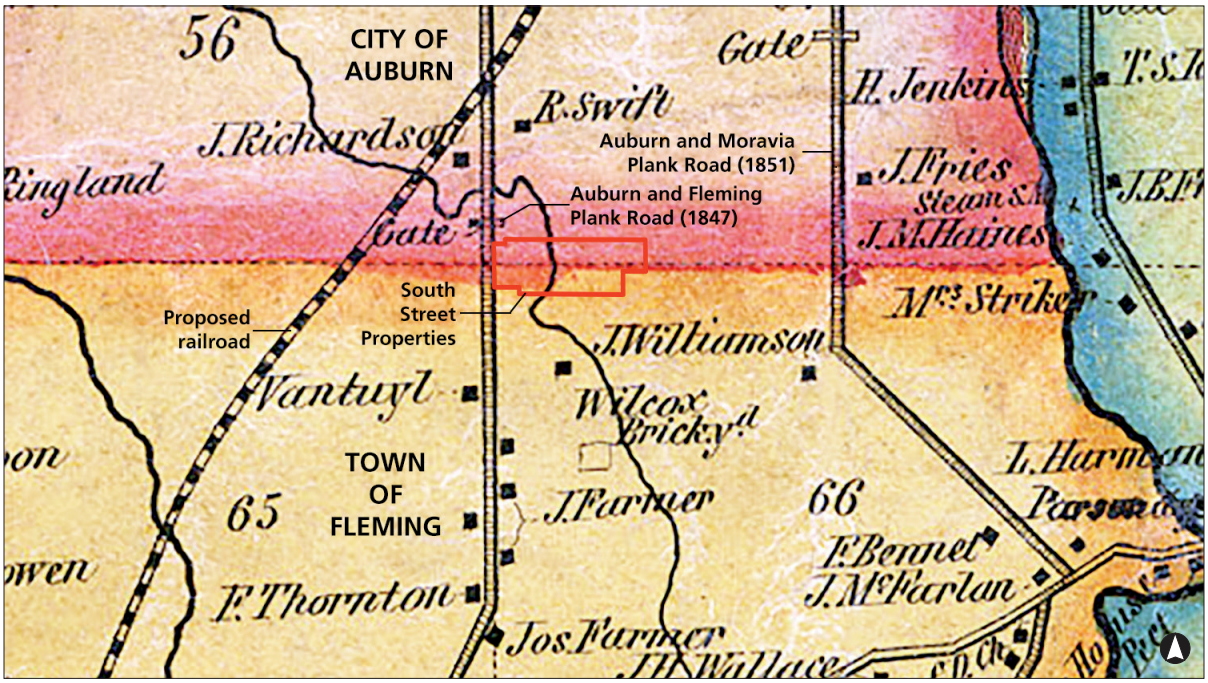



Figure 1.10. Detail of the 1853 map of Fleming (figure 1.9) showing the "gate" on the Auburn and Fleming Plank Road, and the absence of buildings (frame house, Tubman house) within the existing South Street properties. The "Wilcox Bricky[d]" is probably the same one later run by the Farmers, who owned property to the south.

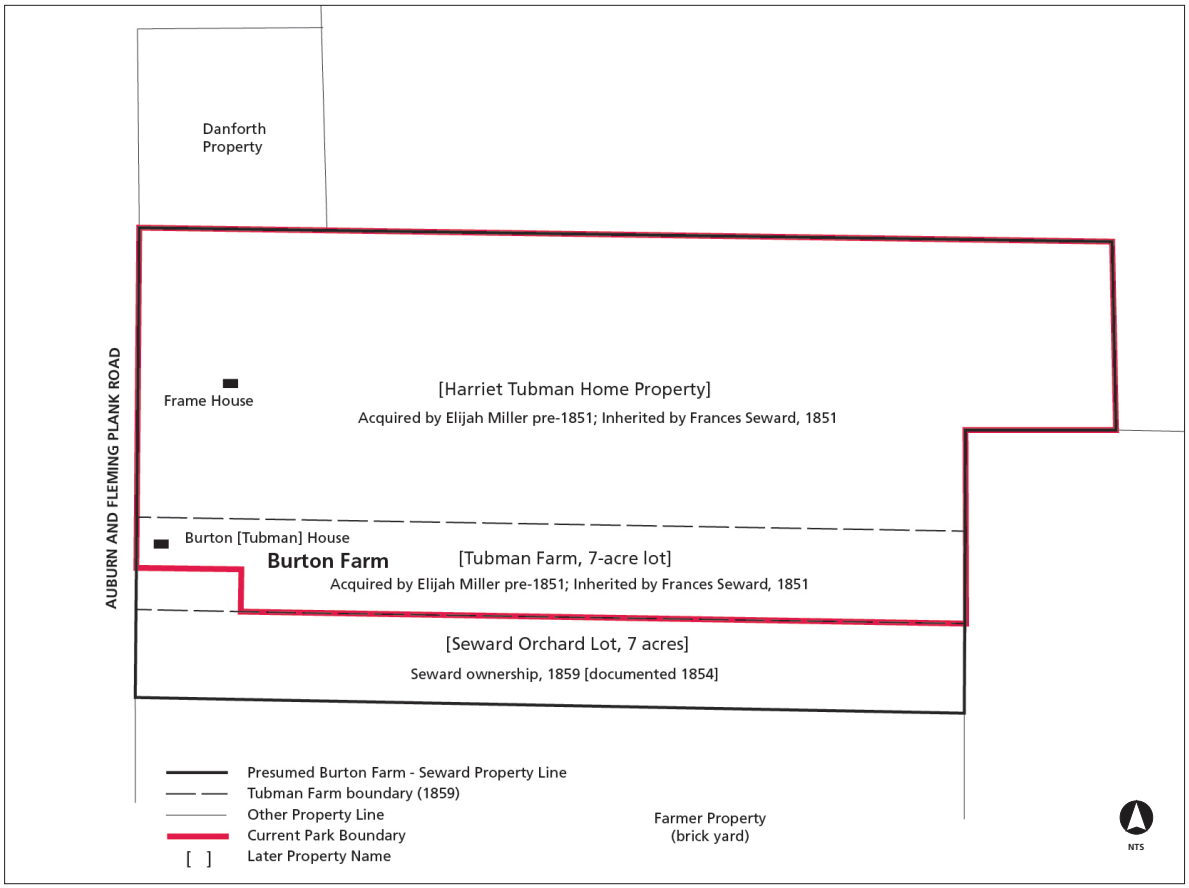



**Figure 1.11 . Diagram of the Burton Farm owned by William Henry Seward in 1859, and two adjoining parcels most likely also owned by Seward by 1859. (SUNY ESF)**



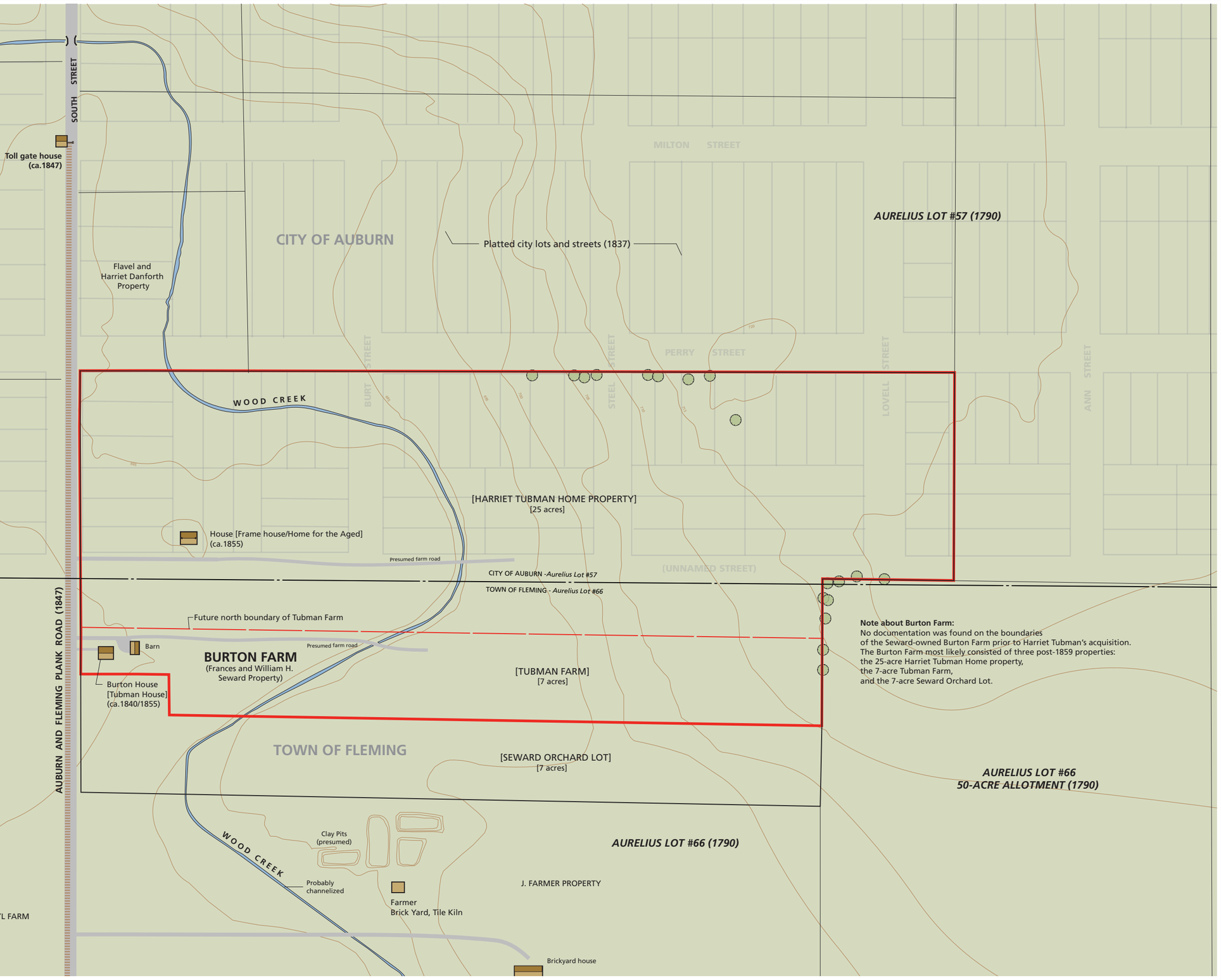

**Figure 1.12. The Jarrod Farm in the outskirts of Auburn, showing a typical pre-Civil War Cayuga County farmstead that may have shared a character similar to the Burton (Tubman) Farm. (Elliot G. Storke, *History of Cayuga County, New York*, 1879)**

# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## 1859

### Harriet Tubman Home Property and Tubman Farm




**Note about Burton Farm:**
No documentation was found on the boundaries of the Seward-owned Burton Farm prior to Harriet Tubman's acquisition. The Burton Farm most likely consisted of three post-1859 properties: the 25-acre Harriet Tubman Home property, the 7-acre Tubman Farm, and the 7-acre Seward Orchard Lot.


**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
www.nps.gov/oclp

in partnership with
Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, www.esf.edu/la/cclp


## SOURCES


1. State of New York, "Aurelius No. 8," 1790
2. Map of Auburn from Actual Survey, 1837
3. Gray, Map of Cayuga and Seneca Counties, 1859
4. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016


## DRAWN BY

John Auwaerter, Ilustrator CC, 2018

## LEGEND

- Parcel Boundary
- Current NPS Authorized Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Paper Lots/Streets (1837 Auburn Plat Map)
- Building
- Bridge or Culvert
- Unpaved Road
- Plank Road
- Deciduous Tree
- Lawn, Meadow, or Cultivated Field
- Stream
- 5' Contours

## NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Due to lack of documentation, all features are presumed to have existed in 1859, except for lot lines, plank road, toll house, and frame house (home for the aged) documented on the 1859 map; and the farmhouse on the site of the Tubman house (current brick house built on stone foundation of house that existed in 1859).
3. No documentation found for location of fences, orchards, and woodlots.
4. Trees only shown where old-growth presently exists (2018).

0' 100' 200' 300'

**Drawing 1.1**

## HARRIET TUBMAN'S EARLY YEARS IN AUBURN, 1859–1895

In 1859, Harriet Tubman acquired the Burton Farm on the Auburn and Fleming Plank Road—an illegal transaction at the time for an escaped slave. Tubman must have felt that Auburn, with its supportive abolitionist community and established black neighborhood would one day be a place where she and her family could live as free people. After the Civil War, she became a citizen and respected member of the Auburn community (fig. 1.13). Despite some advances, social and economic limits on African-American participation in the American mainstream persisted and took on new forms of injustice. Churches became a focal point of the black community, including the Thompson African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, where Harriet was a member. Guided by her deep religious faith and Auburn's community of social reformers, Harriet Tubman was able to maintain her farm as a place of hospitality and refuge for struggling African Americans. She bridged highly segregated worlds—white and black, rich and poor, male and female, urban and rural.[1] By the mid-1890s, Tubman was seeking to institutionalize her life's campaign for social justice and civil rights, which would mark a new period for her property in Auburn.

### HARRIET TUBMAN, "MOSES"

> I have known her long, and a nobler, higher spirit, or truer, seldom dwells in the human form. *William H. Seward, letter of support for Harriet Tubman, ca. 1862* [2]

William Seward, President Lincoln's Secretary of State, held Harriet Tubman in such high regard that three years prior to this letter, he entered into a contract to sell her a small farm on the outskirts of Auburn. At the time, it was illegal under federal law to aid escaped slaves such as Tubman due to passage of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, which required federal agents to return slaves to their owners in the South, where they would typically receive harsh punishment. Despite this law, Tubman gained remarkable success during the 1850s in guiding slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad, the informal and secretive freedom network through the Northeast to Canada. One of the so-called lines extended north from Philadelphia, while another ran from New York City up the Hudson River and west along the Erie Canal to the suspension bridge at Niagara Falls. Auburn and other nearby cities with ardent abolitionist communities, especially Syracuse and Rochester, became important so-called stations on the Underground Railroad where escaping slaves could find refuge and assistance in their journey. This region along the Erie Canal in central and western New York had for decades been a center of social reform, tracing back to the religious revivals of the 1820s and 1830s that earned it the reputation as the "burned-over-district." [3]

Harriet Tubman, whose given name was Araminta or "Minty," was born in 1822 on a plantation in Dorchester County, Maryland on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay—about 300 miles due south of Auburn (fig. 1.14). Her parents, Ben and Harriet "Rit" Ross, both slaves, had nine children, and Minty was the fifth. Early on, the family had a relatively stable life on the same plantation, but around 1824, Rit was given to a new master and took the children with her. Some of the children were eventually sold out of the state, while others were hired out to temporary masters in Dorchester County, leading to instances of cruelty and negligence. In one instance while Minty was a teen, an overseer hit her in the head with an iron weight, a life-threatening injury that led to recurring seizures and narcolepsy. After this incident, she often experienced vivid dreams, but gained strong religious and spiritual convictions that guided the rest of her life. According to Sarah Bradford who in 1869 published one of the first accounts of Tubman's life, there were "…remarkable instances of what seemed to be her direct intercourse with heaven."[4]

About 1844, Minty married a local free black man named John Tubman who had been born to free parents, and took on the name Harriet, probably after her mother. As with all enslaved people, the marriage had no legal standing, and the couple's children would be considered slave property under Maryland law. Five years later, Harriet's owner Edward Brodess died, leaving his widow, Eliza Ann Brodess, in debt. Harriet and her siblings realized they were at risk of being sold at auction, which could separate them to industrial-scale cotton farms in the Deep South, which were renowned for harsh conditions. At the same time, there was an increasing number of free African-Americans in Maryland, who formed a network of possible havens along the Easter Shore. On September 17, 1849, Harriet escaped with her two brothers, Ben and Henry—the same day that Eliza Ann Brodess was petitioning for their sale—but the brothers got scared and the three returned to the Eastern Shore, but not before Brodess offered a reward for their capture and return (fig. 1.17). On October 3, 1849, Harriet began her second attempt alone, running north at night through swampy forests into freedom, following the North Star to Philadelphia. By 1852, she had made her home in the refugee community of St. Catharines, a town in Ontario along the south shore of Lake Ontario, not far from the US border at Niagara Falls.[5]

With her secretive escape techniques and network of refuge and assistance on the Underground Railroad, Harriet undertook numerous successful rescues following her own escape, but remained in hiding. According to Tubman historian Kate Clifford Larson, she relied upon "a long-established, intricate, and secretive web of communication and support among African Americans," not only on the Eastern Shore, but throughout Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, New England, and Canada. Harriet Tubman made her first trip back into

Maryland in December 1850 to rescue her niece, followed by a second trip a few months later to save her brother and two other men. In 1857, she led her parents out of Maryland. Her last known return to Dorchester County was in November 1860, when she led the Ennals family to freedom. Over the course of eleven years, Harriet made an estimated thirteen highly risky trips to rescue family and friends, escorting about seventy people in total along the Underground Railroad. Another estimated fifty individuals escaped based on detailed instructions provided by Tubman.[6]

Although the number of her rescues was not a significant portion of the total number of fugitive slaves who escaped through the Underground Railroad, her bravery in repeated returns south of the Mason-Dixon Line, and rate of success, earned her widespread fame as a so-called conductor on the Underground Railroad, a fame that would grow into legend. With parallels to the Biblical story of the Israelites' release from slavery in Egypt, to her fellow enslaved African Americans she became known as "Moses."[7]

Tubman's courage, steel will, and compassion born out of adversity brought her fame not just among African-Americans, but also among the small circles of abolitionists in the Northeast, among whom she was well known by 1854. This circle provided her with funds necessary to carry out her rescues, as well as opportunities for fighting the institution of slavery. One of these opportunities came about in spring 1858, when she met John Brown, the radical abolitionist, at her home in St. Catharines (fig. 1.16). Brown was planning a raid on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, the opening act of his scheme to arm all slaves to enable them to fight for their own liberation and establish a free state. Tubman and Brown quickly formed a close bond, he famously referring to her as "General" and recognizing her great intelligence. She agreed to help by recruiting fugitive slaves in St. Catharines to assist in the raid. The attack was postponed and Tubman did not participate in the actual failed attack that took place on October 16-18, 1859. Many of Brown's small army of twenty-one people were killed during the raid. Brown was captured and hanged on December 2, 1859. To Tubman, John Brown was a martyr for freedom.[8]

Although Tubman had become increasingly visible to white abolitionist and suffragist circles by the late 1850s, the succession of Southern states and start of the Civil War in 1861 brought her more fully into the public realm. She joined the Union Army and served as a nurse to black soldiers and liberated slaves in Union camps in the Hilton Head district of South Carolina (fig. 1.17). She also served as a spy behind Confederate lines. One of her most notable contributions to the war occurred in June 1863, when she guided the Second South Carolina Black regiment to destroy Confederate stockpiles and liberate over 700 slaves—the first woman to command a military raid.[9]

After the war, Tubman returned to Auburn where she maintained a home for her parents and other relatives, and created a refuge for those in need. Her public visibility was enhanced with publication of her memoir in 1869, written by Sarah Bradford and titled, *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman.* That same year, she married Charles Nelson Davis, a Union Army veteran who went by Nelson Davis, at Central Presbyterian Church in Auburn. Her first husband, John Tubman, had remarried during Harriet's absence and was killed in 1867. In 1874, Nelson and Harriet adopted a girl, Gertie, their only child. Throughout her life in Auburn, Harriet Tubman worked for the civil rights of African-Americans, women, and other disadvantaged people. Without the skill to read or write, she gained few formal roles, but assisted many organizations, such as the Freedmen's Bureau, which provided education and relief to liberated slaves in the South. Her Underground Railroad fame, which faded among the American public after the war, did not bring her fortune. Throughout her life, she struggled financially, often depending on the generosity of friends and neighbors. She was denied a pension for her service in the Army, but was granted a widower's pension upon the death of Nelson Davis in 1888 and later received a Civil War nurse's pension during the 1890s. [10]

By the later 1880s, Harriet Tubman was enjoying renewed public awareness through publication of a new edition of her memoir by Sarah Bradford, retitled *Harriet, the Moses of Her People*, which provided her with some additional income. Through her experience as both a freed slave and a woman, she also began to focus on issues of women's suffrage by the 1890s, building on her friendships with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Martha Coffin Wright, and other suffragists.[11]

## THE TUBMAN FARM

### Connections in Auburn

In her work on the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman most likely passed through Auburn on numerous occasions during the 1850s. One of her closest supporters and friends in Auburn was Martha Coffin Wright, who was probably introduced to Tubman by her sister, Lucretia Coffin Mott of Philadelphia, a long-time friend of Tubman's who had assisted with some of her earliest rescue attempts. In keeping with their Quaker faith, the two sisters were ardent abolitionists as well as suffragists. At Seneca Falls just fifteen miles west of Auburn, Martha Coffin Wright was one of the signers of the Declaration of Sentiments at the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, which was drafted by her sister Lucretia Mott together with Seneca Falls resident Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Tubman's circle of abolitionist supporters in Auburn also included Senator

William H. Seward, who would become President Lincoln's Secretary of State, and prominent African American leaders of the movement in nearby cities—notably Reverend Jermain Loguen in Syracuse and Frederick Douglas in Rochester.[12]

Through this network in central New York, Tubman may have directed runaway slaves from Dorchester County to settle in Auburn, such as Nat and Lizzie Amby. They arrived in Auburn in October 1857 and settled in the long-established black community of New Guinea along the Owasco Outlet. They were part of an exodus of slaves from Dorchester County that year. Harriet's father, Ben Ross, had come under suspicion of aiding the fugitives. Realizing that her parents, by then in their late sixties, were in jeopardy, Harriet made her way down to the Eastern Shore to rescue them, but was hampered by the increased vigilance and loss of slaves who served as operatives on the Underground Railroad. By May 1857, Harriet arrived and began to guide her parents north. Although they were essentially free due to their age, Ben and Rit still had to escape under cover, and their age made the trip all the more precarious. After traveling through Wilmington and Philadelphia, they spent two weeks in Rochester before heading to St. Catharines, Ontario, where Harriet Tubman lived from 1851 to 1858. Two sons of Ben and Rit, William Henry and John Stewart along with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, also lived in St. Catharines. Slavery had been outlawed in British Canada since 1833; by the time Ben and Rit arrived, there were about 700 refugee slaves living in St. Catharines, which had a population of about 6,000 (Auburn's population in 1860 was 10,986).[13]

#### Purchase of the Burton Farm

Although St. Catharines was in one of the warmest parts of eastern Canada, the still harsh winters were tough on Ben and Rit Ross, and perhaps they were not accustomed to city life. After John Brown's raid was put on hold in 1858, Harriet Tubman turned her attention to assisting her parents in finding a new place to live. By late winter or early spring of 1859, she had secured seven acres of the Burton Farm, south of the tollgate on the Auburn-Fleming Plank Road, on favorable terms from then-Senator William H. Seward. Seward most likely knew Tubman for some time through his family's close ties to the abolitionist community and the Underground Railroad. The initial connection may have been through his law partner, David Wright, who was the husband of Tubman's friend, Martha Coffin Wright. [14]

While it was a bit colder and much snowier than St. Catharines, Auburn provided the safety of Tubman's circle of abolitionist friends, at a time when it was still highly precarious to be a fugitive slave in the Northern states due to the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law and the Supreme Court's 1857 Dred Scott decision, which denied the right of citizenship to African Americans. Perhaps Tubman also chose

Auburn because she looked forward to a time when she and her family would be able to gain US rather than British (Canadian) citizenship. The Burton Farm provided Harriet's parents, along with her brother John Stewart, with a more familiar rural landscape—more akin to their home in Maryland—than a place in town. The farm also certainly represented a chance for Tubman to own property where she could raise food to support her family and friends, without being subject to a landlord. Perhaps these were the reasons Harriet did not seek a place in Auburn's in-town black communities along the Owasco Inlet and Washington Street. [15]

William H. Seward had a record of providing places in Auburn for poor and immigrant families, so his sale to Tubman was not unusual. However, he had probably never made an offer that brought with it such risk—selling to a fugitive woman without means of income—but the sale may have also brought him political visibility in the growing abolitionist sentiments in the North. The contract was for $1,200, requiring Tubman to pay $25 down and submit quarterly payments of $10 with interest. Seward, who was out of town, must have had his wife and son complete the transaction, which was recorded in Seward's legal papers on May 25, 1859. The entry read: "Mrs. Harriet Tubman holds article from Estate of E. M. [Elijah Miller, Seward's deceased father-in-law—Seward was the executor of the estate] for 7 acre lot Burton Farm with house thereon."[16] The seven acres, which was apparently the "lot" subdivided from the larger Seward-owned Burton Farm property, was a long rectangular parcel, 1,680 feet east to west, and 180 feet north to south (fig. 1.18).[17]

Seward's arrangement with Tubman was a private contract; no bank mortgage or legal deed was executed in Cayuga County, presumably due to Tubman's fugitive status. However, Seward must have soon registered her as the property owner with the Town of Fleming, because she was listed as the "taxable inhabitant" of the property in 1860 (fig. 1.19). The tax of $2.45 reflected improvements on the small parcel—the house referenced in the Seward legal papers: a small frame building on a stone foundation, probably built earlier in the decade. No other record of improvements survives. There was most likely a frame barn at the rear of the house, fenced fields, and a farm road to the back of the property.[18]

After signing the contract, Tubman set out to raise funds to pay Seward by giving talks and seeking donations from wealthy abolitionists in Boston, but she faced increasing threats to her safety due to her association with John Brown following his failed raid at Harper's Ferry in October 1859. She soon returned to St. Catharines, as did her parents, Ben and Rit Ross, and brother, John Stewart. None of them were recorded as living in Auburn/Fleming in the 1860 census. By spring 1861, with the outbreak of war looming, Ben and Rit returned to Auburn more certain of their freedom, while Harriet soon left to serve the Union army in

South Carolina. [19] The remarkable change in fortune that the war brought about was evident in an 1863 account of Tubman's life by her friend, Franklin Sanborn, published in the *Boston Commonwealth:* "Her parents were Benjamin Ross and Harriet Greene, both slaves, but married and faithful to each other. They still live in old age and poverty, but free, on a little property at Auburn, N. Y., which their daughter purchased for them from Mr. Seward, the Secretary of State." The Emancipation Proclamation came into effect on January 1, 1863.[20]

#### Life on the Tubman Farm

Harriet Tubman's extraordinary care for those seeking freedom on the Underground Railroad was transformed after the war into a life of radical hospitality that grew out of her deep Christian convictions and passion for civil rights. She returned after the war's end in spring 1865 to the farm she had contracted to purchase from William H. Seward, to take care of her parents, Ben and Rit Ross, who adopted the surname of Stewart that was used by their sons. They were the only occupants of the farm in a census of the Town of Fleming taken in 1865. In Harriet's absence, Ben and Rit had presumably been keeping up the farm, but needed their daughter's help. Tubman may have hoped to focus on caring for her parents and running the house and farm, but her care was also needed by many other former slaves who were struggling to adapt to their new place in society. This included providing humanitarian aid to freed slaves in the South. In Auburn, Tubman was caring for at least three children at her farm by the late 1860s, and she purportedly fed and housed many others. One of the boarders, Nelson Davis, married forty-seven-year-old Harriet Tubman on March 18, 1869. He had boarded at her home for three years and was more than twenty years younger.[21]

Harriet's devotion to the care of family and friends left her with little means to earn the income she needed to pay her debt to William H. Seward. Her financial desperation may have led her to request a $400 loan from him by 1866, just to keep the farm running. Soon after this time, Sarah H. Bradford, sister of the pastor at Auburn's Central Presbyterian Church where Harriet and her parents had worshipped since 1862, agreed to write Tubman's memoir. The purpose of the project was not only to document the events of her remarkable life, but also to raise funds that would allow Tubman to pay off the $1,200 she owned on her farm. Thirty-four subscribers, most from Auburn and including William H. Seward, Jr., contributed between $5 and $25 to cover the cost of printing the book, titled *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*. The book sold well and provided Tubman with sufficient income to ease her financial worries, although not enough to pay off the debt on the farm.[22]

William H. Seward died in 1872, and Tubman's debt to him became the property of his son, Frederick Seward. Frederick forgave this debt, which included the

debt on the farm, and on May 29, 1873, a deed legally transferring the property to Harriet Tubman was filed at the Cayuga County clerk's office.[23]

Over the next quarter-century, Harriet Tubman continued to maintain her home in Auburn as a place for her family and as a refuge for those in need (fig. 1.20). The farm provided crops and livestock to feed her dependents, as well as some income. She would often walk up South Street to sell her produce and canned goods, and return down South Street collecting refuse to feed her pigs.[24] Always in need of additional funds, she and Nelson supplemented their income by working in nearby brickyards. Nelson was listed as a brick maker in the 1875-76 Auburn directory, with his "h[ome] South [Street] n[ear] brick yard"—probably referring to the brick yard on the property north of the Tubman Farm (present Harriet Tubman Home property).[25] Harriet also earned income by working as a domestic in several of the big houses on South Street and elsewhere, and by asking her friends and supporters in Auburn for donations to support her boarders. In addition to caring for indigent dependents, she raised her daughter, Gertie Davis, adopted in 1874. Harriet's parents, the focus of her caregiving for many years, passed in the 1870s—Ben in ca. 1871 and Rit in 1879. Nelson Davis, who suffered from tuberculosis, died prematurely on October 14, 1888 at the age of 45 and was buried in Fort Hill Cemetery.[26]

Other family members that Harriet took in included her younger brother, William Henry Stewart, Sr. Harriet rescued him from Maryland in 1854 and he settled in St. Catharines, then came to Auburn in the late 1880s, probably to be near his son, William Henry Stewart, Jr., who had moved to Auburn in the 1870s. Probably first boarding in the Tubman house, the elder William Stewart subsequently moved to a house farther north on South Street (see following section, Jasper-Stewart Property). William's son, John Isaac Stewart (Harriet's nephew) and his daughter, Eva Katherine Helena Harriet (Harriet's granddaughter), came to Auburn around the same time in 1890. The year prior, John's wife, Helena, died following the birth of Eva; as she lay dying, she asked Harriet, then almost seventy years old, to raise Eva. John Isaac died a few years later, on March 3, 1893, and was buried next to Nelson Davis in Fort Hill Cemetery, leaving Harriet as the sole caretaker of Eva.[27]

#### The Farm Landscape

Given her limited financial resources, it is unlikely that Harriet Tubman Davis made substantial changes to the Burton Farm after her acquisition in 1859, or once she settled there following the Civil War. Harriet and Nelson did, however, make good use of the land, as documented in an agricultural census undertaken in 1875. Valued at $1,400, the farm had seven improved acres and farm buildings valued at $100, probably representing the barn and minor outbuildings. Of the

seven acres, two were cultivated, including a half acre of potatoes. Four and a half acres were used as pasture. The Davises kept two dairy cows and seven pigs. In 1874, eleven pigs were slaughtered, equal to 2,500 pounds of pork, and 300 pounds of butter were produced. There was an unidentified number of poultry, which were valued at $30 and produced $5.00 worth of eggs in 1874.[28] The vegetables Harriet and Nelson raised probably came from a fenced garden to the south of the house. Over the years that they farmed the property, Harriet and Nelson may have rearranged it to accommodate their agricultural uses, perhaps reflecting the farm landscapes they knew as slaves in Maryland.[29]

A major change came to Harriet Tubman's farm on February 10, 1880 when fire destroyed her wood-frame house. The *Evening Auburnian* reported,

> The residence of Harriet Tubman Davis, the once famous Union scout and spy, located near the South street tollgate, was entirely consumed by fire at an early hour this morning. Only a small portion of the household goods were [sic] saved. The conflagration is said to have originated from a defective stovepipe stuck through a hole in a lintel [? illeg] and which was utilized for a chimney.[30]

Harriet, Nelson, and Gertie moved to temporary quarters, and spent the next two years raising funds and rebuilding. Tubman apparently was seeking donations from the public for her new house so that she could continue to operate it as a home for indigent people. The *Christian Reporter*, a newspaper of the A.M.E. Zion Church, reported on March 8, 1881 as plans for the new house were underway:

> Harriet Davis *nee Tubman*, better known as "Moses" of the rebellion, is endeavoring to establish a home for infirm colored people, in Auburn, N. Y. . . .Such a woman ought certainly have the influence and support of the public in her undertaking.[31]

Constructed between 1881 and 1882, the new brick house was erected on a foundation of cut Onondaga limestone laid upon the subsurface rubble stone footing of the old house (fig. 1.21). [32] At a full two stories with an attic, the new house was probably larger than the old one, with about 1,200 square feet on two finished floors. The house was entirely designed and built by African Americans—most likely Nelson Davis and Tubman's relatives and friends.[33] Nelson Davis's stamp on the construction is suggested in a circular attic window with Masonic-like tracery, perhaps representing his membership in the local chapter of the Black Free Masons. The bricks for the house may have been made at a temporary kiln at the work site, or from bricks made at the nearby brickyards. The windows featured old-fashioned six-over-six sash with louvered shutters, and the side and front porches were ornamented with simple scroll-work detailing. Gutters and downspouts collected water into a wooden cistern. A brick walk extended from the front door to the road, and a large picket-fence-enclosed

garden remained south of the house. The outhouse was probably behind the barn.[34]

The barn, measuring thirty feet wide and twenty feet deep with a rear shed addition, was most likely rebuilt soon after the house, perhaps during Nelson Davis's lifetime (see fig. 1.20). It featured a gable roof with cedar shingles, and vertical hemlock plank siding. Its balloon-like timber framing, consisting of circular and sash-sawn timbers fastened by wire nails, was inventive and ad hoc, suggesting construction by an amateur.[35] The area surrounding the barn contained several sheds and pens where chickens and pigs were kept. The sheds were most likely simple frame buildings, perhaps with board-and-batten siding (fig. 1.22). The barnyard at the entrance to the barn, which would have served as a work yard, was bordered on the west by the house, on the south by the fenced yard/garden, and on the north by the farm road that led to the eastern part of the property. [36]

Tubman's south property line bordered a seven-acre plot of the same dimensions as hers, owned by William H. Seward, Jr., who had inherited it from his brother, Augustus Seward, in ca. 1876. There were no buildings on the property. Soon after Harriet lost her house to fire, William H. Seward Jr. began to plan for planting, expanding, or replacing an orchard on the property. In the summer of 1881, Seward built fences along the boundaries, and charged his neighbor to the south, Ross (probably Sylvester Ross, the partner of J. Farmer) for half the cost of the fence, $89.25 (it is not known whether this was a wood or wire fence). Seward donated the fence line along Tubman's south boundary; he recorded in his ledger: "Aunt H. Tubman for same not pd $81.31." The following December, Seward purchased fruit trees for the lot: 372 pear, 250 peach, 6 quince, 6 cherry, 12 plum, 6 apricot, 12 apple, and 6 nectarine. Best practices in orchard management by the 1880s called for even rows and the trees pruned for short trunks. The 670 trees that Seward ordered probably took up most of the seven-acre lot.[37]

The fact that William H. Seward, Jr. did not require Harriet Tubman to pay her share of the fence line along the orchard lot reflected his close relationship with her, as well as Tubman's certain preoccupation at the time with rebuilding her house, which began a period of renewed financial difficulties. In 1884, two years after the house was completed, Tubman lost most of her hogs to disease. Nelson Davis suffered from tuberculosis for years, leading to his death in 1888—a major setback in the operation of the farm and to the family's income. Meanwhile, Tubman still had to care for Gertie and her needy dependents. To raise funds, she turned to Sarah Bradford to issue a new edition of her memoirs. In 1886, Bradford published the new version, entitled *Harriet, The Moses of Her People*. In the preface, Bradford wrote, "she needs help again not for herself, but for certain

helpless ones of her people."[38] Together with her own advancing age, the difficulties she encountered following completion of her new brick house most likely made clear she needed a new way of operating her home. By the mid-1890s, Harriet Tubman Davis would seek support from her church to institutionalize and expand her care for the indigent and elderly.

### FARMER–ROSS PROPERTY

Immediately north of Harriet Tubman Davis's farm was William H. and Frances Seward's twenty-five-acre parcel that straddled the boundary between the City of Auburn and Town of Fleming (fig. 1.23). On February 1, 1864, the Sewards sold this land to John W. Farmer for $2,488.29. At the time, the property most likely contained a frame house set back from the plank road, facing south (present Home for the Aged/frame house). The Farmer family also owned land south of the Tubman Farm and Seward Orchard Lot where a brickyard had existed as early as 1853, labeled on a map that year as the Wilcox Brickyard. By 1859, Farmer had apparently taken over the operation, which was listed on a map published that year as the J. Farmer Brickyard and Tile Kiln. Farmer produced not only clay bricks, but also clay agricultural tiles used to improve drainage in farm fields. The clay was mined in pits along Wood Creek. These brickworks provided Harriet Tubman's family and dependents with a ready, nearby source of employment that supplemented income from agriculture. Nelson Davis worked at the Farmer and Ross brickyards and its successors, as well as Tubman's nephew, Charles E. Stewart (fig. 1.24). [39]

John W. Farmer probably acquired Seward's twenty-five-acre parcel to expand his brick-making operation, and perhaps also for additional farmland. By 1870, Farmer had gone into partnership with Sylvester Ross, as reflected in the Auburn directory listing for that year, "Ross & Farmer, brick yard, South n[ear] toll gate." The following year, Sylvester Ross's partner in the brick yard was William Hedger, instead of John Farmer, who may have retired since he was approaching the age of 70. Four years later, on April 1, 1875, Farmer and his wife sold the twenty-five-acre parcel to Sylvester Ross, who continued brick and tile manufacturing on the site and also farmed the property. By 1876, Ross's partner was Franklin B. Rice (fig. 1.25). In the 1880 census, Ross was listed as a brick maker and farmer on South Street, without a partner. His changing partners may have reflected tough economic conditions during the long depression of the 1870s, which could have been the reason John W. Farmer reacquired the twenty-five-acre property by the early 1880s. [40] By 1883, the brickmaker at the site was S. J. Saunders, who probably leased the property from Farmer. That year, he published an advertisement that read:

S. J. Saunders
(Successor to Sylvester Ross,)
Brick Manufacturer
Hard and Light Hard Brick constantly on hand. All
Kinds and Styles made to order.
South Street Brick Yards,
South Street, near Toll Gate.[41]

All of these partnerships may have operated the brickyards at both the twenty-five-acre property and the Farmer property south of the Tubman Farm in the Town of Fleming, known collectively as the South Street Brick Yards. The northern brickyard in the City of Auburn probably ceased operation after 1885, since it disappeared from the Auburn directories. The remaining brick yards on the Farmer property in the Town of Fleming continued, producing more than 2 million bricks in 1899. By 1912, however, it had closed, probably succumbing to decline in the local building industry and competition from mechanized mass-production of bricks in the Hudson Valley and Buffalo areas.[42]

The brick-making operations on the twenty-five-acre property were small in scale and probably seasonal, with markets limited to the local area. The clay was mined from the flats along both sides of Wood Creek, from the north property line to the boundary with the Tubman Farm. Like the clay pits at the larger Farmer-Ross-Saunders brickyard to the south, these would have been flooded with creek water in the spring to soften the clay for easier extraction in the fall.[43] Brick and tile manufacturing took place in a brick yard that straddled the access road east of the frame house and west of Wood Creek (near present visitor center), which included a number of utilitarian buildings most likely built during the active years of the brick yard between ca. 1864 and 1885. To the northwest was the site of a brick kiln (or brick clamp), one of several kilns that may have operated at different times in and around the brickyard. Typical kilns for small operations in the late 19th century were characterized by a fire-box lined by specially manufactured heat-resistant fire brick, in which the green bricks and tiles were stacked for firing, usually by wood or coal. Frame sheds were sometimes used to protect the firebox (fig. 1.26). The kilns on the twenty-five-acre property, with an estimated capacity of 20,000 to 30,000 bricks at each firing, may have been less permanent structures, with common brick used for the kiln walls known as waster brick because they were discarded after each firing.[44]

The most substantial building on the twenty-five-acre property was a brick house east of Wood Creek and just south of the Auburn city line built between 1864 and 1871 (fig. 1.27). Later known as John Brown Hall, it was accessed from an extension of the access road east across Wood Creek. The house was a traditional five-bay center-entrance plan with a side-gable roof, built on a high foundation of cut Onondaga limestone with a one-story brick wing to the east. A long flight of wood steps led up to the front door. The high foundation elevated the first floor

above flood level, a necessity given its location in the lowlands along Wood Creek and at the base of a hill. The finely detailed corbeled brick eaves, ashlar stone foundation, stone sills, and location east of the main activity of the brick yard indicates the house was most likely built for one of the owners or master brick makers, perhaps Sylvester Ross. A barn probably stood to the north, across the access road. The house was surrounded to the south and east by an orchard by the late nineteenth century.[45]

The two-story frame house built in ca. 1855 (existing Home for the Aged/frame house) that stood closer to the main road was most likely used as housing for brickyard workers (fig. 1.28). It was probably painted red, and included a kitchen wing on unmortared waster brick foundation that extended from the east side of the building. The city directory of 1868 lists five unrelated brickmakers living on South Street "near the Toll Gate," possibly indicating the inhabitants of this house.[46].

Around 1883, another frame house was moved to the property, then owned by Sylvester Ross, to a site south of the frame house across the Auburn city line and near South Street (see fig. 1.18). This was the old toll gate house. At some point prior to 1883, the Auburn and Fleming Plank Road company went out of business, as plank roads became outmoded and expensive due to the amount of wood necessary to maintain them. On August 21, 1883, the Auburn *News & Bulletin* reported that the city alderman resolved that the city attorney take steps to remove the "South Street toll-gate," which stood within the bed of South Street (see fig. 1.23). The city apparently sold or gave the building to Sylvester Ross, who moved it 500 feet south to the new location. It became the third residential building on the twenty-five-acre property, which Ross probably used to house brickyard workers.[47]

#### WILLIAM H. STEWART, SR. PROPERTY

In 1868, Flavel and Harriet Danforth subdivided their property along South Street, adjacent to the north boundary of John W. Farmer's twenty-five-acre brickyard (fig. 1.29). The Danforths were charter members of Central Presbyterian Church, where Harriet Tubman was married in 1869. The subdivision included a road named Danforth Avenue (also known as Danforth Street), which may have existed in part, including a bridge over Wood Creek, but was most likely primarily a paper street. It did not correspond with Milton Street proposed at the same site in the 1837 city plat (see fig. 1.5).[48] In 1871, the Danforths sold a quarter-acre lot along South Street, which did correspond with the small lots on the 1837 city plat, to Jacob Jasper, a brick maker who probably worked at the adjoining Farmer & Ross brick yards. Jasper built a small house on the lot soon after he acquired the property, which was later assigned the address of 176 South Street (see fig. 1.23). In 1878, Sylvester Ross, then the owner of the

twenty-five-acre brick yard property, sold Jasper a quarter-acre lot from the northwest corner of his property, adjacent to the quarter acre lot with the house. Jasper may have used the lot for a garden, since he did not construct buildings on it. The two lots remained separate legal parcels.[49]

Jacob Jasper resided at 176 South Street until 1890, when he sold both lots to Harriet Tubman. At the time the deed was filed, Jasper was living in Harrison, Clare County, Michigan. Jasper sold Tubman the two quarter-acre parcels for $975.00. Tubman retained title (and was thus listed in the city directories as being at 176 South Street), but the house was most likely inhabited beginning around 1890 by her brother, William H. Stewart, Sr. He had probably been living in Harriet's brick house since he moved from Canada in the late 1880s. His move to the Jasper house may have been required to provide space in Harriet's home for his son, John Isaac Stewart, and John's infant daughter Eva Katherine Helena Harriet Stewart, whom Tubman agreed to raise upon the death of her mother, Helena, in 1889. The Jasper house would remain the home of William H. Stewart, Sr. for the next two decades.[50]

#### AUBURN AND THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

In the decades after the Civil War, Auburn remained a prosperous industrial town, more than doubling in population to 25,858 inhabitants by 1890. Elaborate mansions and spacious grounds lined South Street, less than a half mile north of Harriet Tubman's farm. One of these belonged to Eliza Wright Osborne, a noted social reformer and supporter of Harriet during her life in Auburn. Eliza was the daughter of Martha Coffin Wright, one of Harriet's first friends in Auburn, who died in 1875. Eliza was married to David M. Osborne, who founded a successful farm implement company, D. M. Osborne & Company, which later became part of the International Harvester Company. Their Second Empire-style mansion at 99 South Street, completed in 1872, was a short three-quarter-mile walk north from Harriet Tubman's house, adjacent to the southeast corner of Fort Hill Cemetery (figs. 1.30, 1.31). Tubman not only walked by the house on her way into town, but was also a frequent visitor. The Osbornes oversaw Tubman's finances, supported her in times of sickness and trouble, and provided employment for her brothers at D. M. Osborne & Company.[51]

Downtown Auburn along Genesee Street was another half mile to the north, past the Seward House and the parish where Harriet and Nelson Davis were married in 1869, Central Presbyterian Church (see fig. 1.30). The African-American neighborhood along Washington Street was on the north side of town, about 1.8 miles from Tubman's farm. Walks to this neighborhood would have brought Tubman past or through Fort Hill Cemetery, where Nelson Davis was buried in 1888, followed by her nephew, John Isaac Stewart in 1893, both in the "Home"

section of the cemetery (fig. 1.32). The West Lawn section to the west, where Harriet Tubman would be buried, was platted into gridded grave lots in ca. 1890, but burials in the area did not begin in earnest until after 1900. [52]

Harriet Tubman walked from her farm into Auburn, following the dirt surface of the former plank road and South Street, and then along shady stone sidewalks in town (fig. 1.33). She also owned or had access to a horse and wagon. A local paper, the Union Springs *Advertiser,* reported on one unfortunate incident: "Harriet Tubman Davis. . .was in an accident in South street yesterday. The old woman was driving her horse toward the city limits when the wagon in which she was riding was overturned by a collision with a farmer's rig."[53]

#### Parker Street and the A.M.E. Zion Church [54]

Along the west side of Fort Hill Cemetery was Parker Street, a residential road built through a farm field soon after the Civil War. By 1871, the street was lined by sixteen houses, most of a vernacular gable-front and ell plan, set on small lots with about fifty feet of frontage (see fig. 1.30). Parker Street, together with neighboring Chapman (Cornell) Avenue, Garrow Street, and Fitch Avenue, became home to many in Auburn's African American community during the post-Civil War period. A large number came from Canada, following Harriet Tubman. At least three of Tubman's relatives lived in the neighborhood—her nephews William H. Stewart, Jr. and John Henry Ross Stewart, and her niece, Margaret Stewart Lucas. During the 1870s, John Henry Ross Stewart built a house on the west side of Parker Street, south of the empty lots where the Auburn African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church would build its new church in 1891.[55]

Harriet Tubman's first known place of worship in Auburn, Central Presbyterian Church, was established in 1862 by members of the Second Presbyterian Church who broke away in 1861 over the issue of slavery. Harriet Tubman and her parents attended soon after the founding, perhaps invited by David M. Osborne, one of the founders of the new church and the son-in-law of Harriet Tubman's friend, Martha Coffin Wright. Tubman also probably knew Flavel Danforth, the church's deacon and owner of property north of her farm on South Street. The new parish met at the Young Men's Christian Association on Genesee Street, and soon built a basement chapel near the courthouse, where Harriet and Nelson were married on March 18, 1869. The church remained proud of its history of racial integration, later publishing, "When Harriet Tubman was married to Mr. Davis, in the basement chapel, the occasion was a very grand one, as the marriage of a heroine of liberty and of the Civil war ought to be."[56] Soon after their wedding, the church began construction of a new building on William Street behind the Seward House (present Westminster Church).[57]

Harriet may have soon followed her husband to another church. One year after their wedding, Nelson Davis became one of the first trustees of St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, the second African church in Auburn established in 1870 and part of a denomination based in Philadelphia that traced its founding back to 1797. St. Mark's met in temporary quarters downtown, and bought property for a permanent church building on Mechanic Street along the Owasco Outlet, north of Auburn's original African American neighborhood known as New Guinea. A foundation was built, but the building was never completed and the congregation eventually folded.[58]

The older African congregation in Auburn, which traced its origins back to 1838, was part of a sister denomination based on New York City, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (A.M.E. Zion) Church.[59] Its origins began in 1796, when black members of the predominantly white John Street Methodist Episcopal Church in New York City formed an independent congregation under the leadership of James Varick—the first black congregation in New York state. In 1800, the young congregation built its own church building, which it named Zion. In 1820, the A.M.E. Zion Church officially withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church, four years after the Philadelphia A.M.E. Church withdrew. The New York church's name reflected its place of founding at the Zion Church (Mother Zion), its retention of Methodist Episcopal doctrine and church government, and its leadership by descendants of Africa, "in the interest of humanity, regardless of race, color, sex or condition."[60] By 1830, more than a dozen A.M.E. Zion churches were established in the Northeast. During the first half of the nineteenth century, the A.M.E. Zion Church became a leading voice in the abolitionist movement and was widely known as the Freedom Church. Frederick Douglas often spoke from Rochester's A.M.E. Zion Church, and Rev. Jermain Loguen led the A.M.E. Zion Church of Syracuse, which became known as the Abolition Church. [61]

The A.M.E. Zion Church of Auburn was founded under the leadership of Joseph Pascal Thompson (1818–1894), who would go on to serve at Mother Zion and become consecrated as bishop in 1876. Thompson was born a slave in Winchester, Virginia, and as a youth escaped to Philadelphia. Through the support of his adopted family, he studied at the Auburn Theological Seminary, and became licensed to preach in 1838, when he founded what would become the A.M.E. Zion Church of Auburn, officially established in 1845. Thompson later practiced medicine in Newburgh, New York, where he was active in aiding fugitives on the Underground Railroad.[62]

The A.M.E. Zion Church of Auburn initially met in private homes, but by ca. 1847 secured space in a former school on Washington Street near the state prison, in what would become Auburn's second African American neighborhood (see fig.

1.30). The congregation remained here through the 1880s, by which time Harriet Tubman was attending. In October 1884, a local paper ran a story that described the Rev. James E. Mason's recollection of first meeting Harriet at the church. He recalled that she stood up to give "testimony to God's goodness and long-suffering," and that "she possessed such endurance, vitality, and magnetism that I inquired and was informed it was Harriet Tubman—the 'Moses' of her people."[63]

By the 1880s, the A.M.E. Zion Church of Auburn was outgrowing the Washington Street building. A parishioner wrote to the *Star of Zion* in May 1886 that the church was "very much dilapidated, and is too small."[64] Soon after this time, the congregation began to plan for a new church building, with much of the effort undertaken through the leadership of Pastor Dangerfield who was appointed to the parish in 1889. He was among a group of ten clergy and lay people of the "Auburn Church Building Association," an independent corporation formed to undertake the construction project. In June 1891, the Building Association reported that the church was about to acquire title to a lot, and that ground would be broken soon after. The property, which had been selected by May 1890, was on Parker Street in Auburn's third African-American neighborhood west of Fort Hill Cemetery. On June 23, 1891, the congregation purchased the half acre parcel, which included three platted lots with 166 feet of frontage, for $700 from Mary McNally (fig. 1.34). McNally had acquired the property from Horace B. and Abijah Fitch on December 20, 1869, but apparently never made any improvements. The deed to the church stipulated that the "said premises shall be used, kept, maintained, and disposed of, as a place of Divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in America," and that the church "shall quietly enjoy the said premises"—perhaps a condition requested by the neighbors.[65]

The new church building was sited on the southern half of the property, leaving the northern half vacant for future expansion. In early July, 1891, excavation had been completed, and by the end of the month, the Onondaga limestone foundation was complete and the cornerstone was laid during a festive event on August 9, 1891. Bishop Joseph Pascal Thompson gave the sermon at the accompanying service held at the Cayuga County court house, where the congregating had been gathering since November 1890. Construction was substantially complete by October, except for interior decoration, pews, and an organ, at a cost of $2,485. The first service in the new church was held on Sunday, November 15, 1891.[66]

The Church Building Association and parish had initially selected a Gothic Revival design from the Methodist Church's 1889 Catalog of Architectural Plans that featured a tall spire and lecture hall wing, but it had to revise these plans to reduce costs. These revised plans may have been by the builder that the church

hired for the project, B. H. Benham of Seneca Falls, who billed himself as a "Designer, Contractor & Builder."[67] The church as completed was a simple one-story Queen Anne-style frame building with a rectangular footprint, gable roof, truncated bell tower, and a central entrance close to the sidewalk (fig. 1.35). The auditorium had seating for approximately 200. Queen Anne-style details included classical pilasters and incised scrollwork on the tower, decorative shingles in the gable front and porch, molded bargeboards along the front eaves, double-hung sash windows with colored glass, and heavy brackets supporting a gabled hood over the double front doors (fig. 1.36). The building was painted in brown-hued colors typical of the style and the period. The space between the sidewalk and front of the church was surfaced in stone, and two large stone slabs formed the steps up to the front doors. A cross-walk of smaller stones was built across Parker Street on axis with the front doors.[68]

In ca. 1894, the A.M.E. Zion Church of Auburn renamed itself the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church in memory of the congregation's founder, Bishop Joseph Pascal Thompson, who died that year and had preached at the new church's cornerstone laying service three years earlier.[69] During its early years in the new building, Harriet Tubman assisted in the church's service to the poor and needy, but also had made connections to other churches, including the First Methodist Church. She wrote in a dictated letter, "I have been appointed by the first M. E. and the A.M.E. Churches of Auburn to collect clothes for the destitute colored children…"[70] This was a continuation of her long history of community service that she would institutionalize with the A.M.E. Zion Church through establishment of the Harriet Tubman Home in 1895.

#### LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW, 1895

In 1895, Harriet Tubman, then about seventy-three years old, had owned her seven-acre farm on the Fleming Road, formerly the Auburn and Fleming Plank Road, for more than three decades. Here, she cared for family and indigent people, and managed the farm. The Farmer and Ross brickyard to the north, developed beginning in 1864, had most likely been out of operation for a decade by 1895. Looking west out the front windows of her house, Harriet's view was of open fields that extended up to a low ridge, on farmland owned by the Beardsley family.[71]

While the southern part of Auburn extending into the Town of Fleming remained rural during this period, the core of the city experienced significant growth and prosperity, which changed the landscape that Harriet Tubman first encountered in 1859. In addition to homes of the wealthy that extended farther down South Street, the African-American neighborhood east of Fort Hill Cemetery grew up during this period. The neighborhood was home to freedom seekers, including

some of Harriet's relatives, and the new Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church that had been opened for four years by 1895.

**Tubman Farm** (Drawing 1.2)

In 1895, Tubman's seven-acre farm consisted of open fields, with the brick house rebuilt in 1881-1882 facing South Street and a frame barn at the rear. The front yard of the house featured a brick entrance walk and deciduous shrubs along the road, and a few shrubs or vines along the foundation. South of the house was a yard enclosed by a picket fence, within which was most likely a vegetable garden. The road to the back of the farm ran north of the house and barn, and had a base of waster brick and lime probably from brick produced on site for the new house. There were fenced pens and sheds adjacent to the barn, where pigs, chickens, and cows were kept. Pasture and an orchard were most likely on the hillside at the east end of the farm, while the flats bordering Wood Creek were likely cultivated for crops that included potatoes. A fence of unknown type, installed in 1881 by William H. Seward, Jr. to enclose an orchard planted in 1882, extended along Tubman's south property line. This orchard, which occupied most of the Seward lot, would have blocked views to the clay pits and brick yard on the Farmer property to the south.

**Harriet Tubman Home Property** (Drawing 1.2)

The Harriet Tubman Home property in 1895 was a former brickyard and tenant farm owned by John Farmer, who had purchased it from William H. Seward in 1864, and had sold it to Sylvester Ross, a relative or business partner, in 1875, before reacquiring it in the early 1880s. A frame house (Home for the Aged), which most likely predated Farmer's purchase, was at the west end of the property, and across the entrance road was a building that was most likely a barn, and close to South Street was the tollgate house that was moved from its original location on the plank road about 500 feet to the north. East of these buildings was the brickyard established by John Farmer following purchase of the property from Seward in 1864. It probably consisted of four buildings surrounded by work yards and kiln sites (brick clamps) to the northeast. Clay pits lined the flats along Wood Creek east and north of the brickyard.

The access road continued east through the brickyard across Wood Creek, either on a bridge or an earthen causeway with a culvert, to a substantial brick house built in ca. 1870 (John Brown Hall) that had probably been built for one of the owners or foremen, perhaps Sylvester Ross. The surrounding hillside property was most likely used as pasture and contained an orchard to the rear and east of the brick house. Trees, including basswood, hickory, hornbeam, and sugar maple, may have grown along the property boundaries to the north and east.[72]

The half-acre property owned by Harriet Tubman where her brother, William H. Stewart, Sr. lived was a separate property from the Farmer tract. Consisting of two quarter-acre parcels that reflected the 1837 City of Auburn plan, the property was open ground on the south parcel that would be later incorporated into the Harriet Tubman Home. The house and barns were on the north parcel, within the current state armory property.

#### **Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and Tubman Gravesite** (Drawing 1.3)

In 1895, the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church on Parker Street contained the same property as it does today, with the church built in 1891 occupying the south half of the half-acre lot. The north half of the lot, where the parsonage would later be built, was most likely an open field. The only known landscape features on the property were large stone slabs that paved the surface between the sidewalk along Parker Street and the foundation of the church. The land sloped down to the north, requiring window wells on the south foundation wall, and allowing for full windows on the north. There may have been a walk to the rear of the church, to a basement door at the back of the building. The public sidewalks along Parker Street were stone, and there was a stone cross-walk on axis with the front doors of the church. Parker Street was a dirt road and mostly likely had drainage ditches on both sides in 1895.

Given the former agricultural use of the area, the landscape remained predominantly open with some shade trees along the street and in front yards. Most of the houses were small one or two-story gable-front and ell buildings. To the rear of the church lot was the Charles Smith property, which was undergoing development in the 1890s as a residential street named Park Place.[73] Across Parker Street from the church were two empty lots, which provided unobstructed views east to Fort Hill Cemetery. In the distance were old-growth trees in the core of the cemetery, with the recently established West Lawn area, where Harriet Tubman would be buried, in the foreground.

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**ENDNOTES, 1859-1895**

[1] Kate Clifford Larson, *Bound for the Promised Land* (New York: One World Ballantine Books, 2003), xviii.

[2] Letter from William Henry Seward, in Sarah H. Bradford, *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* (Auburn: W. J. Moses, 1869), 24.

[3] Milton Sernett and Judith Wellman, "Historic Resources Associated with the Freedom Trail, Abolitionism, and African American Life in Central New York," 1820–1870 (National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2001), Section E, page 3; Larson, xxiv; Suzanne R. Warren, "Tubman Home for the Aged, Harriet Tubman Residence, Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church" (National Historic Landmark nomination form, approved January 3, 2001.), 10.

[4] Sarah Bradford, *Harriet: The Moses of Her People* (New York: Lockwood, 1886), quoted in Larson, 47. According to Larson, Tubman probably suffered from Temporal Lobe Epilepsy.

[5] Milton C. Sernett, *Harriet Tubman: Myth, Memory, and History* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007), 42, 46, 48; Kate Clifford Larson, "Harriet Tubman's Flight to Freedom," "Bound for the Promised Land," http://www.harriettubmanbiography.com/harriet-tubman-s-flight-to-freedom.html (accessed April 9, 2018).

[6] Larson, xvii; Larson, "Harriet Tubman's Flight to Freedom."

[7] Sarah H. Bradford, *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* (Auburn: W. J. Moses, Printer, 1869), 78; Larson, xiv; xvii; Sernett, 50, 52, 56. Newspaper accounts from later in Tubman's life continued to refer to her as the "Moses of Her People."

[8] Larson, "Harriet Tubman Biography," http://www.harriettubmanbiography.com/harriet-tubman-biography.html (accessed April 9, 2018).

[9] Larson, "Harriet Tubman Biography."

[10] Larson, "Harriet Tubman Biography;" Larson, *Bound for the Promised Land*, 297, 303.

[11] Larson, 271-272; Earl Conrad, *Harriet Tubman, Negro Soldier and Abolitionist* (New York: International Publishers, 1942), 45.

[12] Larson, 155.

[13] City of St. Catharines, "Underground Railroad," https://www.stcatharines.ca/en/experiencein/TheUndergroundRailroad.asp (accessed April 10, 2018); US census, 1860, https://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0027/tab09.txt (accessed April 13, 2018); Larson, 143-144.

[14] Larson, 155; note on St. Catharines tax records showing Tubman and her parents renting property, in Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners, "Tubman Chronology" (unpublished paper, research compiled by Beth Crawford, updated 2017) [hereafter, "Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology"].

[15] Current Auburn average January temperatures: 31 high/15 low Fahrenheit; annual average snowfall: 106 inches (usclimatedata.com). Current St. Catharines average January temperatures: 32 high /19 low Fahrenheit; annual average snowfall: 54 inches (currentresults/com).

[16] William H. Seward Papers, Cornell University, microfilm reel 193, file 6579, research courtesy of Rebekah Green, transcribed on Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; Larson, 163-164.

[17] Based on existing survey of property.

[18] Deed, William H. Seward et al. to John W. Farmer, February 1, 1864, Cayuga County Deed Book 108, page 51 (referring to land to south "contracted by said parties of the first part to Harriet Tubman," transcript in Owasco Abstract Corp., "Abstract of Title, No. A733, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of American, 180-182 South Street, Tax Map No. 123.38-1-12, 123.03-1-40.1," undated, circa 1990 [hereafter, "Owasco Abstract of Title"]; Town of Fleming tax records, research courtesy of Douglas Armstrong, Syracuse University. See previous period, to 1859, for additional background on the Burton Farm and adjoining properties.

[19] Bradford, 84; Larson interview, Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; Judith Wellman, Project Coordinator, "Uncovering the Freedom Trail in Auburn and Cayuga County, New York" (Unpublished cultural resources survey sponsored by the City of Auburn Historic Resources Review Board and the Cayuga County Historian's Office, 2004-2005) [hereafter, "Historic Resources Survey"], 146.

[20] Article from *Boston Commonwealth*, 1863, reproduced in Bradford, 1869, 73; Bradford, 108.

[21] 1865 census, Town of Fleming (Benjamin Stewart, age 70, and Ritta Stewart, aged 69), Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; Conrad, 43-44; Larson, 250, 252.

[22] Conrad, 44; Larson, 242, 250; Bradford, 131-132. The transaction of $400 between Harriet Tubman and William Seward in Seward House archives, provided by Seward House Director Peter Wisbey, notes in Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology.

[23] Deed research by Rebekah Green, in Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology. The deed stated a sale price of $1,200, which was probably the original contract price, rather than a payment made by Tubman at that time. There is no record of Tubman taking out a bank mortgage to satisfy the sale.

[24] William Seward records, referenced in Douglas V. Armstrong, "Harriet Tubman's Farmsteads in Central New York: Archaeological Explorations Relating to an American Icon," in James A. Delle, editor, *The Limits of Tyranny: Archaeological Perspectives on the Struggle against New World Slavery* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2015), 157.

[25] 1875/76 Auburn Directory, Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology.

[26] Larson, 253, 283, 303; Biographical information, Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; Larson, 276.

[27] Wellman, Historic Resources Survey, 150-151; Larson, 276, 303.

[28] Transcript of 1875 agricultural census "Returns of Nelson Davis," Town of Fleming, census listing #31, courtesy Crawford & Stearns. The census noted that in 1875, "business generally down," due to "Hard Times," perhaps accounting for the large slaughter of pork in 1874.

[29] Woodcut of Tubman House showing picket fence south of house, Syracuse *Herald*, 1896; Aerial photograph showing square of cultivated land south of Tubman House, 1938; Armstrong, 2015, 155.

[30] "Another Conflagration," *Evening Auburnian*, February 10, 1880, 1, clipping courtesy of Crawford & Stearns.

[31] Quoted in Judith Wellman, "Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged" (Unpublished paper, 2009), 5. The citation incorrectly notes the newspaper quote was taken from Bradford (1869).

[32] Armstrong, 2015, 154. Completion of the brick house by 1883 is reflected in Tubman's town tax assessments, which went from $350 in 1881 to $400 in 1882 and $700 in 1883. Her assessment remained at $700 in 1884. Tax records research in Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology.

[33] Armstrong, 2015, 165; Douglas V. Armstrong and Anna Hill, "Uncovering Inspiration: Current Archaeology Investigations of Harriet Tubman in Central New York," *The African Diaspora Archaeology Network Newsletter*, June 2009, 4, http://www.diaspora.illinois.edu/news0609/news0609.htm (accessed April 6, 2018). The construction of the new brick house on the old stone foundation was documented through archaeological investigations undertaken by Douglas Armstrong and Syracuse University students beginning in 2002.

[34] Armstrong, 2015, 163-164; Armstrong and Hill, 6; Alan D. Armstrong and Douglas V. Armstrong, "Craft Enterprise and the Harriet Tubman Home," in *Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage*, volume 1, number 1 (Spring 2012), 51; Beth Crawford interview with Seward Norris, May 2003, recalling location of outhouse during his childhood (ca. 1920s), Tubman research files, Crawford & Stearns.

[35] Richard Lazarus, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Tubman Barn Proposal (typed proposal prepared for Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., August 5, 2006), courtesy Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners. Lazarus estimated the barn was constructed between 1895 and the early 20th century. Given Tubman's financial problems following her purchase of the 25-acre Home property in 1896, it seems unlikely she would have had the funds to rebuild the barn after 1896.

[36] Armstrong, 2015, 164; Photograph of Tubman and her relatives and friends, ca. 1887, outside of what is probably her barn, with unweathered vertical board sheathing; Norris Family photographs showing chicken house (1944) and other sheds (ca. 1940s) on the former Tubman property (courtesy Crawford & Stearns).

[37] William H. Seward, Jr. ledger for "South St. Peach Pear Orchard," Seward House archives, research courtesy of Beth Crawford (photocopy and partly transcribed on Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology); Susan Dolan, *Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States* (Boston: National Park Service Olmsted Center for Landscape

Preservation, 2009) 7, 111. At 100 trees per acre (about 30 foot spacing between trees, 15 foot rows), the trees would have covered 6.7 of the seven acres.

[38] Quoted in Larson, 264.

[39] Cayuga County Deeds, Book 106, page 51, transcript in Owasco Abstract of Title. Seward shared title to the 25-acre property with his wife Frances and daughters Lazette Worden and Frances A. Seward; Samuel Geil, "Map of Cayuga County, New York" (1853) showing Wilcox Brickyard; Gray, "Map of Cayuga and Seneca Counties, New York," 1859, showing J. Farmer Brickyd, Tile Kiln. The date Seward purchased the property has not been documented.

[40] Directory research, Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; Owasco Abstract of Title, page 15; Deed, Heirs of John W. Farmer to Harriet Tubman Davis, July 14, 1896, in Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; Judith Wellman, "Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged" (Unpublished paper, 2009), 11. John W. Farmer died on February 14, 1895, at the age of 93 (Fort Hill Cemetery burial records).

[41] Transcribed in Wellman, 2009, 12.

[42] Directory research, Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; Armstrong and Armstrong, 2012, 63.

[43] Armstrong and Armstrong, 2012, 60-61; Aerial photograph, 1938, New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1938_ARW-1-080. This aerial shows depressions or trenches between Wood Creek and the north property boundary.

[44] Armstrong and Armstrong, 2012, 63; R. B. Morrison and J. A. Reep, *Brickmaker's Manual: An Illustrated Hand-Book for Ready Reference* (Indianapolis: T. A. Randall & col, 1890), 106-107; Brick yard buildings based on those documented on the City of Auburn map, 1904, map 8, Wards 2-8 & 9. None of these buildings were identified as residences on this 1904 map. The City of Auburn Atlas (Hopkins, 1882) does not document buildings on this property.

[45] W. W. Richie, "Map of the City of Auburn" (Philadelphia, 1871); Photograph of John Brown Hall with group in front and what appears to be a fruit/apple tree near the front door, ca. 1908; 1938 aerial showing building north of John Brown Hall, presumed to be a barn; inspection of existing site, 2017. The Auburn Daily Advertiser of June 20, 1903 mentioned the brick house, "the large brick house setting back in the orchard from South Street." It is presumed this orchard existed by 1895.

[46] Armstrong and Armstrong, 2012, 51; Auburn *Citizen*, February 9, 1907, referring to frame house as the "red house;" in appendix of Wellman, 2009, 33; Doug Armstrong, presentation to SUNY ESF LSA 470/470 (studio), Harriet Tubman Home Multi-Purpose Building, February 3, 2017.

[47] Auburn *New & Bulletin*, August 21, 1883, transcription in Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; City of Auburn map, 1904 (probably surveyed 1903), Sheet 8, showing building south of frame house, across city line, indicated as a residential structure.

[48] The Hopkins atlas of Auburn, 1882, indicates a bridge over Wood Creek at Danforth Street.

[49] Deed and directory research by Beth Crawford, Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology.

[50] Larson, 276; Wellman, Historic Resources Survey, 152-153; Owasco Abstract of Title; Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology. No images of the Jasper-Stewart house have been found.

[51] Larson, 262; Douglas V. Armstrong, "Excavating Inspiration," in Jodi A. Barnes, editor, *The Materiality of Freedom: Archaeologies of Postemancipation Life* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2011), 265; "The Osborne Family's Historical Perspective," Osborne Center for Social Justice, http://osbornelibrary.com/osborne_family (accessed May 7, 2018).

[52] Fort Hill Cemetery Interment Roster, http://forthillcemetery.net/NewRoster/openframe.html (accessed April 20, 2018). Nelson Davis is buried in Home, lot 240; John Stewart is buried in Home, lot 239. The earliest graves in the West Lawn sections based on a sampling of interments is 1891.

[53] Clipping, Union Springs [Cayuga County] *Advertiser* [no date], courtesy Beth Crawford.

[54] For additional details on the history of the church building, see Rebekah Krieger, "Historic Structure Report Part 1, Thompson African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church" (Draft National Park Service report, February 5, 2018).

[55] Richie, "Map of the City of Auburn," 1871. Parker Street does not appear on the City of Auburn inset on Gray, "Map of Cayuga and Seneca Counties, New York," 1859 (see fig. 1.9); Wellman, "Historic Resources Survey," 217-219. The John Henry Ross and Eliza Stewart House stands today at 51 Parker Street, formerly 35 Parker Street, immediately south of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church.

[56] Rev. Willis J. Beecher, D.D., editor, *Central Church Semi-Centennial* (Auburn: Knapp, Peck & Thomas, 1913), 39.

[57] Beecher, 24-25, 40; Larson, 252.

[58] Elliot G. Storke and Jas. H. Smith, *History of Cayuga County, New York* (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1879), 211; Wellman, Historic Resources Survey, 128, 219.

[59] The 1838 Auburn church may have originally been part of the A.M.E. Church rather than the A.M.E. Zion Church (as written in the incorporation paper), see Wellman, Historic Resources Survey, 55.

[60] C. R. Harris, *Zion's Historical Cathechism,* cited in William J. Walls, *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church: Reality of the Black Church* (Charlotte, NC: A. M.E. Zion Publishing House, 1974), 50.

[61] Walls, 45, 162; New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, "Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church" (Designation List 252, July 13, 1993), 1. Rev. Loguen's church is today People's A.M.E. Zion Church.

[62] Walls, 165, 578-579. Wellman, Historic Resources Survey, 219, states that the Auburn church was founded by Henry Thompson.

[63] Quoted in Larson, 263; Wellman, Historic Resources Survey, 54-55.

[64] Letter, "From Auburn to New York," *Star of Zion*, May 21, 1886, quoted in Krieger, February 5, 2018, 22.

[65] Krieger, 26, 41; Deed, Mary McNally to The African M. E. Zion Church of America, June 23, 1891, Cayuga County land records, deed book xx, page 129-130; Auburn *Bulletin*, June 20 and August 10, 1891, cited in Krieger, 45, 46.

[66] Krieger, 45-46.

[67] Rebekah Krieger, "Historic Structure Report Part 1, Thompson African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church" (Draft National Park Service Report, September 2018), 32, 36-37.

[68] Krieger, February 5, 2018, 47-48; Photograph of church and parsonage, ca. 1915, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture, 2009_50_9_001.

[69] Krieger, September 2018, 39. The congregation did not officially adopt the Thompson name until 1927.

[70] Harriet Tubman to Mary Wright, May 29, 1896, Quoted in Larson, 279.

[71] Hopkins, Atlas of Auburn, 1884; Map of Auburn, 1904.

[72] Species based on existing old-growth trees, 2016.

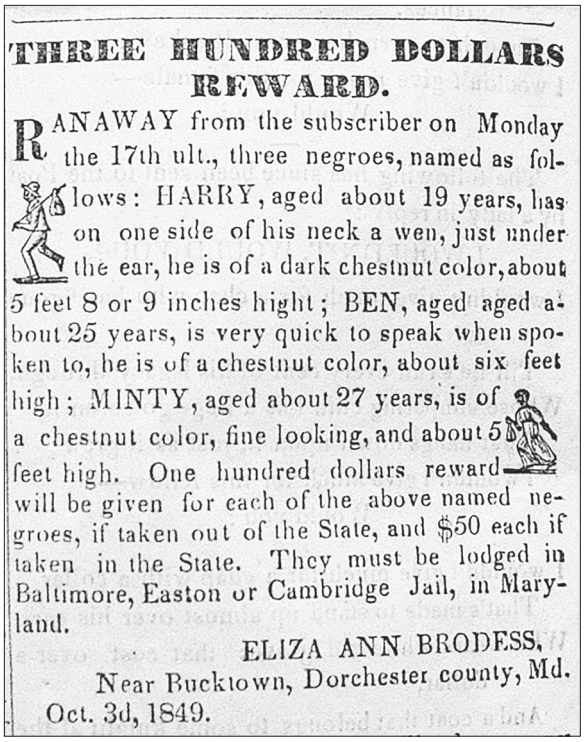
[73] The 1882 Hopkins map of Auburn shows the Charles Smith property; the 1904 map of Auburn shows Park Place with houses built and proposed.



Figure 1.13. Carte-de-visite portrait of Harriet Tubman, taken during her early years in Auburn when she was between 43 and 46 years old, ca. 1866-1868. This photograph came from a scrapbook owned by the civil rights activist Emily Howland, a friend of Tubman's who lived south of Auburn in Sherwood, New York. (Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-54230)




Figure 1.14. Map of the Northeast showing geographic relationship between Harriet Tubman's birthplace in Dorchester County, Maryland, and her later home in Auburn, 1851. Also indicated is her home in St. Catharines, Ontario during the 1850s. (Detail, "Disturnell's New Map of the United States and Canada," 1851, Library of Congress, G3700 1851.B8, annotated by SUNY ESF)



THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.

RANAWAY from the subscriber on Monday the 17th ult., three negroes, named as follows: HARRY, aged about 19 years, has on one side of his neck a wen, just under the ear, he is of a dark chestnut color, about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches hight; BEN, aged aged about 25 years, is very quick to speak when spoken to, he is of a chestnut color, about six feet high; MINTY, aged about 27 years, is of a chestnut color, fine looking, and about 5 feet high. One hundred dollars reward will be given for each of the above named negroes, if taken out of the State, and $50 each if taken in the State. They must be lodged in Baltimore, Easton or Cambridge Jail, in Maryland.

ELIZA ANN BRODESS,
Near Bucktown, Dorchester county, Md.
Oct. 3d, 1849.

**Figure 1.15. Advertisement for reward of return of Harriet Tubman (Minty) and her two brothers offered by Eliza Ann Brodess, which appeared in the Delaware *Gazette* nearly two weeks after their escape. (Courtesy Bucktown Village Foundation, Cambridge, Maryland; from Larsen, p. 79; need permission?)**

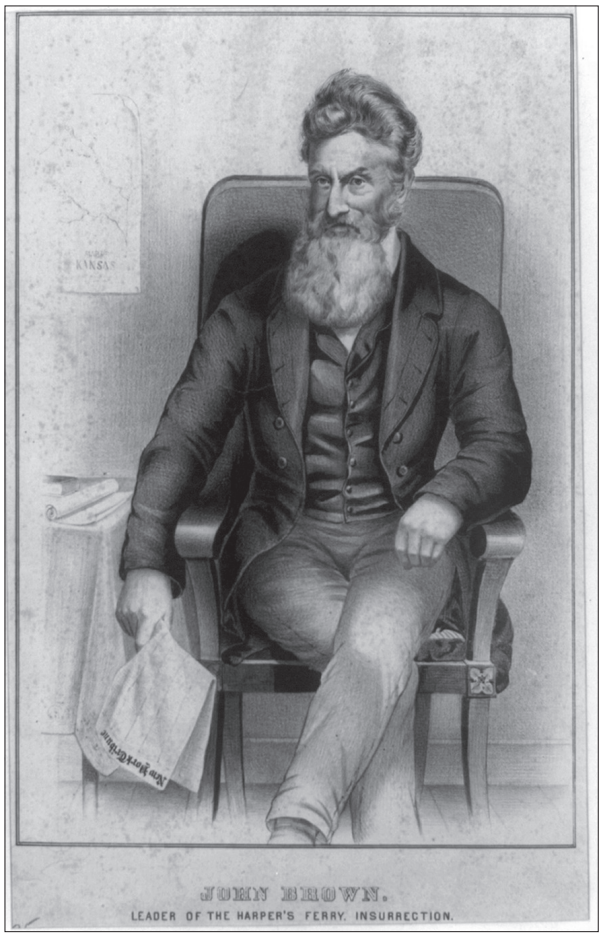



**Figure 1.16. Portrait of John Brown holding the New York *Tribune*, published soon after the Harper's Ferry raid, December 1859. (Library of Congress, 3b35940u)**




**Figure 1.17. Woodcut of Harriet Tubman at camp during service in the Union Army, 1861. (Frontispiece to Sarah H. Bradford, *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*, 1869)**

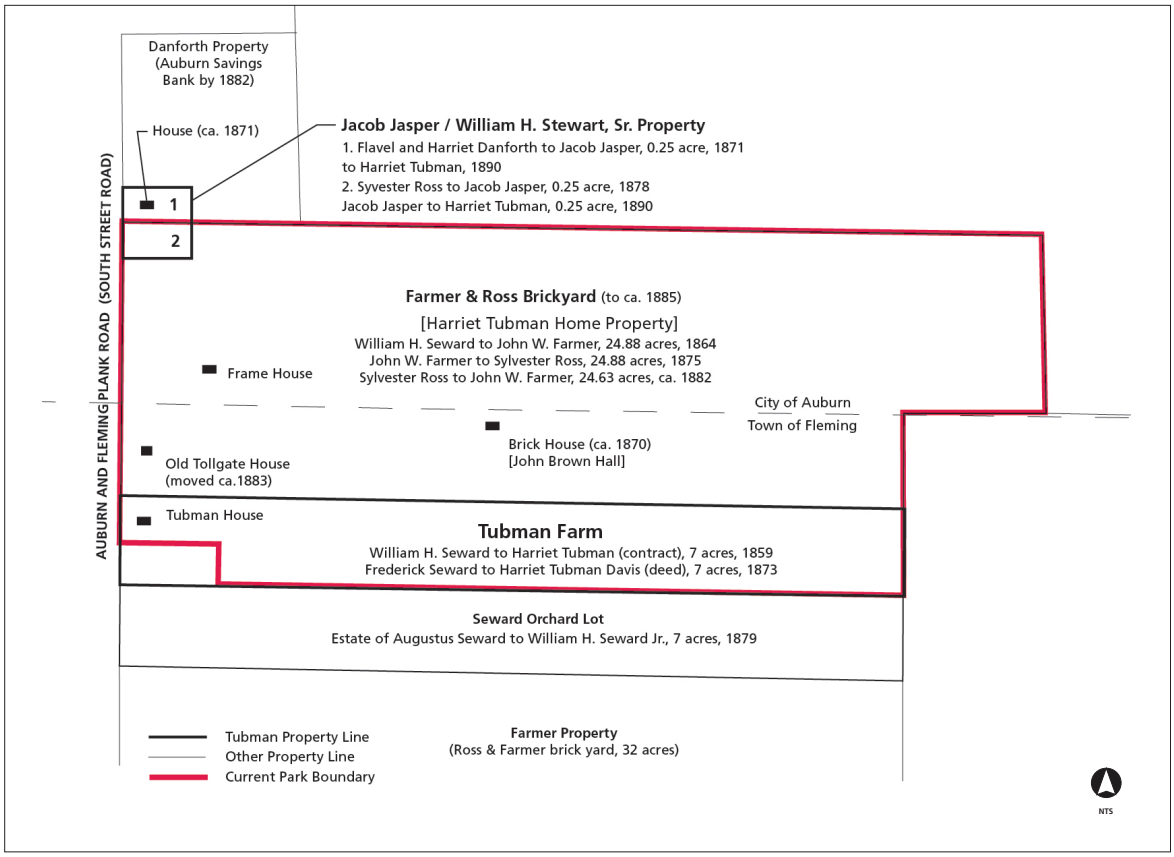



**Figure 1.18. Boundaries of Tubman's seven-acre farm she contracted to purchase in 1859, along with subsequent property transaction associated with the Tubman properties along South Street to 1895. (SUNY ESF)**

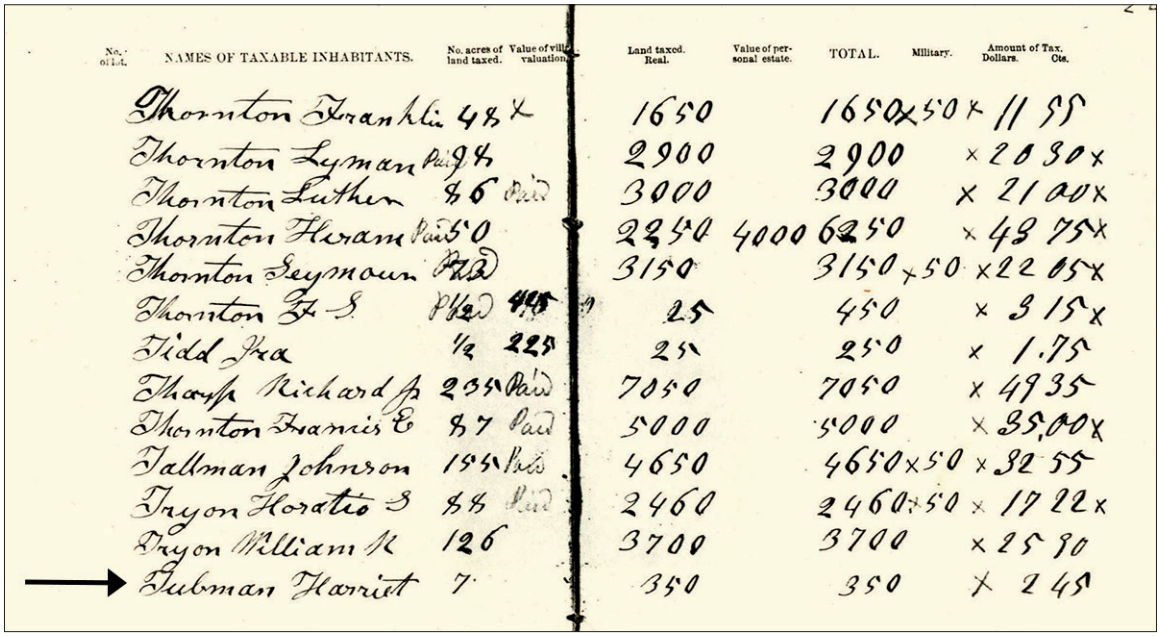



**Figure 1.19. Town of Fleming tax record for 1860 listing "Tubman, Harriet" as "taxable inhabitant" of the seven-acre farm she acquired the year prior. (Town of Fleming, research courtesy of Douglas Armstrong, Syracuse University)**



**Figure 1.20. Harriet Tubman with her family and dependents, ca. 1887. Left to right: Harriet Tubman, adopted daughter Gertie Davis, Nelson Davis, Lee Cheney, "Pop" Alexander, Walter Green, Blind Aunty (Sarah) Parker, and great-niece Dora Stewart. The photograph was probably taken outside Tubman's recently rebuilt barn. (Granger Collection, New York per NPS HATU website; Sernett has version from Florence Woosley Hazzard Papers, Collection 2516, Kroch Library, Cornell University. Need permission?)**

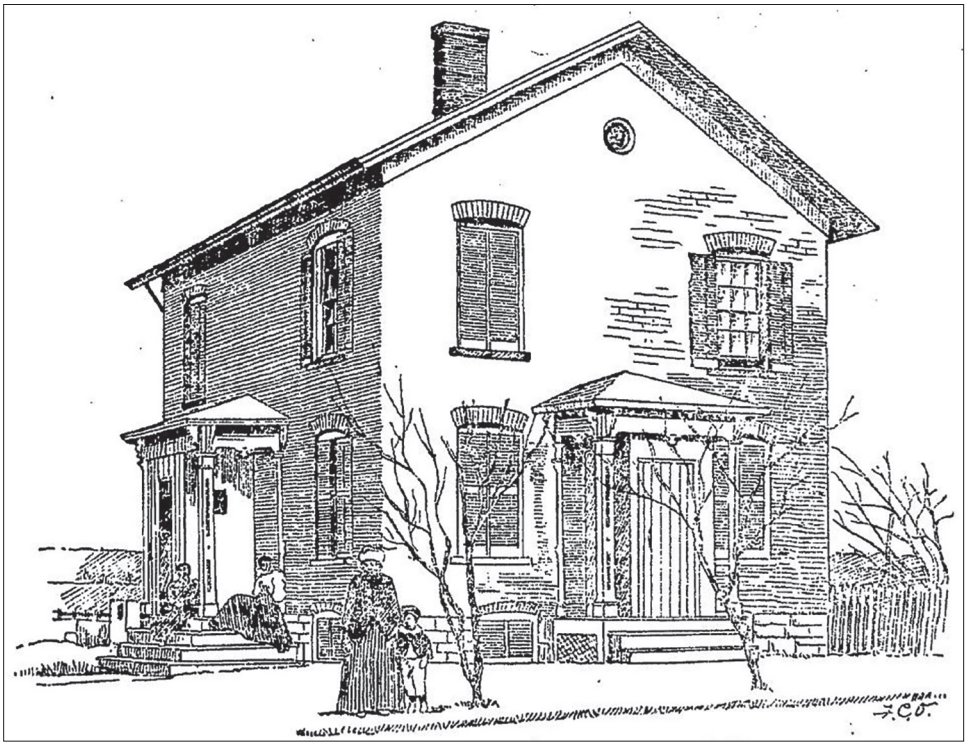


**Figure 1.21. Harriet Tubman's new brick house completed in 1883, looking east from the Auburn-Fleming Plank Road, from an engraving published in 1896. This is the earliest known image of Tubman's house. The picket fence at right probably enclosed the vegetable garden. In the left rear background is the barn. (Syracuse *Sunday Herald*, April 19, 1896)**



**Figure 1.22. A later photograph of a shed or outhouse that may have stood during Harriet Tubman's lifetime at the rear of the Tubman house, 1944. The person is Frank Norris. (Norris Family photograph collection, courtesy of Crawford & Stearns)**

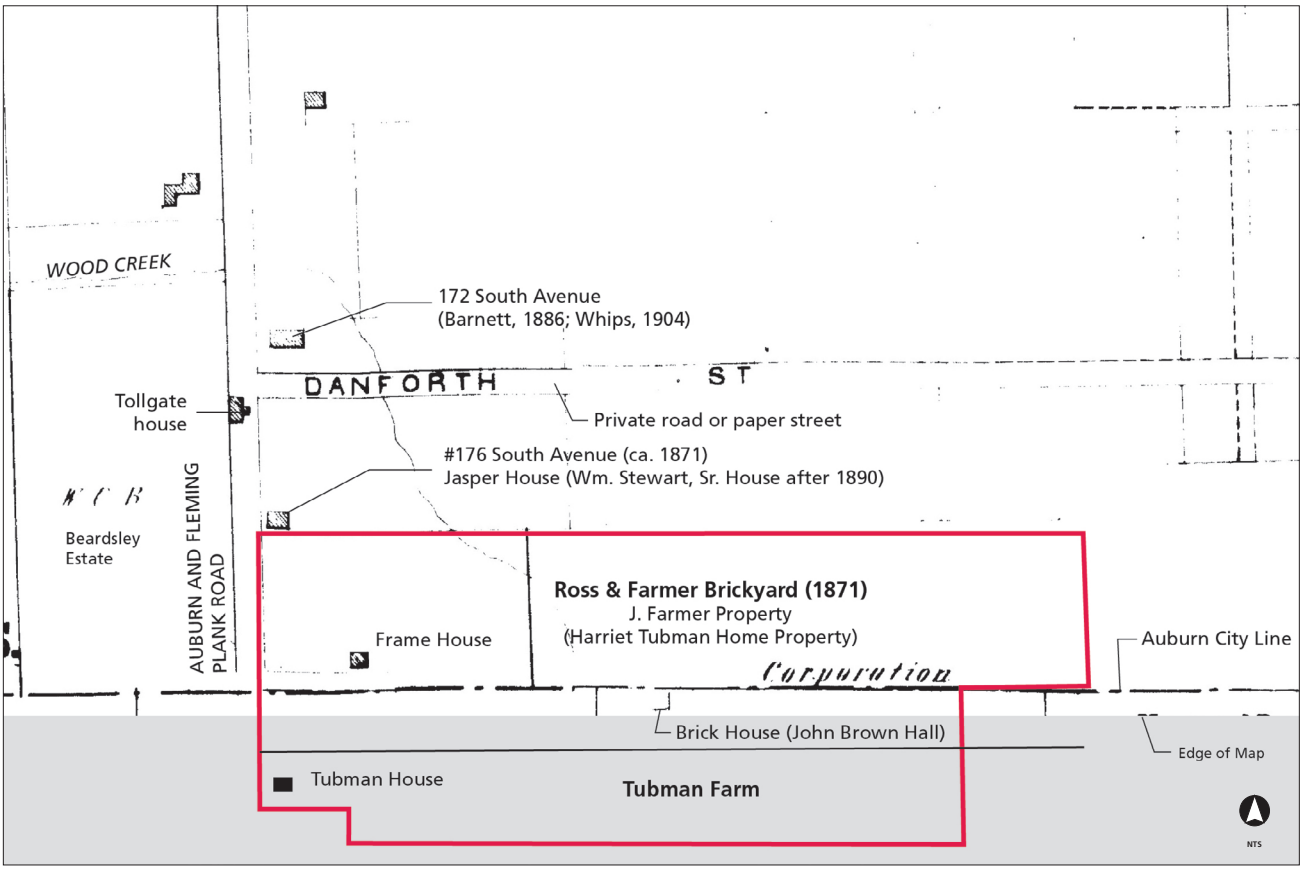



**Figure 1.23. Detail of an Auburn City map published in 1871 showing the property acquired by John Farmer from William Seward in 1864. This survey, completed in 1871, shows the brick house later known as John Brown Hall, the pre-existing frame house, the house built in ca. 1871 by John Jasper north of the Farmer property, and the toll gate house, which would remain in use until 1883. The red line indicates the existing park boundaries. For more of this map, see fig. 1.27. (Detail, W. W. Richie, "Map of the City of Auburn," Philadelphia, 1871, annotated by SUNY ESF)**

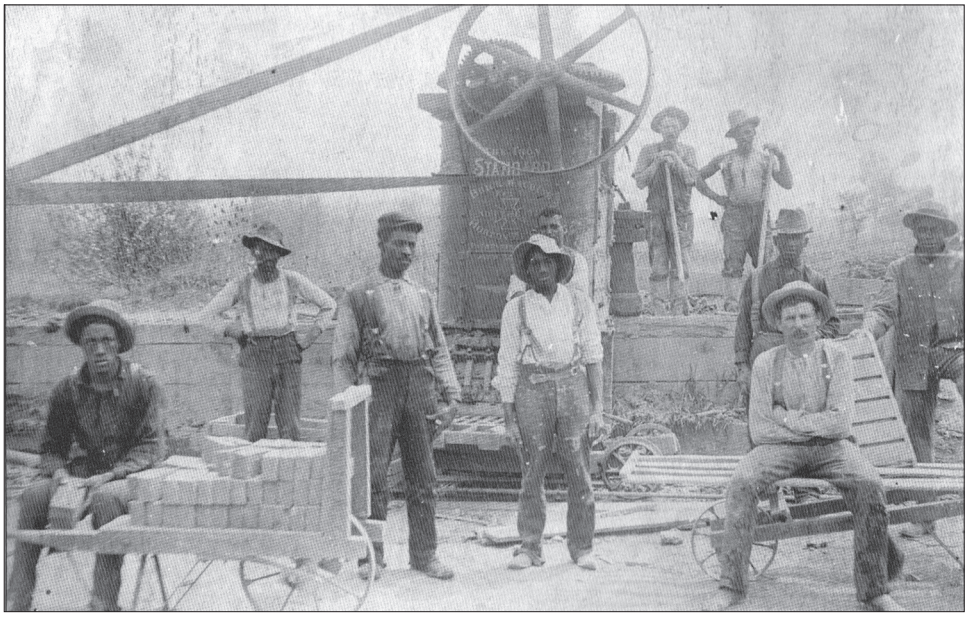
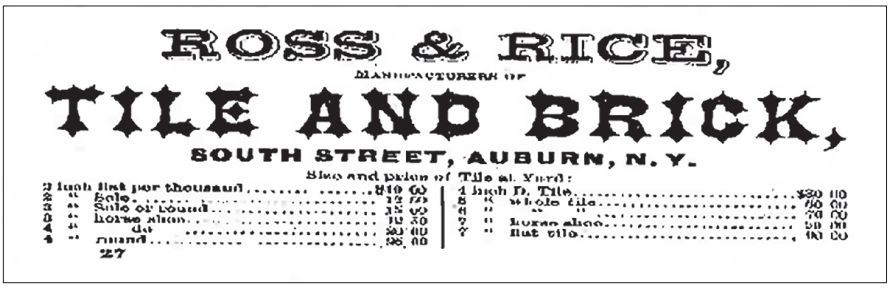


**Figure 1.24. A later photograph of a brick-making operation presumed to be on the Farmer property south of Harriet Tubman's farm, 1910. The person at far right is Charles E. Stewart, Harriet Tubman's grandnephew. (Courtesy of Judith Bryant, Cayuga County Museum)**


ROSS & RICE,

MANUFACTURERS OF

TILE AND BRICK,

SOUTH STREET, AUBURN, N. Y.

Figure 1.25. Advertisement in the 1876-1877 Auburn City Directory for Ross & Rice's brick and tile manufactory on the twenty-five-acre property north of Harriet Tubman's farm. (Cayuga County Historian's Office)

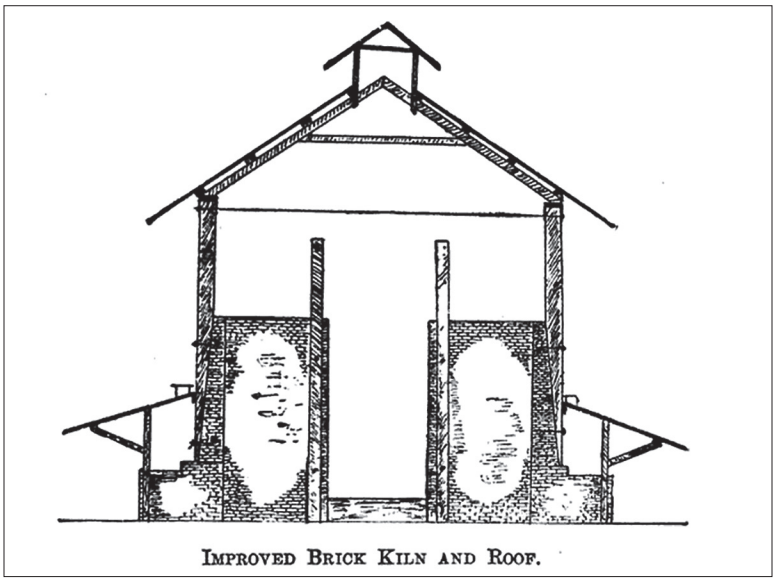



Figure 1.26. Illustration of a traditional brick kiln, showing two brick fireboxes sheltered by a frame shed with a ventilator. The kilns at the Farmer & Ross brickyards may not have had a frame shelter, but the construction of the brick fireboxes would have been similar. (R. B. Morrison and J. A. Reep, *Brickmaker's Manual*, Indianapolis, 1890)

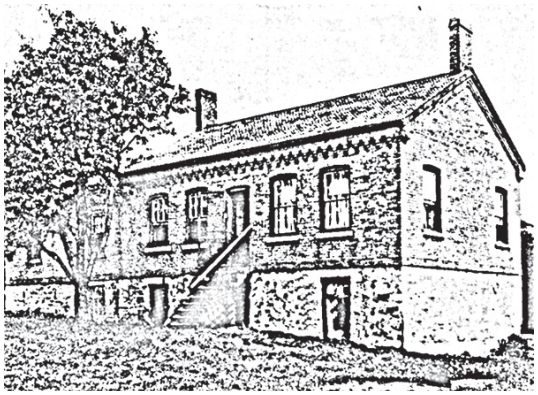


Figure 1.27. Image showing overall massing of the brick house at the Farmer & Ross brickyard built in ca. 1870, looking southeast from the approach road. This building was later named John Brown Hall. (SUNY ESF based on ca. 1908 photograph).



Figure 1.28. Image showing overall massing of the frame house (Home for the Aged) at the Farmer & Ross brick yard built in ca. 1855, looking northeast from the entrance road. The wrap-around porch was probably a later addition. (SUNY ESF based on a ca. 1920 photograph).

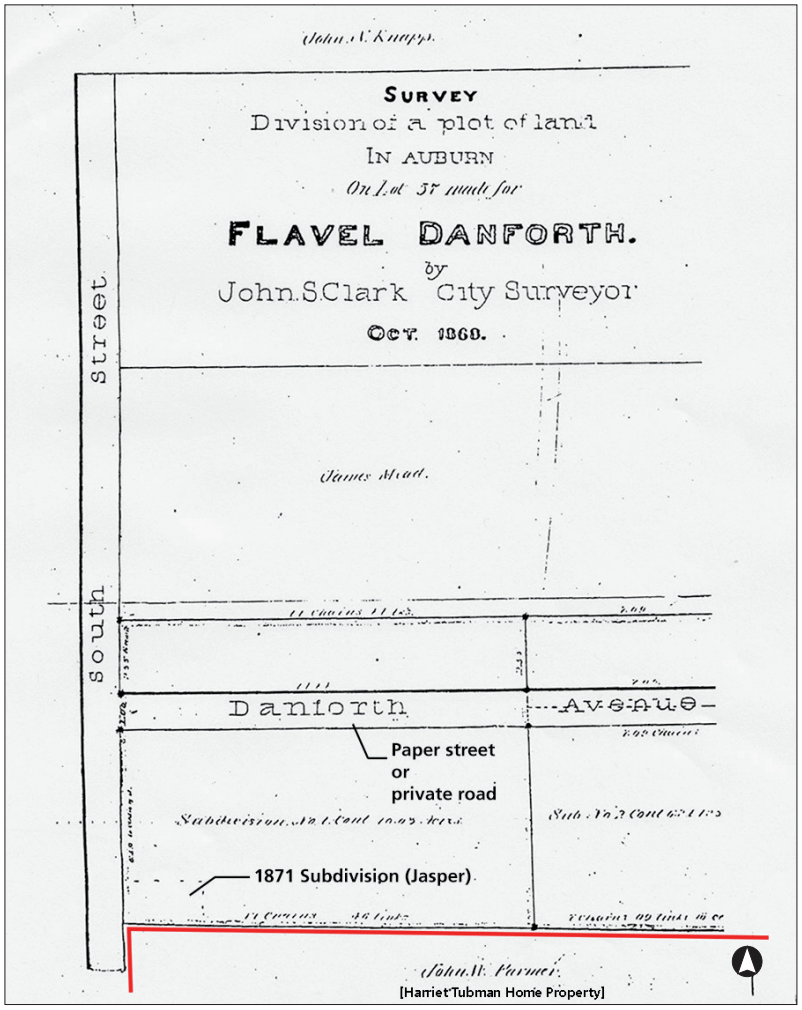



**Figure 1.29. Survey of the subdivision of the Flavel Danforth property north of John Farmer's twenty-five acre property, 1868. Pencilled in at the lower left corner is the quarter-acre lot sold to Jacob Jasper in 1871. The map does not show Wood Creek or the toll gate. (Cayuga County Clerk's Office, Map Book 1, page 65, annotated by SUNY ESF).**

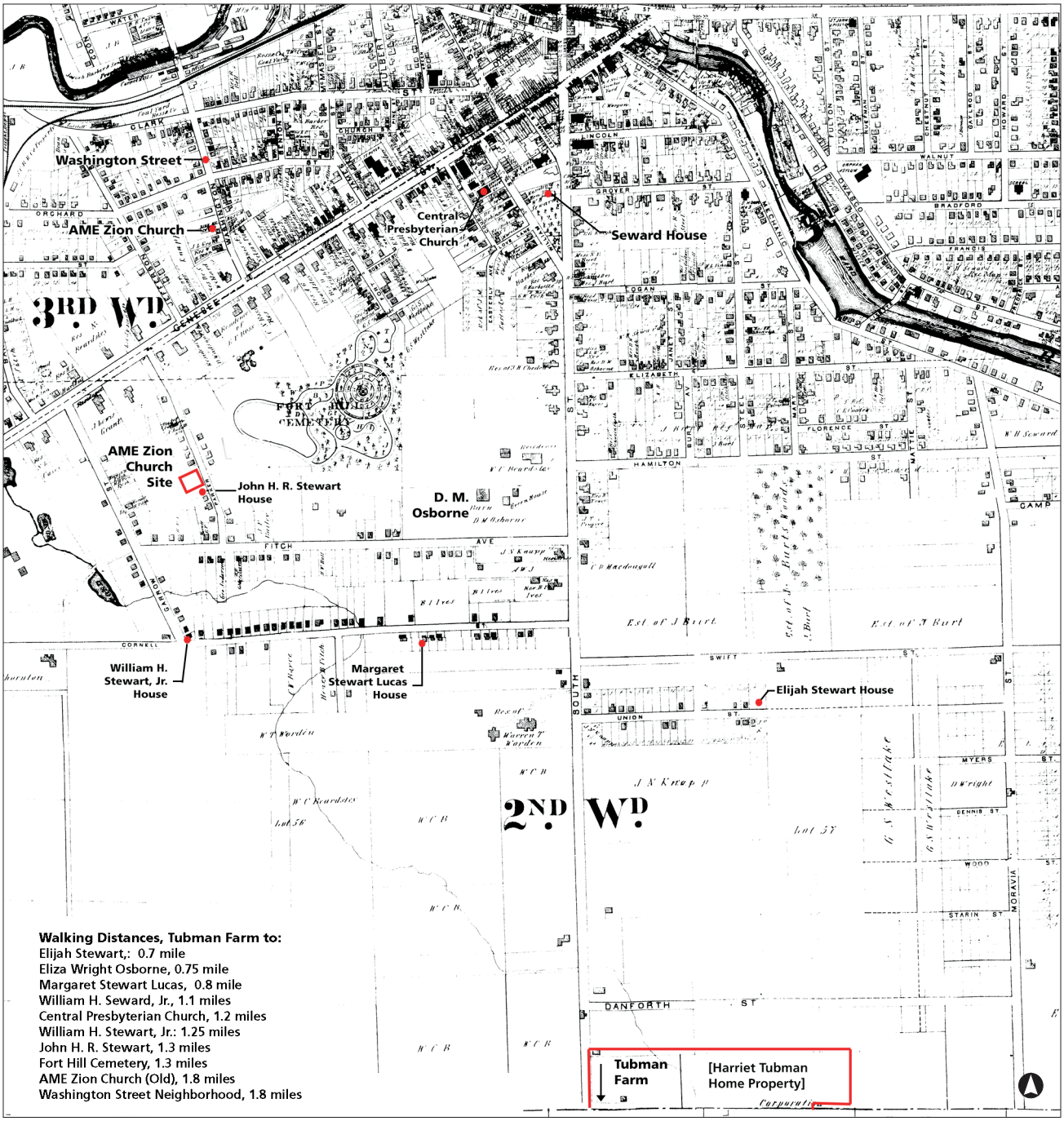



**Figure 1.30. Map of Auburn in 1871 showing relationship of the Tubman Farm to places in town where Harriet Tubman would have walked, including South Street with the Osborne mansion (then under construction), downtown, houses belonging to Tubman's relatives and friends, and the churches she attended. The annotations show places added after 1871. (Detail, W. W. Richie, M*ap of the City of Auburn*, Philadelphia, 1871, annotated by SUNY ESF)**



Figure 1.31. The D. M. Osborne House at 99 South Street South Street built in 1872, photographed ca. 1890. Harriet Tubman was a friend of the Osbornes and a frequent visitor to the house. (Collection of Michael Long, Auburn)

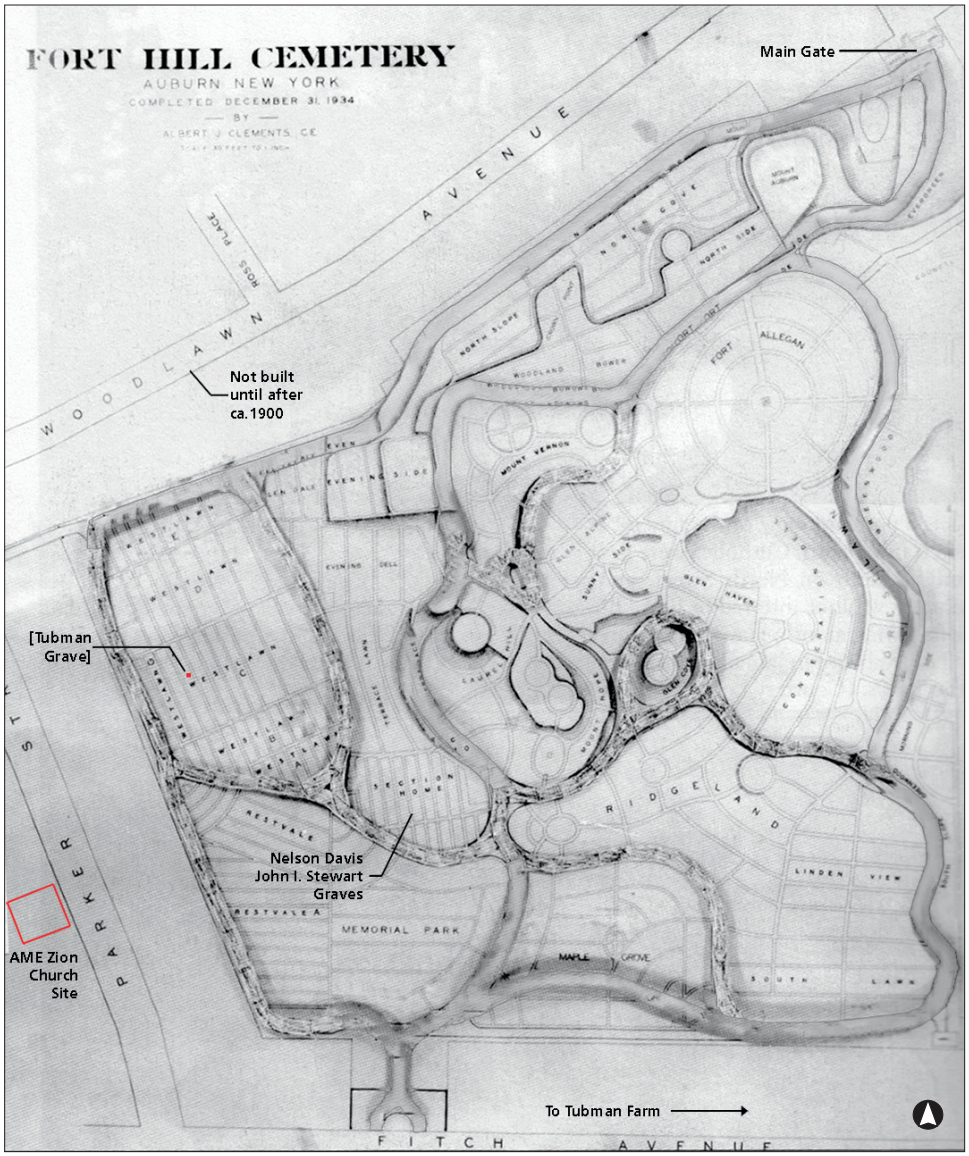



Figure 1.32. A later map of Fort Hill Cemetery showing the "Home" section where Nelson Davis and John I. Stewart were interred, and the West Lawn section to the northwest, where Harriet Tubman would be buried. The original part of the cemetery, including Fort Allegan on Fort Hill, is to the east. (Albert Clements, "Fort Hill Cemetery," 1934, courtesy Fort Hill Cemetery Association, annotated by SUNY ESF)




**Figure 1.33. South Street in Auburn looking south across from the Seward House, showing road and sidewalks that Harriet Tubman knew, ca. 1900. (Unattributed post card, from ancestry.com)**

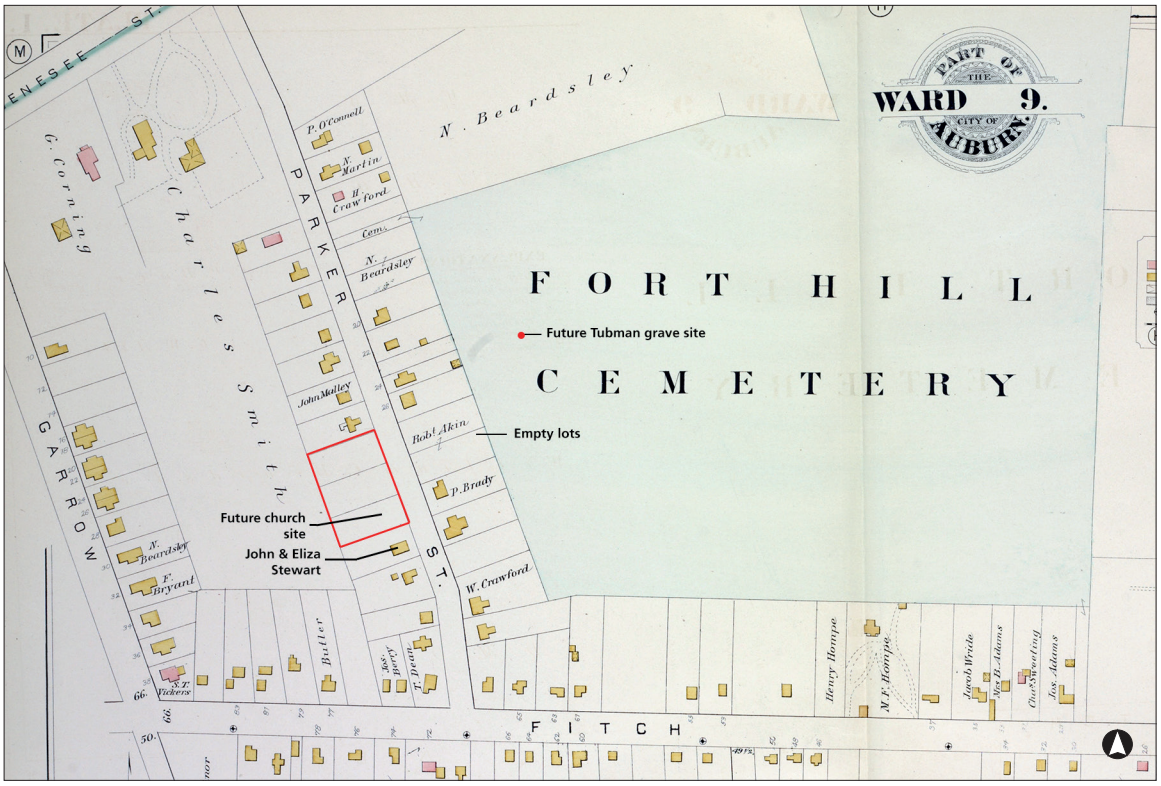



**Figure 1.34. An 1882 Auburn atlas showing Parker Street with three empty lots north of the John and Eliza Stewart House (relatives of Harriet Tubman) that the A.M.E. Zion Church purchased in 1891. The Stewarts moved from this house in ca. 1881. (Detail, G. M. Hopkins, *City Atlas of Auburn, New York*, Philadelphia, 1882, annotated by SUNY ESF)**

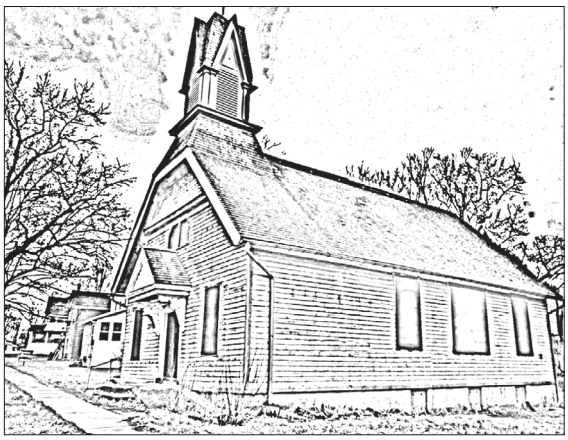


**Figure 1.35. Image of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church showing overall massing, looking south. (SUNY ESF based on 2016 photograph)**



**Figure 1.36. Group outside the entrance to Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church showing stone pavement, looking west from Parker Street, 1905. (Collection of Pauline Johnson, Auburn)**

# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## 1859–1895

### Harriet Tubman Home Property and Tubman Farm


**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
www.nps.gov/oclp

in partnership with
Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, www.esf.edu/la/cclp


## SOURCES


1. Hopkins, City of Auburn Atlas, 1882
2. Harriet Tubman Home, Syracuse Herald, 1896
3. USGS, Auburn Quadrangle, 1899
4. City of Auburn map, 1904
5. Aerial photograph, 1938
6. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016


## DRAWN BY

John Auwaerter, Ilustrator CC, 2018

## LEGEND

- 1895 Parcel Boundary
- Current NPS Authorized Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Building
- Building--only footprint known
- Unpaved Road
- Bridge or Culvert
- Brick Walk
- Picket Fence
- Fence--type not known
- Deciduous Tree
- Orchard
- Shrubs
- Garden (presumed)
- Lawn, Pasture, or Cultivated Field
- Stream
- Wetlands
- 5' Contours
- Clay Pit (presumed)
- Feature Removed During Period

## NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Property ownership based on 1882 Hopkins map and 1895 Auburn directory
3. Extent of orchards and trees based on later photographs and existing old-growth.
4. Reduced detail documented in landscape outside of park boundaries.

0′ 100′ 200′ 300′

**Drawing 1.2**

# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## 1859–1895

### Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and Tubman Gravesite


**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
www.nps.gov/oclp

in partnership with
Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, www.esf.edu/la/cclp


## SOURCES

1. Hopkins, City of Auburn Atlas, 1882
2. City of Auburn map, 1904
3. Aerial photograph, 1938
4. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016

## DRAWN BY

John Auwaerter, Illustrator CC, 2018

## LEGEND

- 1895 Parcel Boundary
- Current NPS Boundary
- Grave Plot
- Grave Section Boundary
- Building
- Unpaved Road
- Stone Pavement
- Paved Sidewalk
- Walk (unknown type)
- Fence (unknown type)
- Deciduous Tree
- Lawn/Other Ground
- 2′ Contours
- Feature Removed During Period

## NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Grave markers in Fort Hill Cemetery not shown.
3. Tree locations are speculative.
4. Landscape details outside of church property not shown or presumed.

0′ 50′ 100′ 150′

**Drawing 1.3**

## FOUNDING OF THE HARRIET TUBMAN HOME, 1895–1913

In 1895, Harriet Tubman turned to the A.M.E. Zion Church to help institutionalize her life's work of caring for the indigent and needy. With its mission in the "interest of humanity, regardless of race, color, sex or condition," the A.M.E. Zion Church—the Freedom Church—shared in Harriet Tubman's life-long campaign for human rights.[1] At the time, Tubman was about 73 years old, and was caring for her dependents at her farm, in the brick house she built in 1881–1882 (fig. 1.36). Her dreams would lead her to acquire the adjacent twenty-five-acre brickyard property to the north, and later to give this land to the A.M.E. Zion Church to carry on her work.

Harriet Tubman remained active in social justice issues during her elderly years, from women's suffrage and education of African-American youth, to care of the elderly and indigent. She retained close connections with social justice reformers in Auburn and throughout the Northeast, particularly with the Wright-Osborne family of Auburn. Susan B. Anthony wrote about a meeting at the Osborne's home on South Street in 1903, when Tubman was 81 and had just given her property to the A.M.E. Zion Church:

> This most wonderful woman—Harriet Tubman—is still alive. I saw her but the other day at the beautiful home of Eliza Wright Osborne, the daughter of Martha C. Wright, in company with Elizabeth Smith Miller, the only daughter of Gerrit Smith, Miss Emily Howland, Rev. Anna H. Shaw and Mrs. Ella Wright Garrison, the daughter of Martha C. Wright and the wife of William Lloyd Garrison, Jr. All of us were visiting at the Osbornes, a real love feast of the few that are left and here came Harriet Tubman! [2]

### THE HARRIET TUBMAN HOME

By the early 1890s, it was becoming more difficult for Harriet Tubman to support her dependents based on the products of her seven-acre farm and employment from the nearby brickyards. Although she had help in running the farm, her advancing age and the loss of her husband Nelson in 1888 certainly made the operation more challenging. There were also broader economic changes in agricultural production that was making small subsistence farms such as Tubman's less economically viable. By 1895, she had decided to found an institution to perpetuate her care for the indigent and to address other social needs of African Americans, such as education. Reflecting her modest nature, she initially wished to name the institution "John Brown Home" after her abolitionist friend and hero, but probably at the advice of her church and friends, settled on the name, The Harriet Tubman Home.[3]

### Establishment of The Harriet Tubman Home

Tubman turned to her spiritual leaders in the A.M.E. Zion Church to sponsor the institution that would carry on her life's work. This was not an unusual partnership, as many churches had a tradition of supporting institutions for the needy, such as poorhouses, orphanages, and homes for the friendless, often as part of farming operations. Locally, Protestant women in Auburn founded the Home for the Friendless in 1864. Cayuga County established a poor farm on the outskirts of Auburn around 1825, and the Cayuga Asylum for Destitute Children was established in Auburn in 1852. All three of these institutions remained in operation by the 1890s, but none focused on the needs of African Americans.[4]

Harriet Tubman had long considered her farm to be a cause worthy of public support, as reflected in her solicitation of funds to rebuild her house that was destroyed by fire in 1880. Soon after this time, she began to think about institutionalizing her home for the indigent through the influence of Rev. George C. Carter, who in 1886 was serving as pastor of the A.M.E. Zion Church in Auburn. Inspired by Tubman's life story in Sara Bradford's book *Harriet, the Moses of Her People*, Rev. Carter became involved in Tubman's care for the indigent and began to seek the support of the Genesee Conference (known after 1896 as the Western New York Conference) of the A.M.E. Zion Church for institutionalizing Tubman's work. At the time, however, the idea did not gain traction among church leaders.[5]

By 1895, Rev. Carter and Harriet Tubman were revisiting their idea of creating an institution due to the pending sale of the twenty-five-acre Farmer brickyard property north of the Tubman Farm. The availability of this property probably became more certain with the death of John W. Farmer, "an eccentric but successful brickmaker" according to the Auburn *Bulletin*, at the age of 93 on February 14, 1895.[6] The property contained three residences, which may have stood vacant or underutilized over the decade since the brickyard closed—a condition Tubman would have surely seen as a waste given the many people that she knew needed shelter. The additional farmland could also greatly increase the number of people Tubman supported. According to historian Earl Conrad, "For years Harriet had looked from the porch of her residence over a 25-acre expanse of adjoining terrain, dreaming of what a fine community farm it would make."[7]

Rev. George C. Carter raised $350 toward acquiring the property and reached an agreement with leaders of the Western New York Conference to sponsor Tubman's new institution. On December 3, 1895, the certificate of incorporation was signed, and on April 6, 1896, was recorded with the Cayuga County Clerk. The certificate created a membership corporation based on the recently passed General Incorporation Law of the State of New York. The recorded purpose of the corporation was to "Establish and maintain a home or retreat for the shelter,

care and maintenance of worthy indigent colored people," named "The Harriet Tubman Home." The corporation required that the "said home or retreat" be established "near the city of Auburn. . .in the town of Fleming. . .and the operations of the corporation will be there principally conducted." The corporation was to be headed by five "directors," who were to serve until the first annual meeting. The first directors were Rev. George C. Carter, by then of Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania; Rev. James E. Mason of Rochester; Rev. Henry J. Callis of Ithaca; Rev. Wesley A. Ely of Syracuse; and Rev. Charles A. Smith of Binghamton. Like Rev. Carter, these men were all ministers of the A.M.E. Zion Church. Harriet Tubman and Mrs. Julia P. Clark of Auburn also signed the incorporation papers, but neither was given any legal role in administration of the Home.[8]

The incorporation of The Harriet Tubman Home in 1895 was reported as the culmination of Harriet's life work. She also saw this as her crowning achievement, as reported in the New York *Sun* in 1896: "My work is done. . .I ain't got no more to do. My people's free, thank my God, and de home is started. When de good Lord calls me I'm ready."[9] Under the leadership of Chairman Rev. George C. Carter, the Home's board of directors soon set to work by launching a plan to raise $10,000 to support acquisition and development of the twenty-five-acre property.[10]

#### Tubman Ownership, 1895–1903

The certificate of incorporation for The Harriet Tubman Home referenced its location in the Town of Fleming, at Tubman's seven-acre farm, the only property then under her ownership except for the half-acre to the north where her brother, William H. Stewart, Sr., lived. During this time, the Home operated out of her brick house, probably unchanged from earlier years except for perhaps some oversight from the Home's board of directors. An article about the new institution that appeared in the Syracuse *Sunday Herald* on April 19, 1896, entitled "Dreams Realized, Crowning Effort of Old Harriet Tubman's Life," featured an engraving of the brick house with the caption "Harriet Tubman Home for Aged Colored People" (fig. 1.37).[11]

At the time the incorporation papers for the Home were filed in December 1895, the Farmer heirs had not decided to sell the twenty-five-acre (24.63) property. Their inability to pay the taxes on the property, however, soon forced them to give it up at a public auction, scheduled for June 22, 1896 at the Cayuga County Courthouse. The directors of the Home were apparently confident that they would acquire the property because on June 7, 1896—two weeks before the auction—the New York *Sun* published an article that referred to the Home as already occupying the property:

> On the outskirts of the city of Auburn stands a small frame cottage [probably present Home for the Aged], which has recently become the Harriet Tubman Home for Aged Colored People. In its title the unpretending building perpetuates the name of one who has been called "the Moses of her people." It will be a lasting monument to one of the most noble and wonderful figures in the history of slavery's decline and fall.[12]

The Harriet Tubman Home was indeed successful in acquiring the property at the auction, but it was Harriet Tubman herself, not the directors, who did the bidding, according to a transcript of Harriet's recollection:

> They were all white folks but me, there, and I was like a blackberry in a pail of milk, but I hid down in a corner, and no one knew who was bidding. The man began down pretty low, and kept going up by fifties… At last it got up to fourteen hundred and fifty, and then others stopped bidding, and the man said, "All done. Who is the buyer?" "Harriet Tubman," I shouted.[13]

The final cost for the property was $1,515.[14] The directors of The Harriet Tubman Home apparently intended the corporation or the A.M.E. Zion Church to acquire the title. They secured a short-term loan of $1,225 to pay for the property, which may have reflected the balance left after a $290 cash payment—perhaps the money that Rev. George C. Carter had raised, or funds Harriet Tubman provided from her $500 pension awarded in October 1895. At their meeting on June 27, 1896, the directors launched an appeal, headed by Rev. Carter, to solicit contributions to pay off the short-term loan prior to the transfer of title scheduled for July 14. According to an article published on June 28, "One woman has already offered to subscribe $50, and it is believed the full amount will be promptly raised."[15]

The directors were not successful in their appeal, and a mortgage was instead taken out on the property in Harriet Tubman's name, presumably arranged by the directors. On July 14, 1896, the deed for the twenty-five (24.63)-acre property was conveyed by the heirs of John W. Farmer (George B. Turner, referee) to Harriet Tubman Davis (fig. 1.38). The deed excluded the quarter-acre lot that Harriet owned at the northwest corner of the Farmer property that was part of the home of her brother, William H. Stewart, Sr.[16]

Plans for The Harriet Tubman Home included hiring Rev. George C. Carter for one year to work on plans, to be paid by contributions from local citizens. He and the other directors deliberated over two options for converting the twenty-five-acre property to the Home, using funds from the planned $10,000 drive: renovating the existing buildings, or adopting a more extensive plan to construct a new building. They were unable to adopt either plan, and the proposal to hire Rev. Carter also failed to materialize. Perhaps without holding title to the property, the directors and the larger A.M.E. Zion Church were reluctant to

spend funds on it. More importantly, the directors apparently met with little success in raising the necessary funds. [17]

Despite the lack of improvement or use of the Farmer property as The Harriet Tubman Home, it was listed beginning in the 1897-1898 Auburn directories as "Tubman Home," with an address of 182 South Street (Tubman's own brick residence did not appear in the Auburn directories because it was in the Town of Fleming). [18] As the owner of the land, Tubman made quick use of it for generating income by renting the frame house (Home for the Aged) and the brick house (John Brown Hall) to tenants. This must have led to the need for the tenants to have a street address. The name Danforth Street was transferred to the east-west access road that led to the two houses, since the earlier subdivision and paper street on the Danforth property to the north never materialized (fig. 1.39). The 1900 Auburn directory listed Alexander Steele, laborer, as living at #2 Danforth Street, which was the brick house east of Wood Creek (John Brown Hall). Steele was white and a brick maker by trade, and lived with his wife, two daughters, and a boarder. The 1902-1903 directory listed Mrs. Evaline H. Kilmer at "Danforth south side No. 2." The frame house at #1 Danforth Street was probably occupied by James and Minnie Chamberlain, another white family, who were farmers and may have rented the fields on the property. They were replaced by Charles H. Sincerbeaux, who was listed at "Danforth north side No. 1" in the 1902-1903 Auburn directory. The third house on the property, the relocated plank road toll house that faced South Street, may have been rented to the Lane family. This house, which had a street address of 184 South Street, was occupied by Tubman's brother, William H. Stewart, Sr., beginning in the 1901-1902 Auburn directory. He moved from the old Jasper house to the north of the twenty-five-acre property.[19]

While leasing the twenty-five-acre property to tenants, Harriet Tubman continued to care for dependents in her own brick house to the south. According to an article published in 1901, Robert Taylor, a director of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama founded by the renowned black educator, Booker T. Washington, visited Harriet Tubman each year around the time that the Home was founded. Presumably referring to Harriet's own brick house, Taylor commented that she had "…strangers under her roof—aged, maimed, blind and orphans…She has never been known to turn a deaf ear to the appeal of an unfortunate human being."[20]

Tubman had difficulty paying taxes on her property that amounted to a combined 32 acres, along with the half-acre property she owned at #176 South Street, and reportedly had to sell her cows to raise funds. She may have sold #176 South Street to her brother around 1897 to raise funds for the taxes and mortgage. Around this time, she began to look for someone to take ownership of

the twenty-five-acre property, who could implement her vision for the Home—apparently the A.M.E. Zion Church was not forthcoming at the time. In 1899, Tubman offered the property to the National Association of Colored Women, but the organization declined because of the mortgage on the property.[21]

By the spring of 1900, Tubman was subject to a $1,838.60 mortgage foreclosure on the twenty-five-acre property, but her friends and supporters in Auburn were not going to let her lose the property. According to a newspaper report, "The action was a purely friendly one to clear up the title to the property and re-inaugurate the institution [The Harriet Tubman Home] under the state charities law."[22] The foreclosure took place on April 30, 1900, and the property was acquired by Cayuga County Judge George Underwood, who was a law partner of William Seward, Jr. and had drafted the incorporation papers for The Harriet Tubman Home in 1895. Underwood then transferred title to the property back to Harriet Tubman Davis in a deed recorded on October 2, 1900.[23]

Following the foreclosure, Tubman's friend, Robert Taylor of the Tuskegee Institute, launched a campaign in 1901 to solicit donations to help Tubman pay off the mortgage that by then amounted to $1,700. According to Taylor, the directors of The Harriet Tubman Home had provided her no support; she was "dependent entirely on what may be handed her by occasional callers and the scant earnings of her brother [William H. Stewart Sr.]."[24] Funds for the campaign were to be collected by one of the Home's directors, Rev. Charles A. Smith, by this time pastor of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church in Auburn. Donations came from Rev. Smith and several other clergy, as well as a more substantial donation of over $400 from the A.M.E. Zion Church, but insufficient funds were collected to retire the mortgage. [25]

#### AME Zion Church Ownership, 1903-1913

Soon after Robert Taylor's fundraising was launched, he and other church leaders reached agreement with Harriet Tubman that she would bequeath the twenty-five-acre property to the church for use as The Harriet Tubman Home. At the time, the property still contained four outbuildings presumed to be part of the former Farmer and Rice brickyard, two frame houses (frame house and tollgate house), a barn across from the frame house, and the brick house (John Brown Hall) (fig. 1.40). Tubman did not agree to give the church her original seven-acre farm.

Taylor apparently convinced the church hierarchy to accept title to the twenty-five-acre property, which was still encumbered by a mortgage, by suggesting the property be used for a school of domestic or industrial science, "of the type of Tuskegee and Hampton" (Hampton Institute, which was also headed by Booker

T. Washington), in addition to maintaining a home for the aged.[26] The church agreed to accept the property with its encumbrances, on behalf of The Harriet Tubman Home. Rev. B. F. Wheeler, pastor of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church from 1902 to 1904, coordinated the transaction. A deed for the twenty-five acres was drafted in 1902, but complications arose, including discovery of a second mortgage in the amount of $575, and Tubman's misunderstanding about who would hold the title. She had wanted Rev. Wheeler to hold the title personally, perhaps because her white friends in Auburn were opposed to the national church taking title. In return for agreeing to gift the property to the church, Tubman secured the right to all rents from the property during her lifetime, with the understanding that the rents would cease when the church needed the property. She was also responsible for paying taxes and insurance.[27]

After Tubman agreed to these provisions, a new deed was executed on June 11, 1903, transferring the property to the ownership of the A.M.E. Zion Church of America. It stipulated,

> . . .that the said premises shall be used, kept and maintained as the Harriet Tubman Home for aged and indigent colored people; and it is further agreed that they may also be used for other charitable or industrial purposes.[28]

The deed excluded the quarter-acre parcel at the northwest corner of the property that Tubman acquired in 1890, which she had probably sold to her brother, William H. Stewart, Sr., in ca. 1897. To clear the title, the church assumed $1,000 remaining on the first mortgage, $575 on the second mortgage, and $371 from a third mortgage held by William H. Stewart, Sr., probably on the southern quarter-acre parcel at the northeast corner of the twenty-five-acre property. This parcel may have been incorporated into the church's holdings in a transaction following signing of the deed for the main property. [29]

After receiving the title, the church and directors commenced operating The Harriet Tubman Home, although this was most likely administrative planning, rather than taking in elderly dependents or undertaking other charitable purposes.[30] The church appointed Rev. Benjamin F. Wheeler as the superintendent, who was charged with establishing on the property both the home for the aged as well as an industrial school, which was allowed in the deed restriction as another charitable purpose. The A.M.E. Zion Church did not, however, have the funds to realize the home and industrial school. According to Rev. Wheeler, "It is not intended. . .that this home shall be a heavy expense to the church; it simply needs a start and it can live and thrive by the help that comes from the public."[31]

Wheeler had little success in raising funds from the public, and left his positions as superintendent and pastor of Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church in 1904. For the

next two years, there was little progress on plans for the Home, and Tubman continued to rent out the twenty-five-acre property to various individuals. In September 1906, the directors of the Home finally brought on Rev. George C. Carter, who had led early efforts at establishing the Harriet Tubman Home institution, as superintendent. According one of Harriet Tubman's local friends and supporters,

> Not until Rev. Mr. Carter came on the ground were any real steps taken toward the opening of the home. The friends of Harriet Tubman had lost all hopes of ever seeing the home a reality. In fact it was the general opinion of the members of the board of trustees [directors] that nothing could be done for the home until after Aunt Harriet was dead. But Rev. Mr. Carter thought otherwise, indeed, he stated the home should be open while Aunt Harriet was living.[32]

When Rev. Carter arrived, there was reportedly no money in the treasury of the Home. Over the course of the next two years, he secured funds and "many friends for the home in Central New York."[33] The directors charged him with raising $5,000 from the public to pay off the mortgage held by the church, provide for his salary, and fund improvements to the property. By February 1907, Carter had raised sufficient funds to allow the directors to publicly announce their planned improvements. As reported, the plans continued with the provisions contained in the 1903 deed: to establish a home for the aged and to operate an industrial school, or what was reported as a school of "Domestic Science." This school was intended, according to the Auburn *Citizen*, "…to fit colored girls in every way for domestic service; not merely how to do the work, but their responsibility and deportment in the home and what is expected of them as regards conduct."[34] This mission reflected Booker T. Washington's advocacy for vocational training in African American education, and may have also reflected the church's interest in raising funds from the white community.[35]

The Home's directors were also now specific about where each of these uses would be housed. The frame house at #1 Danforth, referred to as the red house, was to be made the "school of Domestic Science," and the former tollgate house was to be moved to form a wing on the frame house that would serve as a dormitory for girls. The brick house at #2 Danforth was to be the home for the aged with accommodations for ten residents. The directors of The Harriet Tubman Home delegated responsibility for renovating the brick house and its subsequent operation to a newly formed administrative body, the Board of Lady Managers, headed by Frances Smith, the wife of Rev. Charles A. Smith, one of the original directors and pastor of Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church.[36]

The first of the projects to be undertaken was the renovation of the frame house at #1 Danforth Street. The work was probably underway at the time of the Auburn *Citizen's* report of February 9, 1907, given that the directors planned to

open the school of Domestic Science in the building by May 1 of that year. The house was probably in good condition and required little major improvement. Renovations on the exterior included changing the exterior color from red to a light color on the clapboard siding, and most likely also adding an open porch across the front and west sides (fig. 1.41). Two-over-two double-hung window sash may have been installed at this time, but four older six-over-six sash windows were left on the front of the first floor. A tall wood-plank fence was probably also installed at this time to enclose a yard or garden at the rear side of the house, and a shed was added along the west side. [37] These renovations were most likely completed by September 1907, by which time a reporter from the San Francisco *Call* had met with Harriet Tubman for an interview. After discussing her life in slavery, on the Underground Railroad, and in the Civil War, the reporter concluded,

> And so indomitable has been that old Ashantee soul that she has lived to see the realization of her later project of peace. For through the tiny window of what she calls her "shanty" [presumably her brick house] she can see the four walls and roof of the Industrial home [presumably the Home for the Aged/frame house], now dear to her heart. In the infirmity of age she can do little more than plan, and at 93 [sic] she is still eagerly promoting its permanent endowment.[38]

At the time of this interview, the school had not yet opened. Later that fall, a lecture was given by Rev. M. C. B. Mason on the subject of "Education for the Negro," with the admission fees intended to support the school. The Auburn *Citizen* reported, "The plan of the Board of Directors is to bring negro girls from the South and to teach them housework so that they may become skilled domestics. Negro boys will be taught useful trades."[39] With delays in opening the school, the directors of the Home apparently returned the renovated frame house to tenant use. The 1908 Auburn directory listed two men living at #1 Danforth Street. In May 1909, the New York *Sun* reported that there was a proposal to convert Tubman's own brick house, "on the farm which she purchased from Secretary of State Seward," into the school: "As a memorial to her it is proposed to expand this home into an industrial school of the type of Tuskegee and Hampton."[40] An assembly was planned for June 1909 to solicit funds for the school's buildings and endowment, led by Bishop C. R. Harris of Salisbury, North Carolina. This was the last known public report of planning for the industrial school during the remainder of Tubman's life. The old tollgate house, which the directors had intended to be a girl's dormitory, was never moved to the frame house as initially planned and remained at the site along South Street that it had occupied since ca. 1883.[41]

In contrast to the school, the directors of The Harriet Tubman Home were successful in their other major project—converting the brick house on the twenty-five-acre property into a home for the aged, which Harriet Tubman

named John Brown Hall after her martyred abolitionist hero. At their annual meeting in the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church on Parker Street in June 1907, the directors reviewed plans for the home, in the presence of "colored people from different parts of the State" who came due to their "deep interest" in the home, according to a local paper."[42] The directors announced that the brick house would be thoroughly renovated with assistance by "colored people of the State," with about ten rooms and an apartment for the matron. Furnishings were being donated. The anticipated completion date and opening ceremony were set for August 1, 1907. The directors were formulating a constitution, by-laws, and rules for the home's government, overseen by the Board of Lady Managers.[43]

Construction did not proceed as anticipated, however, and by November 1907, Harriet Tubman's own house was still being used as the home for the aged. Construction continued into spring 1908, and a new opening date was set for April 24. This date came and went as well, but by May 1, the renovations were complete and the house was ready for furnishing. As part of the renovation of John Brown Hall, the frame buildings along Danforth Street west of Wood Creek, presumably part of the former brickyard, were most likely removed or relocated, since they would have presented an unsightly approach to the newly renovated home for the aged. [44]

On May 19, 1908, the Auburn *Semi-Weekly Journal* published a detailed account of the completed interior of John Brown Hall:

> The Harriet Tubman home is truly a place in which can be found all that goes to make a home-comfort, rest, beauty and neatness. The corridor leading east from the large sitting room, off from which are the sleeping rooms, is light and warm, the room furnished by Mr. and Mrs. George Brown of Schenectady, called the Brown room, is pretty, the predominating colors being white and maroon. The room furnished by Mrs. Thomas Freeman of Auburn is in white and gold. The spacious sitting room, mainly furnished by the indefatigable Mrs. Cregor of Geneva and Mrs. Lee, should be seen to be appreciated. The Brussels carpet, the exquisite lace curtains, the upholstered furniture and a great many small articles. Two other rooms are to be furnished by Mrs. Charles Goodlow and Mrs. Edwards. The visitors who called on inspection day were welcomed by the matron and ladies, escorted to the ledger on which each one registered, and then made a tour through the building and from the upper floor to the living rooms, dining rooms, the furnace, purchased by the lady managers, the spacious kitchen and cellar and so on.[45]

Despite the extensive interior renovations, the house had no modern plumbing or bathrooms. Water was probably supplied from nearby a cistern or well. [46]

Tubman gathered around this time with friends and supporters for a photograph in front of the newly renovated brick house (fig. 1.42). She also took an individual portrait, on the lawn in front of the building with the orchard to the east in the

background (fig. 1.43). A month later, on June 23, 1908, the directors and Board of Lady Managers held a festive grand opening of the home for the aged in which Harriet Tubman featured prominently:

> With the Stars and Stripes wound about her shoulders, a band playing national airs and a concourse of members of her race gathered about her to pay tribute to her lifelong struggle in behalf of the colored people of America, aged Harriet Tubman Davis, the Moses of her race, yesterday experienced one of the happiest moments of her life, a period to which she has looked forward for a score or more of years, the dedication of a home for aged and friendless colored people.[47]

While Rev. George C. Carter had been instrumental in the realization of the home for the aged in John Brown Hall and was present to see its official opening, the directors of The Harriet Tubman Home institution decided to replace him as superintendent at their annual meeting held on the same date as the official opening—June 23, 1908. His successor was Rev. Charles Smith, who also served as pastor of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church. A "Friend of the Home"—perhaps one of Tubman's white friends in Auburn, penned an article in the Auburn *Semi-Weekly Journal* that was critical of the church and the directors for their lack of financial support for the home and what the author referred to as the firing of Rev. Carter.[48] Harriet Tubman also became critical of the directors because they had instituted a fee of $150 for each inmate of the home, whereas she had wanted the home to offer refuge free of charge. She broke off participation in management of The Harriet Tubman Home soon after the opening ceremony in June 1908, but by 1909 had become reconciled with the directors.[49]

The Board of Lady Managers and the superintendents continued with improvements to the grounds around John Brown Hall, which they planned to cultivate. They maintained a garden near the house, most likely a rectangular plot across Danforth Street. The orchard east and south of John Brown Hall and the fields were leased to provide income for the operation of the home. In 1910, the land was leased to the home's new superintendent, William Freeman, who agreed to work the land and pay an annual rent of $100.[50]

The renovations completed in 1908 had been mostly on the interior of John Brown Hall, so the Board of Lady Managers started a fund for exterior improvements, specifically to build a front porch. The unsheltered, steep wooden steps up to the front door were certainly not befitting a home for aged people. At the annual meeting in June 1910, the board reported they had $91 in the porch fund, and the project probably commenced soon thereafter. As completed, the new full-width porch featured four classical wood columns supporting a shed roof, along with wood railings, a finished wood floor and entrance stairs, and a lattice skirt along the base (fig. 1.44). The porch provided the elderly residents

with a pleasant place to take in the fresh air and views across the surrounding farmland.[51]

The home for the aged remained a small operation that may have never reached the anticipated ten residents. One of the first residents to enter John Brown Hall was Ursula Johnson, who died at the home on February 26, 1909 at the age of 83. Winifred Johnson, a former slave from Winchester, Virginia [relation to Ursula not known], entered the home in 1912 upon the death of her last remaining relatives, and there "she passed in quietness and comfort her declining days."[52] She was one of three aged women in the home supported by the City of Elmira. In 1911, Harriet Tubman herself, then nearing 90, entered John Brown Hall. The matrons of the home for the aged also lived in the hall, in an apartment with their husbands. [53]

In addition to the entrance fee from these residents and rental of the farmland, the directors raised funds for The Harriet Tubman Home by soliciting contributions from churches in the Western New York Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church, budgeted at a yearly income of $200. They also had support from the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs, founded in 1908 as an umbrella organization of African-American women's groups in New York. The organization had two main goals: 1. To uplift work among girls and young women; and 2. To care for Harriet Tubman and support The Harriet Tubman Home. Despite this financial support, the home for the aged remained under very tight fiscal constraints. At their 1910 annual meeting, for example, the Board of Lady Managers reported an annual income of $358.85, but a balance of just $37.42. The directors had received $277.07 during the year and had expended all of it except for $10.19. A separate mortgage fund had received $186.93 from churches of the Western New York conference, but the mortgage on the twenty-five-acre property was not paid off during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. The directors also tried to raise additional funds by raising pigs on the property, perhaps taking over Harriet Tubman's remaining pigs. In 1910, the directors spent $24 on young pigs, and reported that the Home owned seventeen small and four large pigs.[54]

#### WILLIAM H. STEWART, SR. PROPERTY

When Harriet Tubman acquired the twenty-five-acre Farmer property in 1895, she already owned a quarter-acre parcel at the northeast corner that had been part of the property prior to its sale to Jacob Jasper in 1878. She had purchased this from Jasper in 1890, along with a quarter-acre parcel to the north that contained Jasper's house and barn, with an address of #176 South Street. Tubman was listed at this address in the city directories between 1892 and 1896, most likely because she was the owner, rather than a resident. Her brother,

William H. Stewart, Sr. was probably living there at the time, and he was listed at this address beginning in the 1897-1898 Auburn directory. Given Tubman's financial difficulties in paying the taxes on the twenty-five-acre property she acquired in 1896, she may have decided to sell the Jasper property to her brother, who worked as a teamster for the Osbornes. He took out a mortgage, presumably for this property. This may have occurred in 1897, the first year he was listed at #176 South Street.[55]

When Harriet Tubman agreed to give the twenty-five-acre property to the A.M.E. Zion Church in 1902, her brother may have been having trouble paying the mortgage and taxes for #176 South Street. That year, he moved to #184 South Street, probably the old tollgate house on the twenty-five-acre property, and most likely rented out #176 South Street. Names listed at this address after Stewart include Albert T. Bailey in the 1902-1903 directory, William Saunders in the 1903-1904 directory, and William Platt in the 1904 directory.[56]

Harriet Tubman's sale of the twenty-five-acre property in June 1903 excluded the quarter-acre parcel at the northwest corner that was part of the half-acre comprising #176 South Street. The deed did not indicate the owner of the quarter-acre parcel, only identifying that it had previously been sold to Jacob Jasper. The church may have acquired this quarter-acre in a subsequent transaction to square-off the property boundaries, based on its assumption of a $371 mortgage from William H. Stewart, Sr. The church did not acquire the quarter acre to the north with the house and barns. [57]

The house and barns at #176 South Street were shown on a map of Auburn published in 1904 (see fig. 1.40). The house had side and rear wings, and the barn was at the northeast corner of the property, with a smaller shed closer to the house. William H. Stewart, Sr. continued to be listed as the property owner in Auburn city tax records until 1908, although he did not live there. These records indicated a house remained on the property. By 1909, the quarter-acre parcel was owned by Charles T. Whelan and listed as a vacant lot, indicating the buildings had been torn down.[58]

#### HARRIET TUBMAN'S FARM

Harriet Tubman's brick house on her seven-acre farm remained her own residence and home for her dependents well past establishment of The Harriet Tubman Home institution in 1895 and the A.M.E. Zion Church's acquisition of the twenty-five-acre property in 1903.[59] As she became feeble, it is likely that Harriet Tubman supported fewer people in her house, or that able-bodied relative and friends assisted her in the house and on the farm. Given her increasing financial problems following acquisition of the twenty-five-acre property in 1896, she likely made few improvements to her farm, as evident in a

1907 article in the San Francisco *Call* that showed the house and barn little changed from a similar view published in 1896 (fig. 1.45). After the home for the aged was opened in John Brown Hall in June 1908, Tubman continued to live in her own brick house, but was thinking of its future use. By the spring of 1909, she was considering its use for the planned industrial school that had been proposed for the frame house on the church's property. This proposal was never advanced, and the seven-acre farm remained under Tubman's ownership.[60]

Within two years, Harriet Tubman could no longer keep up her own house due to failing health. In the winter of 1911, Eliza Wright Osborne and Jane Seward took her to the hospital where she stayed for a couple months prior to moving to the home of her niece, Mrs. Emma Stewart. On May 10, 1911, at the age of about 89, she entered her namesake home for the aged in John Brown Hall, still ill and reportedly penniless. [61] The Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs assessed her condition and financial needs in the home for the aged, reporting "Aunt Harriet Tubman still retains all of her mental faculties, but she is weak bodily and hence needs the constant care of a watcher… Aunt Harriet is not in her own home. That is situated a few yards from the home where she is living."[62] The club raised funds to provide for a doctor and private nurse, and also asked its members to assist with decorating Tubman's room and providing linens, sheets, towels, and blankets.[63]

Following Tubman's move to John Brown Hall, her own brick house was shuttered. Within a couple years, the house and grounds had become dilapidated (fig. 1.46). The directors of The Harriet Tubman Home institution had apparently taken little interest in acquiring Tubman's house. By November 1912, Harriet Tubman had signed a last will and testament that left her seven-acre farm not to the A.M.E. Zion Church, but to three women: her niece Mary Gaston, grand-niece Katy Stewart, and Frances R. Smith—her friend and the wife of Rev. Charles A. Smith who was serving as matron of the home for the aged. Tubman's will directed the executor, Louis K. R. Laird, to sell the property to the highest bidder and divide the proceeds of the sale of the property among these three women. The proceeds were also intended to settle any of Tubman's remaining debts.[64]

#### AUBURN AND THE THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Harriet Tubman's later life in Auburn after establishment of the Harriet Tubman Home witnessed the continued growth and prosperity of the city. Between 1890 and 1910, Auburn's population jumped from 25,858 to 34,668; by 1900, it contained 350 manufacturing plants that employed 6,000 workers—2,600 of them worked for D. M. Osborne & Company, which was absorbed into International Harvester in 1903. New mansions were built farther south on South Street,

including a large fire-proof house designed in 1904 at 130 South Street for John Osborne, who would serve as treasurer of The Harriet Tubman Home (figs. 1.46, 1.47). New residential neighborhoods were developed on the outskirts of the urban core, such as West Auburn off Genesee Street, but the south end of the city in the vicinity of the Harriet Tubman Home remained rural. [65]

The prosperous industrial economy provided continued employment opportunities for Auburn's African American community. Parker Street, Garrow Street to the west, and Fitch Street to the south remained a vibrant African American neighborhood, anchored by the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church. Several houses were built on Parker Street after 1895, but two lots remained empty across from the church, adjacent to Fort Hill Cemetery (see fig. 1.47). The field behind the church was subdivided as a residential street named Park Place, but by 1904 had not been fully developed. Parker Street during this time was a dirt road lined by ditches and stone sidewalks.

The A.M.E. Zion Church, in its new building on Parker Street built in 1891, considered itself the home church of Harriet Tubman, although she attended other churches. As late as 1897, for example, Tubman was baptized at Bethany Baptist Church in Syracuse.[66] The Parker Street church's connection to Tubman, however, went beyond her participation in the parish. It served as the place of annual meetings of the directors of The Harriet Tubman Home institution following its establishment in 1895, and its pastor, Rev. R. F. Wheeler, served as the Home's first superintendent following the church's acquisition of the twenty-five-acre property in 1903. Donations to the Home were also collected at the church. [67]

Rev. Edward U. A. Brooks, a lawyer who served as one of the directors of The Harriet Tubman Home, was called to serve the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church in 1909, and apparently was dissatisfied with the lack of housing provided by the parish. By November 1909, he had worked with the Church Building Association, which had been formed two decades earlier to manage construction of the church, to launch a campaign to build a parsonage on the northern half of the church lot. The goal of the campaign was to raise $2,200, and by May 1910, enough of the goal had been reached to begin construction. The parish planned on doing some of the construction itself, including digging of the cellar hole, building the foundation, plastering, painting, and grading of the grounds. Ground was broken on June 28, 1910. On November 26, 1910, The Rev. and Mrs. Brooks moved into the completed two-story house, which had no stylistic similarity to the church. In plan it was an American Foursquare-style house on a cast stone (concrete) block foundation, with neo-classical details including a Palladian-style attic window and classical columns and railings in the front porch (fig. 1.49). [68]

Similar Foursquare houses were being built at the time on an extension of Woodlawn Avenue along the north side of Fort Hill Cemetery (fig. 1.50).[69]

Like the church, the parsonage was maintained without any plantings around its foundation, and was painted a dark color scheme similar to the church (fig. 1.51). There were no street trees in front of the church or parsonage, as there were elsewhere on Parker Street. The space between the church and the parsonage was maintained as a lawn, which was apparently used by the congregation for outdoor gatherings, perhaps along with the larger open space at the rear of the property. On a Friday evening in June 1912, for example, the Auburn *Citizen* reported that "there will be a lawn social at the Zion church grounds."[70]

#### HARRIET TUBMAN'S DEATH AND BURIAL

Harriet Tubman lived almost two years at the home for the aged in John Brown Hall under the care of the Board of Lady Managers. After coming down with pneumonia in the winter of 1913, Harriet Tubman died in John Brown Hall on Monday, March 10 at the age of 91.[71]

Funeral services were set for Thursday, March 13, 1913. Tubman's body was prepared at John Brown Hall, where short services were held at 11:30 a.m. Her casket was then brought to the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, where it lay in state for public viewing from 12 to 3 pm, followed by a funeral service presided over by Rev. Edward U. A. Brooks, the pastor of the church, and Rev. Charles Smith, the superintendent of The Harriet Tubman Home. Numerous people, both black and white, spoke. There were reports of 1,000 people seeking to attend the funeral, but the church could only hold 350, including standing room. Most had to wait outside until the casket was brought out (fig. 1.52).[72]

Tubman's funeral cortege most likely proceeded north from the church up Parker Street to a narrow entrance drive into Fort Hill Cemetery that then existed between two houses south of Woodlawn Avenue (see fig. 1.47). Harriet Tubman was not buried alongside her husband, Nelson Davis, who had been interred twenty-five years earlier in the Home Section, Lot #240. Tubman was instead interred in the West Lawn Section, lot #439, one of two lots she owned (fig. 1.53). The lots in these rows were very small—approximately four feet by seven feet—compared with lots to the east, which measured nine by twenty feet. The turf walks were about three and a half feet wide.[73]

Harriet Tubman must have acquired these two grave lots some time before her death. Her brother, William Henry Stewart, Sr. was the first to be buried in the lots, in #439, following his death on July 18, 1912. His grave was not marked with a stone. Harriet was buried alongside him eight months later, reflecting their

close relationship and their later years as neighbors and housemates on South Street. The second Tubman lot, #438, remained empty.[74]

Across the turf walk to the east of the Tubman lots were two grave lots acquired by the Stewart family, #397 and #398 (see fig. 1.53). Emma Moses Stewart, wife of Tubman's nephew, William Henry Stewart, Jr., died on April 17, 1912 and was buried in lot #397. William Henry Stewart, Jr. had died six years earlier in 1906. The cemetery recorded his burial in West Lawn Section B, lot 255. He may have been reinterred to lot #397 around 1912 at the time of his wife's burial. It was at this time, according to Stewart family oral history, that the surviving children of Emma and William Stewart—Charles and Alida—planted a Norway spruce tree as a marker of their parents' graves. The children may have selected the tree with its two leaders to symbolize both parents.[75]

The West Lawn sections were newer burial areas of Fort Hill Cemetery, still characterized in 1913 by many empty grave sites and mostly small, young trees. From the old-growth trees at the core of the cemetery (Fort Hill), there were views across the West Lawn sections to the houses and Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church on Parker Street. A 1908 history of Cayuga County, presumably referring to the Parker Street church, noted the prominence of its short spire or bell tower in the views from the cemetery:

> Over in the middle distance of the landscape as viewed from Fort Hill and other high places of observation in the city appears most conspicuously the graceful spire of one of the most picturesque and best equipped church edifices outside of the larger cities, wherein the colored population of Auburn can worship in "a church of its own."[76]

A crowd accompanied Harriet Tubman's remains, in an outer oak casket, to the grave site, and she was buried with military rites based on her service in the Civil War (fig. 1.54). Following the burial, Tubman's grave may have been identified by a temporary marker. Her family members and the A.M.E. Zion Church did not take the lead in securing a permanent marker for the grave. Instead, the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs, which had overseen Tubman's care since her move into the home for the aged, and the Harriet Tubman Neighborhood Club of New York [City], began raising funds for a permanent stone marker, which would take two years to realize.[77]

#### LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW, 1913

At the time of Harriet Tubman's death in 1913, her dream of institutionalizing her home for the aged had been realized. The Harriet Tubman Home had been chartered, the A.M.E. Zion Church of America had acquired title to the twenty-five-acres Tubman had purchased in 1896, and a home for the aged was operating in John Brown Hall, where Tubman had passed away. For the foreseeable future,

it must have seemed that the A.M.E. Zion Church would continue Harriet's life work, although finances remained an issue. The fate of her neighboring seven-acre farm was less certain, since it had been shuttered for two years and was in the hands of her legal estate, which was charged with selling the property and dividing the revenue among Tubman's three designated heirs. Tubman's church, the place of her funeral, remained the center of the surrounding African American neighborhood and had recently seen a substantial improvement with the addition of a parsonage.

The Harriet Tubman Home, incorporated in 1895, was the institution that governed several different activities on the twenty-five-acre property owned by the A.M.E. Zion Church of America. Operating under a superintendent and board of directors comprised of church clergy, The Harriet Tubman Home's chief function in 1913 was the operation of the home for the aged (a nursing home) in John Brown Hall. It was run by the Board of Lady Managers that reported to the directors of the Home. A vocational (industrial) school, conceived primarily to train African American girls for domestic service, was the other primary program of The Harriet Tubman Home. The school, intended to be in the frame house at #1 Danforth Street with the old tollgate house moved as a wing, had not materialized by 1913, and the two buildings, along with the farm fields, were instead leased for rental income.

#### **Tubman Farm** (Drawing 1.4)

In 1913, Tubman's farm had probably been vacant and unused for at least two years, since Tubman moved into the home for the aged at John Brown Hall. The farm still contained her brick house, which was shuttered, and the frame barn at the rear. The front and south yards, and the fenced garden to the south had become overgrown. The Board of Lady Managers of the home for the aged may have taken in some of the livestock, including a cow and some pigs. The fields to the east may have stood idle. William H. Seward, Jr. still maintained a large orchard on the seven-acre parcel south of the Tubman Farm.

#### **Harriet Tubman Home Property** (Drawing 1.4)

The Harriet Tubman Home property was actively used in 1913 as the home for the aged and by tenants. It had changed both in ownership and in physical character since 1895, although it still remained an open, rural landscape. The access road into the site was named Danforth Street, a name borrowed from a paper road on the former Danforth property to the north. Remnants of the brickyard run by John Farmer until ca. 1885 had disappeared, although shallow clay pits still lined the banks of Wood Creek. John Brown Hall, which had an address of #2 Danforth Street, housed at least five elderly residents and the matron and her family, who continued Harriet Tubman's life work of caring for

the elderly and indigent. This building, with its front porch added in ca. 1910, was surrounded by an orchard. Across Danforth Street was presumably a barn and garden tended by the lady managers. The frame house at #1 Danforth Street, which was renovated in ca. 1907 for use as the industrial school for girls, featured a wrap-around porch that may have been added at that time. At the rear was a frame shed, and there was a yard or garden enclosed by a high wood-plank fence. Across Danforth Street was the old tollgate house that was probably rented, with an address of #184 South Street.

The former half-acre property owned by Tubman and then her brother, William H. Stewart, Sr., disappeared as a residential property during this period. Stewart had sold this property in two quarter-acre transactions between 1901 and1909. The A.M.E. Zion Church acquired the southern lot at an undetermined date (probably soon after acquiring the twenty-five-acre parcel in 1903), while the northern lot with the house and barn built by Jacob Jasper in ca. 1871 had been sold and torn down by 1909.

#### **Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and Tubman Gravesite** (Drawing 1.5)

Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church witnessed the funeral of Harriet Tubman on March 13, 1913. She had seen the completion of the new church in 1891, which on the exterior remained little changed since its construction. Tubman lived to see completion of the parsonage on the northern half of the lot in 1910, which was one only a few houses added to Parker Street during this period. The lawn between the church and parsonage was likely used as a gathering space for lawn parties and other social events. The church may have planted trees at the rear of the half-acre lot after the field to the west began to be developed with houses in ca. 1895, or after grading of the lot was completed following construction of the parsonage in 1910.

Harriet Tubman's gravesite in the West Lawn section of Fort Hill Cemetery was within sight of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church through two empty residential lots across Parker Street from the church. Young trees along the cemetery boundary and in the West Lawn section probably did not block views by 1913. Grave markers were scattered, with most of the grave lots still empty, since the section had been open for a little over a decade. In 1913, there was no permanent marker on Harriet Tubman's grave, or on the adjoining graves of her family members that included her brother, William H. Stewart, Sr. The graves of her nephew, William H. Stewart, Jr. and his wife Emma Moses Stewart was marked by a young Norway spruce tree.

**ENDNOTES, 1895–1913**

[1] C. R. Harris, *Zion's Historical Cathechism,* cited in William J. Walls, *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church: Reality of the Black Church* (Charlotte, NC: A. M.E. Zion Publishing House, 1974), 50.

[2] Quoted in "The Osborne Family's Historical Perspective," Osborne Center for Social Justice, http://osbornelibrary.com/osborne_family (accessed May 7, 2018).

[3] Douglas V. Armstrong, "Harriet Tubman's Farmsteads in Central New York: Archaeological Explorations Relating to an American Icon," in James A. Delle, editor, *The Limits of Tyranny: Archaeological Perspectives on the Struggle against New World Slavery* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2015), 157-158; William J. Walls, *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church: Realities of the Black Church* (Charlotte, NC: A.M.E. Zion Publishing House, 1974), 158-159; "To Harriet Tubman, Never Thought of Self," Auburn *Citizen,* June 11, 1914, transcript in Judith Wellman, "Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged" (Unpublished report, 2009), 25. This report was based on research by Beth Crawford, Kate Clifford Larson, Tanya Warren, and Judith Wellman, with assistance from Doug Armstrong, Anna Hill, and Milton Sernett.

[4] Wellman, 2009, 2-4.

[5] "Harriet Tubman Home," Auburn *Semi-Weekly Journal*¸ June 30, 1908, 3; William J. Walls, *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church: Reality of the Black Church* (Charlotte, NC: A. M.E. Zion Publishing House, 1974), 257.

[6] Quoted in Wellman, 2009, 6.

[7] Earl Conrad, *Harriet Tubman: Negro Soldier and Abolitionist,"* 1942, cited in Walls, 440; Auburn directories, in Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners, "Tubman Chronology" (unpublished paper, research compiled by Beth Crawford, updated 2017) [hereafter, "Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology"]. After 1885, the Auburn directories list no residents south of #176 South Street (William H. Stewart house), only "no address J. W. Farmer 15 acres." The reason the property was listed at 15 rather than 25 acres is not known. There are no listings for Danforth Street between 1885 and 1895.

[8] Auburn *Semi-Weekly Journal*¸ June 30, 1908, 3; "Dreams Realized, Crowning Effort of Old Harriet Tubman's Life," Syracuse *Sunday Herald*, April 19, 1896, 21; "Certificate of Incorporation of Harriet Tubman Home," copy in Owasco Abstract Corp., "Abstract of Title, No. A733, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of America, 180-182 South Street, Tax Map No. 123.38-1-12, 123.03-1-40.1," undated, circa 2000 [hereafter, "Owasco Abstract of Title"]. All of the Home's directors identified as clergy in William J. Walls, *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church: Reality of the Black Church* (Charlotte, NC: A. M.E. Zion Publishing House, 1974).

[9] "The Moses of Her People, Harriet Tubman's Wonderful Half Forgotten Career," *The Sun* (New York, New York), 2nd edition, June 7, 1896, 5.

[10] Wellman, 2009, 7.

[11] "Dreams Realized, Crowning Effort of Old Harriet Tubman's Life," *The Sunday Herald*, April 19, 1896, 21.

[12] "The Moses of Her People," *The Sun*, June 7, 1896, 5. The article did not mention the brick house, later John Brown Hall, which also stood on the twenty-five-acre property.

[13] Sarah Bradford, *Harriet Tubman, the Moses of Her People* (1901 edition), 149-150, quoted in Wellman, 2009, 6.

[14] "The Farmer Property Sold at Auction," Auburn *Argus*, June 26, 1896, transcript in Wellman, 2009, 27.

[15] "The Harriet Tubman Home, Trustees Met to Consider Enlarging Facilities—Property Formally Transferred," Syracuse *Herald*, June 28, 1896, transcribed in Wellman, 2009, 28.

[16] Tubman may have subsequently consolidated this quarter acre back into the twenty-five-acre lot, once her brother moved out of the house in ca. 1900-1901.

[17] Auburn *Semi-Weekly Journal*¸ June 30, 1908, 3; Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle*, June 24, 1896, transcript in Wellman, 2009, 28; "A Worthy Cause," *The Christian Recorder*," July 25, 1901, transcription in Wellman, 2009, 31. The lack of funds

raised by the directors after Tubman acquired the property in 1896 is suggested by a fund-raising effort undertaken by the Tuskegee Institute in 1901 to help Tubman pay off the mortgage.

[18] Deed from City Book 26, pages 628-630, cited in Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; Wellman, 2009, 6.

[19] Directory research, Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; Directory and census research in Wellman, 2009, 14; Owasco Abstract of Title. Tubman's rental of the twenty-five-acre property is referenced in the 1903 deed of sale to the A.M.E. Zion Church, which reserved to Tubman "all rents coming due during her lifetime.

[20] Robert Taylor, "A Worthy Cause," *Christian Recorder*, July 25, 1901, quoted in Wellman, 2009, 13.

[21] Kate Clifford Larson, *Harriet Tubman: Bound for the Promised Land* (New York: One World Ballantine Books, 2003), 283-284.

[22] "Special Term Proceedings," Syracuse *Post-Standard*, April 1, 1900, 10, courtesy of Beth Crawford.

[23] Auburn City Deeds, Book 30, George Underwood and wife to the party of the first part [Harriet Tubman Davis], October 2, 1900, Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology. These transactions do not appear in the Owasco Abstract of Title. It was probably as part of this foreclosure that Tubman also lost the quarter-acre lots at the northwest corner of the property where her brother, William H. Stewart, Sr., lived.

[24] Taylor, 1901, quoted in Wellman, 2009, 13.

[25] Wellman, 2009, 13; Mortgage Discharge Book 31, page 138, Mary E. Belt to Harriet Tubman Davis, February 28, 1902, in Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology.

[26] "The Moses of Her People – Proposed Memorial to Harriet Tubman, A Negress," *The Sun* (New York, New York), May 2, 1909, 16; Account of Tubman's bequest by Rev. B. F. Wheeler, in William J. Walls, *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church: Reality of the Black Church* (Charlotte, NC: A. M.E. Zion Publishing House, 1974), 440-441.

[27] Wheeler account, in Walls, 441.

[28] Harriet Tubman Davis to The African-Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of America, June 11, 1903, City Deeds Book 33, page 410, in Owasco Abstract of Title.

[29] Owasco Abstract of Title; Wheeler account, in Walls, 441-442. See "Jasper-Stewart Property" section for documentation on ownership of half-acre property.

[30] Minutes of the Twenty-Second Quadrennial Session, cited in Walls, 443.

[31] Wheeler account, in Walls, 442.

[32] Auburn *Semi-Weekly Journal*, June 30, 1908, 3.

[33] Auburn *Semi-Weekly Journal*, June 30, 1908, 3.

[34] Auburn *Citizen*, February 9, 1907, in Wellman, 2009, 33, article courtesy of Doug Armstrong.

[35] Larson, 284.

[36] Auburn *Citizen*, February 9, 1907.

[37] Photograph of the frame house with rear shed and fence, ca. 1920, attributed to Jane Searing, Poplar Ridge-Hazard Library; Undated photograph of frame house, from James E. Mason, *Tribute to Harriet Tubman: The Modern Amazon* (Printed brochure, 1914). The reasons why this photograph is presumed to be earlier than the publication date and most likely showing renovations undertaken in 1907 include: Crisp appearance to porch floorboards and light color to stone piers beneath the porch posts; wood shingles on roof compared with other photos of the house (ca. 1920) that show partly torn-off tar paper roofing covering the shingles; lack of plantings around the building that appear in the ca. 1920

photograph; and lack of the Harriet Tubman Home sign on the gable end that appears in the ca. 1920 photograph, after the building was converted to use as the home for the aged.

[38] "The Moses of Her People," San Francisco *Call*, September 29, 1907, 14.

[39] "For the Tubman Home," Auburn *Citizen*, November 15, 1907, transcript in Wellman, 35.

[40] " 'The Moses of Her People' Proposed Memorial to Harriet Tubman, A Negress," New York *Sun*, May 2, 1909, 16.

[41] Wellman, 2009, 15; Walls, 443-444; "Elmiran Writes Sketch of Home," Elmira *Star-Gazette*, June 12, 1914, 15. This article refers to the twenty-five-acre property containing "one brick and two frame cottages, also two barns." One of the two frame cottages would have been the old tollgate house.

[42] "Harriet Tubman Home," Auburn *Weekly Bulletin*, undated transcript, ca. June 1907, in Wellman, 2009, 34.

[43] "Harriet Tubman Home," Auburn *Weekly Bulletin*, ca. June 1907.

[44] Auburn *Citizen*, November 15, 1907; "Tubman Home a Reality," Syracuse *Post-Standard*, April 17, 1908 and Auburn *Citizen*, May 1, 1908, transcripts in Wellman, 2009, 36, 37; "Crowning Event of Her Life," Geneva *Daily Times*, June 26, 1908, 2.

[45] Auburn *Semi-Weekly,* May 19, 1908, transcript in Wellman, 2009, 38.

[46] "Elmiran Writes Sketch of Home," Elmira *Star-Gazette*, June 12, 1914, 15.

[47] "Crowning Event of Her Life," Geneva *Daily Times*, June 26, 1908, 2. It is presumed the photograph of John Brown Hall and portrait of Tubman were taken at the opening of the home for the aged on May 19, 1908 rather than during the grand opening celebration on June 23, 1908 because of the limited number of people in the photograph. These photographs have been previously dated to 1911 when Tubman entered the home for the aged in John Brown Hall, but by that time, a porch had most likely been added to the building. The earlier dates were also more festive occasions warranting a photograph.

[48] Auburn *Semi-Weekly Journal*¸ June 30, 1908, 3.

[49] New York *Sun*, May 2, 1909, 16.

[50] Thomas H. Amos, Jr., "Harriet Tubman Home," New York *Age*, July 15, 1915, 3; "Crowning Event of Her Life," Geneva *Daily Times*, June 26, 1908, 2; location of garden presumed based on 1938 aerial photograph that shows cultivate land near barn north of John Brown Hall, New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1938_ARW-1-080; "The Tubman Home, Reports Show Accomplishments of the Year, Freeman to Work Land," Auburn *Citizen*, June 11, 1910 (transcript). The 1908 article states: "The property will gradually be improved and the land cultivated as funds will permit. There are an abundance of fruit trees and the entire property is tillable."

[51] Photograph of abandoned John Brown Hall showing porch, Syracuse *Post-Standard*, March 16, 1939. The church abandoned use of John Brown Hall as the home for the aged soon after Harriet Tubman's death in 1913, so it is unlikely the porch was added as part of later improvements.

[52] "Centenarian's Funeral Held," Elmira *Star-Gazette*, March 30, 1915, 17.

[53] Wellman, 2009, 9, 18-19, 20; "Noted Negro Woman Dies," Elmira *Star-Gazette*, March 12, 1913, 10.

[54] University at Albany, "Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs Records, 1938-1991," "About the Collection," http://meg.library.albany.edu:8080/archive/view?docId=apap041.xml#abstract (accessed May 4, 2018); Wellman, 2009, 18; "Harriet Tubman Home Free From Debt," New York *Age*, November 2, 1918, 7; "The Tubman Home: Reports Show Accomplishments of the Year, Freeman to Work Land," Auburn *Citizen*, June 11, 1910.

[55] Directory research, Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; Wheeler account of mortgages assumed by the A.M.E. Church when it acquired the twenty-five-acre property in 1903, in Walls, 441-442. Tubman's sale of the quarter-acre at the northeast corner of the 25-acre property is confirmed by her last will and testament dated November 18, 1912, which recorded that at the time, she only owned the seven-acre farm.

[56] Directory research, Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology.

[57] Listing of mortgages assumed by the church, in Walls, 442; Owasco Abstract of Title: Harriet Tubman to African-Methodist Episcopal Church of America, June 11, 1903; 5.

[58] Directory research, Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; Wellman, 2009, 14; Crawford & Stearns, Auburn tax record research, 1854-1915. No photographs of the Jasper-Stewart house and barn have been found.

[59] Auburn city directories, 1904-1911, in Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology. Between 1904 and 1911, Tubman's brick house may have been listed in the Auburn directories as #184 South Street, although this was probably the address for the tollgate house to the north on the twenty-five-acre property, since Tubman's property was in the Town of Fleming. Tubman's brick house was later assigned an address of #208 South Street Road, Town of Fleming.

[60] "'The Moses of Her People' Proposed Memorial to Harriet Tubman, A Negress," New York *Sun*, May 2, 1909, 16.

[61] Rev. E. A. U. Brooks, "For Harriet Tubman," The New York *Age*, August 17, 1911, 4; Larson, 288.

[62] "Investigates Harriet Tubman's Condition," New York *Age*, August 3, 1911, 1.

[63] "Investigates Harriet Tubman's Condition," New York *Age*, August 3, 1911, 1.

[64] Last will and testament of Harriet Tubman, November 18, 1912, in Owasco Abstract of Title; Wellman, 2009, 9; Larsen, 285; Sernett, 260.

[65] Scott W. Anderson, *Auburn, New York: The Entrepreneurs' Frontier* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2015), 3-5; Larson, 287.

[66] "Baptized by Immersion," Syracuse *Evening-Herald*, March 29, 1897, 10.

[67] Rebekah Krieger, "Historic Structure Report Part 1, Thompson African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church" (Draft National Park Service report, February 5, 2018), 41; Auburn *Semi-Weekly Journal*, June 21, 1912, clipping courtesy of Judith Wellman.

[68] Walls, 443; Krieger, 58-60.

[69] Krieger, 52; Lydia J. Rosell, *Auburn's Fort Hill Cemetery* (Charleston, SC: Acadia Publishing, 2002), 37; City of Auburn composite fire insurance map, 1904.

[70] "Miss Johnson at Tubman Home Has Passed Century Mark,"Auburn *Citizen,* June 21, 1912, clipping courtesy of Judith Wellman.

[71] Larson, 288.

[72] Larson, 288-289; "Noted Negro Woman Dies," Elmira *Star-Gazette*, March 12, 1913, 10; "Harriet Tubman Dies Monday at Auburn, N.Y.", New York *Age*, March 13, 1913, 1; Milton Sernett, *Harriet Tubman: Myth, Memory, and History* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007), citing *Post-Standard* report, 178.

[73] Fort Hill Cemetery section plans, West Lawn Section, Subsection C.

[74] Fort Hill Cemetery burial roster, http://forthillcemetery.net/NewRoster/openframe.html (accessed May 8, 2018).

[75] Judith Bryant (great granddaughter of Emma Stewart), phone conversation with John Auwaerter, June 8, 2018; Fort Hill Cemetery burial roster. Judith Bryant has no documentation that William H. Stewart, Jr. was reinterred from another gravesite. He may have been buried in West Lawn Section, Subsection C, lot 397 upon his death in 1906.

[76] *History of Cayuga County, New York* (Auburn, 1908), 220, transcript courtesy of Beth Crawford. It is presumed this quote is referring to Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, since it was the only African American church in Auburn at the time.

[77] Earl Conrad, *Harriet Tubman: Negro Soldier and Abolitionist* (New York: International Publishers, 1943), 47; "Monument Unveiled to Harriet Tubman," New York *Age*, July 15, 1915, 1; Sernett, 181.




**Figure 1.36. Etching of Harriet Tubman sitting on the front steps of her brick house with an unidentified woman and child, soon after The Harriet Tubman Home institution was established in 1895. Note brick walk and shrub or vine to the left. (Syracuse *Sunday Herald*, April 19, 1896)**




**Figure 1.37. Etching of Harriet Tubman's brick house reported as the home for the aged, published prior to acquisition of the twenty-five-acre Farmer property. (Syracuse *Sunday Herald*, April 19, 1896)**

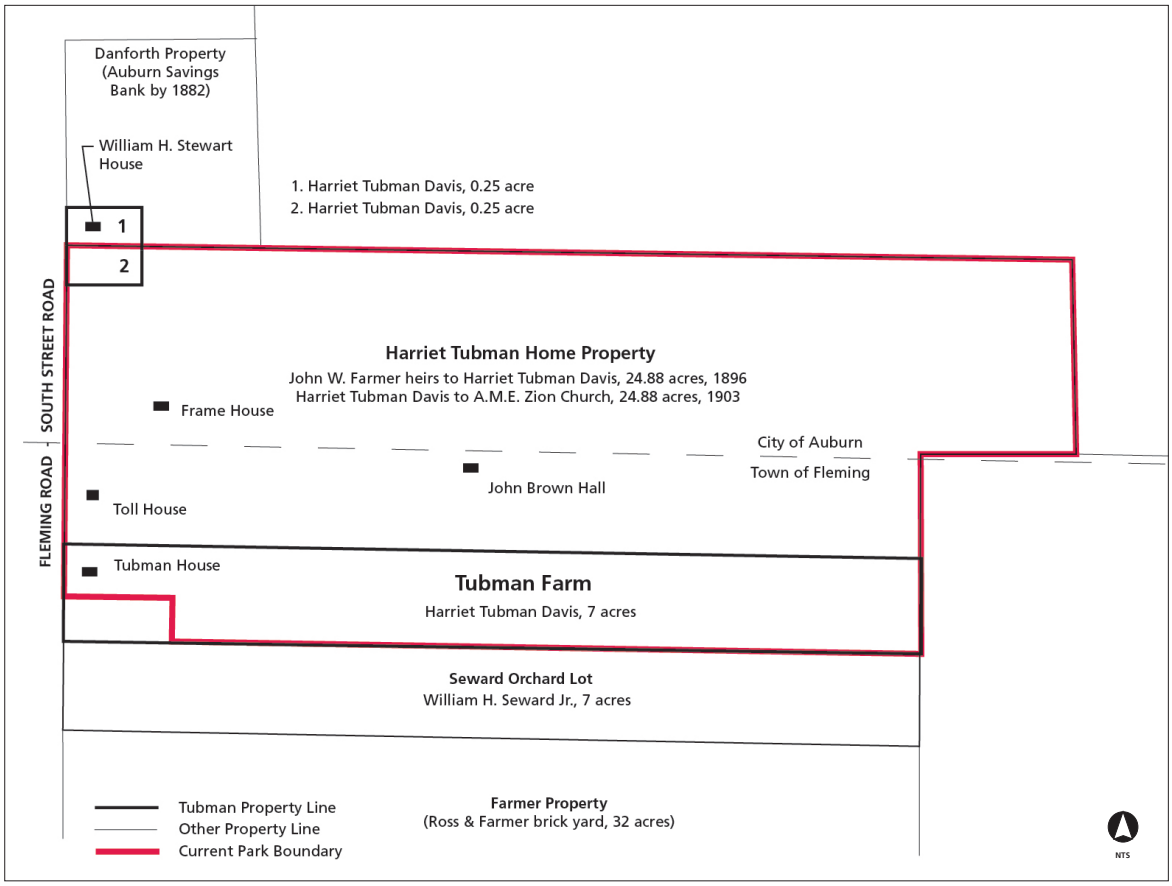



**Figure 1.38. Boundaries of Tubman's seven-acre farm and twenty-five acre property to the north that she acquired in 1896 for use by The Harriet Tubman Home, with subsequent property transactions. (SUNY ESF)**

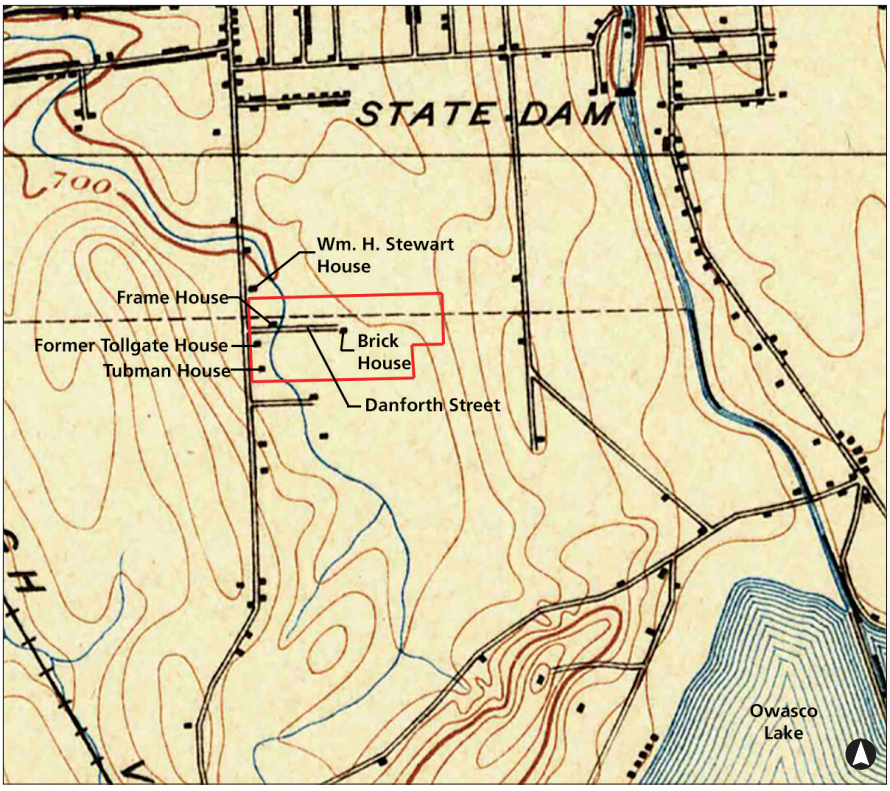



**Figure 1.39. Topographic map published in 1899 showing absence of "old" Danforth Street (or Avenue) on the Danforth property north of the William H. Stewart House, and the east-west road on the twenty-five-acre property that became known as Danforth Street. (Detail, USGS Auburn Quadrangle, 1899, annotated by SUNY ESF.**

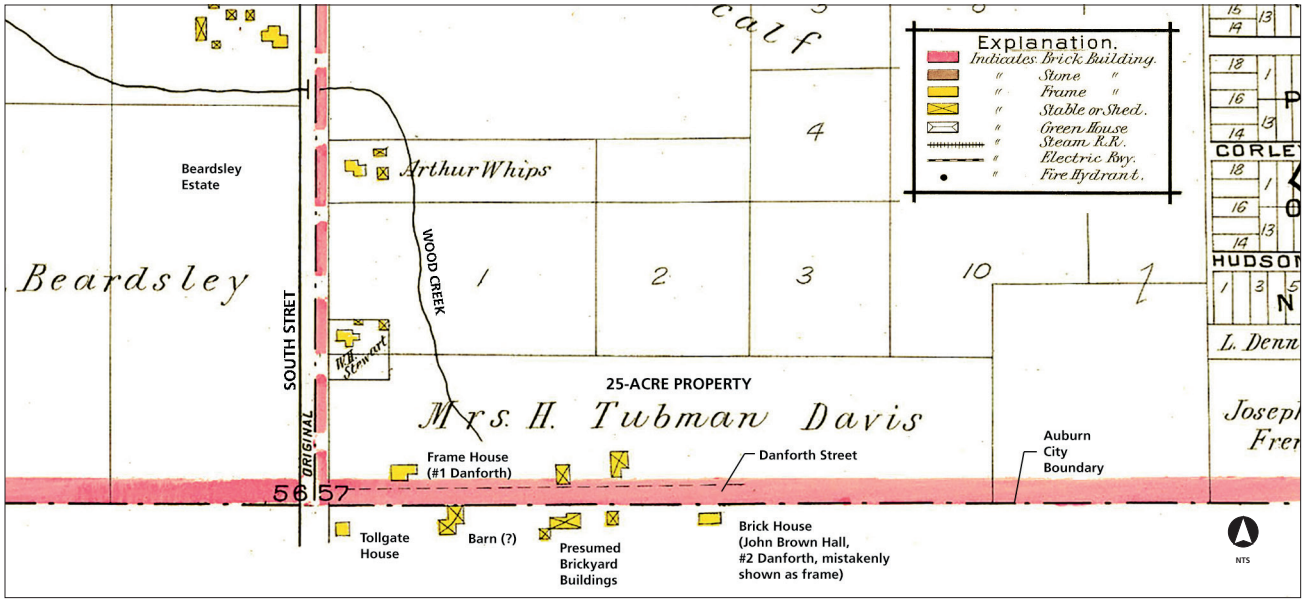



**Figure 1.40. Map of Auburn published in 1904 showing buildings on the twenty-five-acre property at the time of its acquisition by the A.M.E. Zion Church in 1903. The map indicates Tubman ownership most likely because it was surveyed in 1903 prior to the transfer of title. (Detail, "City of Auburn, N.Y....Showing Part of Wards 2-8 & 9," 1904, annotated by SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 1.41. The frame house at #1 Danforth Street (Home for the Aged) showing renovations completed in ca. 1907 for its planned use as a school of domestic science for girls, looking northeast, ca. 1914. The building in the right background may be part of the kitchen wing, and in the left background is a shed that may have been relocated from the brickyard to the east. The home for the aged did not move into this building until about the time that this photograph was taken. (James E. Mason, *Tribute to Harriet Tubman: The Modern Amazon*, 1914)**



**Figure 1.42. Harriet Tubman surrounded by friends and supporters in front of John Brown Hall, looking southeast most likely upon completion of the interior renovations, ca. 1908. A full-width front porch was added in ca. 1910. (James E. Mason, *Tribute to Harriet Tubman: The Modern Amazon*, 1914)**



**Figure 1.43. Harriet Tubman seated for a portrait near the front of John Brown Hall showing mown turf and the orchard east and south of the house in the background, looking east, ca. 1908. This photograph was taken at the same time as the one in figure. 1.42. (Scrapbooks of Elizabeth Smith Miller and Anne Fitzhugh Miller of Geneva, Library of Congress, digital ID 2002716779)**



**Figure 1.44. The home for the aged at John Brown Hall showing the new front porch, looking southeast, ca. 1910. The people gathered are probably inmates, directors, and lady managers of the Home. Harriet Tubman, who was not a resident of John Brown Hall at the time, is not in the group. (Program for the Second Pilgrimage to the Harriet Tubman Home, 1954, Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Charles L. Blockson, 2009.50.5)**

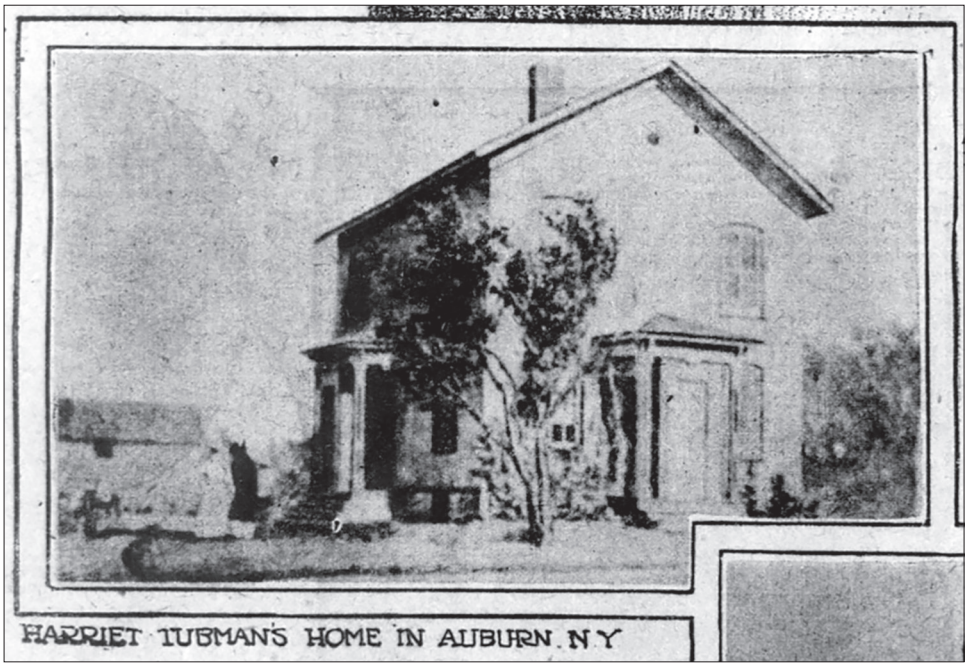



**Figure 1.45. Harriet Tubman's brick house, looking southeast from South Street, ca. 1907. In the left background is the barn. The trees in the right background may have been fruit trees in the yard south of the house. ("The Moses of Her People," San Francisco *Call,* September 29, 1907)**

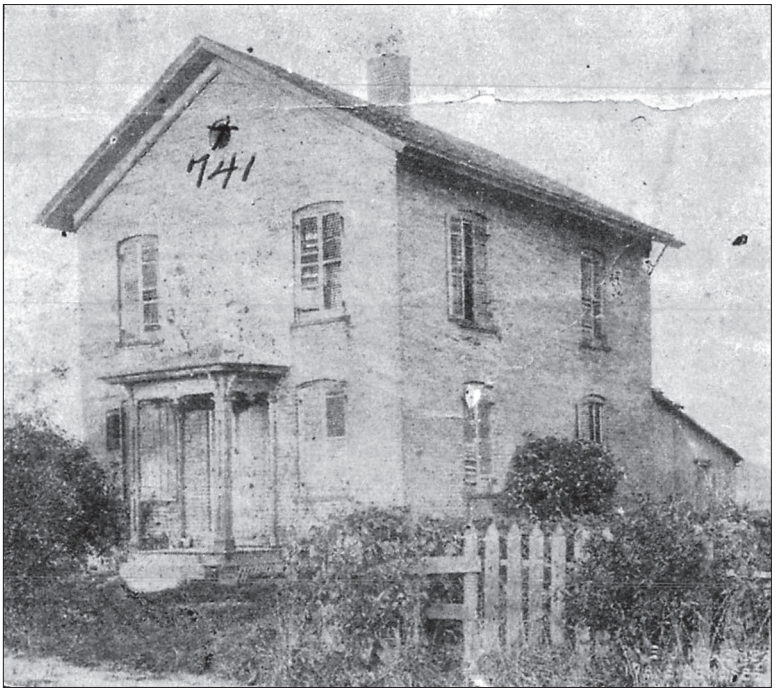



**Figure 1.46. A newspaper photograph of Tubman's brick house, looking northeast showing deteriorated conditions two years after Tubman moved to John Brown Hall, ca. 1913. The caption read "Dilapidated structure near Auburn which is causing much discussion on account of the Masonic emblem at its entrance." This referred to the circular attic window marked "741". ("A Mysterious House," Unattributed newspaper clipping, October 17, 1913, Cayuga County Historian's Office)**

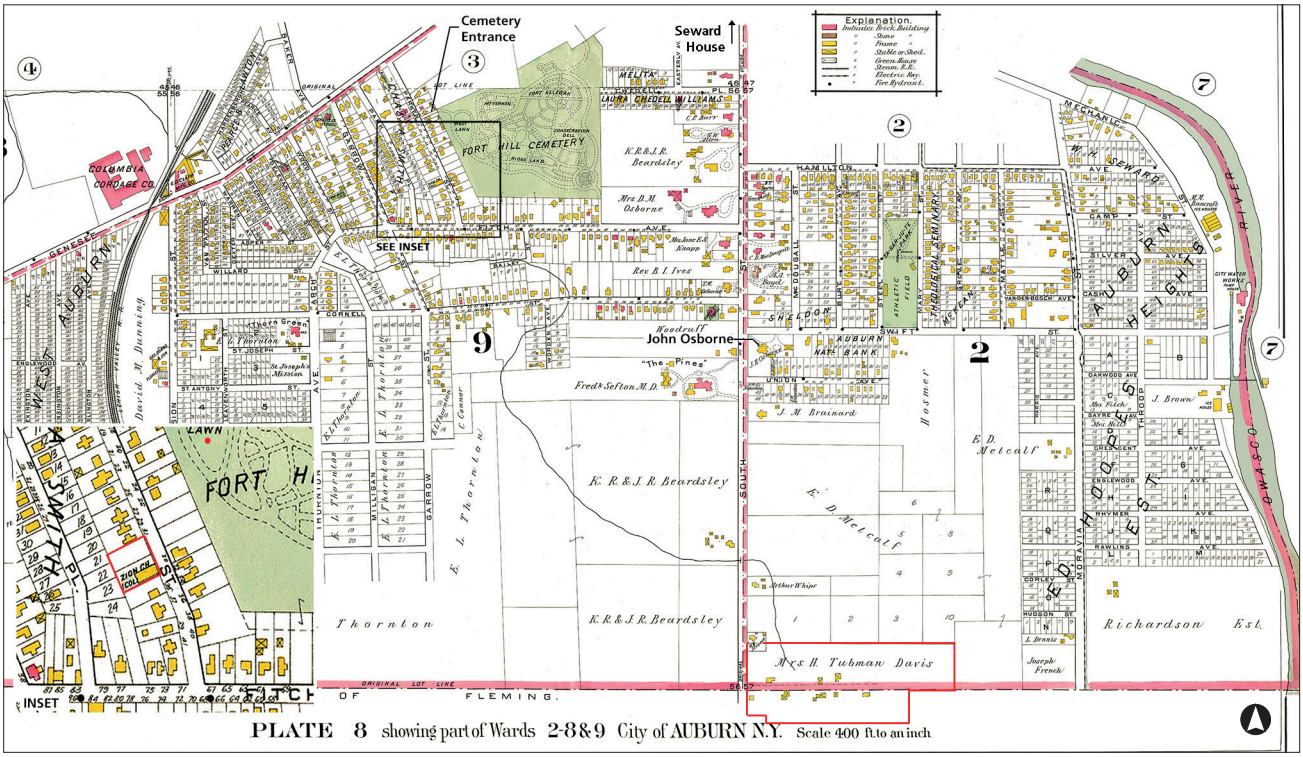



**Figure 1.47. Map of Auburn showing the southern extent of the city in the vicinity of the Harriet Tubman Home, the Osborne houses, Parker Street neighborhood, and Fort Hill Cemetery. For a detail of the Tubman property, see figure 1.40. ("City of Auburn, N.Y....Showing Part of Wards 2-8 & 9," 1904, annotated by SUNY ESF)**




**Figure 1.48. The John Osborne House at 130 South Street, less than a half mile north of the Tubman Farm, from a ca. 1905 postcard. Osborne served as treasurer to the directors of The Harriet Tubman Home institution. (Collection of Michael Long)**



**Figure 1.49. The parsonage of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church built in 1910 on the church lot acquired in 1891, looking northwest, ca. 1910. (Source? Crawford & Stearns files)**

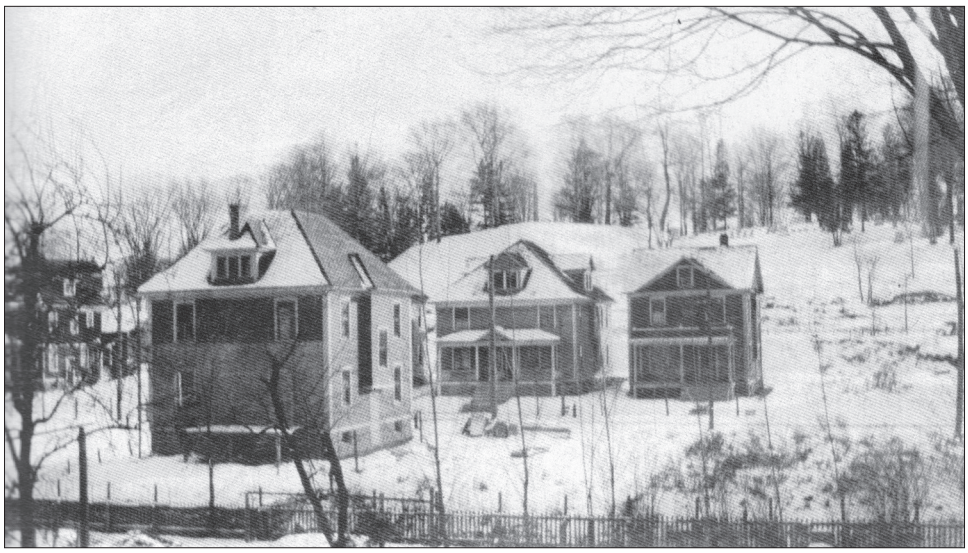


**Figure 1.50. Foursquare-plan houses similar to the parsonage, on the extension of Woodlawn Avenue looking southeast with Fort Hill Cemetery in the background, ca. 1910. (Community Preservation Committee, reproduced from Lydia J. Rosell, *Auburn's Fort Hill Cemetery*, 2002)**



**Figure 1.51. Postcard of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and parsonage showing character around the time of Harriet Tubman's death, looking northwest along Parker Street, 1913. This photograph may have been taken just prior to Tubman's funeral that was held in the church on March 13, 1913. (Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Charles L. Blockson, 2009_50_9_001)**



**Figure 1.52. Harriet Tubman's casket being carried out of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, March 13, 1913. (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of African American History and Culture, photograph 2009_50_33_3a_00)**

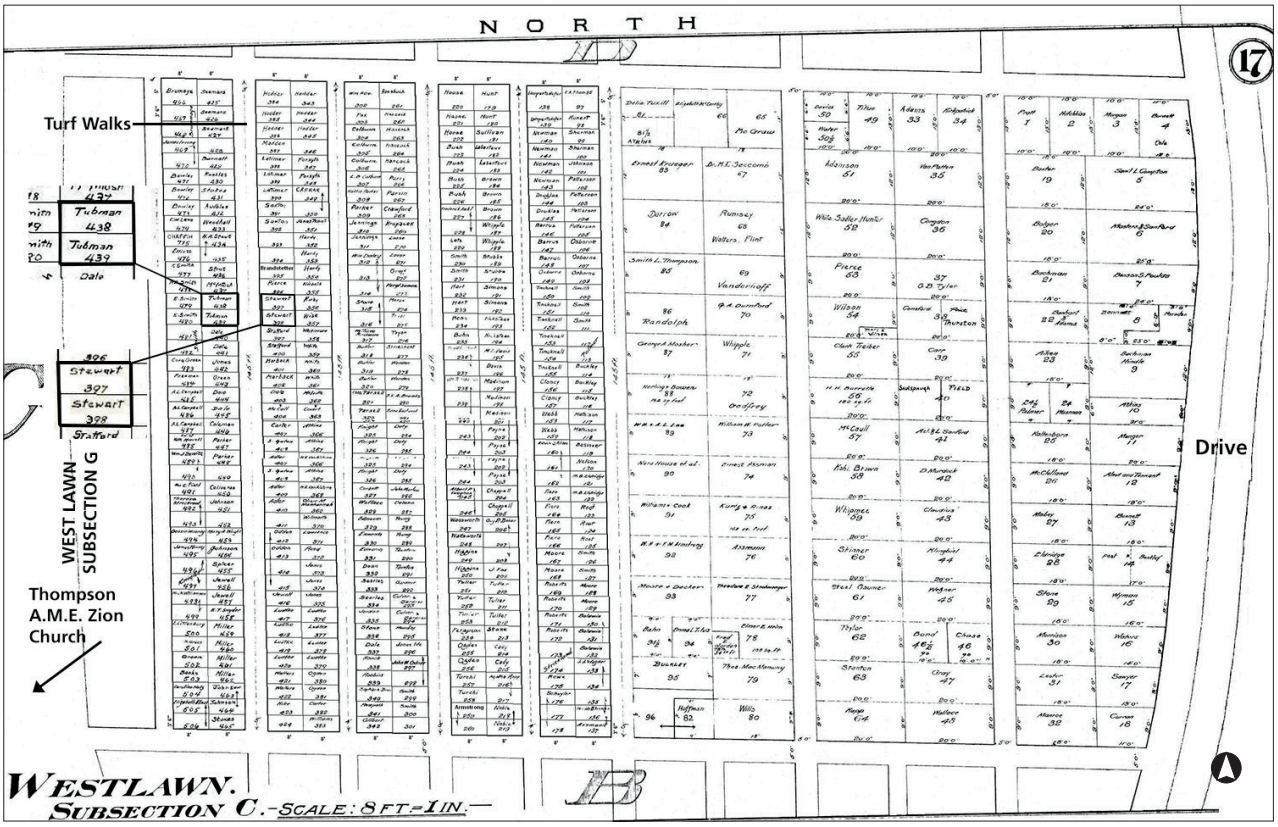
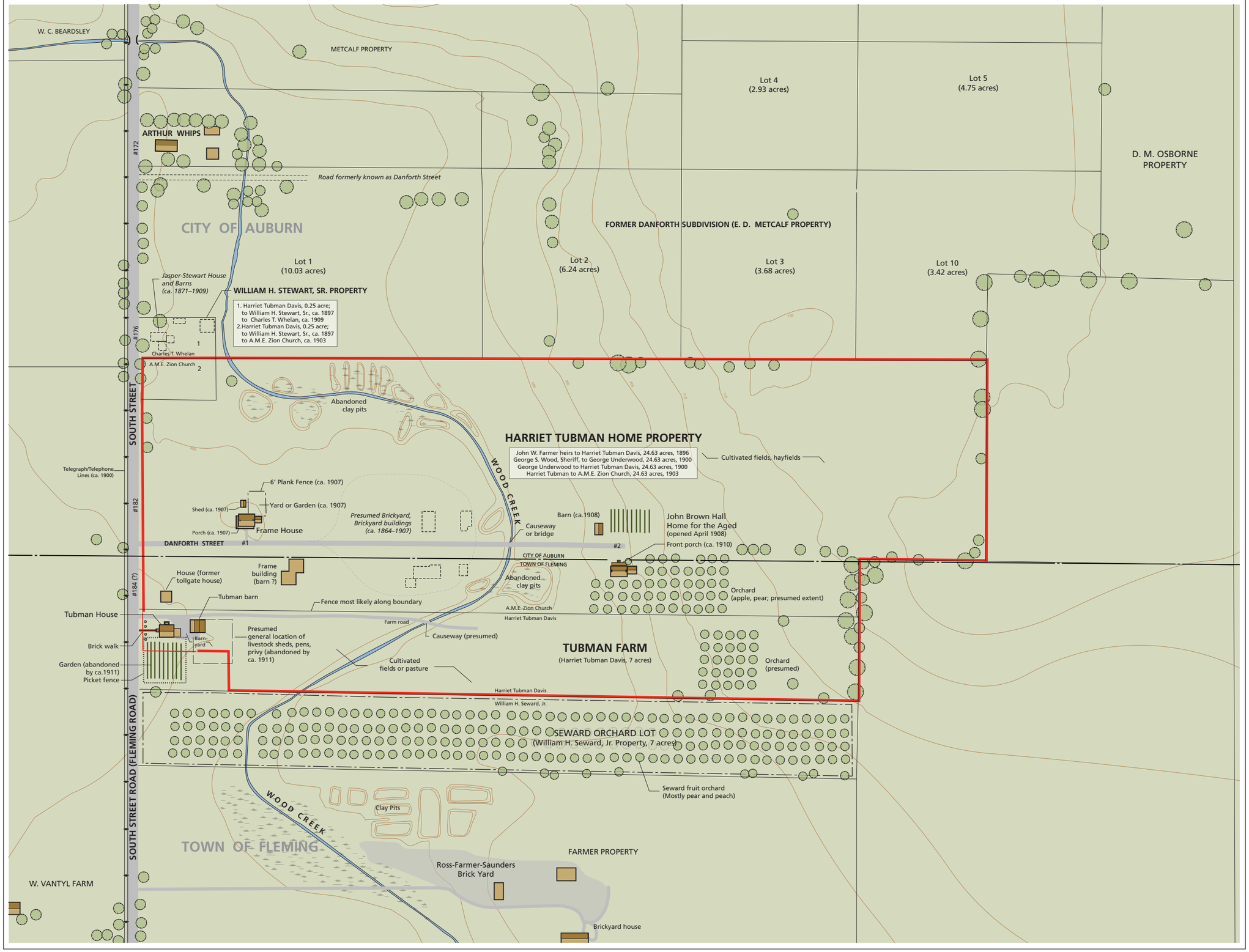



**Figure 1.53. Plot plan of West Lawn Section, Subsection C showing location of the two Tubman lots. Harriet Tubman was buried in lot #439 alongside her brother, William H. Stewart, Sr., on March 13, 1913. The grave faced east, toward the turf walk. This portion of West Lawn Section C was characterized by small, less expensive lots, compared to the east half of the section. (Fort Hill Cemetery Association, ca. 1900 updated to the present, annotated by SUNY ESF).**



**Figure 1.54. Harriet Tubman's burial in Fort Hill Cemetery, looking northeast with houses along Woodlawn Avenue in the left background, March 13, 1913. (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of African American History and Culture, photograph 2009_50_33_2a_00)**




# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## 1895–1913

### Harriet Tubman Home Property and Tubman Farm


**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
www.nps.gov/oclp

in partnership with
Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, www.esf.edu/la/cclp


### SOURCES

1. Hopkins map, 1882
2. Harriet Tubman Home, Syracuse Herald, 1896
3. USGS, Auburn Quadrangle, 1899
4. City of Auburn map, 1904
5. Searing photographs, ca. 1925
6. Aerial photograph, 1938
7. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016

### DRAWN BY

John Auwaerter, Ilustrator CC, 2018

### LEGEND

- 1913 Parcel Boundary
- Current NPS Authorized Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Building
- Building--only footprint known
- Unpaved Road
- Bridge or Culvert
- Brick Walk
- Utility Line
- Picket Fence
- Fence--type not known
- Deciduous Tree
- Orchard
- Shrubs
- Garden (presumed)
- Lawn, Pasture, or Cultivated Field
- Stream
- Wetlands
- 5' Contours
- Clay Pit
- Feature Removed During Period

### NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Property ownership based on 1882 Hopkins map and 1895 Auburn directory
3. Extent of orchards and trees based on 1938 aerial and existing old-growth.
4. Reduced detail documented for landscape outside of park boundaries.

0′ 100′ 200′ 300′

**Drawing 1.4**

# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## 1895–1913

### Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and Tubman Gravesite


**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
www.nps.gov/oclp

in partnership with
Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, www.esf.edu/la/cclp


### SOURCES

1. Hopkins, City of Auburn Atlas, 1882
2. City of Auburn map, 1904
3. Aerial photograph, 1938
4. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016

### DRAWN BY

John Auwaerter, Illustrator CC, 2018

### LEGEND

- 1913 Parcel Boundary
- Current NPS Boundary
- Grave Plot
- Grave Section Boundary
- Building
- Unpaved road
- Stone Pavement
- Concrete Sidewalk
- Walk (unknown type)
- Fence (unknown type)
- Deciduous Tree
- Lawn/Other Ground
- 2' Contours
- Feature Removed During Period

### NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Grave markers in Fort Hill Cemetery not shown.
3. Trees based on 1938 aerial.
4. Landscape details outside of church property and gravesite not shown or presumed.

0' 50' 100' 150'

**Drawing 1.5**

## DECLINE OF THE HARRIET TUBMAN HOME, 1913–1949

Following Harriet Tubman's funeral and burial on March 13, 1913, there remained strong public interest in commemorating her life both in Auburn and in other cities, but within a few years, Tubman's fame began to fade from national consciousness. The Harriet Tubman Home Board of Lady Managers continued to operate the home for the aged for about a decade, but then could no longer carry on due to lack of funds and support, concurrent with the decline of Tubman's fame. The Harriet Tubman Home, associated after Tubman's death with the home for the aged in the frame building at #1 Danforth Street, was often confused as Tubman's own residence, which was next door. That brick house and seven-acre farm took on a new identity, as the home of the Norris family.

The twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property began to fall into ruins in the 1930s. The 1940s were a low point for the property, with the frame house dismantled and John Brown Hall demolished, but the Western New York Conference of the A.M.E. Church had begun planning to restore it as a shrine to Harriet Tubman.

### COMMEMORATING HARRIET TUBMAN

Soon after Harriet Tubman's death, the people of Auburn started a campaign to place a memorial to her in the city. The Auburn Business Men's Association, the Cayuga County Historical Society, and citizens of Auburn raised funds for a bronze plaque with commemorative text and a bas-relief likeness, which was installed on the front wall of the county courthouse on Genesee Street (fig. 1.55). On June 12, 1914, a celebration was held to dedicate the plaque and to raise support for The Harriet Tubman Home. A souvenir program was distributed to attendees with appeals for contributions to the Home as well as to Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.[1] The dedication ceremony featured a benediction by Rev. E. A. U. Brooks, superintendent of The Harriet Tubman Home. Mary Talbert of Buffalo, a social reformer considered the most prominent African-American woman in the country, and Booker T. Washington were guests of honor. Washington gave the dedication speech in which he thanked the citizens of Auburn and remarked,

> It is most fitting and proper from every point of view that the name of Harriet Tubman should be perpetuated by means of this tablet so that her memory and deeds can live in the minds and hearts of the present generation, and can be held up as an object lesson for all time to the generations that follow…The people of Western New York have gone

> beyond the people of any other section of our country in honoring the great character of our race.[2]

Following the bronze tablet's dedication, Tubman's white friends in Auburn asked the African American community if they planned on placing a marker at Tubman's grave, which remained unmarked over a year after the burial. Soon after, the Harriet Tubman Neighborhood Club of New York City, headed by Marie Jackson Stuart, and the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs, headed by Mary Talbert, took up the effort to mark Tubman's grave with what was called a "monument to Harriet Tubman Davis."[3] In referring to it as a monument rather than a grave marker, the proposal raised objections by various organizations around the country that wanted to see a more visible location for a monument to Tubman, preferably in New York City, or for funds to be devoted to the Home as a monument to Tubman, as reflected in a letter Mary Talbert wrote the New York *Age*, one of the country's most influential black newspapers:

> I had suggested to our federation that we erect a monument to Harriet Tubman in the form of an Aged Home for Colored People, as that had always been her heart's desire. I did not quite see the efficacy of putting a large sum of money in a stone, and for thus speaking I was severely criticized. However, at our last State meeting, Mrs. Marie Jackson Stuart, representing the Harriet Tubman Neighborhood Club, made an excellent plea for the Negro women of the state—club women—to help her club which desired to erect a monument over her grave as her grave was unmarked.[4]

The clubs' awareness of Tubman's modesty and that she would have wanted funds to go toward social causes must have led to agreement about a simple marker for her gravesite. By June 1915, the two clubs had raised $175 for the marker, which was designed by Bursey & Sloan located at 763 East 138th Street in Manhattan. Mr. Bursey went to Auburn to supervise the installation of the granite slab on a rusticated plinth (fig. 1.56). The inscription read:

> To the Memory of
> Harriet Tubman Davis
> Heroine of the Underground Railroad
> Nurse and Scout in the Civil War
> Born about 1820 in Maryland
> died March 10, 1913 at Auburn, N.Y.
> "Servant of God, Well Done"
> Erected by the Harriet Tubman Club
> of New York City
> and
> the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs
> July 5, I915

The monument was unveiled in the afternoon of July 5, 1915 in a ceremony attended by Mrs. Mary Talbert along with Mrs. Frances Smith, head of The Harriet Tubman Home Board of Lady Managers, Rev. Charles A. Smith,

superintendent of the Home, Rev. P. K. Fonvielle of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, and others. Two of Tubman's young great grandnieces, Gladys Stewart and Althea Stewart of Auburn, unveiled the monument. A brochure entitled "Tribute to Harriet Tubman: The Modern Amazon" with a photograph of the new grave marker was printed shortly after the ceremony in the continued efforts to raise funds for The Harriet Tubman Home. Within a few years of the grave marker installation, two small granite blocks were set to either side as pedestals for stone urns planted with annuals. [5]

Around the time of the unveiling, the Harriet Tubman Neighborhood Club announced that it would launch a campaign to raise funds for a monument to Tubman that would be erected on a public site in New York City, at a cost of not less than $2,000.[6] The Board of Lady Managers of The Harriet Tubman Home had countered that the public monument should be erected in Auburn, arguing, "Here is where she lived and spent the best days of her life; here is where she was best known and here is where she died." [7] The Tubman monument in New York City, however, would take another ninety years to realize, while the idea of a monument in Auburn would eventually become realized through making The Harriet Tubman Home a shrine to Harriet Tubman.[8]

Two decades after installation of the marker, the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs decided to replace it. The inscription may have been difficult to read or on the wrong side, maybe the monument had been damaged, or perhaps there was a desire to remove the reference to the Harriet Tubman Neighborhood Club of New York City. On July 5, 1937, the new gray granite marker was dedicated in a ceremony held as part of the Federation of Women's Clubs' annual convention in Ithaca (fig. 1.57). The new marker was a simpler design consisting of a four-foot-high slab without a plinth, and the main inscription, in a Colonial-style script, was switched to the east face of the marker. Reference to the Harriet Tubman Neighborhood Club of New York City—which may have no longer existed at the time—was dropped. The rear or west side of the marker was inscribed, "Harriet Tubman Davis." Relatives of Tubman discovered an error on the new stone—Tubman's year of death was inscribed as 1903 rather than 1913. This was soon corrected.[9]

#### THE HARRIET TUBMAN HOME PROPERTY

The idea of The Harriet Tubman Home as a memorial to Harriet Tubman had been part of the institution's identity and purpose since its founding in 1895, through its work carrying on Tubman's social causes. Following her death in 1913, however, the idea was raised of the Home as a shrine to Harriet Tubman. Rev. James E. Mason of Salisbury College and one of the original directors of the Harriet Tubman Home wrote in his tribute to Tubman distributed at the unveiling of the courthouse plaque in 1914,

> Nevermore shall we see her in bodily form, with true devotion and fidelity, performing her varied activities…But to millions of Afro-Americans and lovers of liberty in all lands, no spot will be invested with deeper interest than where her precious form mingles with its mother dust. We are too near her to appreciate her meritorious work. But in years to come, lovers of what is best in humanity will gather and weave a garland above her grave. The Tubman home should be a Mecca for Afro-Americans in particular, and patriots generally; that the rising youth may be impressed with the important lesson how noble it is to live for others and the elevation of their native land.[10]

While Rev. Mason, the directors, and lady managers, and others would continue maintaining Tubman's memory and vision for The Harriet Tubman Home in the following decades, financial and management issues would lead to closing of the home for the aged.

The decline of the Home during this period was not tied to development pressures, as the surrounding area remained predominantly rural (fig. 1.58). Improvement of highways, however, posed the potential for future suburban growth. By 1926, South Street had been designated as NY 40, a state highway from Ithaca to northern Cayuga County that was redesignated as NY 34 in ca. 1930. It was probably at this time that the roadbed was rebuilt and deep ditches were added to the shoulders along the front of the Harriet Tubman Home property and the Tubman Farm. The surface from just north of the Home south was paved in concrete. Moravia Street to the east was rebuilt during the 1930s into a divided four-lane road, part of NY 38 that served as an arterial from Auburn to new suburban subdivisions and parkland along Owasco Lake.[11]

#### Operation of The Harriet Tubman Home, 1913–1926

By the spring of 1914, a year after Harriet Tubman's death, the directors and Board of Lady Managers had embarked on a $2,000 improvement campaign for the home for the aged. They identified the need for city water, bathrooms, a new furnace, and two additional rooms. By June 1914, the lady managers had already expended over $200 on improvements. The Home's twenty-five-acre property at the time still contained one brick and two frame cottages (one of which was the old toll-gate house), along with two barns.[12]

Given the location of John Brown Hall set far back from South Street and near the wet lowlands along Wood Creek, it likely that the lady managers were making the improvements in spring 1914 to the frame house at #1 Danforth Street (Home for the Aged). The matron of the Home, Mrs. Frances Brown, was already living there in 1912.[13] John Brown Hall lacked visibility from South Street and would have required a costlier extension of the planned city water lines from South Street. At a full two floors, the frame house was larger than John Brown Hall and thus may have provided the two additional rooms that the lady managers needed.

One of the improvements to the frame house that the lady managers probably made by the spring of 1914 was the installation of a prominent sign on the gable side of the building facing South Street that read "The Harriet Tubman Home" (fig. 1.59). With plans for the industrial school long dormant, the institution became synonymous with the home for the aged during this time. The lady managers were probably also responsible for plantings in the lawn around the frame hous, that may have included lilac, mock orange, and spirea, with daylilies along the front of the porch.[14]

The financial appeal made to those attending the June 1914 dedication of the Tubman plaque at the county courthouse had apparently resulted in few donations. By the following October, the Home renewed its appeal for aid:

> In the face of the recognized financial stringency that has prevailed and is still prevailing with the increased cost of living, we cannot but feel a very deep degree of concern lest our expenses in the future may exceed our source s of income. We are greatly in need of assistance, as our only source of income is from the board of the old ladies and the contributions of friends, with the assistance of the Western New York Conference, which holds the property in trust, for such was the wish of Aunt Harriet Tubman, the founder of the home.[15]

By April 1915, the lady managers of the Home were still appealing for funds to improve the building that then served as the home for the aged, #1 Danforth Street, which housed five so-called inmates and the matron. It was the only one of the three houses on the twenty-five-acre property that was actively used. The property needs included painting the buildings and providing indoor plumbing to meet sanitary requirements. The lady managers also wanted to dig a cellar below the #1 Danforth Street. If sufficient funds above the $1,200 needed for improvements were received, they also had plans to accommodate more elderly residents, and thus provide more income. The plans called for enlarging #1 Danforth Street by moving several small buildings, one of which may have been the old tollgate house, to create one large house—a plan first proposed in 1907 for the industrial school.[16]

The New York *Age* ran an article in July 1915 that solicited funds for the Home by reporting on its dire financial situation. According to the paper, all of the funds by this time for operations and improvement came through the donations to the lady managers and payments from the City of Elmira that supported its three inmates, and not from the A.M.E. Zion Church. The land, including the orchard near John Brown Hall but excepting a small area around #1 Danforth Street, was rented to a local farmer who provided some produce to the home for the aged. The rent money went to the church to pay for the mortgage and taxes. The matron and her family kept a garden near the frame house, as well as a cow that had belonged to Harriet Tubman. Reflecting the dire financial constraints of the Home and the church, when the tenant farmer required grazing fees for the

Home's cow, the church reportedly objected and ordered the cow sold.[17] The dire financial situation for the lady managers left them without funds to maintain John Brown Hall and the tollgate house. The July 1915 article in the New York *Age* reported that these buildings "are vacant and [have] remained idle for years."[18]

Despite limited operational funds, the A.M.E. Zion Church raised sufficient funds to pay off the mortgage on the Harriet Tubman Home property. On November 2, 1918, the New York *Age* reported that the $1,000 mortgage "was burned here [Auburn] with appropriate ceremonies." Half of the amount was paid by Dr. C. S. Whitted, secretary of the Brotherhood of the A.M.E. Zion Church. He had taken a lead in planning the future of The Harriet Tubman Home, announcing plans to widen its "sphere of its usefulness" by making it a home for aged ministers of the A.M.E. Zion Church from throughout the North. His plans were to construct a modern building on the property, costing about $15,000, which would serve as a memorial to "Aunt Harriet."[19]

The payoff of the mortgage did not translate into new funds becoming available for the lady managers of the home for the aged operation. At the time of the New York *Age* article in November 1918, the twenty-five-acre property contained one brick house, one frame cottage, and two barns. The old tollgate house, the second frame cottage on the property, had been demolished by this time. [20] The frame house at #1 Danforth Street received little maintenance, but continued in use as the home for the aged, and the fields continued to be rented to farmers, who may have planted a new orchard around 1920 between the frame house and Wood Creek, where the brickyard had once stood. In 1921, when the home contained six inmates, Dr. J. E. Mason, chairman of the directors of The Harriet Tubman Home, was planning for extensive improvements that would cost several thousand dollars. That fall, however, $3,000 was needed just to carry on the home's operations.[21]

It may have been out of Dr. Mason's fundraising plan that the directors and lady managers undertook new activities to raise public awareness and funding. One of these was a pilgrimage to the Tubman's grave and a picnic at the grounds of The Harriet Tubman Home, held on Labor Day, 1922. According to the Ithaca *Journal,*

> Those attending will assemble at the A.M.E. Zion Church at 1 p.m. and march to the grave of Harriet Tubman, founder of the home, and place a wreath thereon, with appropriate exercises. They will then proceed to the home where dinner will be served and the main program of speeches and sports will be carried out.[22]

The picnic became an annual event. At the third annual picnic in 1924, the lady managers and the matron, Mrs. Francis Brown, hosted a "splendid dinner" attended by nearly two hundred "friends and acquaintances," which was accompanied by an "attractive program" with patriotic selections, stories of Aunt Harriet's life, and lessons to young people to "play their part for the uplift of humanity, as Harriet Tubman did in her day." At this picnic, plans were announced to build a recreational center on the property in the years to come,

> with a grand-stand and clubhouse, where automobiles, parties and strangers going to and fro may turn aside and rest a while, finding pleasant discourse. This home is favorably located for such a movement, being on South street, within a mile of the principal railroad stations and the main state road of Central New York.[23]

A "Harriet Tubman Home-Coming" was also planned in October following the picnic. Like many of the previous plans, these were never advanced. The 1924 picnic may have been the last of this era, and soon the home for the aged would close. Auburn city directories listed matrons of the home living at #1 Danforth Street through 1926. That year, the last of the so-called inmates may have passed away and the Board of Lady Managers probably was dissolved. By this time, the siding on the second floor of the home was greatly in need of paint, and the grounds around the building were not mown (fig. 1.60). The shed and fences at the rear of the house remained.[24]

By 1927, the home for the aged was apparently defunct. The New York State Federation of Women's Clubs, which had been involved in issues pertaining to The Harriet Tubman Home over the past two decades, was negotiating at the time with the A.M.E. Zion Church to take over the institution. On October 1, 1927, the New York *Age* printed an editorial that reported the church "has found it too burdensome and is willing to relinquish its charge to the Women's Federation on certain conditions." The editors of the paper recommended that the church sell the property, which they noted was increasing in value due to its location within a growing residential section of Auburn, and use the proceeds to open a new Harriet Tubman Home in proximity to New York City as a home for girls, which they felt would provide a more fitting memorial to Tubman. The proposal ran into what was reported as "unexpected legal entanglements causing a temporary abandonment of the movement"—probably the stipulation in the 1903 deed that required the property be used as The Harriet Tubman Home, and the 1895 incorporation of The Harriet Tubman Home that required it be located in Auburn. [25]

#### Tenant Use and Abandonment, 1926–1949

The church's continued ownership of the twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property after closing of the home for the aged did not lead to renewal of

the institution or much-needed repairs to the property over the next two decades. The stock market crash in 1929 and onset of the Great Depression made new investment in the property even more difficult. The Depression, along with conflicting visions for The Harriet Tubman Home, may have eventually also put an end to the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs' ongoing efforts to take over the institution from the A.M.E. Zion Church. The Federation by 1929 had received permission to fill three of the five directors of The Harriet Tubman Home, and by 1932, was about to revive their proposal to take over the property, but the church remained unwilling or unable to sell.[26] The editors of the New York *Age* also continued to press for their proposal that the home be moved downstate to be reestablished as home for "delinquent colored girls." In a May 1933 editorial, the paper noted that the property,

> …consists of a ramshackled residential structure and smaller buildings, surrounded by a few acres of land which has increased in value with the years. Everything is in a state of decadence and the only occupants are the white caretakers…Harriet Tubman's memory is not being kept green through the 'home' which bears her name. Something ought to be done about it. [27]

These plans for redeveloping or moving the Home had no success through the 1930s, and the property continued to deteriorate under church ownership. A reflection of the lack of respect for the twenty-five-acre property was the construction of an electric transmission line across it, just a short distance north of the frame house at #1 Danforth Street (see fig. 1.58). In February 1931, the church granted Empire Gas & Electric Company (current NYSEG) an easement along a fifty-foot- right-of-way, in consideration of $1.00. The power line, built shortly after this time, provided no apparent benefit to the property. It may have required removal of the fenced yards and sheds at the rear of the frame house, which were within the right-of-way.[28]

The construction of this power line, perhaps along with removal of "The Harriet Tubman Home" sign on the frame house at #1 Danforth Street, may have caused concern that Tubman's memory was being forgotten. The State Education Department recognized the importance of the property, and in 1932 installed a cast-iron historical marker at the corner of Danforth Street as part of its state-wide program begun in 1926 (fig. 1.61). It mistakenly identified the frame house as the "Home of Harriet Tubman" instead of "The Harriet Tubman Home." Tubman's actual house was to the south, but by 1932 there was apparently little public awareness that it had an association other than with the white Norris family, who had owned it since 1914. The marker also incorrectly stated the frame house had served as a station on the Underground Railroad.[29]

Even though the home for the aged was defunct, Auburn directories continued to list #182 South Street through the 1930s and 1940s as "Harriet Tubman Home"—

reflecting the property's continued ownership by the A.M.E. Zion Church. During this time, the church rented the frame house at #1 Danforth Street to tenants who had the responsibility of serving as caretakers for the property. Tenants were listed at the frame house in the Auburn directories from 1931 to 1943, but were most likely there earlier. The last tenant of #1 Danforth was the MacLeod family, who lived on the property between 1938 and 1943. They were a black family who had moved from New Jersey. Hannah MacLeod, then a child, remembered, "We would go up back to the vacant brick house [John Brown Hall] and run through it. There were apple and pear trees around it." Her father, Christopher MacLeod, cut the grass and grew corn, potatoes, and cabbage, probably in a large rectangular plot to the north and east of the barn (fig. 1.62). A smaller garden was at the rear of the frame house, where there had been a fenced yard. The MacLeods also kept chickens and some pigs, probably in the barn across from John Brown Hall. The barn across from the frame house had been removed by this time.[30]

During the MacLeod's tenancy, the Syracuse *Post Standard* published an article on the derelict condition of The Harriet Tubman Home property, with a photograph of John Brown Hall—vacant with its window sash gone and its front porch missing a column and railings (fig. 1.63). The City of Auburn apparently viewed John Brown Hall as a public hazard (perhaps on account of the MacLeod children running through it), and had it demolished in ca. 1940. The building was knocked down to its foundation, with the debris pushed into the basement. Rev. E. U. A. Brooks, one of the directors of the Home, reported that the Onondaga limestone foundation blocks were hauled away by scavengers. Only scattered apple and pear trees remained around the building site (fig. 1.64).[31]

The US entry into World War II in December 1941 probably brought additional financial strains on the church and the MacLeods. Perhaps the family was unable to pay rent (or unwilling given the deteriorated conditions), which may have been the reason the church failed to pay taxes on the property. In June 1943, the city tax assessor seized the twenty-five-acre property for back taxes, and put it up for sale. Frank Norris, who owned Harriet Tubman's house next door, placed a bid of $33.27 for the house and $8.05 for the land—the amount of delinquent taxes. A donation from a "generous citizen," however, allowed the A.M.E. Zion Church to pay the back taxes and regain ownership.[32] While the local Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church agreed to look after the property, the national church and directors of The Harriet Tubman Home did not seek a new tenant caretaker or put any funds into repairs and maintenance. Effectively abandoned, the property was ransacked by war-time scavengers looking for fuel to burn and anything salvageable to sell. Within a short time after the MacLeod family left, window sash, porch posts, and interior walls and finishes had been removed from the frame house (Home for the Aged) (fig. 1.65). Scavengers looking for fuel wood

may have also cut down orchard trees and dismantled the barn across from John Brown Hall. In 1944, the city of Auburn ordered the frame house demolished, but no action was taken. [33]

After the war, the frame house continued to be vandalized. On May 6, 1946, the Auburn Fire Department, according to the Syracuse *Herald-Journal*, "…was given a run to the old Harriet Tubman home, Danforth St., at 9:25 p.m. yesterday after a neighbor saw smoke issuing from the long unoccupied and partly dismantled house."[34] The fire was quickly extinguished, leaving just the front corner burned (fig. 1.66). Although there was growing movement in the church around this time to do something about the property, the frame house remained a ruined shell, open to the elements with only its roof intact as documented by photographer and social rights activist, Ruth Putter of Syracuse (fig. 1.67). Perhaps the state historical marker, reminding passersby of the historical significance of the site, reflected a level of public interest that prevented the frame house from meeting the same fate as John Brown Hall—total demolition. The local Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church was charged with taking care of the property, which was apparently limited to periodic mowing of the grounds between South Street and the frame house. In contrast, the back part of the property with its remnant orchard trees was abandoned and grew up in brush.[35]

#### THE NORRIS FARM—HARRIET TUBMAN'S FARM

Harriet Tubman's last will and testament, dated November 18, 1912, admitted to probate on May 27, 1913, and recorded in the Cayuga County Clerk's Office on June 24, 1914, directed her executor, Louis K. R. Laird, to sell Tubman's seven-acre farm with the brick house and divide the proceeds among her niece, Mary Gaston of Auburn, grandniece Katy Stewart of Binghamton, and Frances R. Smith, the matron of the Harriet Tubman Home. Tubman did not stipulate in her will that the farm be sold to the A.M.E. Zion Church or that it be used for a home for the aged or any of Tubman's other social causes. Soon after the will was recorded, Louis K. R. Laird sold the property to a white family, England and Ellen Norris, for $1,500. The deed conveying the property from the three women to England Norris was recorded on September 12, 1914.[36]

England Norris came to the US from England in 1878 at the age of twelve and married Ellen Rossiter of Skaneateles, New York in 1886. The couple lived in Auburn, and England Norris worked in a lumber mill. He later became a farmer, perhaps when the couple purchased the Tubman Farm in 1914. At the time, they were in their late 40s, and may have purchased the farm to share with their son, Frank (born 1890) and his wife Edythe, who also lived in the house. There, Frank and Edythe had their first child, Seward, in 1915. Shortly thereafter, they moved

out of the house and returned around 1924, when a second son, Donald, was born. Frank and Edythe also had a daughter, Ruth.[37]

At the time England and Ellen Norris purchased the Tubman Farm in 1914, it was overgrown and the house was shuttered—probably vacant since Harriet Tubman went into John Brown Hall in June 1911 (see fig. 1.46). The Norrises repaired the property and made few changes through the 1920s, aside from removing the shutters and north porch from the house (fig. 1.68). The bathroom was in a three-hole outhouse behind the barn—perhaps a remnant from Harriet Tubman's lifetime—and plumbing in the house was from a cistern fed by roof gutters. The barn retained its vertical plank siding and remained unpainted, as it had been in Tubman's day. The Norrises maintained the area south of the house as a garden and raised chickens in a pen with a coop and another shed east of the garden (fig. 1.69, see also fig. 1.62). The Norrises kept an orchard on the hillside at the east end of the property that dated to Harriet Tubman's lifetime. Scattered trees remained by the late 1930s, but the last trees were removed by the early 1940s.[38]

To the south of the Norrises was William Seward, Jr.'s seven-acre orchard lot. He owned and presumably maintained this orchard, which was planted in 1881, until his death in April 1920. It was probably shortly after this time that the property was sold and most of the orchard removed. A small gambrel-roof house was built facing South Street Road (see fig. 1.64). In the back was a larger building used as an automobile filling or service station, and to the south was another small house, surrounded by large shade trees by the 1930s.[39]

In the late 1920s as Frank and Edythe Noriss's children were growing up, the family undertook a major renovation and expansion of Harriet Tubman's brick house. The work, probably completed in 1928 prior to the onset of the Great Depression, included a new Colonial Revival-style entrance porch that replaced the old scroll-work posts and brackets with classical piers; addition of an enclosed porch along the north side of the house, ornamented with classical pilasters; addition of a rear wood-frame kitchen wing; and replacement of the six-light window sash with one-over-one sash (figs. 1.70, 1.71). It was probably at this same time that they renovated the barn, adding wood drop siding over the original vertical planks, and painting it red with white trim.[40]

In August 1942, England and Ellen Norris conveyed the seven-acre farm to the ownership of Frank and Edith, who were recorded in the deed as tenants of the property at the time. It was a year later that Frank Norris had tried to purchase the adjoining twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property at a tax sale.[41]

### AUBURN AND THE THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

In the decades from Harriet Tubman's death in 1913 through World War II, Auburn began to stagnate as industry left and institutions closed. The old guard of abolitionist descendants and social reformers, many associated with the city's industry, also passed. From a population of 34,668 in 1910, the city reached the height of its population in 1930, 36,652, reflecting new residential development in the city's suburban outer wards. By 1940, the city's population dropped to 35,753, reflecting the effects of the Depression and decline in Auburn's manufacturing base. The expansive Osborne factory complex along the Owasco Inlet, built by some of Harriet Tubman's closest friends in Auburn and absorbed into International Harvester in 1903, was closed during the Depression and its buildings were leveled. In 1939, the Presbyterian Church moved Auburn Theological Seminary, the city's only institution of higher learning, to New York City. Like the Erie Canal before it, construction of the New York State Thruway, the major east-west highway across Upstate New York begun in 1942, bypassed Auburn fifteen miles to the north. [42]

Auburn's African-American community remained centered in the neighborhood west of Fort Hill Cemetery, as well as north of Genesee Street near the state prison. The Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church on Parker Street remained an anchor of the community, and continued to keep its abolitionist history alive, such as in a celebration held in 1939 on the occasion of the seventy-sixth anniversary of emancipation. The adjacent houses on Parker Street remained little changed in overall character. The street may have been paved with asphalt in the mid-1930s and the stone sidewalks rebuilt in concrete, perhaps as part of a federal work-relief project. The stone crosswalk at the church was probably removed at this time. [43]

Like most institutions, the church suffered during the Great Depression. In 1940, it joined with Roosevelt Memorial Baptist Church, and the merged congregation was renamed Thompson Memorial Community Church. [44] The expanded congregation remained in the Parker Street building, which was renovated with new decorations in the auditorium. It was probably at this time that exterior of the church and parsonage were sided in asbestos cement shingles (fig. 1.72). The grounds were most likely enhanced at this time with foundation plantings, which included a yew tree with an understory of deciduous shrubs, probably spirea and lilac, at the front corners of the church. Deciduous shrubs may have also been planted along the front porch of the parsonage [45]

### LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW, 1949

In 1949, more than three decades after Harriet Tubman's death, her legacy in The Harriet Tubman Home property had been reduced to ruins. Although the

institution of the Home still existed on paper and there were efforts in the A.M.E. Zion Church to revive it, there was no active home for the aged or other social uses that continued Tubman's causes. Her own brick house and seven-acre farm fared much better in terms of physical condition under ownership by the Norris family. Its historic association with Tubman and her mission of social justice, however, had been forgotten or perhaps intentionally hidden, as reflected in the state historical marker erected in 1932 that identified the frame house at #1 Danforth Street as her residence. This confusion would persist for decades.

The area surrounding the Tubman properties on South Street remained rural, with modern changes limited to concrete pavement on South Street, designated as NY 34, a service station south of the Tubman Farm, and a power transmission line that crossed The Harriet Tubman Home property. The neighborhood of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church likewise remained little changed in physical character and social composition since Tubman's death.

#### **Tubman Farm** (Drawing 1.6)

In 1949, Tubman's seven-acre farm, which the Norris family had owned since 1914 retained its overall character that existed at the time of Tubman's death in 1913, aside from improved physical condition and removal of the orchard at the east end of the property. The disassociation of this property from the church and the black community was a result of Tubman's own will, which stipulated it be sold to the highest bidder. Minor changes included addition of a chicken coop and other small outbuildings, and new porches and a kitchen wing on the house. The Norrises continued to cultivate Tubman's garden to the south of the house, but may have enlarged it and probably removed the picket fence. The front yard of the house had been changed through widening of South Street Road (NY 34), including addition of deep ditches, and addition of shrubs around the house. The character of the Tubman Farm landscape was also altered by changes to the neighboring property to the south, through removal of the Seward orchard and construction of two houses and an automobile filling/service station in the 1920s. The front of this adjacent parcel was raised with a large amount of fill when it was developed, creating a steep bank along the south side of the Tubman garden.[46]

#### **Harriet Tubman Home Property** (Drawing 1.6)

The twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property was still owned in 1949 by the A.M.E. Zion Church of America, forty-six years after acquiring it from Harriet Tubman. The landscape during this period was characterized by dramatic decline. There had been no significant additions aside from a new orchard between the frame house and Wood Creek that had been partly removed by 1949, and the New York State Electric & Gas Company power line that extended across the entire length of the property within a fifty-foot right-of-way.

Other features removed during this period included most of the apple and pear orchard near John Brown Hall, and the cultivated fields and pasture that were replaced by old-field succession, except for a periodically-mown area at the west front of the property. The frame house at #1 Danforth Street—the only standing building in 1949—was a stripped shell with only its roof intact. John Brown Hall at #2 Danforth Street had been reduced to piles of brick and stone. Other buildings lost during this period include two barns, the sheds at the rear of the frame house, and the relocated tollgate house along South Street.

#### **Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and Tubman Gravesite** (Drawing 1.7)

In 1949, Parker Street was lined by large shade trees, probably American elms, except along the frontage of the church property. The stone sidewalks and dirt surface of Parker Street that existed during Tubman's day had most likely been replaced with asphalt and concrete. Two lots remained undeveloped across from the church, which provided visual connection with Fort Hill Cemetery, but trees along the boundary probably screened views to Harriet Tubman's grave in West Lawn Section, Subsection C. [47] The church and parsonage had undergone some modernization, including addition of asbestos cement shingle siding over the original wood siding, and addition of foundation shrubs. The back of the church property contained scattered trees with open views to the rear of the houses along Park Place. There was most likely a gravel driveway along the north side of the parsonage.

Tubman's gravesite was marked by a stone installed in 1937, which replaced a stone dedicated in 1915. The new stone was simpler in design and had nearly the same inscription, but the inscription was switched to the east side, facing the front of the grave plot and turf walk. To the north of the marker was a planter urn on a stone base. By 1949, the Norway spruce planted on the adjacent lot as a marker of the graves of Emma and William H. Stewart, Jr. had grown into a large tree that shaded the Tubman grave. The north Tubman gave lot, #438, remained empty, but the grave lots to the west had been interred with members of the Smith family.

#### ENDNOTES, 1913–1949

[1] "B.T. Washington Arrives Friday for Unveiling," Syracuse *Post-Standard*, June 3, 1914, 11; Milton Sernett, *Harriet Tubman: Myth, Memory, and History* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007), 186.

[2] Quoted in "Memorial to Harriet Tubman," New York *Age*, June 18, 1914, 4.

[3] "Monument Unveiled to Harriet Tubman," New York *Age*, July 15, 1915, 1.

[4] "The Tubman Monument Question of Location," New York *Age*, March 25, 1915, 1. The New York *Age* ran from 1887 to 1960.

[5] "Monument Unveiled to Harriet Tubman;" Sernett, 193-194; "Tribute to Harriet Tubman: The Modern Amazon" (ca. 1915 edition), Seward House collection. An earlier edition, without a photo of the grave marker, may have been printed in 1914.

[6] "Monument Unveiled to Harriet Tubman."

[7] "The Tubman Monument Question of Location," "From the Tubman Home Managers," New York *Age*, March 25, 1915, 1.

[8] Wikipedia, s.V., "Harriet Tubman Memorial (New York City)," (accessed May 11, 2018). This memorial, a bronze sculpture in Harlem entitled Swing Low, was unveiled in 2008. The Harriet Tubman Neighborhood Club no longer existed by this time.

[9] "Monument Over Harriet Tubman Grave Unveiled," Auburn *Citizen-Advertiser,*" July 5, 1937, 14; "Hope to Have Error on Harriet Tubman Monument Corrected," Auburn *Citizen-Advertiser*, July 9, 1937, 7.

[10] James E. Mason, "Pays Tribute to Harriet Tubman," in "Tribute to Harriet Tubman, The Modern Amazon" (Unpublished brochure, 1914), 12, Seward House Collection.

[11] Aerial photograph showing concrete pavement, 1938, New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1938_ARW-1-080; Rand McNally Auto Road Atlas, Western New York, 1926, and Leon A. Dickinson, "New Signs for State Highways," New York *Times*, January 12, 1930, 136, cited on Wikipedia, s.V. "Route 34;" USGS Auburn Quadrangle map, 1943; "Three Moravia Women Hurt," Auburn *Citizen Advertiser*, October 1, 1932, 6 (about car flipping over in ditch near "Tubman Home").

[12] "Tribute to Harriet Tubman, The Modern Amazon," 1914, 14; "Elmiran Writes Sketch of Home," Elmira *Star-Gazette*, June 12, 1914, 15.

[13] Directory research in Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners, "Tubman Chronology" (unpublished paper, research compiled by Beth Crawford, updated 2017) [hereafter, "Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology"]; Judith Wellman, "Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged" (Unpublished report, 2009), 20. This report was based on research by Beth Crawford, Kate Clifford Larson, Tanya Warren, and Judith Wellman, with assistance from Doug Armstrong, Anna Hill, and Milton Sernett.

[14] Rev. E. A. U. Brooks, "The Harriet Tubman House," in "Tribute to Harriet Tubman, The Modern Amazon," 1914, 14. Plant species based on ca. 1914 postcard photograph of the frame house.

[15] "Tubman Home Managers Make Appeal for Aid," Syracuse *Post Standard*, October 23, 1914, 13.

[16] "For The Tubman Home," Auburn *Citizen*, April 17, 1915, transcript in Wellman, 2009, 45.

[17] Thomas H. Amos, Jr., "Harriet Tubman Home," New York *Age*, July 15, 1915, 3.

[18] "Harriet Tubman Home," New York *Age*, July 15, 1915.

[19] "Harriet Tubman Home Free From Debt," New York *Age*, November 2, 1918, 7; "For The Tubman Home," Auburn *Citizen*, April 17, 1915.

[20] "Harriet Tubman Home Free From Debt."

[21] News from New York State, New York *Age*, October 1, 1921; Norris family photograph of Tubman properties looking east, showing orchard trees between the frame house and Wood Creek, ca. 1944.

[22] "Labor Day Picnic At Harriet Tubman Home," Ithaca *Journal*, September 2, 1922, 5. The article makes no mention of prior picnics, or that the picnic was an annual event.

[23] "Harriet Tubman Home and Officials Enjoy the Annual Picnic," New York *Age*, October 4, 1924, 7.

[24] Wellman, 2009, 20, 22.

[25] Wellman, 2009, 22; "Harriet Tubman Home," New York *Age*, October 1, 1927, 4; Editorial, "The Federation's Program," New York *Age*, August 27, 1932, 4.

[26] "The Federation's Program."

[27] "The Federation's Program."

[28] Right-of-Way Agreement, African-American Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of American to Empire Gas & Electric Company, February 4, 1931,

[29] Photograph of Tubman house with state historical marker in foreground, ca. 1940, Genoa Historical Society.

[30] Beth Crawford, interview with Hannah MacLeod, October 9, 2002, at Mercy Health & Rehabilitation Center, Auburn, files of Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners.

[31] Bonnie Crarey Ryan and Douglas V. Armstrong, "Archaeology of John Brown Hall at The Harriet Tubman Home: Site Report" (Unpublished report, Syracuse University Archaeological Research Center, Volume 13, 2000), 24; USGS Auburn Quadrangle, 1943 (showing absence of John Brown Hall). The building was actually just over the city line in the Town of Fleming.

[32] "Auburn Man is Author of New Book," Geneva *Times*, October 15, 1943; Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; "50 Years Ago – 1943, June 16," Auburn *Citizen*, June 10, 1993, 5.

[33] "Auburn Man is Author of New Book;" Norris photograph of site looking east, ca. 1943; Sernett, 260.

[34] "Fire Is checked In Vacant House," Syracuse *Herald-Journal*, May 7, 1946, 3, research courtesy of Beth Crawford. The report noted the fire was within the walls of the building, which verifies that it was the frame house and not the brick house, John Brown Hall, which in any case was demolished by this time.

[35] "Auburn Man is Author of New Book," Geneva *Times*, October 15, 1943, 9; "Ruth C. Putter" (obituary), syracuse.com, http://obits.syracuse.com/obituaries/syracuse/obituary.aspx?n=ruth-c-putter&pid=170621719&fhid=4598 (accessed May 22, 2018).

[36] Cayuga County Deeds, Book 208, page 18, copy in Owasco Abstract Corp., "Abstract of Title, No. A733, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of America, 180-182 South Street, Tax Map No. 123.38-1-12, 123.03-1-40.1," undated, circa 2000 [hereafter, "Owasco Abstract of Title"]; Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology, referencing "Article of Agreement" from Edith Norris' papers concerning the sale price of the Tubman Farm; Sernett, 260.

[37] On 63rd Wedding Anniversary Recalls Boyhood Hike in Wisconsin," newspaper clipping, 1949, Norris family photographs and clippings, Crawford & Stearns Tubman research files; Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology; Beth Crawford, interview with Mr. Seward Norris, May 2003, Crawford & Stearns Tubman research files; Norris family lifedates, Find A Grave, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/80675238/ellen-norris (accessed May 16, 2018); Aerial photograph, 1938; Norris photograph of Tubman properties looking east, ca. 1943.

[38] Jane Searing photograph of the Tubman house and barn, ca. 1925 (incorrectly dated 1940s); Seward Norris interview, 2003.

[39] Aerial photograph, 1938; Norris photograph of Tubman properties looking east, ca. 1943.

[40] Photograph of barn, ca. 1945, Norris family photographs, Crawford & Stearns.

[41] Owasco Abstract of Title; Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology.

[42] Scott W. Anderson, *Auburn, New York: The Entrepreneurs' Frontier* (Syracuse University Press, 2015), 5, 8; Onondaga Historical Association, "Today in History: The New York State Thruway Opens from Rome to Rochester," https://www.cnyhistory.org/2016/06/new-york-state-thruway-opens/ (accessed May 16, 2018).

[43] Photograph of church, ca. 1965, showing asphalt pavement and what appear to be concrete sidewalks.

[44] Rebekah Krieger, "Historic Structure Report Part 1, Thompson African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church" (Draft National Park Service report, September 2018), 39.

[45] Rebekah Krieger, "Historic Structure Report Part 1, Thompson African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church" (Draft National Park Service report, February 5, 2018), 34, 40; Photograph of church, ca. 1965; Photos of church showing remnant plantings, Crawford & Stearns, ca. 2001.

[46] Inspection of existing bank by author, 2018.

[47] 1938 aerial photograph.

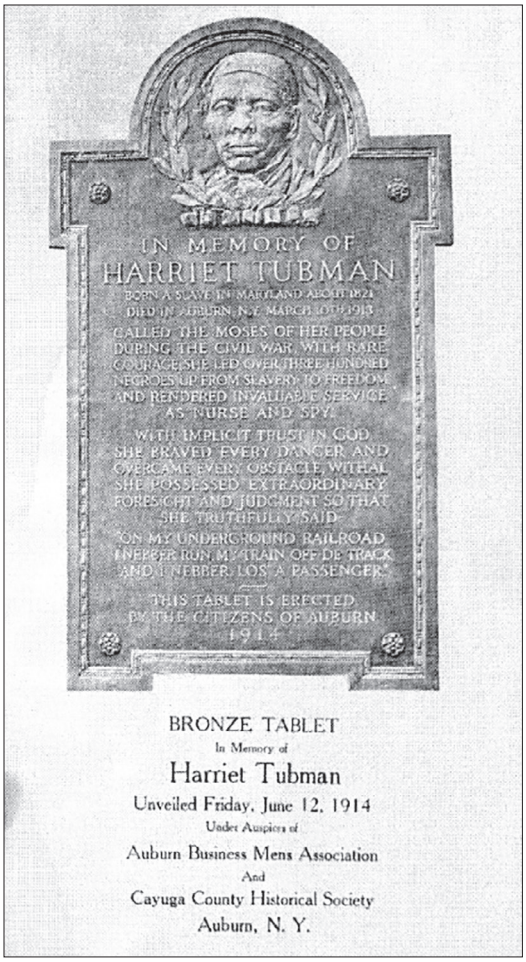



**Figure 1.55. Commemorative plaque dedicated on June 12, 1914 and installed on the Cayuga County Courthouse. The plaque with its base-relief sculpture was by Allen G. Newman of New York City. This image is from a fund-raising brochure for The Harriet Tubman Home published after the dedication. ("Tribute to Harriet Tubman, The Modern Amazon," 1915)**



**Figure 1.56. Women at the dedication of the stone marker at Harriet Tubman's grave, looking east, July 5, 1915. The pictured inscription was on the west or back side of the monument. Among the women is Mrs. Frances Smith, of the Board of Lady Managers at The Harriet Tubman Home; Lena Johnson, a relative of Tubman's, is at far right. (Courtesy Pauline Johnson, Auburn)**



**Figure 1.57. The replacement marker at Harriet Tubman's grave installed in 1937, looking east during a ceremony on September 3, 1945. The inscription was switched to the east face of the marker; the rear, inscribed "Harriet Tubman Davis," is visible in this photograph. Gladys Stewart Bryant, Tubman's great grandniece who unveiled the original monument in 1915, is placing a floral spray on the monument. The man at right is Rev. E. U. A. Brooks, former superintendent of The Harriet Tubman Home. Note planted urn and the Norway spruce tree in the background that marked the adjacent graves of Tubman's nephew, William H. Stewart, Jr., and his wife, Emma Moses Stewart. (Lydia J. Rosell, *Auburn's Fort Hill Cemetery*, 2002)**




**Figure 1.58. Map of the area surrounding the Tubman properties along South Street showing state highways and lack of suburban encroachment, 1943. The map does not show John Brown Hall, which was demolished in ca. 1940. The red lines indicate the existing park boundaries. (Detail, US Geological Survey, Auburn Quadrangle, 1943, annotated by SUNY ESF).**



**Figure 1.59. Postcard of The Harriet Tubman Home (Home for the Aged) in the frame house at #1 Danforth Street, looking northeast, ca. 1915. Note torn tar paper sheathing along the edge of the roof. This postcard may have been printed to promote donations to the home for the aged, which had recently moved into this building from John Brown Hall. (Courtesy of Pauline Johnson)**



**Figure 1.60. Photograph of The Harriet Tubman Home, looking northeast at #1 Danforth Street showing declining condition but active use as the home for the aged indicated by sign and curtains in the open windows, ca. 1925. The tall fence at the rear of the house enclosed a yard or garden. In the right background are the fields on the twenty-five-acre property that were leased to a farmer. (Jane Searing Photograph, Hazard Library, Poplar Ridge New York) [check source]**




**Figure 1.61. The state historical marker installed on South Street at the corner of Danforth Street in 1932, looking south with the Tubman house and barn in the background, ca. 1940. The marker incorrectly identified the nearby frame house at #1 Danforth Street as the "Home of Harriet Tubman." Given the composition, the photographer was aware the marker identified the wrong building. Note deep ditches along Route 34 and its concrete surface. See fig. 1.68 for a detail of this photograph. (Courtesy Genoa Historical Society)**

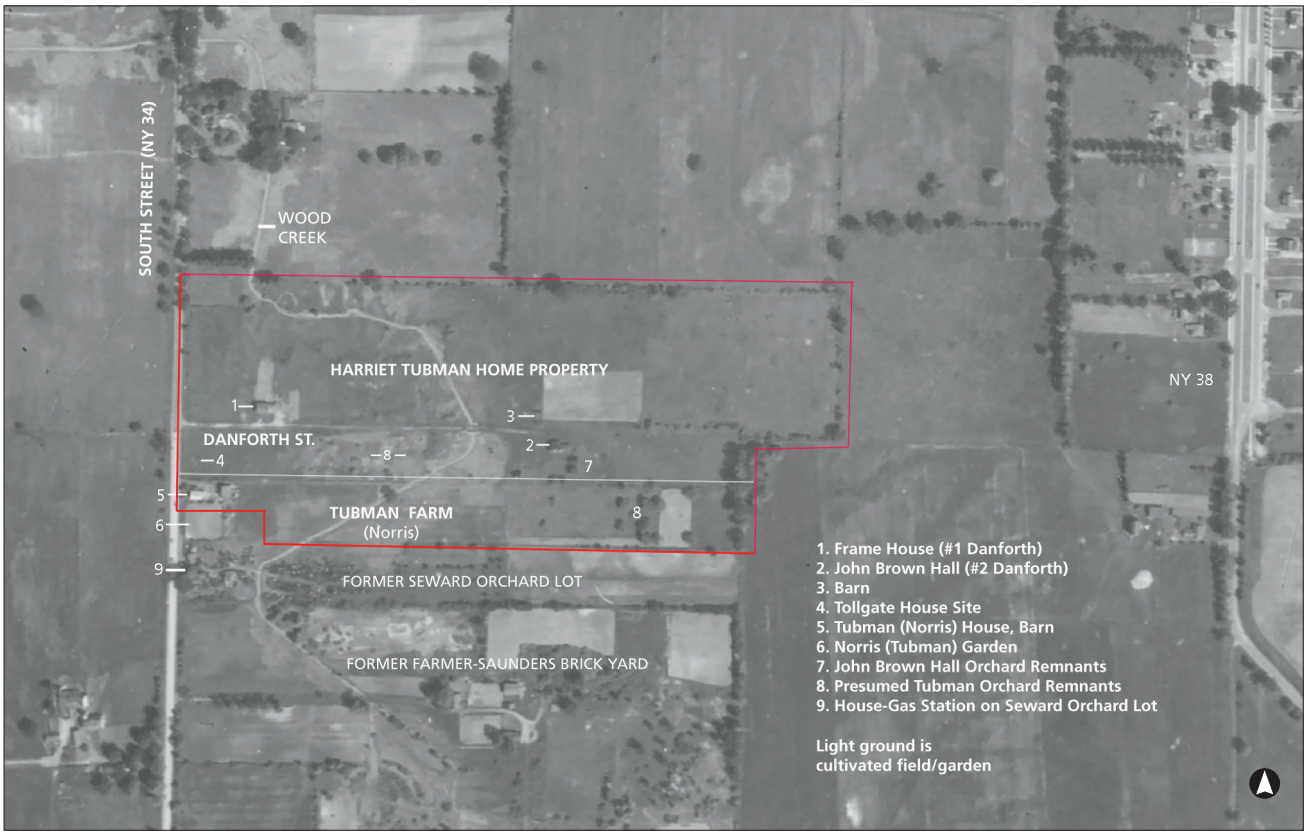



**Figure 1.62. Aerial photograph of the Harriet Tubman Home property, Tubman Farm, and surrounding rural countryside, 1938. The MacLeod family was probably the tenant of the Home property when the photograph was taken. The scars along Wood Creek on the Home property are old clay pits from the brickyard days. The red line indicates the existing park boundary. (Detail, New York State Aerial Photographs, Cornell University, 1938_ARW_1_080, annotated by SUNY ESF)**

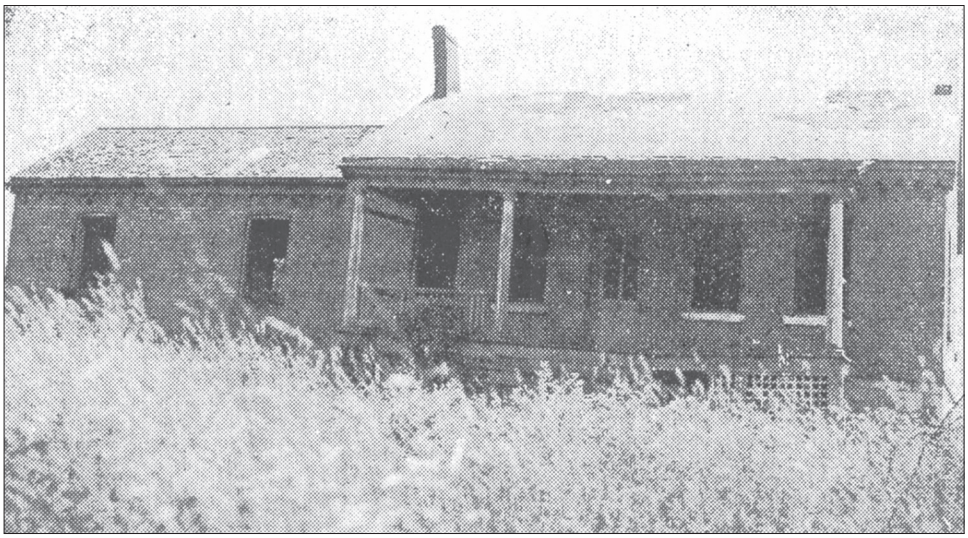


**Figure 1.63. John Brown Hall, looking south showing vacant and deteriorated condition, 1939. The building was probably demolished soon after this photograph was taken. (Clipping, Syracuse *Post-Standard*, March 16, 1939)**

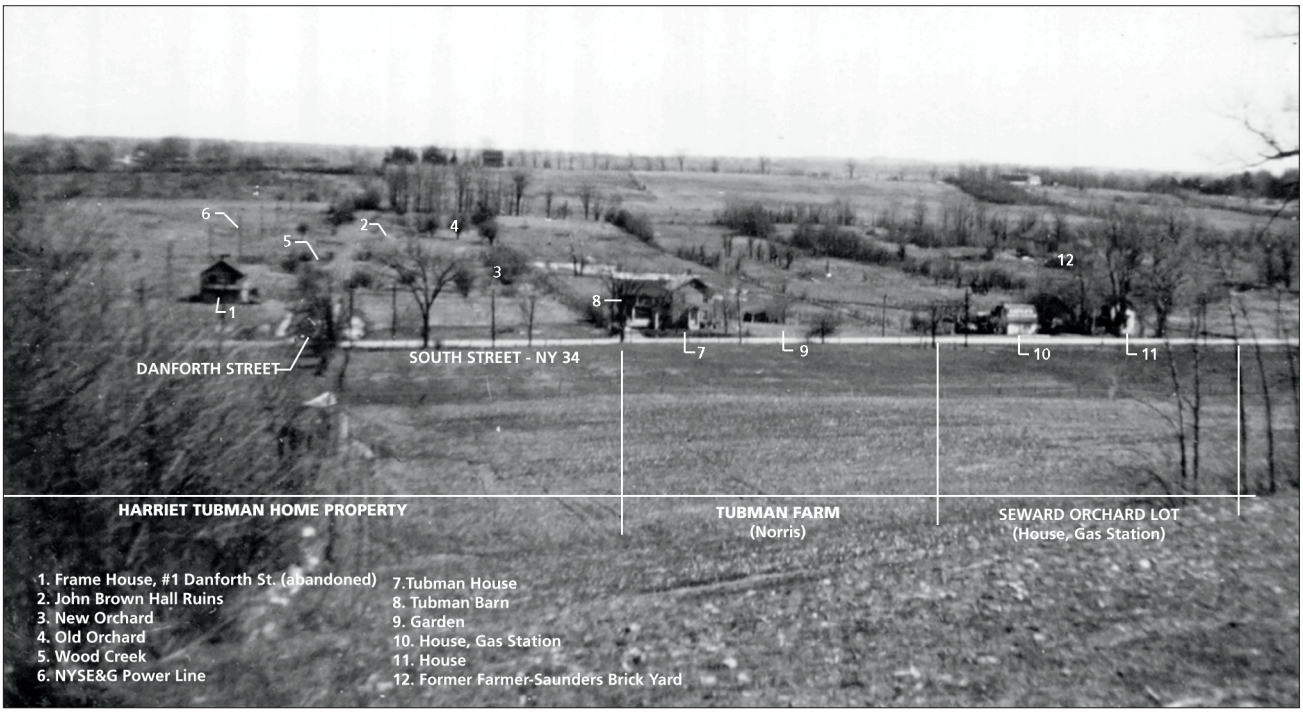



**Figure 1.64. The Harriet Tubman Home property and Tubman Farm, looking east showing landscape conditions probably soon after the Home property was abandoned, ca. 1944. The the windows and front porch of the frame house appear to be missing. (Norris Family photograph, annotated by SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 1.65. The frame house at #1 Danforth Street showing scavenged condition and overgrown grounds, looking northeast, ca. 1944. Note missing east wall visible through second-floor window openings. The front section of the porch had been removed, but was drawn in on this photograph. (Seward House Collection ? From Crawford & Stearns files)**



**Figure 1.66. The frame house showing ruinous condition and burn marks on the front caused by a fire in May 1946, looking east, ca. 1946. The sag in the roof was probably caused by the removal of interior load-bearing walls. (Seward House Collection)**




**Figure 1.67. The Harriet Tubman Home property with the dismantled frame house and overgrown fields and orchards in the background, looking northeast from near the intersection of South and Danforth streets, 1947. (Photograph by Ruth Putter) [who holds original?]**



**Figure 1.68. The Tubman house and barn under Norris family ownership prior to exterior additions, looking southeast from South Street Road, ca. 1925. South Street Road (NY 34) had not yet been surfaced in concrete. (Jane Searing Photograph) [From Beardsley files; Who holds original photograph?]**

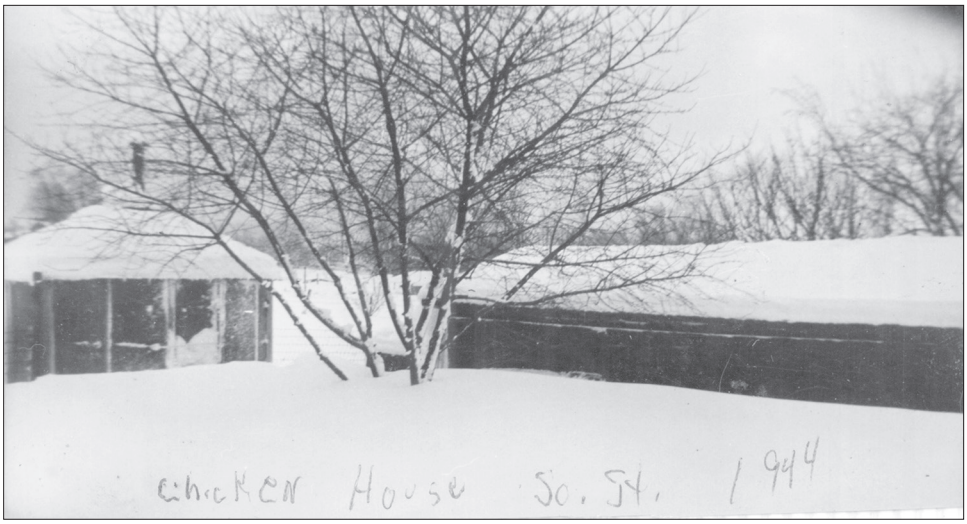



**Figure 1.69. The chicken house (presumed building at right) and another outbuilding built by the Norris family, looking southeast from the Tubman house, 1944. (Norris Family photographs, Crawford & Stearns Architects and Preservation Planners)**



**Figure 1.70 (above). The Tubman Farm showing changes to the house made around 1928, looking south across Danforth Street, ca. 1940 (compare with fig. 1.68). Visible in the right background is the house and gas station on the former Seward Orchard Lot. (Courtesy Genoa Historical Society)**




**Figure 1.71 (right). The porches and kitchen wing built on the Tubman House in ca. 1928, looking southeast, 1944. Note shrubs and grave vine along north boundary. (Norris Family photographs, Crawford & Stearns Architects and Preservation Planners)**



**Figure 1.72. Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, looking southwest across Parker Street showing asbestos cement shingle siding and plantings that probably dated to improvements made in 1940, photographed ca. 1965. (Cayuga Museum of History and Art)**

# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## 1913–1949

### Harriet Tubman Home Property and Tubman Farm


**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
www.nps.gov/oclp

in partnership with
Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, www.esf.edu/la/cclp


## SOURCES


1. City of Auburn map, 1904
2. USGS Auburn Quadrangle, 1943
3. Norris panoramic photograph, ca. 1943
4. Searing, Norris, and Putter photographs, ca. 1925–1947
5. Aerial photograph, 1938
6. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016


## DRAWN BY

John Auwaerter, Ilustrator CC, 2018

## LEGEND

- 1949 Parcel Boundary
- Current NPS Authorized Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Building
- Building--only footprint known
- Unpaved Road
- Bridge or Culvert
- Brick Walk
- Utility Line
- Fence--type not known
- Deciduous Tree
- Orchard
- Shrubs
- Cultivated Land
- Lawn, Pasture
- Stream
- Wetlands
- 5' Contours
- Clay Pit
- Feature Removed During Period

## NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Tree and orchards based on 1938 aerial.
3. Cultivated areas based on 1938 aerial and may not have been in use by 1949.
4. Reduced detail documented for landscape outside of park boundaries.

0′ 100′ 200′ 300′

**Drawing 1.6**

# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## 1913–1949
### Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and Tubman Gravesite


**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
www.nps.gov/oclp

in partnership with
Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, www.esf.edu/la/cclp


### SOURCES


1. Hopkins, City of Auburn Atlas, 1882
2. City of Auburn map, 1904
3. Aerial photograph, 1938
4. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016


### DRAWN BY

John Auwaerter, Ilustrator CC, 2018

### LEGEND

- 1949 Parcel Boundary
- Current NPS Boundary
- Grave Plot
- Grave Section Boundary
- Building
- Paved Road
- Unpaved road
- Concrete Sidewalk
- Walk (unknown type)
- Fence (unknown type)
- Deciduous Tree
- Lawn/Other Ground
- 2' Contours
- Feature Removed During Period

### NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Grave markers in Fort Hill Cemetery not shown.
3. Landscape details outside of church property and gravesite not shown or presumed.

0' 50' 100' 150'

**Drawing 1.7**

## HARRIET TUBMAN SHRINE AND MUSEUM, 1949–2016

In 1949, after growing concern over the deteriorated condition of the Harriet Tubman Home on South Street, the Western New York Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church announced plans to revive the property, first by rebuilding the frame house at #1 Danforth Street as a shrine to Harriet Tubman. Over the next few decades, the church planned for new philanthropic development on the property that would realize Harriet Tubman's dreams of providing for the needy, while also serving as a memorial to her life's work. By the late 1970s, the church's stewardship of the twenty-five-acre property refocused on developing the property as a museum site—more a symbol of Tubman's life than a philanthropic enterprise.[1] With renewed public interest in Tubman's life beginning in the 1990s, the church embarked on expansion of the site that included acquisition and preservation of Tubman's brick house and her church on Parker Street.

### THE HARRIET TUBMAN HOME PROPERTY

As early as 1943, the year that the last tenants moved out of the former home for the aged at #1 Danforth Street, there was the beginnings of renewed interest in Harriet Tubman's life. That year, Earl Conrad, an Auburn native, published her first scholarly biography, *Harriet Tubman: Negro Soldier and Abolitionist*. Conrad ended the book, which he spent five years researching, with the proclamation that Tubman was "one of the greatest of American women," but he faced much skepticism for writing about the life of a negro woman.[2] Yet the US military recognized her importance. In June 1944, the U.S. Merchant Marine commissioned a World War II Liberty ship, a class of cargo ship, as the S.S. Tubman in June 1944, one of seventeen Liberty ships named in honor of African Americans and the only one that honored a woman.[3]

#### Building the Harriet Tubman Shrine, 1949–1954

The publication of Conrad's book in 1943 apparently spurred interest in renovating the frame house at #1 Danforth Street as a memorial to Harriet Tubman, rather than as an old-age home. In an article on the publication of Conrad's book, a local paper reported in October 1943 that the "historic old building" [frame house] "ultimately may become a shrine in memory of the great Negro woman of Civil War days."[4]

A year after Conrad's book was published, the prospects of the dormant Harriet Tubman Home institution began to improve with new leadership in the Western New York Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church (part of the North Eastern Episcopal District), within which the twenty-five-acre property was located. In 1944, Rev. William J. Walls was installed as bishop of the conference, and very

soon took up the cause of The Harriet Tubman Home, "…that this heritage should not be lost to the race and the world."[5] It was Bishop Walls who reportedly asked the City of Auburn to grant an extension on its 1944 order to have the dilapidated building taken down.[6] Born in North Carolina and holding several graduate degrees, Walls served at churches in the South before coming to New York state, and went on to become the "unquestioned leader of his denomination."[7] It would take several years for Bishop Walls to realize the church's vision for The Harriet Tubman Home: "a shrine for our Zion and for the race, from which we all may breathe inspiration, hope and a sense of just pride."[8]

In 1946, Bishop Walls had gained support from the national church to launch a special fund, as part of the church's sesqui-centennial observance, to rebuild the former home for the aged (frame house) into a national shrine. It was not until the church's annual conference held in Ithaca in June 1949 that plans were approved. The delegation at the conference drove to Auburn on June 20, "…to walk again where Harriet Tubman walked, and to view the scene made holy by her sainted soul," according to the Auburn *Citizen-Advertiser*.[9] The delegation must have been quite determined in its vision, because the scene they encountered was an overgrown property crossed by power lines, with the harrowing stripped shell of the former home for the aged at its core (fig. 1.73). The stones and bricks remaining from John Brown Hall, where Harriet Tubman spent her final years, did not receive attention. To carry out the rebuilding of the frame house and other site improvements as a shrine to Tubman, the church established a new fund-raising and management subsidiary, the "African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Harriet Tubman Foundation" (also referred to as the Harriet Tubman Corporation), which was incorporated on July 5, 1949. Bishop Walls served as the foundation's president. This was a different entity than the original Harriet Tubman Home institution created in 1895.[10]

By the fall of 1949, the Tubman Foundation had contracted with architect Wallace P. Beardsley, Jr. of Auburn to design the rebuilding of the frame house, with Shaver Brothers of Auburn to serve as the building contractor. The Tubman project may have been one of Beardsley's first commissions. He was a recent graduate of the College of Architecture at Cornell University, and in 1949 joined his family's Auburn architectural practice, Beardsley & Beardsley, which was noted for its work on public schools.[11] The Beardsley family was intimately familiar with the Harriet Tubman Home property, since they had long owned the farmland across South Street. The program for the Tubman project was for the first floor to serve as the museum space, and the second floor as living quarters for a caretaker. The Auburn *Citizen-Advertiser* reported, "When completed the remodeled building, originally a place of refuge for needy colored people will be used as a place in which to preserve and display relics and mementoes of Harriet

Tubman and her times."[12] Despite its emphasis on the shrine, the church also planned to continue Tubman's legacy of social philanthropy. It announced that the rest of the twenty-five-acre property was to be developed in a subsequent phase as an "old peoples' home for aged non-church members, as well as members of the Zion Church."[13]

Although Tubman had never lived in the frame house, the focus of attention on the building was a logical one—it was the most visible built vestige of Harriet Tubman's legacy, since her own brick house was not owned by the church and had taken on a new identity over the past four decades as the Norris family home. The frame house was also often incorrectly understood by many during this time to be Tubman's own residence—confusion that no doubt resulted from the state historical marker along South Street, which incorrectly identified the frame house as the "home of Harriet Tubman." Despite this, people familiar with Tubman's life story knew that the brick house to the south was her original dwelling.[14]

Rev. James C. Brown managed the Harriet Tubman Home property while the frame house was being reconstructed. The cost of the shrine project was about $30,000, with most of the funds provided through donations from within the A.M.E. Zion Church except for approximately $800 given by Auburn residents. Construction began in January, 1950, and the rebuilt house was largely completed within a year. Due to the cycle of biannual church conferences, it was not dedicated until April 13, 1953, four decades after Harriet Tubman's death. [15] Although the rebuilt house no longer fulfilled the philanthropic purpose that Tubman had envisioned, it still echoed an idea voiced in 1914 by James Edward Mason, one of the original directors of the Home, during ceremonies dedicating the plaque on the Cayuga County Courthouse, that it serve as a "mecca for Afro-Americans in particular and patriots generally." [16]

The house was substantially a new building, although some of the old timber framing may have been reused, as suggested in a 1953 article in the Ithaca *Journal*: "For a number of years the weatherbeaten home deteriorated. It became a grey skeleton but with beams still strong enough to form the framework for a dream."[17] As designed by Wallace Beardsley, the rebuilt frame house was not an accurate restoration of the building as it existed during Tubman's later life, or even during its subsequent use as the home for the aged in the 1910s and 1920s. On the exterior, Beardsley did restore the original massing, wrap-around porch, clapboard siding, interior ridge chimneys, wood-shingle roof, and most of the window openings, but made subtle changes such as using narrower porch posts and six-over-six double-hung sash windows where there had been two-over-two sash; adding two attic windows on the west gable to match the two that originally existed on the east gable; and using a modern paint scheme of white with green

window sash and red for the metal porch roof (figs. 1.74, 1.75).[18] The rebuilt house also featured a new concrete foundation with a full basement, and modern utilities, including public water. The east kitchen wing was not rebuilt. As part of the project, the surrounding grounds were cleared of brush, arborvitae shrubs were planted along the porch, and lawn was established west to South Street and north of the entrance road, formerly known as Danforth Street. A short concrete walk was added from the entrance road to the front door, and a longer concrete walk was laid to South Street, parallel to the entrance road (fig. 1.76). In 1954, a year after dedication of the rebuilt home, a two-car concrete-block garage with overhead doors was built off the east side of the house, where the kitchen wing once stood, at a cost of $1,400. [19]

The rebuilding of the frame house occurred at a time when suburban development was beginning to spread into the surrounding countryside. Across South Street, three houses had appeared by 1954 on the former Beardsley property, one of which became a bar, the Tic Toc Tavern (see fig. 1.76). Two nearby residential subdivisions were begun in the 1950s along Taber Drive across from the armory, and along Kearney Avenue east of the Home property.[20] A large tract northeast of the Harriet Tubman Home property became the new campus of the Mount Carmel High School, a Catholic school operated by the Order of Carmelites that was completed in 1955 (present Seward Elementary). The school building was initially accessed off Route 38 to the east, with the playing fields extending south to the Home property. To create level ground for the building and fields, the school acquired fill by excavating a large, two-acre borrow pit on the hillside at the eastern third of the seven-acre Tubman Farm, where Harriet Tubman's orchard had been (fig. 1.77). The Norris family, who had probably abandoned farming by this time, sold the school this fill. The school must have also had an agreement with the A.M.E. Zion Church for trucks to transport the fill across the twenty-five-acre Home property to the playing fields, which resulted in numerous tracks across the abandoned agricultural fields. The school improved and extended the entrance road to the Harriet Tubman Home (Danforth Street) to provide access to the borrow pit from South Street (see fig. 1.76). It was probably at this time that the crossing of Wood Creek was rebuilt with a concrete pipe culvert. The road extension was abandoned soon after the borrow pit was closed.[21]

#### Operation of the Home and Philanthropic Plans, 1954–1974

Although the A.M.E. Zion Church rebuilt the frame house as a shrine to Harriet Tubman, it continued to refer to the house and property as the "Harriet Tubman Home"—a name that suggested the building was Tubman's own dwelling.[22] The Home was managed, as of 1954, under the authority of the Harriet Tubman Corporation, Bishop W. J. Walls, Chairman; the Harriet Tubman Board, Bishop

C. C. Alleyne, Chairman; an Advisory Committee consisting of Auburn Mayor Robert Nelson and State Senator George R. Metcalf; and the Superintendent of the Harriet Tubman Home, Rev. Arthur E. May.[23]

Rev. May and his wife Margaret were the first caretakers of the rebuilt Harriet Tubman Home. Rev. May also served as Presiding Elder, or second to Bishop Walls, in the Western New York Conference. The Mays arrived in 1954 and Rev. May remained director (superintendent) of the Home until he retired in November 1964 due to Margaret's tragic death in an automobile accident. He was followed by Clarence Stewart, a nephew of Tubman's who served as an interim. In 1965, Rev. Samuel L. Brown was appointed as both director of the Harriet Tubman Home and Presiding Elder, and he served through 1970. Neither Rev. May nor Rev. Brown served as pastors at the local Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church. Bishop Walls remained active in overseeing the operation and funding of the Harriet Tubman Home through the 1960s, but did so remotely from his offices in Buffalo and later Chicago and Yonkers. [24]

The frame house remained primarily a private residence during this time, but several downstairs rooms were maintained as museum space that was open to the public at select times, with summers generally busy with visiting church groups. Typical open hours, as maintained by Rev. and Mrs. Brown in the late 1960s, were from 10 to 4:30 Mondays through Thursday and Friday by appointment. Church groups and clubs held had picnics on the grounds, and visitors often posed in front of the Home for pictures (fig. 1.78). The Mays also used the house as an office for their church-related duties. One room served in the late 1950s and early 1960s as the office of the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, which was headed by Mrs. Margaret May.[25]

At the 105th Session of the Western New York Conference held in June, 1954, the "Harriet Tubman Foundation Committee," which included Margaret May, gave a report that summarized the work to date on the Harriet Tubman Home:

> We can not honor Harriet Tubman without honoring the name of Bishop W. J. Walls whose love for, and pride in the A.M.E. Zion Church has done a magnificent job in rebuilding the home…We are happy to report that the house is beautifully furnished, the ground landscaped. It is a place of beauty and credit to the A.M.E. Zion denomination. During the year church clubs and other organizations from as far as California and Pittsburgh have visited the home. Local churches white and colored hold meetings there. We recommend that the churches continue to give support to the Harriet Tubman Home so the final objective may be obtained [construction of home for elderly on the property]. We further recommend that churches of Western New York visit the Home.[26]

The Mays devoted much time and energy to maintaining and improving the grounds around the frame house, which were in an unfinished condition when they arrived in 1954, except for lawn and the arborvitae shrubs along the porch.

The front lawn that extended west to South Street was mown under contract, but the Mays paid for most other groundwork themselves, which included extensive plantings, since the church ran the Home on a very tight budget.[27] By 1955, the Mays had planted flowerbeds along the front porch, and framed the front lawn by planting a windbreak of Norway spruce along the north side and building a white picket fence on the east, extending north from the house (fig 1.79). The entrance road (Danforth Street), which remained unpaved, marked the south side of the maintained grounds, and was lined by stones. A white statue, purportedly given by the Seward family, stood in the lawn west of the house, as well as an ornate white planter urn.[28] By the late 1950s, the Mays had extended flowerbeds along both sides of the entrance walk from South Street, and had added an arched arbor to the picket fence (fig. 1.80). The beds were planted with peonies, roses, spring tulips, and flowering annuals. To fly a flag that had flown over the national capitol, which was given to the Home in 1956, a painted steel flagpole was erected in front lawn of the frame house so that it was visible from South Street. The pole was paid for through donations from the local community.[29]

The Mays maintained the grounds east of the Home, at the rear as viewed from South Street, in utilitarian gardens. They kept a vegetable garden just east of the house and garage, and sold some of the produce to raise funds for the Home. By 1961, Rev. May had converted the garden to a strawberry patch, which he felt would provide more income. They may have also grown flowers in the field east of the vegetable garden. A report on the Home in summer 1961 noted, "Nasturtiums, petunias, dahlias, and other summer flowers were in bloom, even far back in the grove of willows"—probably referring to willows along the banks of Wood Creek.[30]

The old hillside agricultural fields west of Wood Creek, which had been scarred by the trucks transporting fill to the Mount Carmel High School construction site, were never returned to agricultural use and continued to grow up in shrubs and young trees through natural succession (fig. 1.81). Perhaps due to loss of surrounding farms to development or plans for future development, the church did not seek to rent the fields to farmers as it had in the past. Mature trees lined the property boundaries, while the old clay pits along Wood Creek north of the frame house had become more heavily wooded. These woods partly screened a major development to the north, on a sixteen-acre tract within the former Danforth property: a new state armory for the 108th Infantry, completed in 1958 and known as the Auburn South Street Armory. Designed by Beardsley & Beardsley Architects, it replaced the downtown armory built in 1873 on State Street. Rev. May reported, "The new state Armory, neighboring the home, is now complete and dedicated and gives a great competition in keeping our lawns in good shape."[31]

Following the dedication of the frame house in 1953, the governing entities of the A.M.E. Zion Church and local supporters worked on programing, fundraising, and future development to realize Harriet Tubman's original vision that the property serve humanitarian purposes. In 1953, around the time the rebuilt frame house was dedicated, Bishop Walls organized the "National Harriet Tubman Shrine Committee" that was tasked with planning and fundraising for the rehabilitation of the entire Harriet Tubman Home property. He solicited an inter-racial membership, with Eleanor Roosevelt, former First Lady and human rights activist, as honorary chair, and Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of the National Council of Negro Women, as second honorary chair.[32]

By 1955, Bishop Walls and the shrine committee were developing ideas for the Home property that included not only a home for the aged, but also a temporary residence for migrant workers, a retreat for students, a library building with a museum, and a Tubman memorial, presumably a statue. Plans also called for reconstructing John Brown Hall, which Bishop Walls and the committee recognized as the original home for the aged, where Tubman has lived her last years. By 1957, the committee was hoping to make use of new federal housing programs to support its development proposals. The committee planned to apply to the Federal Housing Authority to obtain a mortgage for construction of a sixty-resident home for old people, and also planned on building a home for orphans, a recreational and cultural center for young people of the church, and a museum and memorial to Harriet Tubman.[33]

As part of the annual meetings of the National Harriet Tubman Shrine Committee, Bishop Walls revived the idea of an annual pilgrimage, which originated in 1922 with the Directors and Lady Managers of the Harriet Tubman Home, but only lasted a few years. The revived pilgrimages, the first of which was held in September 1953, typically included a visit to Tubman's grave, a national committee meeting at the Home, and a program at Osborne Hall in Auburn (fig. 1.81). The fourth annual pilgrimage on August 1, 1957 was planned to coincide with the annual meeting of the national A.M.E. Zion Church, the first ever to be held in Auburn.[34]

In 1956, a local organization, the Harriet Tubman Boosters, was formed to support the work of the church in operating and developing the Harriet Tubman Home property. One of its primary activities was organizing an annual picnic at the Home to raise awareness and funds, and also to bring together Tubman friends and supporters (fig. 1.82). The 1961 picnic, which featured a family-style supper, was attended by thirty people, including Mrs. Eva Northrup of Philadelphia, one of twenty children Tubman took in. Mrs. Northrup recalled the fact that Tubman lived in the brick house to the south (Norris house) and died in

the "brick house on the hill"—John Brown Hall.[35] The Boosters helped with other functions at the Home, such as providing tours when Rev. and Mrs. May held a "Tubman Tea" attended by more than one hundred guests in May 1963. According to the local paper, the guests "took their time examining the museum exhibits and enjoying the liberal supplies of refreshments in the upstairs living room," and strolled the grounds "where a bright sun was drying up a few puddles left by the recent rain, and enhancing the brilliant colors of tulips and flowering trees."[36]

The ambitious plans for the development of the Harriet Tubman Home proposed by the church and national shrine committee disappeared from the news by the mid-1960s, and the annual pilgrimages also ceased by this time. Although over $100,000 had been raised by the Harriet Tubman Home Foundation, the various new development projects were never implemented. In 1968, Bishop William J. Walls stepped down as president of the Foundation, which led to decline in the operation and maintenance of the Home.[37] When Rev. Samuel Brown was reassigned to a Buffalo parish in 1970, the frame house was closed to the public, and Brown came to Auburn just once a week to check on the property, which became overgrown (fig. 1.83). In fall 1971, vandals broke into the Home and damaged the displays. The following December, after being closed for more than a year, the Auburn *Citizen-Advertiser* reported, "It's cold at the Harriet Tubman home this winter. Nobody lives there any more and the sun, sometimes streaming in the south windows fails to warm the pleasant rooms where the Moses of her People lived for a time before her death in 1913, in that very house [sic]… The AME Zion church is hampered by lack of funds for maintaining the Tubman home, and in having administration of it at a distance from Auburn."[38]

With the house vacant and the grounds overgrown, the Harriet Tubman Boosters pressed the church to act. After not receiving a response, the Boosters urged the church to give over administration of the Harriet Tubman Home to a local organization. [39] The church firmly rejected the proposal, offering to resolve the situation at its upcoming General Conference to be held in May 1972. According to Bishop Walls, the concerns expressed by the Boosters and other Auburn residents over the fate of the Home, "…reveal, not only encouraging interest, but a lack of knowledge of the profoundly rich history of the A.M.E. Zion Church, the Freedom Church, and what it has already done for the Harriet Tubman Home."[40] The church paper, *Star of Zion*, reported in February 1972,

> The A.M.E. Zion has the know-how, the interest, the ability and means to restore in a first class manner and operate this landmark; the principal thing we need is to decide in what direction and how fast to move with the project. Zion people are as fine as this nation affords. We love our heroines as dearly as another group.[41]

Bishop Wall's successor, Bishop Shaw, soon appointed a new superintendent for the Harriet Tubman Home, Rev. Guthrie Carter. Carter, who was a pastor in Saratoga Springs and initially commuted to Auburn before being assigned to the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church. Instead of living in the parsonage on Parker Street, he and his wife Clara moved in to the frame house in July 1972, and reportedly "spent weekends mowing the long-neglected grounds, and weeding the overgrown flowerbeds in anticipation of reopening the shrine to the public later in the summer."[42] Apparently in response to the vandalism that occurred the prior fall, the church authorized Rev. Carter to clear and enclose the grounds, and soon contracted with the department store Sears to install a chain-link fence along the South Street frontage, with a pedestrian gate at the walk to the Home. Plans were also announced for paving the entrance road (Danforth Street), and building a parking lot, although this work would not be completed for several years.[43]

With $107,000 in hand for development through the Harriet Tubman Home Foundation, the church restated its commitment to development of the site that would continue the philanthropic uses that Tubman intended. A pamphlet provided to visitors at the Home following its reopening in 1972 conveyed the church's plans to develop the property on a non-sectarian basis as a home for the aged, a youth meeting place, and a cultural enrichment center. Bishop Walls wrote in his 1974 history of the A.M.E. Zion Church that the institution was the custodian of these funds for carrying out Harriet Tubman's dream of an old age home, as a memorial to her: "There should be no variableness in the expectation of the A.M.E. Zion Church, the race, and the country to develop a fitting memorial on these grounds to this universal personality."[44]

On April 23, 1975, Bishop William J. Walls died at the age of 89. Without his leadership, the proposals for developing the Harriet Tubman Home as a home for the elderly and other social benefits faded, but the church continued its work in memorializing Tubman's legacy of love, faith, and joy.[45]

#### Historic Site Development and Planning, 1974–2016

The A.M.E. Zion Church's management of the Harriet Tubman Home following its reopening in summer 1972 focused on enhancing it as a museum and historic site, rather than developing it as a philanthropic endeavor. One of the first steps taken toward these plans was listing of the frame house (Home for the Aged) as a National Historic Landmark—the federal government's highest historic designation—on May 30, 1974. An inventory-nomination form for what was called the "Harriet Tubman Museum," and the "Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged," was prepared in July 1973 by Marcia M. Greenlee of The Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation in Washington, D. C. Harriet Tubman's brick house and seven-acre farm, which remained under separate ownership of the Norris

family, was not included in the designation. The inventory-nomination form documented one historic resource, the frame house, and incorrectly stated that Tubman acquired the property from William Seward in 1859 (she acquired the seven-acre farm to the south). The designation did not change the ownership or management of the property, but did make it eligible for state and federal grants-in-aid. [46]

Over the next decade, the church made plans for developing new facilities on the Harriet Tubman Home property to support its function as a historic site and to accommodate various Tubman-related programs. Rev. Guthrie Carter, who had been appointed superintendent in 1971, remained the sole staff person through the 1980s, serving as tour guide, manager, and caretaker. Under his management, many of the Mays' flower gardens and other plantings were removed along with the statue in the front lawn, and the fields to the east grew up in scrub and woods (fig. 1.84). To assist with programming and development of the site, a new local organization was founded, the Harriet Tubman Home Foundation Society, which had a similar mission to the Harriet Tubman Boosters that folded in 1971. In 1975, the Society revived the annual pilgrimage, which the Board of Lady Managers began in the 1920s and the National Harriet Tubman Shrine Committee revived for a few years in 1950s. The new pilgrimages, intended to honor Tubman's memory and advance her life's work, were attended by A.M.E. Zion Church members from throughout the country and typically featured Tubman descendants. The standard program featured a service at the Tubman grave in Fort Hill Cemetery followed by an event at the Harriet Tubman Home. [47]

Through the 1970s and 1980s, the Harriet Tubman Home Foundation Society and the A.M.E. Zion Church, with the support of the City of Auburn, raised funds for improvement of the Home property by applying for grants and holding fund-raising events. One of the first proposed improvement projects was a restroom facility, which was designed in 1975 by Beardsley & Beardsley Architects of Auburn as an extension on the north side of the concrete-block garage built in 1954.[48] The plans was superseded by a proposal to build a library on the property, which would also contain restrooms. The Harriet Tubman Foundation Society dedicated its second annual pilgrimage in May 1976 to raise funds for the library, and to install a statue of Tubman on the grounds. Directed by Mrs. Lula Williams, a professional librarian from Buffalo, the library project was intended to create an archive of artifacts, memorabilia, and reference materials on Tubman. The $25,000 building was planned for the meadow directly south of the frame house facing South Street, just west of where a barn had stood during Tubman's lifetime. The church contracted with John York Critchley of Auburn, trained as a sculptor at Antioch College and an architect at Syracuse University, to design the library. Completed in 1978 at a cost of $54,000 funded

through church contributions, the one-story, 2,200-square-foot rustic-style wood-frame building with vertical board siding, named the Harriet Tubman Memorial Library, was dedicated on May 27, 1979 by Bishop H. B. Shaw of the Western New York Conference (fig. 1.85). [49] That same year, the interior of the frame house was renovated through a matching grant provided by the US Department of the Interior. As noted in a postcard of the building reproduced by the Harriet Tubman Library Committee in 1979, the so-called restoration was done to (incorrectly) "represent the period she [Harriet Tubman] lived there (1860-1913)."[50]

As part of the library project, Mrs. Lula Williams also coordinated the addition of a gateway at the entrance to the site from South Street. An initial proposal was for a monumental structure similar to the arched iron gateway at the south entrance of Fort Hill Cemetery. The City of Auburn provided some of the funds and drew up plans for the gates, which ended up being two simple eleven-foot-tall brick piers, built in 1978 just prior to completion of the library (fig. 1.86). These gates were part of grounds improvements associated with the library construction that included paving the entrance road (Danforth Street), and transforming the meadow around the new building into a lawn. The last traces of the cellar hole from the old tollgate house, located at the southwest corner of the lawn, were probably removed at this time. The hole was probably filled a few years earlier in 1976, when a sewer line was extended through the area (fig. 1.87).[51]

While the new library provided an ample space for meetings and other functions, it could not accommodate the large public gatherings that took place during the picnic and pilgrimage, and it also was not designed to function as a place for interpretive displays. Gatherings during the picnic and pilgrimage were usually accommodated in a large tent typically set up in the field east of the frame house. After completion of the library, the church began to plan for erecting a new building on the site that could serve as both a place where visitors could learn about Tubman—a visitor center—and a large hall where big gatherings could take place. Rather than start a fund-raising campaign, the church decided that this new building would be a good use of the funds raised by the Harriet Tubman Foundation under Bishop William J. Walls' leadership between 1954 and 1968. The foundation still existed by the early 1980s and was headed by Bishop J. Clinton Hoggard, the Presiding Bishop of the Western New York Conference. Reported as having in excess of $107,000 in 1972, the fund had been intended by the foundation for construction of a new home for the aged and other philanthropic endeavors on the property.[52]

The site selected for the new building was in the scrubby field east of the frame house near Wood Creek, on the alignment of Danforth Street that had been abandoned in the 1950s after its use for transporting fill to the Mount Carmel

High School site (see fig. 1.81). Built at a cost of $100,000, the new one-story 5,000-square-foot-building was in the same rustic style as the library, and most likely designed by the same architect, John York Critchley (fig. 1.88). Named the Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building, its amenities included a large hall, kitchen facilities, and a porch that extended along the east and west sides. It was opened on October 5, 1983 and dedicated during the annual pilgrimage on May 26, 1984. The grounds at the rear facing Wood Creek were designed as a picnic area that featured a third-acre pond, while the front grounds were planted with sycamore trees and had a concrete entrance walk that followed the old alignment of Danforth Street (fig. 1.89). There was no access to the east half of the Home property that included the ruins of John Brown Hall, which were hidden by woods and dense brush. The growth of the woods required New York State Electric & Gas (formerly Empire State Electric and Gas) to maintain a cleared corridor beneath its power transmission line, which had been rebuilt around 1980 with taller wood poles, which loomed over the Multi-Purpose Building.[53]

The 1990s were a time of renewed interest in Harriet Tubman, spurred by President George H. W. Bush's proclamation of March 10th as Harriet Tubman Day in 1990, federal funding allocated in 1990 for a resource study of the Underground Railroad, and New York State's parallel Freedom Trail Act passed in 1997. In Auburn, the A.M.E. Zion Church took on new initiatives at the Harriet Tubman Home property, the most important of which was acquisition of the Tubman Farm from the Norris family, except for the northwest corner where a second Norris house had been built. The year after acquiring the property, the church hired Rev. Paul G. Carter as director of The Harriet Tubman Home. He and his wife Christine moved into the recently acquired Tubman brick house, provided tours, and maintained the grounds, including the flowerbeds around the frame house (Home for the Aged). The church also accommodated the first academic inquiries into the site during this period by Professor Douglas V. Armstrong of Syracuse University, who conducted archaeological investigations around the ruins of John Brown Hall beginning in the summer of 1998, and subsequently around Tubman's brick house, the frame house, and a brick clamp on the Harriet Tubman Home property. The research by Armstrong and his students helped to clarify long-standing confusion over the relationship between Tubman's farm and The Harriet Tubman Home property, and the history of their use and development.[54]

In response to the growing public interest in Harriet Tubman and the need to obtain grants to develop a professionally-managed historic site, the A.M.E. Zion Church under the leadership of Bishop George Walker established a new not-for-profit organization in 1997 to manage the site: The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. (HTH, Inc.). It was the successor to The Harriet Tubman Home institution founded in 1895, and the A.M.E. Zion Church Harriet Tubman Home

Foundation created in 1949 to rebuild the frame house (Home for the Aged). Incorporated as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization on September 23, 1997, the purpose of HTH, Inc. was to maintain and develop the property; to provide a resource library; to conduct fundraising programs; and "to do any other act or things in support of the other purposes." Ward DeWitt served as the first president and was followed by Karen Hill, who was hired in 2004.[55]

While the church retained ownership of the property, HTH, Inc. took responsibility for operation of the Harriet Tubman Home site, management of its stakeholders, and oversight of financial development and capital improvements. The city, under the leadership of its capital improvement grants manager, Michael Long, supported HTH, Inc., and its efforts to rehabilitate the Tubman sites in Auburn. Part of this effort included listing all the Tubman related properties in Auburn in the National Register of Historic Places through a multiple properties nomination approved in 1999. This nomination included the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, Tubman grave in Fort Hill Cemetery, and the Tubman Farm (Tubman residence), together with the Harriet Tubman Home (Home for the Aged) property previously designated a National Historic Landmark.[56]

Listing of Tubman properties in Auburn made them eligible for state and federal grants. At the Harriet Tubman Home property, HTH, Inc received a $10,000 grant in 1998 toward restoration of the frame house from the federal Save America's Treasures program, established through the initiative of First Lady Hillary Clinton. Clinton visited in July 1998, accompanied by an assembly estimated at more than 1,000 people (fig. 1.90). At the site, Clinton spoke of the importance of the Harriet Tubman Home:

> This is a special place indeed. Harriet Tubman's story is one of personal triumph and extraordinary courage…Once torn from her own home, she spent the last years of her life establishing this home for others—the old, the poor, the destitute. She spoke for all of them and she continues to speak to all of us because above all, Harriet Tubman is a symbol of the enduring story of this nation.[57]

The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. received another $450,000 from Save America's Treasures in 2000, which coincided with expansion of the National Historic Landmark designation in 2001 to include the other Tubman-related properties (Tubman Farm and Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, but not the gravesite) that had been earlier listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Soon after, the National Park Service embarked on a special resource study that would eventually lead to designation of the Tubman sites in Auburn, together with the related Tubman birthplace in Maryland, as two units of the national park system.

During the two decades following Hillary Clinton's visit, the Harriet Tubman Home property remained well maintained under the care of Rev. Paul and Christine Carter, but saw no major changes to the landscape, except for removal of overgrown shrubs around the frame house and demolition of the adjoining concrete-block garage, as well as continued growth of woods on the former agricultural fields. HTH, Inc. acquired the Tic-Toc Tavern property across South Street in ca. 2005 to protect the setting and provide a site for a support facility. Most capital improvement planning was directed during this time to Harriet Tubman's neighboring brick house and frame barn, and to the old Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church.[58]

#### TUBMAN FARM – THE NORRIS PROPERTY

At the time that the A.M.E. Zion Church announced plans for rebuilding the frame house as a shrine to Harriet Tubman in 1949, her seven-acre farm was owned by Frank and Edith Norris. They had acquired the property in 1943 from Frank's parents, England and Ellen Norris who had bought the property from Tubman's estate in 1914.[59]

By 1954, a year after dedication of the rebuilt frame house, Frank and Edith Norris had granted the Carmelites Fathers use of the hillside at the eastern third of the farm to supply fill for the construction of Mount Carmel High School, resulting in excavation of a deep borrow pit that extended across nearly three acres (see fig. 1.76). Around the same time, Frank and Edith gave permission to their son and daughter-in-law, Harry and Alice Norris, to build a one-story ranch-style brick house on the garden site south of the Tubman house (fig. 1.91). The new house, which was built in 1954 and assigned an address of #210 South Street Road, was on a third-acre parcel subdivided from the seven-acre Tubman farm (fig. 1.92). The deed for this property was recorded on January 17, 1955. The house was one of many suburban ranch-style houses that had been built along South Street during the 1950s, including on the once-open fields across the street from Harriet Tubman's house.[60]

The destruction of the eastern third of the Tubman Farm by the borrow pit and the subdivision of the southwestern corner in the early 1950s occurred after the Norris family had given up farming. The chicken coop and other outbuildings were removed and most of the former farm fields grew up into dense woods and brush. By ca. 1950, Frank Norris had started a business, "Norris' Delivery," which operated out of the Tubman barn (fig. 1.93). This grew into the Norris Delivery and Bus Service, which provided school bus and shuttle service in and around Auburn. Frank Norris reconfigured the openings in the front of the barn, and built concrete-block garage bays on the south and north sides to accommodate his growing fleet of busses (fig. 1.94, see also fig. 1.87). Frank and Edith's son,

Donald, continued the business following Frank's death in 1972, and Edith continued to reside in the Tubman house, which remained little changed since the 1920s renovations that added new porches and a rear kitchen wing (fig. 1.95). The grounds around the house had foundation plantings of spirea and there were lilac shrubs and several sugar maple trees in the lawn. The boundary with the Harriet Tubman Home property to the north had been planted with a border of shrubs. [61]

Edith Norris died on January 4, 1990, and her heirs made plans to sell the property. The A.M.E. Zion Church acted quickly to acquire the property so it could finally become incorporated into the Harriet Tubman Home, seventy-seven years after Tubman's death. The deed conveying ownership from Donald Norris and Hazel Newert, two of Edith's six children and executors of her estate, to the A.M.E. Zion Church was signed on June 11, 1990. The purchase price was $118,000. The church used the house for the next fifteen years as the residence of the managers of the Harriet Tubman Home, Rev. Paul and Christine Carter. [62]

Aside from connecting the mown areas of the two properties, the church made few exterior changes to the house, enlarged barn, and surrounding grounds into the early 2000s. During this time, however, Mike Long of the City of Auburn was working with Rev. Carter to apply for grants for the restoration of the Tubman house and barn, along with the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church on Parker Street. In 2001, HTH, Inc. received state grants for work on the three buildings in the amount of $284,000, and contracted with Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners of Syracuse, for research and documentation on the church and South Street properties. This was followed by contracts for building repairs and restoration. [63]

The Tubman barn was the first building to undergo restoration beginning in 2008. Completed by November 2009, the restored barn was designed by Crawford & Stearns and built by timber framing experts Lazarus & Company of Spencer, New York. The project included removal of the concrete additions, repair of the stone foundation, rebuilding of the rear shed wing, in-kind repair and replacement of framing and siding, and installation of new wood-shingle roofing (fig. 1.96). Work on the Tubman house began in 2007 with removal of underground fuel tanks in the drive and yard, followed by removal of post-1913 additions in 2008. Exterior restoration, designed by Crawford & Stearns and built by Blade Construction in 2012, included fabrication of replica six-light window sash, masonry repointing and restoration, new roofing, and reconstruction of the original front and side porches (fig. 1.97). The work also included construction of a foundation for a planned rear wing intended to provide an accessible entrance and restrooms. In November 2012, the project was suspended before all exterior

elements could be completed. The interior also remained incomplete and closed to the public.[64]

### AUBURN AND THE THOMPSON MEMORIAL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Following World War II, the City of Auburn lost residents while the surrounding towns gained population as suburban development spread into the once rural areas. By the mid-1950s, many of the main roads leading out of Auburn, including South Street, were lined by suburban houses on former farmland, while schools and other institutions such as the state armory also fled the urban core for suburban locations (fig. 1.98). Federal and state urban renewal and highway programs reinforced suburban development, and funded new arterial highways and redevelopment proposals through downtown that resulted in demolition of hundreds of buildings. Between 1940 and 1990, Cayuga County gained 14,518 persons, while Auburn lost 8,066. Rather than industry and manufacturing, Auburn's economy relied increasingly on service and tourism. In this new economy, historic places such as the Seward House, which had opened as a museum in 1951, played a significant role, and in subsequent years the city would bill itself as "History's Hometown." The city recognized that the Tubman sites also had great potential for contributing to this economy.[65]

While some of Auburn's residential neighborhoods were adversely impacted by the changes in the economy and growth of suburbs, some were stable or prospered. South Street south to Metcalf Drive remained the city's most architecturally distinguished neighborhood, although several historic houses were demolished. One of these was the D.M. Osborne House at 99 South Street, which Harriet Tubman had often visited. It was demolished for construction of the Auburn United Methodist Church, consecrated in 1957. In 1991, South Street was listed as a historic district in the National Register of Historic Places, anchored by the Seward House that had been designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. South of Metcalf Drive toward the Harriet Tubman Home, the neighborhood transitioned to suburban subdivisions and remnant farmland, but still clearly evoked the change from urban to rural that had characterized the area during Harriet Tubman's lifetime.[66]

In addition to recognizing architecturally significant properties associated with the wealthy of Auburn's heyday, there were also efforts beginning in the 1990s to document resources associated with the region's role in the Underground Railroad and its legacy through the state's Freedom Trail initiative begun in 1997. This survey, funded by the state and sponsored by the City of Auburn and Cayuga County, documented hundreds of properties, including those associated with Harriet Tubman.[67]

#### Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church

The African-American neighborhood west of Fort Hill Cemetery including Parker Street experienced little redevelopment during the second half of the twentieth century, and retained much of its social composition into the twenty-first century. Through the early 1990s, the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, remained an anchor of the community (fig. 1.99). The church also continued to play a role in Tubman-related programs in Auburn. In 1972, for example, the A.M.E. Zion district bishop visited the church to dedicate a bronze plaque in honor of Tubman. In 1983, the church was one of the three sites that hosted a tribute to Harriet Tubman attended by civil rights leader Queen Mother Moore, who commanded, "We must work in Harriet Tubman's name. It's not enough to eulogize her—we must work in her spirit." [68]

Shortly after the rebuilt frame house of the Harriet Tubman Home on South Street was rededicated by Bishop William Walls in 1953, the Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church (a revised name officially adopted in 1956) began planning for improvements to its church and parsonage, last renovated in 1940.[69] These improvements were primarily on the interior, and included redecoration of the sanctuary, basement renovations, and a new kitchen in the parsonage, most of which was undertaken by the men of the parish. In April 1956, Bishop Walls returned to Auburn to lead the rededication of the newly redecorated sanctuary, during which he reinforced the parish's historic association with Tubman: "This was Harriet Tubman's adopted church. . .She used to shout and jump in that aisle in praise of God, who had helped her bring 300 [sic] slaves to freedom."[70]

The 1970s were difficult times for the parish, and by the early 1980s, its numbers had dwindled to about thirty-five active members. Both the church and parsonage were reported as needing repairs. In 1983, the parish was assigned a new pastor, Robert Kealon, under whose tenure a fund drive was launched that autumn to help save the landmark touted as Harriet Tubman's place of worship.[71] Mrs. Cordelia Carter, long-time member, organist, and treasurer of the church, was the voice of the campaign. She told a local reporter in September 1983,

> This is a church of churches. A church of historical significance. Harriet Tubman, the leader of the Civil War 'underground railroad' who was credited with rescuing more than 300 slaves, worshipped here for 63 years [sic]. We don't want to close the doors. All races, all nationalities visit the place where Harriet Tubman worshipped. A group of 16 Jamaicans toured the facility just last week after visiting the Tubman home.[72]

Mrs. Carter and others organized the "Coming Home to Zion" reunion on September 24-25, 1983 with the goal of raising $5,000. The fundraising, which included $1,020 from the reunion event, met with enough success to allow the parish to remain open and also undertake some repairs and improvements to the

church and parsonage. These most likely included the addition of two concrete ramps with pipe railings to the entrance of the church, and parging of the limestone foundation with concrete (fig. 1.100). At the parsonage, the original classical columns and balustrade were replaced by stained dimensional timber posts and railings (fig. 1.101). [73]

In 1989, Rev. John Caver was appointed pastor of Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, and in 1992, was replaced by Rev. Paul Carter, the recently hired manager of the Harriet Tubman Home. By this time, the ministry was growing after decades of decline, and the parish needed more space. It considered building an addition, but instead decided to move to new, larger quarters after the Wall Street Methodist Church offered to sell its building, an 1886 National Register-listed property adjacent to the state prison, for $1.00. Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church moved into its new quarters in 1993. Rev. Carter's ministry was transferred to another parish in 1993, prior to rededication of the new church in May 1994.[74]

The A.M.E. Zion Church retained ownership of the Parker Street property after its departure in 1993, but both the church and the parsonage stood vacant. Over the course of the following decade, the parish remained responsible for maintenance, but had to devote its resources to its actively-used building. By 2000, the Parker Street church roof had developed leaks and windows were broken. Through listing of the church in the National Register in 1998, followed by its designation as a National Historic Landmark in 2001, new attention and resources became available. With the help of city planner Mike Long and support by Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., New York State provided a grant of $284,000 in 2001 toward emergency stabilization of the church, along with the Tubman house and barn. HTH, Inc. contracted with Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners of Syracuse, to plan emergency repairs and hazardous materials remediation on the church. As completed by Bouley Construction in 2003, the work included removal and storage of window sash, sealing of window openings, repair of the roof framing, and removal of asbestos shingle siding (fig. 1.102). Overgrown yew trees and shrubs were removed from the front corners of the building. A new wood shingle roof was subsequently installed in 2005 through a second state grant. No work was undertaken on the parsonage, which had not been identified as a historic building in the National Register documentation, as part of the state-funded projects. [75]

#### Tubman Gravesite

Harriet Tubman's gravesite in Fort Hill Cemetery, marked by a replacement stone installed in 1937, was maintained throughout this period. It was the subject of pilgrimages revived briefly in the mid-1950s, and then permanently in the mid-

1970s (fig. 1.97). Changes to the gravesite included removal of the planter urn added around 1920, and addition of yew shrubs to either side of the marker in ca. 1990. Around this same time, a new planter urn on a square granite base was placed to the south side, and the white marble block marker for the grave of Emma McIntosh, interred in 1913 in lot #437, was moved to the north side of Tubman's grave, perhaps as the base of another planter urn.[76]

In ca. 1992, Judith G. Bryant, the great-granddaughter of Emma and William H. Stewart, Jr., placed a flat granite marker at their gravesite at lot #397 across the turf walk from Harriet Tubman's grave. The site had previously only been marked by the Norway spruce tree planted in ca. 1912 by the Stewart children. In ca. 2012, Bryant placed a similar granite flat marker on the previously unmarked grave of her great-great grandfather and Tubman's brother, William H. Stewart, Sr., who was interred in the same grave lot, #439.[77]

The grounds of the West Lawn Section changed with loss of specimen trees and addition of grave markers. The Norway maples along the west boundary of the cemetery grew, but there were views through the understory to the rear yards of the houses along Parker Street, and across two empty lots to the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church. This view of the church was lost in ca. 2000 when a house was built on the two lots, at #32 Parker Street.

While Tubman's gravesite underwent relatively modest changes, there were discussions during this period about a more radical change—moving her grave. There were some drawbacks to Tubman's grave in Fort Hill Cemetery, for a person of her growing public stature: it was situated in an area of small lots accessed by a narrow, indistinguishable turf walk that caused visitors to take a different path across other gravesites. But perhaps the most compelling arguments for moving the grave was that in a different location, it could bring greater public attention to the other Tubman-related sites in Auburn. In 1987, for example, Rev. John Caver, pastor of Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, announced his wish to move Tubman's grave to the church lot, in order to bring more people to the struggling church. In the late 1990s, leaders of the A.M.E. Zion Church proposed moving the grave to the Harriet Tubman Home property on South Street, and placing it in a shrine-like structure. Such proposals continued to be discussed into the 2010s. Tubman's descendants and officials of Fort Hill Cemetery opposed the idea, and listing of the gravesite in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 also made the proposal problematic.[78]

#### LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW, 2016

In 2016, on the eve of creation of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, the sites associated with Tubman's life in Auburn reflected a range of conditions that had changed markedly since 1949. The A.M.E. Zion Church, Harriet

Tubman Home, Inc., family members, and local supporters in the city government and community had made significant strides in maintaining, preserving, and restoring Harriet Tubman's legacy, as well as planning for a new future that would bring greater visibility and enhancements.

#### **Tubman Farm** (Drawing 1.8)

In 2016, all but a third-acre portion of the Tubman Farm had become part of the holdings of the A.M.E. Zion Church. The church's acquisition reestablished the common or related ownership that existed from the time Tubman acquired the Home property in 1896 to the sale of her seven-acre farm to the Norris family in 1914. After 1990, the church jointly managed the two properties, without a clear boundary between them.

The brick house and the barn in 2016 reflected the character that existed in Harriet Tubman's lifetime following restoration undertaken between 2008 and 2012. The surrounding landscape, however, reflected marked changes that occurred since 1949 through the end of agricultural use and addition of the Norris house on the site of Tubman's garden. Since 1914, the barnyard and agricultural outbuildings had disappeared, and the agricultural fields had grown up in woods. Nearly three acres of the hillside at the eastern third of the farm had been excavated to provide fill for the construction of Mount Carmel High School in 1954. The woods, along with the suburban houses built along the west side of South Street Road, blocked the once expansive views across the rural landscape from the Tubman house.

#### **Harriet Tubman Home Property** (Drawing 1.8)

In 2016, the twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property had undergone tremendous change since 1949: the ruined frame house had been rebuilt and designated a National Historic Landmark, and two rustic-style buildings had been added to house a library and a visitor center (multi-purpose building). The entry drive, formerly known as Danforth Street, had been shortened, paved in asphalt, and extended to a parking lot. Concrete walks connected the buildings. Spacious lawn, a Norway spruce windbreak, an allee of silver maple trees, and flowerbeds were a legacy of the improvements mostly made by Rev. and Mrs. May between 1954 and 1964. Once an open landscape, the grounds had become enclosed along South Street by a chain-link fence and the entrance drive was marked by tall brick piers and steel gates. At the time the lawn surrounding the frame house was established in the 1950s, it was enclosed on the north by the Norway spruce windbreak, on the south by the entrance road, and on the east by a picket fence and arbor. In 2016, this fence no longer existed, and the lawn extended north of the Norway spruce windbreak, and south of the entrance road around the library building.

Aside from the new buildings, lawns, and ornamental plantings, the most conspicuous changes to the former rural character of the landscape were the woods that had grown up on the eastern half of the property, and the suburban houses and state armory built along South Street. The power transmission line erected in ca. 1931 still crossed the site, but had become more prominent with addition of taller wood poles.

**Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church and Tubman Gravesite** (Drawing 1.9)

In 2016, Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church had been vacant for over twenty years, but had undergone some stabilization and restoration in the early 2000s that fixed the leaking roof and removed hazardous materials, including asbestos shingle siding. The only major exterior changes undertaken during the period were addition of concrete ramps at the front entrance. The parsonage, which had undergone renovations including a rebuilt porch, was also vacant and in deteriorated condition. Volunteers vines and shrubs lined the buildings, and the rear half of the property had grown up in succession woods dominated by black locust, box elder, and Norway maple.

Tubman's gravesite in Fort Hill Cemetery retained its marker installed in 1937, which was in the shadow of the large Norway spruce tree in the adjacent lot planted as a marker for the graves of Emma and William H. Stewart, Jr. Tubman's grave had changed with the removal and replacement of a planter urn, the addition of yew shrubs to either side, and wearing away of the turf by foot traffic from numerous visitors.

**ENDNOTES, 1949–2016**

[1] Milton Sernett, *Harriet Tubman: Myth, Memory, and History* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007), 260.

[2] Earl Conrad, *Harriet Tubman: Negro Soldier and Abolitionist* (New York: International Publishers, 1943), 47.

[3] Sernett, 196, 200; Kate Clifford Larson, *Harriet Tubman: Bound for the Promised Land* (New York: One World Ballantine Books, 2003), 294; U.S. Merchant Marine, "African-Americans in the U.S. Merchant Marine and U.S. Maritime Service," http://www.usmm.org/african-americans.html (accessed September 25, 2018).

[4] "Auburn Man is Author of New Book," Geneva *Times*, October 15, 1943, 9.

[5] Referring to the "feeling of Bishop Walls," in "Restoration of Harriet Tubman Home Definite," Auburn *Citizen-Advertiser*, June 27, 1949, 7.

[6] Rev. Arthur E. May, "Report from Harriet Tubman Home" (undated typed letter, ca. 1959), William J. Walls Papers (1957-1969), box 2, Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Libraries [hereafter, "Walls Papers"].

[7] "William J. Walls, A.M.E. Zion Bishop" (obituary), New York *Times,* April 24, 1975, 33; William J. Walls, *The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church: Reality of the Black Church* (Charlotte, N.C.: A.M.E. Zion Publishing House, 1974), 600.

[8] "Restoration of Harriet Tubman Home Definite."

[9] "Restoration of Harriet Tubman Home Definite."

[10] Sernett, 262.

[11] Legacy.com, "Wallace Beardsley," (accessed May 23, 2018), https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theithacajournal/obituary.aspx?n=wallace-beardsley&pid=157091919 (accessed May 23, 2018); "Wallace Beardsley dies Following Heart Attack," *Citizen-Advertiser*, May 19, 1953, 2.

[12] "Funds Needed to Complete Harriet Tubman Shrine," Auburn *Citizen-Advertiser*, January 25, 1950, 1; Walls, 444; Sernett, 262; "Work Progresses on the Restoration of the Former Harriet Tubman Home," Auburn *Citizen-Advertiser*, February 16, 1950, 1.

[13] "Work Progresses on the Restoration of the Former Harriet Tubman Home."

[14] "Harriet Tubman Boosters Set Picnic Wednesday at Tubman Home," *Citizen-Advertiser*, August 14, 1961, 5.

[15] Walls, 1974, 444.

[16] James E. Mason, "Pays Tribute to Harriet Tubman," in "Tribute to Harriet Tubman, The Modern Amazon" (Unpublished brochure, 1914), 12, Seward House Collection.

[17] Lois O'Connor, "Home of Harriet Tubman Dedicated as a National Shrine," Ithaca *Journal*, May 6, 1953, 8.

[18] Letter, Rev. Arthur May to Bishop William J. Walls, April 11, 1960, requesting change in paint colors of the frame house, Walls Papers, box 2.

[19] Norris photograph of #1 Danforth Street, ca. April 1953; Aerial photograph, 1954, New York State Aerial Photographs, Cornell University, ARW_2N_100; "Official Journal of the One Hundred and Fifth Session of the Western New York Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, June 15-20, 1954," 41, MLK Library, Syracuse University. No plans or construction documents were found for the rebuilding project. Beardsley Architects and Engineers, and Shaver Brothers, both of which still exist, do not retain any records from the project.

[20] Aerial photographs, 1954 and 1964.

[21] Aerial photograph, 1954; inspection of existing causeway/culvert by author.

[22] As noted on Western New York Conference letterhead, 1958, and in church proceedings and reports from Arthur May, 1950s through 1970s, Walls Papers.

[23] Brochure, "Program, Second Pilgrimage To the Harriet Tubman Home," September 14, 1954, National Museum of African American History & Culture, 2009.50.5.

[24] Mary Ann Ginnerty, "Harriet Tubman Home," *Citizen-Advertiser*, 1970, clipping; Rev. Arthur E. May, "Report from Harriet Tubman Home," ca. 1959; Walls, 1974, 444; Batavia *Daily News,* November 22, 1964, 4. Margaret May died when a tractor trailer slammed into the passenger side of the Mays' car on the Thruway while the couple was traveling to a funeral in Buffalo. Mr. May, who was driving, was not injured.

[25] Rev. Arthur E. May, "Report from Harriet Tubman Home," ca. 1959.

[26] "Official Minutes of the One Hundred and Fifth Session of the Western New York Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. . .June 15–20, 1954," 39, Walls Papers.

[27] Sernett, 262; Rev. Arthur May, "Harriet Tubman Petty Cash Account," October 1960 to June 1961, Walls Papers, box 4; Letter, Arthur E. May to Bishop W. J. Walls, August 5, 1961, Walls Papers, box 4; "100 Attend Tubman Tea," *Citizen-Advertiser*, May 27, 1963, 3; Examination of existing trees and plants by author.

[28] Rev. Paul Carter, June 6, 2016. No information was found on the subject of the statue. According to Rev. Carter, it did not depict Harriet Tubman.

[29] George Metcalf, "A Look-See at Harriet Tubman," *Citizen-Advertiser*, March 14, 1956, 2-1: "There should now be purchased and erected a pole adequate in size and finely proportioned. What better way for the citizens of Auburn to show their pride in Mrs. Tubman than to contribute to such a worthy cause!"

[30] "Harriet Tubman Boosters Hold Annual Picnic," *The Citizen*, August 17, 1961, 2-1.

[31] Rev. Arthur E. May, "Report from Harriet Tubman Home," ca. 1959; New York State Military Museum, "Auburn State Street Armory," https://dmna.ny.gov/historic/armories/AuburnStateStreet.htm, and "Auburn South Street Armory," https://dmna.ny.gov/historic/armories/AuburnSouthStreet.htm (accessed February 7, 2017). The 1873 armory was sold to the City of Auburn and demolished in 1971 as part of the city's urban renewal program.

[32] "Notes & Quotes by Sadye J. Williams," New York *Age*, March 19, 1955, 17.

[33] "Notes & Quotes by Sadye J. Williams;" Brochure, "Program, Second Pilgrimage To the Harriet Tubman Home," September 14, 1954; "Federal Government May Aid Tubman Home in Building Institution for Old People," *Citizen-Advertiser*, August 1, 1957, 2-1.

[34] Brochure, "Program, Second Pilgrimage To the Harriet Tubman Home;" "Harriet Tubman Pilgrimage Set Aug. 1," *Citizen-Advertiser*, July 18, 1957, 2.

[35] "Harriet Tubman Boosters Set Picnic Wednesday at Tubman Home," *Citizen-Advertiser*, August 14, 1961, 5.

[36] "100 Attend Tubman Tea," *Citizen-Advertiser*, May 27, 1963, 3.

[37] Dedication plaque, Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building, 1983.

[38] Irene Tallman, "Auburn's shrine to faithful slave now silent, dark," *Citizen-Advertiser*, December 24, 1971, 9.

[39] "Tubman Boosters urge action by supervisors," *Citizen-Advertiser*, November 9, 1971, 24; Sernett, 262-263.

[40] "AME Zion rejects takeover of Harriet Tubman home," *Citizen-Advertiser*, February 24, 1972, 8.

[41] Quoted in "AME Zion rejects takeover of Harriet Tubman home."

[42] "Harriet Tubman's dream for elderly may come true," *Citizen-Advertiser*, July 8, 1972, 12; Sernett, 264.

[43] "Harriet Tubman's dream for elderly may come true"; inspection of existing fence with Sears emblem on gate.

[44] Walls, 1974, 444.

[45] "William J. Walls, A.M.E. Zion Bishop" (obituary), New York *Times,* April 24, 1975, 33. No subsequent newspaper reports on developing a home for the elderly was found. No church records were available for research.

[46] Marcia M. Greenlee, "Harriet Tubman Museum," National Register/National Historic Landmark Inventory-Nomination Form, July 1973, downloaded from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS), "Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged," 90PR04122. The National Historic Landmark program was conceived as part of a historic sites survey under the Historic Sites Act of 1935 intended to identify historic properties that should be acquired by the National Park Service and developed as national historic sites. This was not the intent of the 1974 listing of the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged.

[47] Sernett, 264, 276.

[48] Beardsley & Beardsley, "Rest Room Facility for Harriet Tubman Home," June 9, 1975, Harriet Tubman Memorial Library photograph binders.

[49] Linda Grotke, "Harriet Tubman Day draws 60 pilgrims," Auburn *Citizen,* May 25, 1976, 16; "Tubman Library Dedicated," Auburn *Citizen,* May 29, 1979, 1; American Institute of Architects, *American Architects Directory*, 1970, s.V. "Critchley, John York;" John York Critchley obituary, http://www.antiochcollege.edu/news/obituaries/obituary-john-york-critchley-39 (accessed August 9, 2018). Other buildings designed by Critchley in whole or part by 1970 included the Cayuga County Jail (1959), and the Ontario County Jail (1961); he also designed the "new" Presbyterian Church in Auburn and buildings at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

[50] Postcard of the "Home of Harriet Tubman" [frame house], "Reproduced by the Harriet Tubman Library Committee, H. B. Shaw, Bishop, L. Williams, Lib.," 1979, https://www.ebay.com/itm/303-HARRIET-TUBMAN-HOME-OWNED-NOW-BY-AME-ZION-CHURCH-UNDERGROUND-RAILROAD/153152617985?hash=item23a89b7e01:g:O34AAOSwRWRbSPNA (accessed August 29, 2018). No information was found on the restoration work done on the interior.

[51] Sernett, 265; Lula G. Williams, to Mr. Bruce L Clifford, City Manager, City of Auburn, March 9, 1978, Harriet Tubman Memorial Library scrapbooks; Sewer easement, AME Zion Church to Town of Fleming, May 1, 1976, in Owasco Abstract Corp., "Abstract of Title No. A733, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of America, 180-182 South Street, Tax Map No. 123.38-1-12, 123.03-1-40.1," undated, circa 2000 [hereafter, "Owasco Abstract of Title"]. The cellar hole is visible on a 1964 aerial photograph, which also shows the area maintained as meadow. The sewer line connected the library into a City of Auburn sewer line along the east side of South Street within a ten-foot easement that was built in ca. 1956.

[52] Walls, 444; Sernett, 267; Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building dedication plaque.

[53] Sernett, 267; Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building dedication plaque; inspection of site by authors, 2018.

[54] "Tubman Chronology" (unpublished paper, research compiled by Beth Crawford, updated 2017) [hereafter, "Crawford & Stearns Timeline/Chronology"]; Sernett, 267-268; Armstrong articles.

[55] Sernett, 269; Bylaws of Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., as amended December 16, 1997, transcript provided by Michael Long, e-mail to John Auwaerter, May 24, 2018; Beth Crawford, e-mail to John Auwaerter, May 29, 2018; Karen Hill, President and CEO, Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., meeting with SUNY ESF studio class, February 9, 2017.

[56] Suzanne R. Warren, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Properties Relating to Harriet Tubman in Auburn, New York" (Unpublished report, accepted by New York State Historic Preservation Officer, December 15, 1998, accepted by Keeper, April 2, 1999), New York State CRIS System, https://cris.parks.ny.gov/ (accessed June 4, 2018).

[57] Quoted in Robert Harding, "Hillary Clinton recalls visit to Auburn in new book, 'What Happened,'" Auburn *Citizen*, September 14, 2017, https://auburnpub.com/blogs/eye_on_ny/hillary-clinton-recalls-visit-to-auburn-in-new-book-what/article_a50dca40-98e3-11e7-9608-df1c90948b01.html (accessed May 31, 2018).

[58] Sernett, 268-269; Rev. Paul Carter, communication with John Auwaerter, June 6, 2018.

[59] Owasco Abstract of Title.

[60] Cayuga County Deeds, Book 297, page 334, transcript in Owasco Abstract of Title.

[61] Photographs taken in 1947 upon the wedding of Donald Norris to Eleanor Hopkins, show the barn without the "Norris' Delivery" sign, Norris family photographs, Crawford & Stearns; "Auburn School Board Lists Bus Transportation Schedule," *Citizen-Advertiser*, August 31, 1965, 16; Photo of concrete garage bays on Tubman barn in "Fire damages shelves, ceiling at Norris Bus garage on Sunday," *Citizen-Advertiser*, November 8, 1971, 9;"Frank Norris, 81, dies; retired delivery and bus service operator," *Citizen-Advertiser*, March 27, 1972, 3. The concrete garage bays do not appear on the 1964 aerial photograph.

[62] Donald Norris and Hazel Newert to The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of America, Cayuga County Deed Book 809, page 259, transcript in Owasco Abstract of Title.

[63] Beth Crawford, synopsis of Crawford & Stearns projects for Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., 1997-2012, in e-mail to John Auwaerter, May 31, 2018.

[64] Crawford & Stearns project synopsis.

[65] Scott W. Anderson, *Auburn, New York: The Entrepreneurs' Frontier* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2015), 213, 220; Seward House Museum, "History," http://www.sewardhouse.org/history/seward-house (accessed June 4, 2018).

[66] Auburn United Methodist Church, "Our History," http://www.auburnunitedmethodist.org/page/our_history_17091 (accessed June 1, 2018); Peter D. Shaver, *The National Register of Historic Places in New York State* (New York: Rizzoli, 1993), 32.

[67] Judith Wellman, Historical New York Research Associates, *Uncovering the Freedom Trail in Auburn and Cayuga County, New York* (Auburn: Laurentian Press, 2005); Sernett, 270.

[68] "Tubman's life inspires women," Auburn *Citizen*, August 21, 1983, 3; Wellman, 9; "District bishop visits Auburn on 100th birthday of Zion Church," *Citizen-Advertiser,* July 29, 1972, 9.

[69] Rebekah Krieger, "Historic Structure Report Part 1, Thompson African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church" (Draft National Park Service report, September 2018), 39.

[70] "Bishop Leads at Rededication of AME Zion Church Building," *Citizen-Advertiser*, April 9, 1956, quoted in Rebekah Krieger, "Historic Structure Report Part 1, Thompson African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church" (Draft National Park Service report, February 5, 2018), 57.

[71] "Landmark Needs Help," *Press-Observer*, September 7, 1983, 9.

[72] "Saving Zion church uphill struggle," Auburn *Citizen*, September 25, 1983, 1.

[73] "Saving Zion church uphill struggle;" Photograph of church, ca. 1965 without ramps and foundation parging, and ca. 2001, showing ramps and parging; inspection of parsonage interior by authors, June 2016.

[74] Rev. Paul Carter, discussion with John Auwaerter, June 6, 2018; Krieger, September 2018, 39; Wellman, 128; First Presbyterian Church, http://auburnfirst.typepad.com/first_presbyterian_church/the-old-first-church-and-calvary.html (accessed June 4, 2018); Crawford & Stearns photographs, ca. 2001. After 1993, the former Methodist church building fell into disrepair. In ca. 2007, the parish—unable to make the necessary repairs—moved a second time to the former Calvary Presbyterian Church at 90 Franklin Street on Auburn's east side, an older building erected in 1869, but in good condition Calvary Presbyterian Church dissolved in 2007.

[75] Sernett, 269, 271; Carter to Auwaerter, June 6, 2018; Crawford & Stearns project synopsis.

[76] Photo of gravesite, ca. 1983, showing no yews or urns to either side, Eve Holbert, "Tubman's life inspires women," Auburn *Citizen*, August 21, 1983, 3; Inspection of existing conditions by John Auwaerter, June 6, 2018. No information was found on why the McIntosh marker was moved next to the Tubman marker.

[77] Judith G. Bryant, telephone conversation with John Auwaerter, June 8, 2018.

[78] "AME Zion members have faith in their church," Auburn *Citizen*, April 26, 1987, 4; Sernett, 273; Karen Hill, President and CEO, Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., discussion with authors and SUNY ESF students, February 4, 2017.



**Figure 1.73. The frame house at #1 Danforth Street (Home for the Aged), looking east at west side of the ruined building, ca. 1948. Visible at left is one of the poles of the New York State Electric & Gas Company power line built in ca. 1931. (Seward House Collection)**



**Figure 1.74. The rebuilt frame house (Home for the Aged), looking northeast from the Tubman (Norris) house around the time of the rededication, April 1953. Note lack of development on the property to the north. (Norris Family photographs, courtesy of Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners)**



**Figure 1.75. Close-up of the rebuilt frame house (Home for the Aged) showing architectural details and shrubs planted along porch, looking northeast ca. 1953. (Harriet Tubman Memorial Library)**

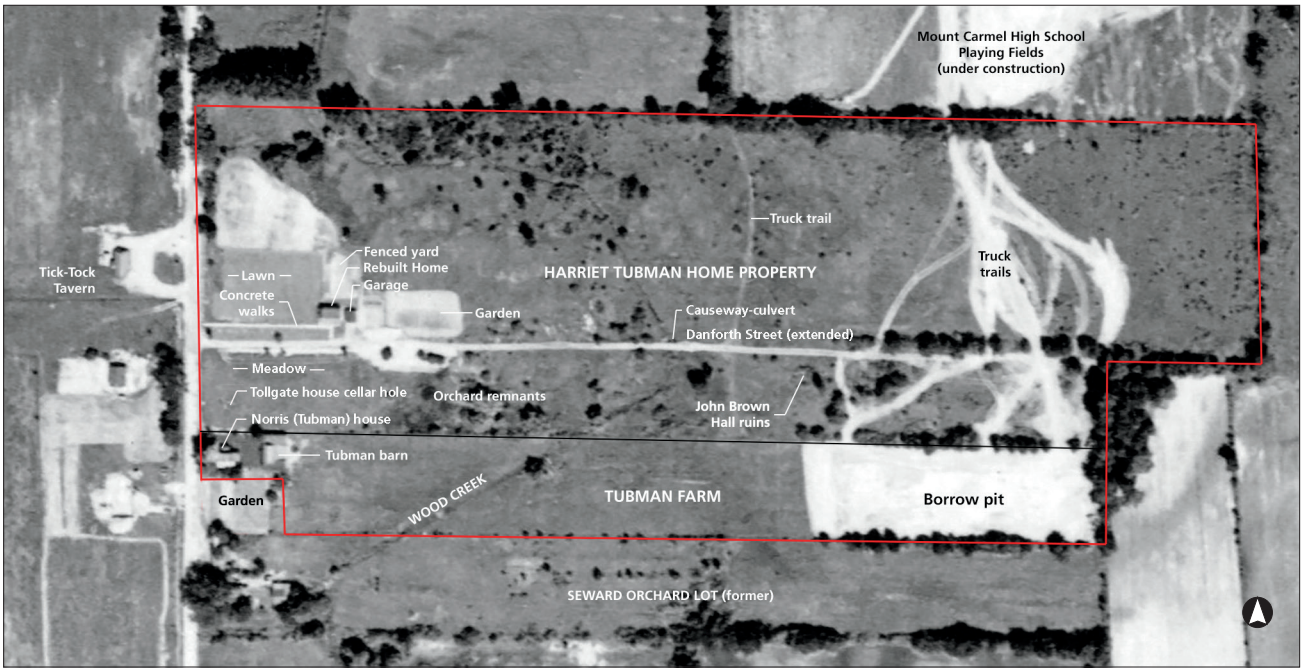



**Figure 1.76. Aerial photograph showing rebuilding of the frame house and related improvements between 1950 and 1954, along with recent development on adjacent properties, photographed 1954. The red line indicates the current park boundary. (Detail, New York State Aerial Photographs, Cornell University, ARW_2N_100, annotated by SUNY ESF)**




**Figure 1.77. Aerial photograph showing construction of Mount Carmel High School and transport of fill from the Tubman Farm, 1954. The red line indicates the current park boundary. (Detail, New York State Aerial Photographs, Cornell University, ARW_2N_100, annotated by SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 1.78. Unidentified group of visitors to the Harriet Tubman Home, looking northwest across the entrance road, ca. 1955. (Harriet Tubman Memorial Library)**



**Figure 1.79. The rebuilt frame house (Home for the Aged) showing the garage and grounds improvements made soon after the dedication during occupancy by Rev. and Mrs. May, 1955. This photo shows the young Norway spruce trees in the left background, the white picket fence at the rear of the house, the statue west of the house, and white-pained stones along the entrance road. The area south of the road, in the foreground, was maintained as meadow. The power line still stood, but is not visible in this photograph. (Norris Family photographs, courtesy of Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners)**



**Figure 1.80. Postcard view of the Home and its grounds showing plantings and other features maintained by Rev. and Mrs. May, looking northeast, ca. 1960. (Harriet Tubman Home)**

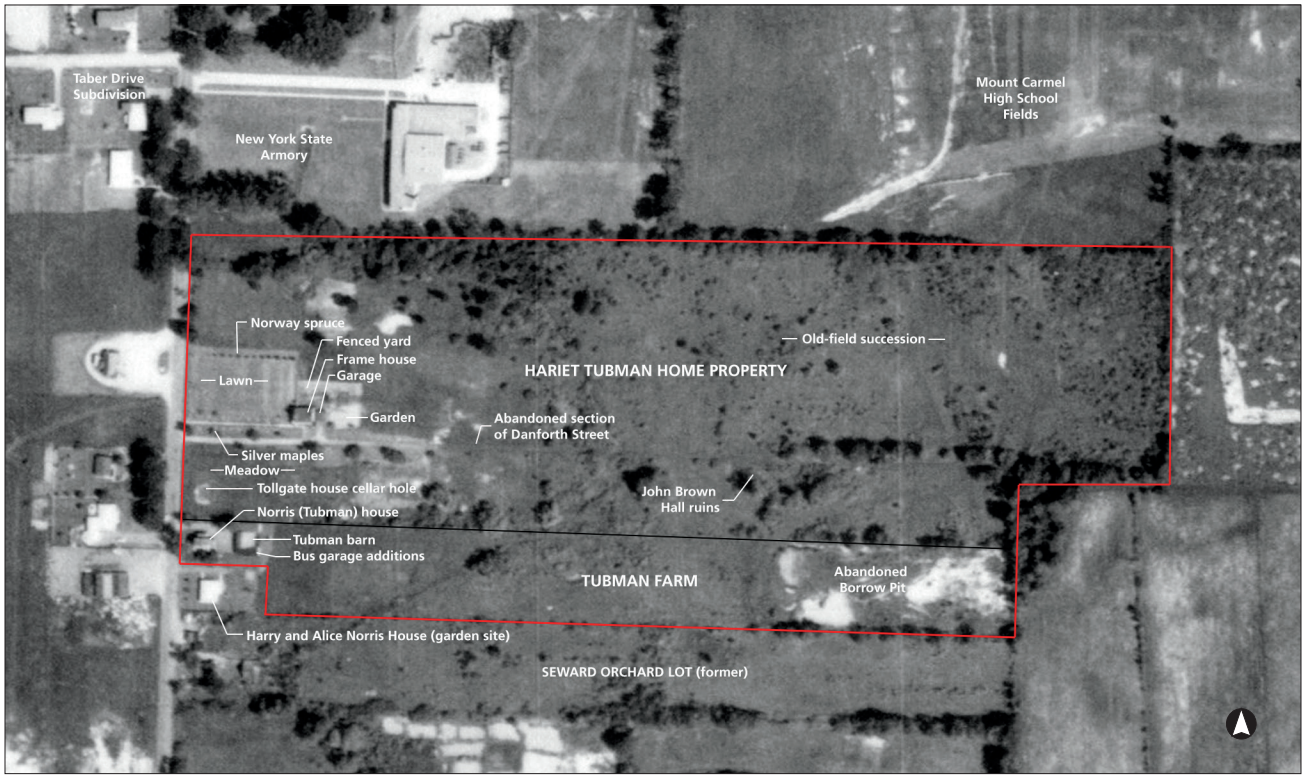
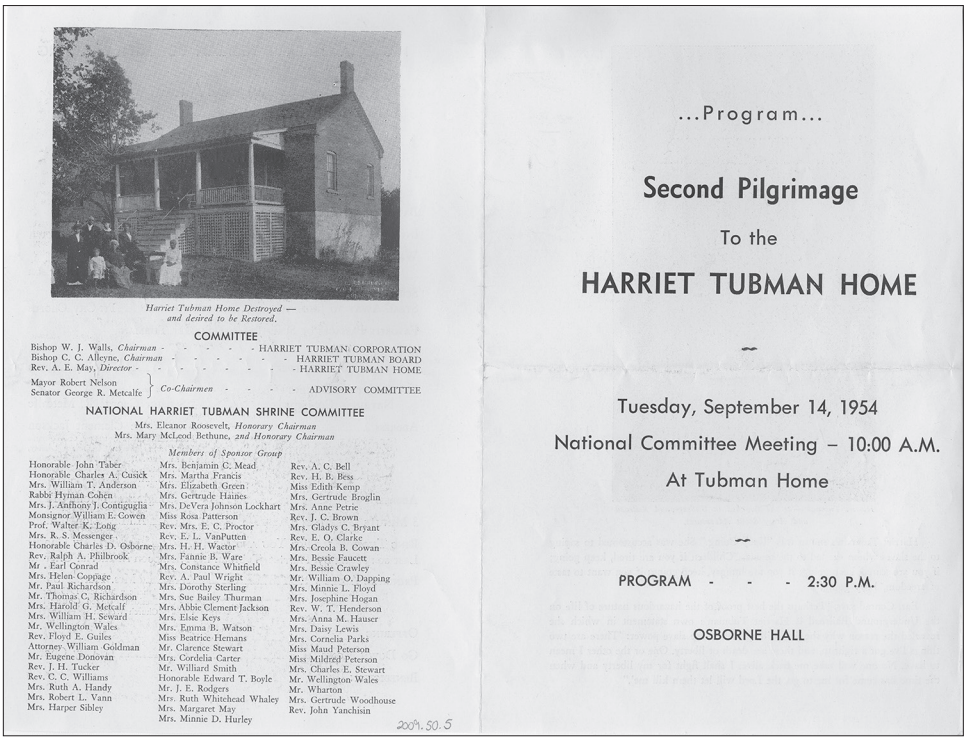



**Figure 1.81. Aerial photograph showing improvements to the west half of the Harriet Tubman Home property, and old-field succession on the east half, photographed 1964. The photo also shows the new state armory north of the Home, and the new Norris house on the garden site south of the Tubman house. A new residential subdivision is across from the armory entrance. The red line indicates the current park boundary. (Detail, New York State Aerial Photographs, Cornell University, ARW_1DD_217, annotated by SUNY ESF)**



*Harriet Tubman Home Destroyed — and desired to be Restored.*

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Bishop C. C. Alleyne, *Chairman* - - - - - - HARRIET TUBMAN BOARD
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2009.50.5

...Program...

Second Pilgrimage

To the

HARRIET TUBMAN HOME

Tuesday, September 14, 1954

National Committee Meeting – 10:00 A.M.

At Tubman Home

PROGRAM - - - 2:30 P.M.

OSBORNE HALL

**Figure 1.81. Front and back covers for the second annual pilgrimage, 1954. The caption below the photograph of John Brown Hall reads: "Harriet Tubman Home Destroyed--and desired to be Restored." (National Museum of African American History & Culture, 2009.50.5)**



**Figure 1.82. A group at the picket fence north of the frame house (Home for the Aged), probably during the annual picnic hosted by the Harriet Tubman Boosters, ca. 1960. (Harriet Tubman Memorial Library)**




**Figure 1.83. Entrance to the Harriet Tubman Home, looking east from South Street showing conditions following departure of Rev. Brown, summer 1971. The silver maple trees to either side of the walk were probably planted shortly before Rev. and Mrs. May left in 1964. (Harriet Tubman Memorial Library)**



**Figure 1.84. The frame house during management by Rev. Guthrie Carter, looking southeast, winter 1977. Most of the plantings had been removed along with the statue, but the ornamental urn, statue base, picket fence, and arbor remained. Note successional woods that were growing up in the rear of the property. (Harriet Tubman Memorial Library)**



**Figure 1.85. The Harriet Tubman Memorial Library built in 1978, looking east around the time of its dedication in 1979. (Harriet Tubman Memorial Library)**



**Figure 1.86. The new entrance piers, looking east from south Street, 1978. The entrance road was paved around the same time. Iron picket gates were later hung from the piers. (Harriet Tubman Memorial Library)**



**Figure 1.87. The Harriet Tubman Home property looking southwest from the dirt entrance road (Danforth Street) during construction of city sewer lines through the area, ca. 1976. The site was apparently used as a staging area; the sewer line was built along South Street Road. In the left background is the Tubman (Norris) house and barn, and across South Street Road are houses built in the 1950s. (Harriet Tubman Memorial Library).**



**Figure 1.88. The Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building built in 1983, looking east with the visitor parking lot at left, 2016. (SUNY ESF) [Need photo soon after completion]**

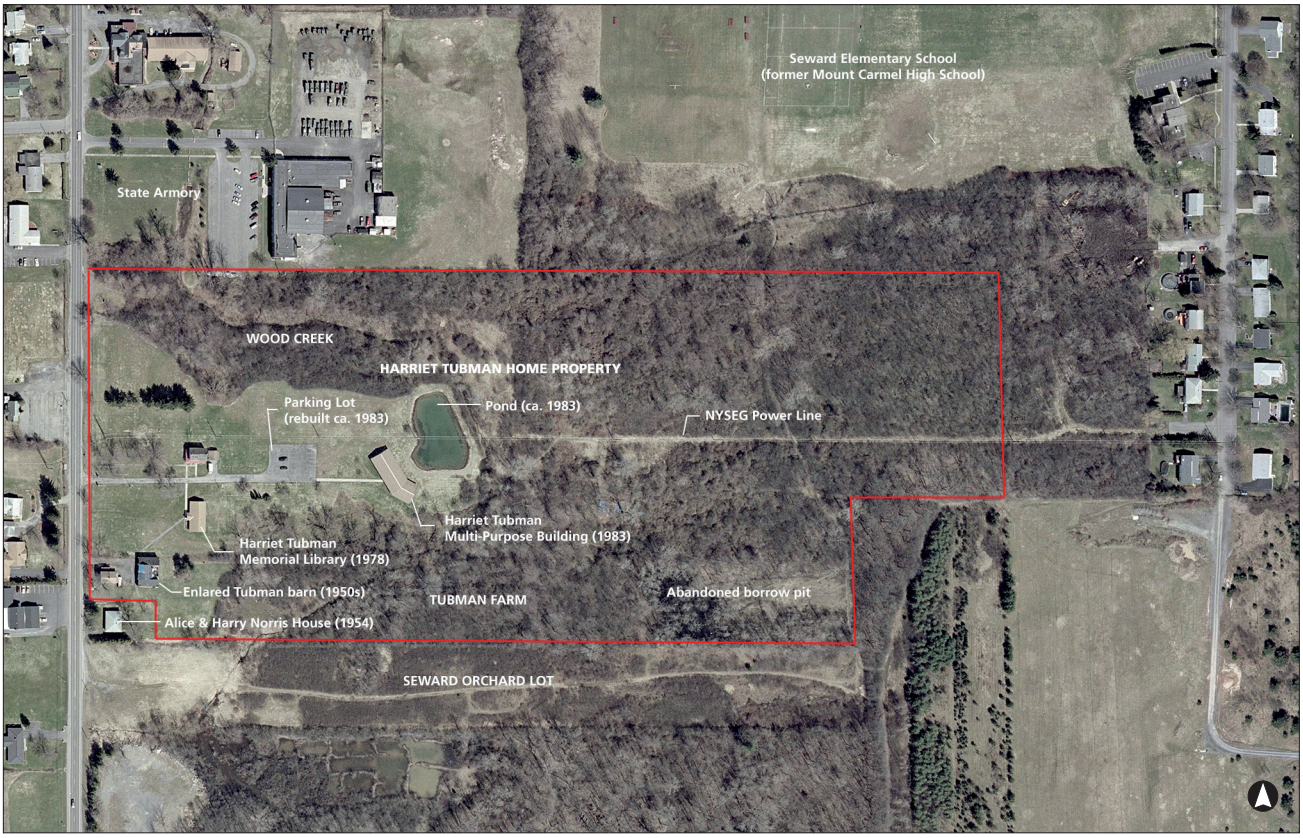



**Figure 1.89. Aerial photograph showing the Multi-Purpose Building and associated landscape features, and other changes to the property through the 1990s, photographed April 2003. Note woods that had grown up through old-field succession on both the Tubman Farm and Harriet Tubman Home property. The two houses and service station on the former Seward Orchard Lot had been removed by this time. (US Geologic Survey aerial photograph)**




**Figure 1.90. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton speaking from in front of the frame house (Home for the Aged) as part of the Save America's Treasures program, which provided a grant to the Harriet Tubman Home, July 1998. (White House Millennium Council, *America's Millennium*, 2000)**



**Figure 1.91 (right). The Alice and Harry Norton house, looking south showing rear north corner during a party on the south lawn of the Tubman house, ca. 1960. (Norris Family photographs, Crawford & Stearns Architects and Preservation Planners)**

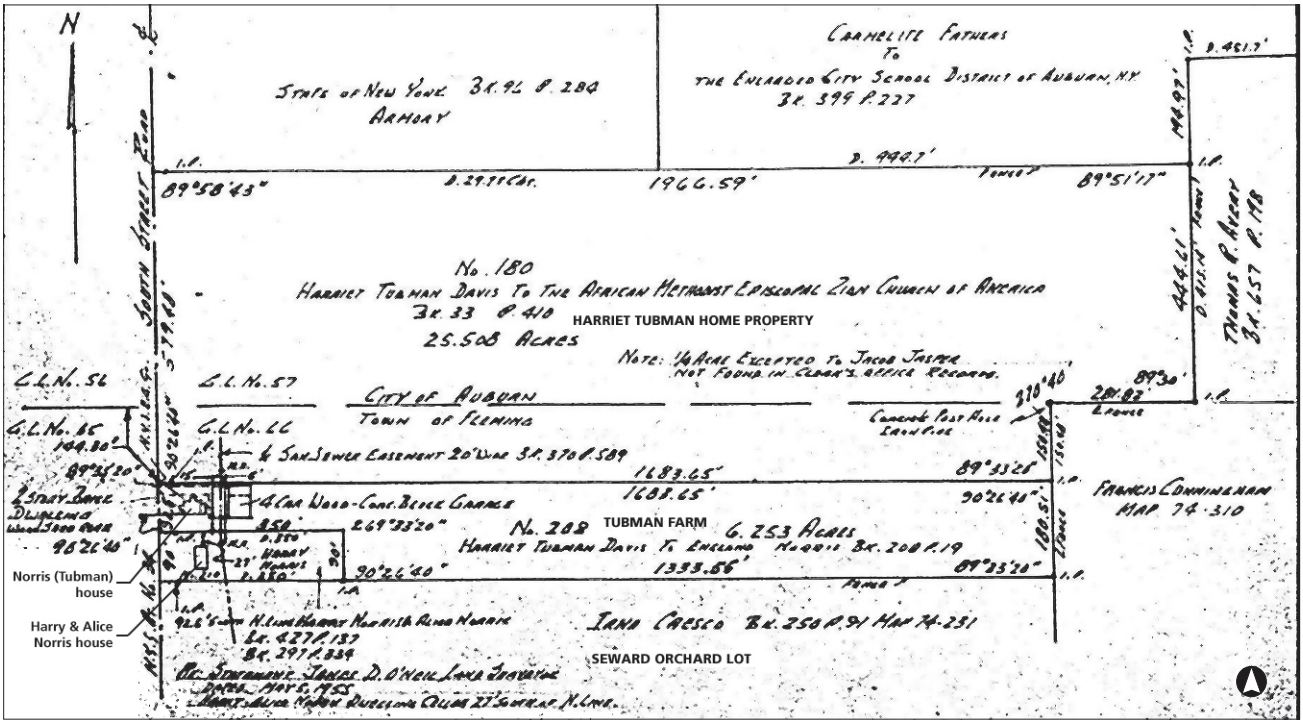



**Figure 1.92 (above). Survey of the Norris property (Tubman Farm) and Harriet Tubman Home property showing subdivision of third-acre parcel for the Harry and Alice Norton house built in 1954. (Eugene Gleason, "Survey Map of Property of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of America....[and] The Estate of Edith D. Norris," May 10, 1990)**




**Figure 1.93 (right). The Tubman barn showing its use as a garage for "Norris' Delivery," looking east, ca. 1950. The drop siding was probably added during a renovation in the 1920s. (Norris Family photographs, Crawford & Stearns Architects and Preservation Planners)**



**Figure 1.94. The Tubman barn with concrete-block bus garage bays added in the 1950s, looking south, ca. 2005. (Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners)**



**Figure 1.95. The Tubman house showing character that persisted through the Norris period of ownership, photographed ca. 2005. (Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners)**



**Figure 1.96. The Tubman barn following restoration, looking southwest at the rear shed addition and north side, 2009. (Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners)**



**Figure 1.97. The Tubman house following completion of the exterior restoration, 2012. (Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners)**

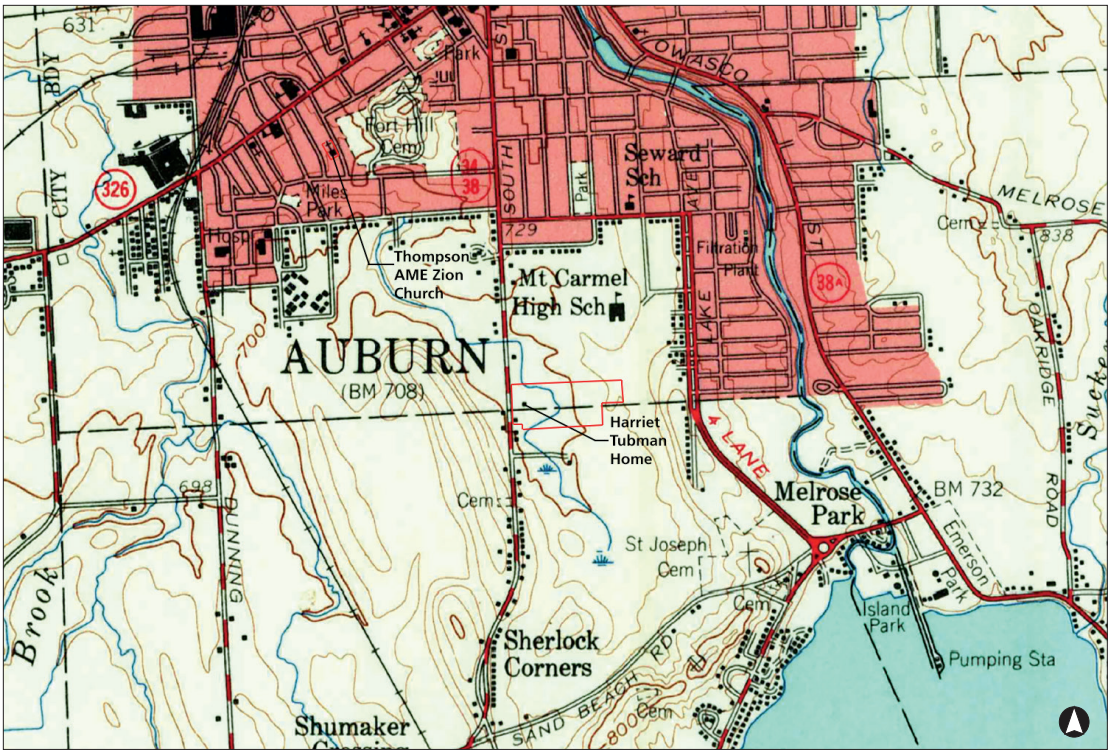



**Figure 1.98. Map of Auburn showing post-World War II suburban development along roads leading out of the city (indicated by rows of black squares), including South Street/NY 34, surveyed 1956. (Detail, US Geological Survey, Auburn 1:62500 quadrangle map, annotated by SUNY ESF)**

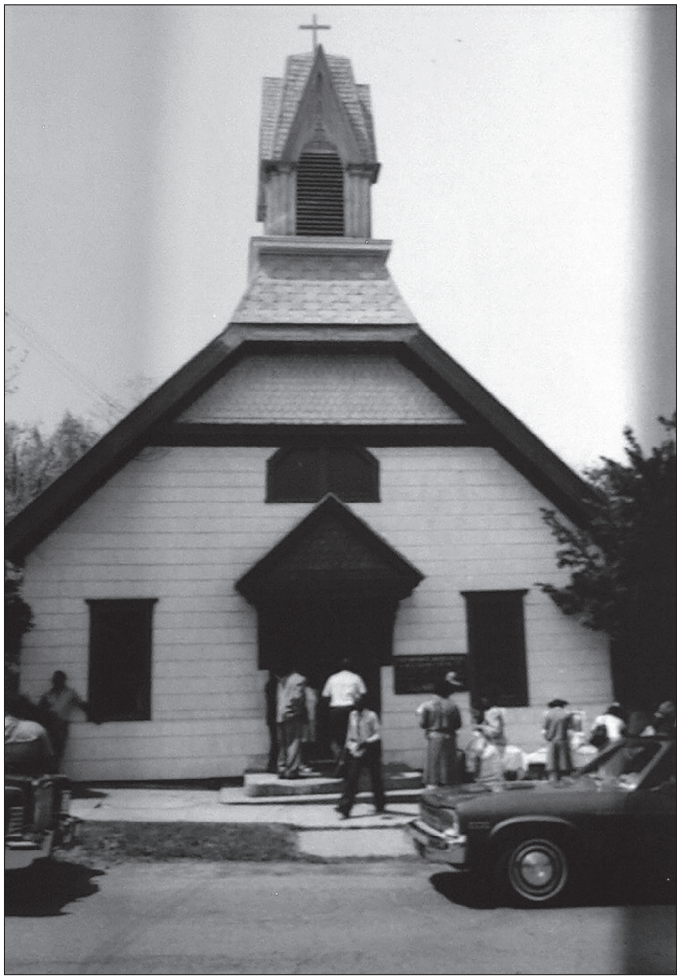


**Figure 1.99. Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, looking west across Parker Street, ca. 1975. (Harriet Tubman Memorial Library)**



**Figure 1.100. The Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church showing addition of concrete ramps, pipe railings, and concrete parging on the limestone foundation in ca. 1985, looking west across Parker Street, ca. 2001. The evergreens at the corners were yew trees planted in ca. 1940, probably when the asbestos shingle siding was added. (Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners)**




**Figure 1.101. The parsonage showing replacement timber porch posts, railings, steps, and skirting installed ca. 1985, looking southwest from Parker Street, 2016. The white asbestos shingle siding was installed in ca. 1940. (SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 1.102. Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church showing state-grant-funded work that included roof and window stabilization, and removal of asbestos shingle siding, looking southwest, ca. 2003. The roof was subsequently resheathed with wood shingles in 2005. (Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners)**




**Figure 1.97. The Tubman gravesite during the annual pilgrimage, looking west, 2013. The yews to either side were planted in ca. 1990. ("Harriet's time: Annual Tubman pilgrimage taking place as abolitionist's name fills the news," Auburn *Citizen*, May 19, 2016)**

# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## 1949–2016

### Harriet Tubman Home Property and Tubman Farm


**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
www.nps.gov/oclp

in partnership with
Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, www.esf.edu/la/cclp


**Key to Harriet Tubman Home Grounds Features**
1. Concrete entrance walks (ca. 1952)
2. Foundation shrubs, planting beds (ca. 1952/54)
3. Concrete entrance walk planting beds (ca. 1954)
4. Two-car garage (1954–2012)
5. Norway spruce windbreak (ca. 1954)
6. *Picket fence and arbor (ca.1955–1980)*
7. *White stones along entrance road (ca. 1954–1978)*
8. *Statue (ca. 1955–1970)*
9a, 9b. *Planter urn*, stone base (ca. 1955, moved ca. 1985)
10. Flagpole (1956)
11. Silver maple allee (ca. 1964)
12. Utility poles/street lights (ca. 1972, 1983)
13. Entrance gates (ca. 1978)
14. Library entrance walk (1978)
15. Lawn planting beds (ca. 1985)
16. Typical tent locations (pilgrimage, picnic)

## SOURCES


1. City of Auburn map, 1904
2. USGS Auburn Quadrangle, 1943
3. Norris panoramic photograph, ca. 1943
4. Searing, Norris, and Putter photographs, ca. 1925–1947
5. Aerial photograph, 1938
6. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016


## DRAWN BY

John Auwaerter, Ilustrator CC, 2018

## LEGEND

- 2016 Parcel Boundary
- NPS Legislated Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Building
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Bridge or Culvert
- Brick Walk
- Trail or Road Trace
- Utility Line
- Fence
- Deciduous Tree
- Orchard
- Shrubs
- Successional Woods
- Conifer Woods
- Lawn
- Stream
- Wetlands
- 5' Contours
- Clay Pit
- Feature Removed During Period

## NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Plan does not document all changes in vegetation or composition of planting beds.
3. Reduced detail documented in landscape outside of park boundaries.

0' 100' 200' 300'

**Drawing 1.8**

# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## 1949–2016

### Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and Tubman Gravesite


**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
www.nps.gov/oclp

in partnership with
Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, www.esf.edu/la/cclp


## SOURCES

1. Hopkins, City of Auburn Atlas, 1882
2. City of Auburn map, 1904
3. Aerial photograph, 1938
4. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016

## DRAWN BY

John Auwaerter, Illustrator CC, 2018

## LEGEND

- 1949 Parcel Boundary
- NPS Boundary
- Grave Plot
- Grave Section Boundary
- Building
- Paved Road
- Curb
- Unpaved Road
- Concrete Sidewalk
- Concrete Sidewalk
- Walk (unknown type)
- Fence (unknown type)
- Chain-link Fence
- Deciduous Tree
- Grave Marker
- Lawn/Other Ground
- 2' Contours
- Feature Removed During Period

## NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Grave markers in Fort Hill Cemetery not shown.
3. Landscape details outside of church property not shown or presumed.

0' 50' 100' 150'

**Drawing 1.9**

## EPILOGUE: ESTABLISHMENT OF HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

The designation of the Harriet Tubman Home (frame house) as a National Historic Landmark in 1974 marked the beginning of efforts by the A.M.E. Zion Church and its partners to gain National Park Service recognition and assistance with preserving the Tubman properties in Auburn. The idea that these properties could be associated with the National Park System began in large part with the recommendations of a 1996 National Park Service report, "Special Resource Study of the Underground Railroad." The report recommended that the Home for the Aged (Harriet Tubman Home) and the area where Tubman grew up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland were "considered to be high potential candidates for interpretation of the Underground Railroad story and could also have some association with the National Park System"[1] A year after the Special Resource Study was completed, the A.M.E. Zion Church established Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., which over the next two decades would be major force together with the City of Auburn and other local supporters in elevating the Tubman sites in Auburn to become part of the National Park System.

Based on the recommendations of the 1996 Special Resource Study and buoyed by publicity through awarding of Save America's Treasures grants to the Harriet Tubman Home, Congress authorized a second Special Resource Study in 2000, entitled the "Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study Act." The law directed the National Park Service to study the preservation and public use of sites associated with Harriet Tubman in Auburn.[2] As completed in 2008 by the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, the study and its related Environmental Impact Statement addressed Tubman sites in both Auburn and Maryland. The report concluded that resources in both states met the criteria for designation as potential units of the National Park System in terms of national significance, suitability, feasibility, and the need for NPS management. [3]

During preparation of the Special Resource Study, the A.M.E. Zion Church made clear to the park service that it did not want to give up its legacy at the Harriet Tubman Home, including ownership of the property on South Street and management by The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. This became a principle component of the report's recommended preferred management alternative for the Auburn sites. It called for a partnership with the Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. to "promote efficiencies through a financial and interpretive relationship that ensures resource protection and sustains the AME Zion Church's century old stewardship of Harriet Tubman's Home for the Aged and other more recent additions to the National Historic Landmark properties at that location."[4]

Following release of the study, the National Park Service considered making the Auburn sites an affiliated part of the National Park System, rather than a full unit. This designation would not have required federal ownership of any land, but instead would have created a mechanism whereby the park service could provide technical support and some staffing. Karen Hill, President and CEO of The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. acting on behalf of the church, felt this was not an acceptable alternative. After extensive negotiations, the park service agreed that the Auburn sites could be designated as a national historical park—a full unit of the National Park System that allowed for inclusion of both private and federal land, as well as joint management. At the time, the federal government did not yet own any portion of the Tubman sites in Auburn. [5]

Karen Hill, federal representatives, and local supporters continued to press Congress to establish the Tubman park units. Legislation was introduced in 2008 and reintroduced in each of the following three sessions, but none of the bills was passed. Without Congressional action, President Barak Obama—the country's first African-American President—used his power through the Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish part of the park recommended in the Special Resource Study. On March 25, 2013, he designated a 480-acre property at the Maryland site, which was donated to the federal government by The Conservation Fund, as the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument, a new unit of the National Park System. Because the Antiquities Act required property to be in federal ownership, President Obama could not designate the church-owned Tubman sites in Auburn as a national monument.[6]

In 2014, Congress passed the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act and it was signed into law by President Obama. Included within the legislation was authorization to establish two new national park units associated with Harriet Tubman: Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Maryland, and Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn. These were created as partner parks that capped federal expenditures to no more than fifty percent of costs. The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, which encompassed the smaller area previously designated as a national monument, authorized expansion of the park to 4,208 acres. Because the federal government already owned a portion of the park, it was established upon passage of the law. Harriet Tubman National Historical Park was authorized at approximately thirty-two acres. The legislation, as codified, stated the following purpose of the park: "to preserve and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the life of Harriet Tubman" (16 US Code, Section 410ttt; legislation text in Appendix A). The designation covered the properties designated as National Historic Landmarks in 1974 and 2001—the old Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church in the City of Auburn, and the Harriet Tubman Home property, including the

Tubman Farm that straddled the City of Auburn and Town of Fleming boundary. The park boundaries excluded the 1954 Norris house lot that was historically part of the Tubman Farm, and the Tubman grave in Fort Hill Cemetery that had been excluded from the 2001 National Historic Landmark boundary expansion. Unlike the Maryland unit, the Auburn unit could not be established at the time the legislation was passed because the federal government did yet not own any of the Tubman property in Auburn. To create the park, some portion had to be in federal ownership.[7]

Over the next three years, the National Park Service and The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. negotiated on how to established the Auburn park unit. HTH, Inc. President and CEO Karen Hill successfully championed a proposal to have the church convey ownership of the half-acre Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church property to NPS, which would allow the Secretary of the Interior to officially establish Harriet Tubman National Historical Park.[8] Sale to the federal government, upon an agreed price of $40,000, was delayed due to complications with relinquishment of a non-profit property that contained state preservation covenants from two state grants awarded in the early 2000s. In 2016, the state released the covenants to address federal requirement that the property be unencumbered. On December 8, 2016, the church transferred ownership of the half-acre property to The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., and a short time later, the deed transferring ownership to the federal government was executed on December 30, 2016. Funds for acquisition of the property were made possible through a grant provided by the National Park Foundation.[9]

On January 7, 2017, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell signed papers establishing Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn as the 414th unit of the National Park System. Jewell was joined by New York's Congressional delegation along with Karen Hill and Bishop Dennis Proctor, Chairman of The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. Bishop Proctor praised creation of the park as part of the enduring legacy of Harriet Tubman:

> The establishment of this park symbolizes our country honoring Harriet Tubman for her entire life of service as a soldier for God and country. As a partnership park it represents the best of the National Park Service to ensure the duality of its resiliency and the goal of diversity. For the Harriet Tubman Home and her beloved AME Zion Church, the park ensures our ability to continue to lift up more dynamically Tubman's core values of freedom, family, faith, community, justice, self-determination and equality. Lastly, the park designation will spur economic engines of progress for Central New York.[10]

Following establishment of the national historical park, the National Park Service worked with The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. to execute a preservation easement on the property, and also to forge a management agreement that will provide a framework for joint management of the church-owned Harriet

Tubman Home and Tubman Farm properties on South Street. At the National Park Service-owned Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church on Parker Street, work began in 2018 on stabilization of the church exterior and exterior restoration of the parsonage. A series of planning documents, including this cultural landscape report as well as a historic structure report on the church and parsonage, were launched to guide resource management and park development. Park service personnel assist Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. with staffing at the South Street properties as both institutions continue to refine a joint vision for stewardship of Harriet Tubman's legacy.[11]

**ENDNOTES, EPILOGUE**

[1] National Park Service, Northeast Region, "Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study / Environmental Assessment" (Unpublished National Park Service report, November 2008), 1-2.

[2] "Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study Act," 114 Stat. 2404 Public Law 106-516, November 13, 2000.

[3] Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study, ii-iii.

[4] Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study, iii; Michael Long, meeting with SUNY ESF landscape architecture studio, January 27, 2017.

[5] Karen Hill, meeting with SUNY ESF landscape architecture studio, February 4, 2017.

[6] The Conservation Fund, "Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument," https://www.conservationfund.org/projects/harriet-tubman-underground-railroad-national-monument (accessed August 10, 2018).

[7] Ken Sturtz, "President Obama signs measure creating Harriet Tubman national parks in Central New York, Maryland," syracuse.com, December 19, 2014, https://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/12/president_obama_signs_measure_creating_harriet_tubman_national_parks_in_central.html (accessed August 10, 2018); Robert Hardin, "Hochul supports Tubman park," Auburn *Citizen*, April 24, 2015, 1. Both park units were authorized under Public Law 113-291 (Section 3035) of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2015.

[8] Karen Hill, February 4, 2017.

[9] Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. to United States of America, December 30, 2016, Cayuga County deeds, volume 1654, page 306; US Department of Interior press release, "Secretary Jewell Formally Establishes Harriet Tubman National Historical Park," January 10, 2016 [sic], https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-jewell-formally-establishes-harriet-tubman-national-historical-park (accessed August 10, 2018).

[10] Quoted in "Secretary Jewell Formally Establishes Harriet Tubman National Historical Park."

[11] Karen Hill, February 4, 2017.

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

Since 1903, the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church—known as the Freedom Church—has owned and operated the Harriet Tubman Home to honor the life and work of Harriet Tubman (fig. 2.1). The church, according to the Home's website, "…has maintained a living memory that will honor the legacy of Harriet Tubman and the freedom movement she so eloquently represented for decades of future generations."[1] This legacy is today being extended through the newly-established Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, a partnership between the National Park Service and The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., the management entity affiliated with the A.M.E. Zion Church. The park consists of both private and federal land in two different locations in the City of Auburn and Town of Fleming.

This chapter provides a concise overview of park operations, the physical and political context of the park, and the park's cultural landscape. Existing conditions plans at the end of the chapter (Drawings 1.1, 1.2, 1.3) document the landscape described in the text. Additional existing conditions documentation on landscape features is found in Chapter 3, Analysis and Evaluation.

## ADMINISTRATION AND USE

Harriet Tubman National Historical Park (HART) was officially established on January 10, 2017 based on enabling legislation passed in 2014. As a new unit of the National Park System, Harriet Tubman National Historical Park has as of yet few site-specific planning documents to guide administration, use, and development of the park landscape.

Although created by the same 2014 legislation, there is no shared management with HART's sister park, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park (HATU) in Dorchester County on Maryland's Eastern Shore, 350 miles due south of Auburn. The Harriet Tubman National Historical Park website contains a link to the Maryland park, "Journey through the Underground Railroad." [2]

The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. is a private not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation responsible for management of The Harriet Tubman Home and its stakeholder interests. It is headed by Karen V. Hill, President and CEO, and a Board of Directors chaired by Rt. Rev. Dennis V. Proctor, Bishop of the North Eastern District of the A.M.E. Zion Church. The board membership is composed of other bishops and clergy of the church, along with lay people including Pauline Copes Johnson, a great-great-grandniece of Harriet Tubman.[3]

The Harriet Tubman Home is one of Auburn's main tourist attractions, along with the William H. Seward House, the Tiffany-designed Willard Chapel, and the city's museums. Nearby is Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls and Waterloo. These sites are promoted in a recently-built state-funded regional visitor center located downtown at 25 South Street, adjacent to the Seward House and across from Auburn City Hall. Named the "Equal Rights Heritage Center," the building houses a state heritage promotion center, a Taste New York Market to highlight local foods, and a local tourism promotion/visitor information center for Auburn, Cayuga County, and the surrounding region. A 7.5-foot-tall statue of Harriet Tubman, by sculptor Brian Hanlon of Toms River, New Jersey, adorns the main entrance. While the legacy of Harriet Tubman will feature prominently in the heritage center's displays, the facility is not intended as a visitor center for Harriet Tubman National Historical Park.[4]

#### PARK BOUNDARIES

Harriet Tubman National Historical Park consists of two geographically separate components: the Harriet Tubman Home on South Street owned by the A.M.E. Zion Church of America (national church), and the former Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church on Parker Street owned by NPS (fig. 2.2). The South Street component is comprised of two historically distinct parcels: the Harriet Tubman Home property (25.5 acres) and the Tubman Farm including the Tubman house (6.25 acres). The southwestern corner of the South Street property, a privately-owned parcel (0.72 acre) containing a house built by the Norris family in 1954, is outside park boundaries, although it was historically part of the Tubman Farm. The Tubman gravesite, located within the privately-owned and maintained Fort Hill Cemetery, is also outside park boundaries.

The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. (HTH, Inc.) owns two parcels of approximately 1.8 acres located across South Street from the Harriet Tubman Home, both of which are outside park boundaries (see fig. 2.2). The northern parcel is an open field and the southern parcel contains the former Tic Toc Tavern, a Cape Cod-style house erected in ca. 1950 that is presently used for storage. HTH, Inc. acquired these parcels, which were part of the Beardsley estate during Harriet Tubman's lifetime, to protect the setting of the Harriet Tubman Home.[5]

#### HARRIET TUBMAN HOME ADMINISTRATION

The Harriet Tubman Home property, including the Tubman Farm, is maintained and operated by The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. (HTH, Inc.) in partnership with NPS. The Home property contains the Home for the Aged (frame house) that is open by guided tour. Across the entrance road to the south is the Harriet

Tubman Memorial Library, which contains administrative offices and a research library open to visitors by appointment. At the east end of the entrance road is the Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building, which functions as the site's visitor center. It offers a film, historical and archaeological exhibits, and a small store. South of the library within the historic limits of the Tubman Farm are Harriet Tubman's brick house and frame barn, which are closed to the public.

In addition to providing guided tours and maintaining the grounds, HTH, Inc. also supports the annual Harriet Tubman Pilgrimage, which has traditionally been held in part at The Harriet Tubman Home (fig. 2.3). The pilgrimage features presentations, musical performances, and other activities that are held in town in a large white tent set up east of the frame house. A core part of the pilgrimage is a memorial service at the Tubman gravesite in Fort Hill Cemetery (fig. 2.4).[6]

Rev. Paul Carter and his wife, Christine Carter, have served as the site managers of The Harriet Tubman Home site since 1992. They have been responsible for providing public tours and maintaining the grounds with the aid of volunteers. Annual visitation to the site in recent years has been around 10,000, including many school groups.[7] As of summer, 2018, NPS is assisting with public orientation and program support by providing two interpretive rangers from Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls and Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome. This has enabled HTH, Inc. to maintain regular hours to the public, up to six day per week. Free tours are conducted daily at 10:00, 12:00, and 2:00. Maintenance staff from Women's Rights are also assisting by mowing grass and undertaking other grounds work as needed on a weekly basis.[8]

The 2014 park legislation (16 U.S. Code Section 410ttt) provides some general administrative parameters, primarily concerning the execution of agreements since the park was conceived as a partnership with The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. (and by extension, the A.M.E. Zion Church). Under Section (c) (3), Agreements, the legislation states:

> (A) In general: The Secretary [NPS] may enter into an agreement with the owner of any land within the historical park to mark, interpret, or restore nationally significant historic or cultural resources relating to the life of Harriet Tubman, if the agreement provides that—
>
> (i) the Secretary shall have the right of access to any public portions of the land covered by the agreement to allow for—
>
> (I) access at reasonable times by historical park visitors to the land; and
>
> (II) interpretation of the land for the public; and
>
> (ii) no changes or alterations shall be made to the land except by mutual agreement of the Secretary and the owner of the land.[9]

To fulfill these provisions, NPS and The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. executed a "General Agreement" on December 9, 2016, prior to establishment of the park.

The NPS is presently negotiating with The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. to execute two supplemental management agreements: 1. Implementation Agreement (per Section A, i): defines the framework for the cooperative management of church-owned property (Harriet Tubman Home); 2. Preservation Easement (per Section A, ii): defines the general parameters for preservation of the cultural resources on the church-owned property and defines the roles of NPS and The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc.[10]

#### THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

The Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and parsonage were vacated for religious use in 1993, and sold to the federal government in December 2016. While the A.M.E. Zion Church of America today has no legal ownership in the property, it maintains a keen interest in the property's history and association with Harriet Tubman. The current home of the Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church is at 90 Franklin Street in Auburn. The parish recently renamed itself the Harriet Tubman A.M.E. Zion Church.

The church and parsonage are presently closed to the public, but are visible from Parker Street. NPS is presently stabilizing the exteriors of the parsonage and the church. The NPS Northeast Region Historic Architecture, Conservation, & Engineering Center is developing a historic structure report for both buildings that will guide restoration and rehabilitation to accommodate park use. To date, planning for future park use of the site has not been finalized. Working plans call for the rehabilitated parsonage, scheduled for completion by winter 2019, to serve as an NPS visitor support service center.[11]

### PARK CONTEXT

Harriet Tubman National Historical Park is located in two municipalities: the City of Auburn and the Town of Fleming. Auburn is the seat of Cayuga County and is part of the Syracuse-Auburn Combined Statistical Area. As of July 1, 2017, the city had an estimated population of 26,704, a decrease of 3.6 percent since 2010. Approximately ten percent of the city population is Black or African American. The percent of persons living in poverty is 16.2 percent.[12] The Town of Fleming is a suburban-rural municipality south of Auburn that has an estimated 2016 population of 2,614, which has remained largely unchanged since 2010. Two people were counted as Black or African American. The percent of persons living in poverty is 2.7 percent.[13]

**HARRIET TUBMAN HOME CONTEXT** (DRAWING 2.1)

The Harriet Tubman Home (Home property, Tubman Farm) is located along South Street (NY 34, Harriet Tubman Memorial Highway). This road is part of a north-south two-lane state highway that begins in Oswego near Lake Ontario and extends south of Auburn through Ithaca to the Pennsylvania state line. South Street is the main north-south road in Auburn and forms part of the primary downtown intersection with Genesee Street, the main east-west road. From Genesee Street south to Metcalf Drive/Clymer Street, about a third of mile north of The Harriet Tubman Home, South Street is a residential neighborhood of large houses, most from the city's heyday during the 19th and early 20th centuries. This was the route Harriet Tubman walked from her house into town. The street has a more urban character toward the older north end (fig. 2.5). Here is located the William Seward House Museum, a National Historic Landmark that was the home of one of Harriet Tubman's chief supporters. The south end features larger early 20th-century residential properties characterized by gardens, spacious lawns, and shade trees (fig. 2.6). Throughout its length, South Street is lined by sidewalks, curbs, and cast-iron light standards. The one-mile-long neighborhood is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the South Street Area Historic District, and is also a locally designated under Auburn's historic preservation ordinance.

Prior to World War II, Metcalf Drive/Clymer Street marked the southern limits of Auburn's urban development, although the actual city boundary with the Town of Fleming was a third-mile to the south. South Street south of Metcalf Drive/Clymer Street today transitions to a two-lane road without curbs, street trees, or ornamental street lights, and is lined by suburban houses and successional old-fields (fig. 2.7). This character reflects remnants of the historic rural setting that existed during Harriet Tubman's lifetime.

The Harriet Tubman Home straddles the boundary of the City of Auburn, one mile northwest of Owasco Lake (fig. 2.8). The site is within a shallow valley and extends onto uplands to the east. It is crossed by Wood Creek, a tributary of Crane Brook that flows north through the Seneca-Oneida-Oswego Rivers Drainage Basin within the Lake Ontario watershed.[14] West, northwest, and east of the Harriet Tubman Home within the City of Auburn are post-World War II residential subdivisions. Strip residential development characterizes much of Route 34 in the Town of Fleming. Directly across from the Home are four suburban houses, one of which is owned by Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. (former Tic-Toc Tavern) (figs. 2.9, 2.10). These houses back up to an expanse of farmland within the Town of Fleming that is uninterrupted by development (see fig. 2.8)

Due south of the Harriet Tubman Home is a seven-acre parcel that was historically owned by the William Seward family and was planted with a large

orchard during Harriet Tubman's lifetime (see figs. 2.8, 2.9). It today is covered in successional woods and contains open ground off the road that was cleared of early 20th-century buildings in the recent past. The next parcel to the south is the former Farmer property, which contained a brick yard during Harriet Tubman's lifetime and retains numerous abandoned clay pits along Wood Creek, along with two Tubman-era brick houses. Most of the parcel is covered in successional woods. At the top of the hill east of the Home property are wooded parcels and the 1960s-era residential Kearney Avenue neighborhood (fig. 2.11).

The entire northern and eastern boundary of the Home property is bordered by public lands. These include the New York State-owned Auburn South Street Armory that is the base for the 102nd Military Police Battalion, a unit of the New York Army Reserve National Guard.[15] The sixteen-acre parcel contains the armory building that was constructed in 1958 and expanded in 2006 (fig. 2.12, see also figs. 2.8, 2.9). The secured fenced area around the armory building is accessed from an entrance road off South Street known as Danforth Avenue (the entrance road to the Harriet Tubman Home was historically known as Danforth Street). The front half of the property outside the secured area is crossed by Wood Creek and contains a seldom-used parking lot. The armory is screened from The Harriet Tubman Home by woods that are mostly on the Home property. The southwest corner of the armory property is the site of a house that belonged to Harriet Tubman's brother, William H. Stewart, Sr. The site is presently wooded with no visible trace of the house and outbuildings, which were demolished during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. Stewart's property historically extended into the northwest corner of the existing Harriet Tubman Home property.

East of the armory and adjacent to the eastern part of the Harriet Tubman Home is Auburn city school district property developed in 1954/55 (see fig. 2.8). Comprised of approximately sixty acres, it contains Seward Elementary School that is accessed off Metcalf Drive, playing fields, and a wooded area along the boundary with the Home. A trail (former truck trail) extends from the playing fields into the Home property.

The eastern boundary of the Home property is bordered by a 3.3-acre undeveloped, wooded parcel owned by the City of Auburn and crossed by the NYSEG power transmission line. The parcel was purportedly acquired by the city to provide a buffer to the Harriet Tubman Home.[16]

#### THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH CONTEXT (DRAWING 2.3)

The Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church is located in a historically African-American neighborhood west of downtown Auburn and Fort Hill Cemetery, and south of

Genesee Street (fig. 2.13). The church is 0.9 miles from the center of downtown at South Street and Genesee Street, and 1.3 miles from The Harriet Tubman Home. The neighborhood, which includes Parker Street, Garrow Street, Park Place, Woodlawn Avenue, and Fitch Street, was developed after the Civil War.

Parker Street is an unstriped asphalt road with recently rebuilt concrete sidewalks, partial concrete curbs, and few street trees (fig. 2.14). Overhead power lines are along the east side of the street, across from the church. Parker Street is lined by modest single-family houses from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. An exception is a house across from the parsonage that was built in ca. 2000 on a double lot that had been undeveloped since Harriet Tubman's lifetime. The lot, like all others on the east side of Parker Street, extend back to Fort Hill Cemetery.

The property adjacent to the north side of the parsonage at 45 Parker Street is a ca. 1870 two-story gable-front and ell house that is the long-time home of Pauline Copes Johnson, a great-great grandniece of Harriet Tubman (fig. 2.15). Adjacent to the church to the south at 51 Parker Street is a larger two-story gable-front and ell house of a similar age that was the late 19th-century home of Harriet Tubman's nephew, John Henry Ross Stewart (fig. 2.16). Both houses have enclosed porches, asbestos shingle or vinyl siding, and replacement windows.

#### **Harriet Tubman Gravesite** (Drawing 2.3)

Harriet Tubman's gravesite in Fort Hill Cemetery is just 400 feet northeast of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church in a direct line, but there is no access into the cemetery from Parker Street. From the church, it is a third-mile to the gravesite using the Fitch Street gate (see fig. 2.13). Through the main cemetery gate via Woodlawn Avenue, the Tubman gravesite is 0.8 miles from the church. The cemetery is open to the public, but there is no signed or defined circulation to the Tubman grave. The NPS park website has a page, "Continue the Story: Visit Nearby Attractions" that provides visitors with information about the grave.[17]

Harriet Tubman's gravesite is accessed by a narrow, 3.5-foot-wide north-south turf walk that is difficult to distinguish from the grave lots (fig. 2.17). Roots from a large Norway spruce in an adjoining lot extend across the walk and introduce a tripping hazard. The walk is not used by most visitors to the grave. Those arriving by car generally park on the asphalt drive to the west, the closest drive to the Tubman gravesite, and walk across grave lots in Subsection G of the West Lawn Section.

Harriet Tubman Davis (1822–1913) is buried in the West Lawn Section, Subsection C, lot #439; the adjacent lot to the north, #438, is also in Tubman's name, but is empty. No research has been undertaken to determine the exact location and orientation of Tubman's remains. Her grave marker, which is

slightly heaved by the roots of the Norway spruce, is at the front of the lot adjacent to the turf walk. It is a simple gray granite Colonial Revival-style tablet installed in 1937 as a replacement of a 1915 marker by the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs. The main inscription is on the east side of the marker, facing the turf walk (fig. 2.18). The west side of the marker, usually acknowledged as the front, is inscribed only with "Harriet Tubman Davis" (fig. 2.19). The marker is flanked by deer-browsed yew shrubs, and the turf on the west side has been worn away by foot traffic. To the south of the marker is a granite block with a concrete urn planter on top that appears to be on the adjoining lot (#440, Dale; contains no grave marker). To the north, on Tubman lot #438, is a marble block that is the grave marker of Eliza E. McIntosh (1836-1912), which was probably moved from the McIntosh lot to the north (lot #437).[18] To the west of the Tubman grave marker within the same burial lot is a flat granite marker for Tubman's brother, William Henry Stewart, Sr. (1830–1912).

Across the turf walk is the grave of Tubman's nephew, William H. Stewart, Jr. (1850-1906, probably reinterred from another lot in the cemetery in ca. 1912) and his wife, Emma Moses Stewart (1865–1912) in lots #397 and 398 (see fig. 2.17). According to Stewart family tradition, the large double-leader Norway spruce in lot #398 was planted by Charles and Alida Stewart to mark their parents' graves soon after the burial in 1912. The spruce, which is often mistakenly thought to mark Harriet Tubman's grave, is one of the largest trees in the West Lawn section and stands out among the surrounding deciduous trees and open lawn (fig. 2.20). It is in good condition, but lacks lightning protection, and some of the roots may be suffering from compaction due to foot traffic around the Tubman grave marker.

## THE PARK LANDSCAPE

As a newly established unit of the National Park System, the landscape of Harriet Tubman National Historical Park reflects decades of private management by the A.M.E. Zion Church and The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. To date (2018), there have been no substantial changes to the park landscape since establishment of the national historical park in January 2017, with the exception of stabilization work on the church and parsonage. The following description of the park landscape is organized by the park's three historic properties: The Harriet Tubman Home, Tubman Farm, and Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, along with a section on natural systems to characterize both South Street properties.

**NATURAL SYSTEMS** (DRAWING 2.1)

The Harriet Tubman Home property and the Tubman Farm share natural characteristics and features that have experienced extensive disturbance over the past 200 years. Both properties are former farmland that extends across lowlands in the western part and rises approximately 25 feet in elevation to a ridge near the eastern boundary. Wood Creek is a perennial stream that enters the northwestern corner of the Harriet Tubman Home property near South Street, and winds through riparian woods and scrub bordering the maintained portion of the property (fig. 2.21) The creek may have been channelized when the property was used for agriculture and brick production in the 19th century. It has high quality and quantity of flow that appears to have its headwaters in a large wetland complex to the south.[19] A 1% (100-year) flood zone borders the entire creek corridor, but excludes most of the buildings and maintained landscape.[20]

The rise on the eastern part of the Tubman properties is covered in successional woods that have grown up since the 1960s on abandoned farm fields and pasture. There appear to be no endangered or threatened plant species, although there are state-protected fern species, including Christmas fern.[21] The woods extend north onto the school district property, east onto city property, and south onto private property. Within the Tubman properties, the woods have a patchy character and include areas of open understory with large silver or Freeman maples in areas along Wood Creek that flood seasonally, probably corresponding to old clay pits. Upland successional communities are composed of ash, black walnut, black cherry, cottonwood, and hawthorne with scrubby understory (fig. 2.22). Much of the woods is dominated by invasive plants, notably European buckthorn, common privet, Asian honeysuckle, and multiflora rose. Volunteer apple trees, probably from a Tubman-era orchard to the south (near John Brown Hall) and one established in ca. 1920 east of the frame house, are common in the woods bordering the NYSEG transmission line clearing. Within the woods along property boundaries are two areas of old-growth that may date to Harriet Tubman's lifetime. At the boundary indent at the west end of Home property is a mature grove of shagbark and bitternut hickory, basswood, red oak, eastern hophornbeam, and sugar maple (fig. 2.23). Along the north property line with the school district is an old hedgerow of white oak, hornbeam, and several very large basswood trees.[22]

Fauna on the site include deer, which take refuge in the buckthorn thickets and are browsing substantial areas, and red or gray foxes that have burrowed into steep slopes around the old borrow pit on the Tubman Farm. The base of this borrow pit is a vernal pool of anthropogenic origin that is most likely a breeding area for amphibians in the spring, and is habitat for fingernail clams.[23]

### HARRIET TUBMAN HOME PROPERTY (DRAWINGS 2.1, 2.2)

The twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property, acquired by Harriet Tubman in 1895 and transferred to ownership of the A.M.E. Zion Church in 1903, was the site of The Harriet Tubman Home institution, which operated a home for the aged on the property between 1908 and ca. 1926. The A.M.E. Zion Church opened a shrine to Tubman on the property in 1953, which became the historic site that is today operated by The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. The property has been owned by the church for over 115 years.

The Home property, which has an address of 180 South Street, is a rectangular parcel approximately 1,967 feet east to west, and 579 feet wide north to south, with an indent at the southeast corner that follows the boundaries of Aurelius Lot #66 (1790). Most of the western third of the property surrounding the three buildings is maintained landscape, while the eastern two-thirds east of Wood Creek is predominantly successional deciduous woods (see prior section). The boundary between the City of Auburn and Town of Fleming extends through the lawn just south of the entrance road and does not have any physical markers in the landscape.

New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG), a subsidiary of energy conglomerate AVANGRID, maintains a power transmission line that crosses the property from east to west (fig. 2.24). This power line, built in ca. 1931 and upgraded in ca. 1980, is identified as line #506. The power lines are carried on ten wood poles numbered #57 through #66 that are approximately sixty feet tall. The line is just twenty feet north of the frame house, within NYSEG's 50-foot right-of-way, with another 50 feet where the company has a right to trim. The company maintains a cleared corridor through the woods on the eastern part of the property. NYSEG is presently considering relocation of the transmission line to follow the northern boundary of the Home property.[24]

The frontage of the Home property along South Street (NY 34) consists of turf shoulders lined by four-foot-tall chain-link fence that is in poor condition (fig. 2.25). The fence turns inward south of the north property line, but only continues for a short distance. The two-lane highway has surface drainage, and there are no sidewalks or paved shoulders. Small, brown state highway historic site signs with the name "Tubman Home" directs visitors to the entrance, which is also identified by a state-style cast-iron historical marker. It is surrounded by a circular planting bed and contains inaccurate information that Tubman "frequented this site after the Civil War," when in fact she lived at the adjoining property and also owned the marked site.

Signage for the Harriet Tubman Home with hours of operation is located on the entrance gates (fig. 2.26). The brick piers, built around the same time as the

library building in 1978, are eleven feet tall and support steel-picket gates that close off the twelve-foot-wide opening. In addition to the main vehicular entrance drive, there is also a nearby pedestrian gate in the chain-link fence, which provides access to a little-used concrete entrance walk lined by an allee of silver maple trees (fig. 2.27). A break in the concrete walk just inside the gate is over a city sewer line within a 10-foot-wide easement corridor that extends from the entrance road north. A natural gas line runs parallel to the sewer line, but closer to the road. A below-ground sewer pump station and gas drip, consisting of two manhole covers and above-grade electrical box within the easement corridor, is in a mown area at the northwest corner of the property, on a lot owned by Tubman's brother, William H. Stewart, Sr., prior to ca. 1903 (fig. 2.28).[25]

The twelve-foot-wide asphalt entrance drive to the Harriet Tubman Home, known during Tubman's lifetime as Danforth Street, extends 450 feet straight east and is lit by three street lights on wood poles. The drive terminates at a rectangular twenty-five-car visitor parking lot, located halfway between the frame house and the Multi-Purpose Building (visitor center) (fig. 2.29). No spaces are striped for busses. In the lawn northeast of the parking lot are subsurface remains of a brick clamp, a type of kiln built during the site's use as a brick yard between ca. 1864 and 1885. Some of the brick remains are visible within a shallow excavated area lined by a wood frame.

Twenty-five-feet north of the entrance drive is the white-painted frame house that was used as the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged (nursing home) from ca. 1914 following Harriet Tubman's death until ca. 1926 (fig. 2.30). The house, which was never Harriet Tubman's residence although she owned it between 1895 and1903, is open to the public by guided tour. The first floor has furnishings and mementos, while the second floor, formerly an apartment for the site manager, is unoccupied. The 1,600-square-foot two-story five-bay building, which faces south away from South Street, has a center entrance, clapboard siding, a wood-shingle roof, and a wrap-around open porch. It faces south away from South Street. The current building is a reconstruction built in 1950 as a shrine to Harriet Tubman, according to plans by architect Wallace P. Beardsley, Jr. of Auburn. All exterior roofing, siding, windows, wrap-around porch, and interior finishes date to this rebuilding. A Tubman-era kitchen wing on the east side was not rebuilt, but remains of the waster-brick foundation exist below ground and are interpreted by a contemporary brick outline. An adjacent asphalt parking area is the drive to a concrete-block garage that existed on the kitchen wing site between 1954 and 2012.

The grounds around the frame house are planted with shrubs and herbaceous beds, including a bed along the porch and four beds in the front lawn (fig. 2.31).

The porch bed contains a variety of flowering perennials, an Alberta spruce, hibiscus, and spirea. Peonies in the beds date to the 1950s rebuilding of the house and were originally in beds along the entrance walk from South Street. A windbreak of Norway spruce trees planted in ca.1954 frames the rear lawn, north of the NYSEG power line. An unmaintained painted steel flagpole erected in 1956, presently obscured by the silver maple trees along the entrance walk, is in the lawn between the frame house and South Street (fig. 2.32). Other small-scale features in the grounds include a square stone base north of the flagpole that once supported a planter urn, and another square stone base west of the house that once supported a statue. A relocated ground-mounted bronze plaque in the bed along the front porch commemorates an unknown feature donated in 1974 by the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs to commemorate Harriet Tubman (fig. 2.33).

Due south of the frame house is the Harriet Tubman Memorial Library, a one-story gable-roof frame building erected in 1978 with church funds according to plans by local architect John York Critchley (fig. 2.34). The 1,800-square-foot rustic-style building, which houses administrative offices of The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. and the site's library, has stained vertical wood siding, casement windows, and deteriorated asphalt shingle roofing. The building is surrounded by overgrown beds that include ferns, peonies, hibiscus, invasive bishop's weed, and a stand of invasive Japanese knotweed. North of the building is an overgrown circular lawn bed with similar vegetation. The library is accessed by a concrete walk that extends from the entrance walk to the frame house across the entrance drive (fig. 2.35). The library is set back from South Street across a lawn that continues to the Tubman house and barn to the south. A trace of a gravel walk that cuts across the lawn was added to provide a route for First Lady Hillary Clinton to walk to the Tubman house during her visit in 1998. At the rear of the library and south of the entrance drive is additional lawn with a planting of arborvitae and peonies, and one multi-stemmed apple tree that isproably a remnant of an orchard that was planted in this area in ca. 1920 (fig. 2.36).

At the east end of the maintained grounds is the Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building, also known as the visitor center (fig. 2.37). Erected in 1983 with church funds to provide indoor space for large gatherings such as the annual pilgrimage, the 5,000-square-foot building is in a similar rustic style as the library. The one-story building has an angled floor plan and features open porches on the east and west sides, a large hall now used for visitor orientation and displays on the history and archaeology of the site, an information and sales desk, restrooms, and a kitchen. The building is located on the alignment of the Tubman-era Danforth Street that led to John Brown Hall west of Wood Creek. Access to the Multi-Purpose Building from the visitor parking lot is by a concrete walk that follows the alignment of Danforth Street (fig. 2.38). The grounds in front are mown lawn

with sycamore trees that are contemporary with the building. At the rear (east) of the building is mown lawn with scattered trees and wood picnic tables that are set out seasonally. This picnic area, which is beneath the NYSEG power line, overlooks a third-acre pond built at the same time as the Multi-Purpose Building (fig. 2.30). There is no obvious outlet to the pond, which is separated from Wood Creek by an earthen berm. The source of the water, which is stagnant, is not known.

Extending into the woods behind the Multi-Purpose Building is a mown that follows the remnants of Danforth Street that provided access to John Brown Hall during Harriet Tubman's lifetime (fig. 2.40). The roadbed crosses Wood Creek over an earthen causeway with a concrete-pipe culvert that was probably built in ca. 1954. Just beyond the creek is the site of John Brown Hall, which housed the home for the aged where Harriet Tubman spent her final years between 1911 and 1913. The building site, which is partly cleared of brush, consists of a shallow depression and small piles of brick and stone that have undertone archaeological investigations led by Syracuse University professor Douglas V. Armstrong (fig. 2.41). Several older trees surrounding the site within the larger expanse of dense successional woods.

Aside from John Brown Hall and the NYSEG power line corridor, there are a few cultural features in the unmaintained woods east of the maintained landscape. These include a north-south trail to the school fields that follows a 1950s truck trail built to transport fill from the borrow pit on the Tubman Farm to Mount Carmel High School (fig. 2.42). Traces of other truck trails probably remain in the woods, but are not used as trails. Along Wood Creek, there are numerous subtle depressions and rises that are remnants of clay pits dating to the site's use as a brick yard between ca. 1864 and 1885. These pits were flooded with water from Wood Creek so that clay could be excavated for brick production. The pits are inconspicuous and inaccessible due to forest cover and lack of trails.

#### **TUBMAN FARM** (DRAWING 2.1)

The seven-acre Tubman Farm, acquired by Harriet Tubman in 1859 from William H. Seward, preserves her residence, barn and former farmland. Between 1914 and 1990, the property was owned by the Norton family, and in 1990, the A.M.E. Zion Church purchased 6.25 acres of the farm for incorporation into The Harriet Tubman Home. The remaining three-quarters acre containing the Norton house (1954) is private property outside park boundaries, but is described here because it was historically part of the seven-acre Tubman Farm.

#### Church Property

The Tubman Farm property owned by the A.M.E. Zion Church is a rectangular parcel approximately 1,684 feet east to west, and 180 north to south, with 93 feet of frontage along South Street Road (NY 34). The property is entirely within the Town of Fleming and consists of maintained landscape around the buildings to a depth of 250 feet from South Street Road. Within the maintained grounds, there is no physical boundary with the Harriet Tubman Home property to the north, except for an overgrown border north of the Tubman house, or to the Norton house lot to the south (fig 2.44). The remainder or back section of the property is unmaintained successional deciduous woods (see Natural Systems section). Remnants of barbed-wire and woven-wire fence are in the woods along the old north boundary.

At the front of the property is the Tubman house, which has an address of 6506 South Street Road and is set back just twenty feet from the highway. It is a brick two-story three-bay gable-front house built by Harriet Tubman Davis and her husband, Nelson Davis, in 1881-1882 (fig. 2.45). The exterior of the 1,200-square-foot house was restored in 2012 to its appearance during Tubman's lifetime, but the front door and front and side porches remain incomplete. Only a foundation was begun for a rear addition intended to provide handicapped accessibility and restrooms (fig. 2.46). The front and side yards of the house are lawn without enclosure, except for an overgrown row of trees and shrubs along the north side, within which is an old wood trellis. Plantings in the front and side yards include three sugar maples that date to Norris ownership, and an old clump of lilacs. Remains of a Tubman-era brick walk extends from the front porch to near the road. The walk is within a depression and is covered by gravel and grass.

An unpaved gravel driveway extends from South Street Road east to the barn (see fig. 2.45, 2.46). The barn, which measures 30 feet by 20 feet, was built in ca. 1885 and restored in 2009 through removal of Norris-era additions and modifications (fig. 2.47). It has a mortared stone foundation, balloon-like timber framing, wood-shingled gable roof, vertical plank siding, and a rear shed addition. The gravel driveway is banked up to the center sliding door, and the sides and rear are bordered by herbaceous plants dominated by ragweed. No traces of the various sheds, pens, and other features that comprised the surrounding barnyard during Harriet Tubman's lifetime remain today, although there are subsurface archeological remains.

The gravel driveway historically continued east past the barn along the north property line to the back fields and pastures of the farm. There is no trace of this farm road in the maintained area at the rear of the barn, but a trace, including a bed of waster brick, does exist in the woods to the east. The road crosses Wood Creek by an earthen and stone causeway that may date to Harriet Tubman's

lifetime (fig. 2.48). The causeway contains a culvert or opening formed by a slab with angle-iron supports.

Much of the hillside in the wooded eastern third of the Tubman Farm is occupied by a large borrow pit dug in 1954 to provide fill for the Mount Carmel High School playing fields (today, city school district property) north of the Harriet Tubman Home property. The two-acre borrow pit extends to the east property line and appears to cross the south property line into the Seward Orchard Lot. The pit is relatively shallow, with steep banks along the north and south sides upwards of six feet high, and is mostly wooded with a vernal wetland at the western base of the pit (fig. 2.49). A north-south trail, most likely originally a truck trail used to transport the fill to the school property, crosses near the top of the pit and continues north through the Harriet Tubman Home property.

#### Norton House Lot

The privately-owned Norton house lot is a rectangular, 0.72-acre parcel south of the Tubman house and park boundaries that measures 350 feet east to west and 90 feet north to south. The property, historically part of the seven-acre Tubman Farm, consists of maintained landscape around a one-story brick ranch house built in 1954 for Alice and Harry Norris that has an address of 6050 South Street Road (fig. 2.50). The house, which is presently rented, is on the site of Harriet Tubman's fenced garden/yard.

There is no physical boundary between the Norris house lot and the Tubman house to the north. The grounds of the Norris house include a gravel driveway, large spruce in front and silver maple in back, and a row of arborvitae along the south property line that was probably planted to screen a now-removed automobile service station on the Seward Orchard Lot. A bank, created by fill on the service station site, extends along the south property boundary. The rear yard of the Norris house is open lawn with a few shrubs along the north property line, a clothes line, an above-ground pool, an old cast-iron light standard, and play equipment (fig. 2.51)

### THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH (DRAWING 2.3)

The Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church property is a half-acre parcel on Parker Street in the City of Auburn that is owned by the National Park Service (USA) and is presently undergoing stabilization. It is the place where Harriet Tubman worshipped and from which she was buried in 1913. The parish moved out of the church in 1993 and the property is no longer used for religious purposes.

The focal point of the property is the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, a modest Queen Anne-style frame building erected in 1891 that measures approximately 32

feet wide by 50 feet long, with a full basement. The building, which is on the southern part of the property and set approximately ten feet from the street, features a square bell tower at the front that has a truncated spire and louvered windows (fig. 2.52). Other details include Queen Anne-style colored-glass windows, drop siding, bargeboards, and an Onondaga limestone foundation that is parged. The building is undergoing stabilization with planning underway for its rehabilitation for park use.

On the northern portion of the church property is the parsonage, a modest Classical Revival-style two-story gable-front house with a Foursquare plan (fig. 2.53). The house features a Palladian-style attic window, one-over-one double-hung sash windows, a front porch, clapboard siding, and a cast-stone foundation. The building is set back approximately 15 feet from the street. It is presently undergoing exterior restoration that removed asbestos shingle siding and non-historic components of the front porch.

A public concrete sidewalk extends across the frontage of the property, and abuts a concrete entrance ramp to the front entrance of the church, and a concrete walk to the entrance of the parsonage. There are no foundation plantings around the buildings, and the space between them is mown grass. An unmaintained gravel driveway is along the north side of the parsonage. There is no defined circulation to the rest of the property. The rear (west) half is covered in successional woods that continues north and south onto adjacent properties. The woods are dominated by black locust, box elder, Norway maple, and English ivy (fig. 2.54). These woods extend back to the west property line that borders residential properties along Park Place. This rear part of the property is a relatively level terrace that ends at a bank approximately three feet high along the west (rear) and north boundaries of the property.

**ENDNOTES, EXISTING CONDITIONS**

[1] Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., Harriet Tubman Home website, https://www.harriettubmanhome.com/ame-zion-church/ (accessed August 14, 2018).

[2] Harriet Tubman National Historical Park website, homepage. A similar link does not presently exist on the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park website homepage, https://www.nps.gov/hatu/index.htm (accessed August 14, 2018).

[3] Karen Hill, discussion with SUNY ESF landscape architecture studio, February 4, 2017; Harriet Tubman Home website, "Board of Directors," https://www.harriettubmanhome.com/board-of-directors/ (accessed August 14, 2018).

[4] City of Auburn website, "Welcome Center," http://auburnny.gov/Public_Documents/AuburnNY_WelcomeCenter/index (accessed August 17, 2018).

[5] Karen Hill, February 4, 2017.

[6] Kelly Rocheleau, " 'She went back': Harriet Tubman honored at annual Auburn pilgrimage," Auburn *Citizen*, https://auburnpub.com/news/local/she-went-back-harriet-tubman-honored-at-annual-auburn-pilgrimage/article_23a4db4b-17e0-55f3-9554-278656446187.html#1 (accessed August 14, 2018).

[7] National Park Service, Northeast Region, "Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study / Environmental Assessment" (Unpublished National Park Service report, November 2008), 5-13; Jessica Bowes, FOST Museum Technician, e-mail to John Auwaerter, August 15, 2018, citing 2017 visitation numbers provided by The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. (10,133 in 2017).

[8] Carlson to John Auwaerter, August 14, 2018; The Harriet Tubman Home website, https://www.harriettubmanhome.com/ (accessed August 15, 2018); National Park Service, Northeast Region, "Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study / Environmental Assessment" (Unpublished National Park Service report, November 2008), 5-13.

[9] 16 U.S. Code, Section 410ttt (PL114-298).

[10] Carlson to Auwaerter, August 14, 2018; Bob Page, Director, NPS Olmsted Center, e-mail to John Auwaerter regarding management agreements, September 26, 2017.

[11] Ellen Carlson, NPS Community Planner/Legislative Liaison, e-mail to John Auwaerter, August 14, 2018; Harriet Tubman National Historical Park website, "Basic Information," https://www.nps.gov/hart/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm (accessed August 15, 2018).

[12] US Census Bureau, Quick Facts, Auburn city, New York, https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/auburncitynewyork/PST045217 (accessed August 15, 2018).

[13] US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Fleming town, New York, https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml?src=bkmk (accessed August 15, 2018).

[14] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, "30 Year Trends in Water Quality of Rivers and Streams in New York State," 119, https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/sbu30yrbs07.pdf (accessed August 15, 2018).

[15] New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, New York Military Facility Locator, http://dmna.ny.gov/units/ (accessed August 16, 2018); New York State Military Museum, "Auburn South Street Armory," https://dmna.ny.gov/historic/armories/AuburnSouthStreet.htm (accessed August 16, 2018).

[16] Tax map number 123.38-1-3.1; Rev. Paul Carter, communication with John Auwaerter, September 19, 2018.

[17] NPS, Harriet Tubman National Historical Park website, https://www.nps.gov/hart/index.htm (accessed August 14, 2018).

[18] The Fort Hill Cemetery burial record lists Harriet Tubman Davis's grave in lot #439; it is possible she is in lot #438, which would then place the Eliza McIntosh marker in the McIntosh lot, #437. There are no physical markers that indicate the number of each grave lot.

[19] Professors Donald J. Leopold and James P. Gibbs, SUNY ESF Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, "Summary of Biodiversity-related Observations Made at the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park" (Unpublished paper, September 22, 2016), 1.

[20] Federal Emergency Management Agency, "Flood Insurance Rate Map for Cayuga County, New York," Panel 312 of 635, Map Suffix E, effective August 2, 2007.

[21] Leopold and Gibbs, 1.

[22] Site visit, September 22, 2016.

[23] Leopold and Gibbs, 4.

[24] NYSEG website, http://www.nyseg.com/OurCompany/default.html (accessed August 17, 2018); NYSEB, "Transmission Facilities, Auburn L506, annotated aerial marked "Conceptual Design 12/15/16."

[25] Teetor-Dobbins Consulting Engineers, "Town of Fleming, New York Sanitary Sewers," Dwg. 32, May 1970, City of Auburn Engineering Department. A current survey for the reconstruction of NY 34 identifies the sewer pump station/William H. Stewart, Sr. lot as north of the A.M.E. Zion Church property boundary. This appears to be incorrect; a 1990 survey of the church property indicates the property belongs to the church. C &S Companies, "South Street (NYS Route 34) Preliminary General Plan, GNP-03, Sheet 3, July 2016; Corridor Enhancement Project," "Survey Map of Property the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of America, No. 180 South Street, 25.508 acres," May 10, 1990 (Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. records).



**Figure 2.1. The Harriet Tubman Home, looking northeast toward the frame house, better known as the Home for the Aged (left), and the Harriet Tubman Memorial Library, 2017. (SUNY ESF)**

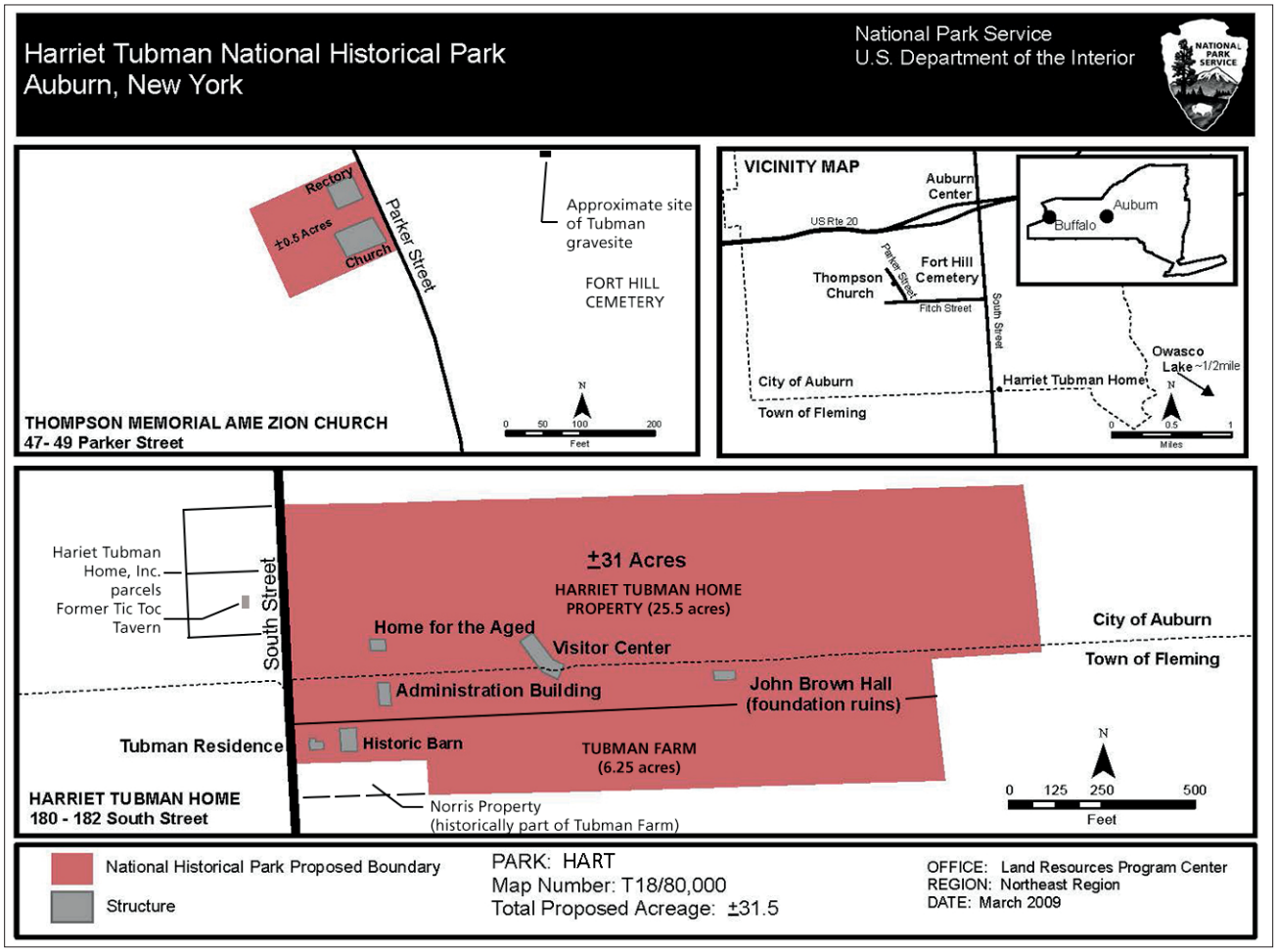



**Figure 2.2. Map showing boundaries of Harriet Tubman National Historical Park as referenced in the 2014 park legislation. The boundaries shown on the map were accepted as proposed. (National Park Service, map T1880000, annotated by SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 2.3. Visitors arriving at the Harriet Tubman Home for the 42nd annual Harriet Tubman Pilgrimage, May 25, 2017. (Sarah Jean Condon, *The Citizen*) [need permission]**



**Figure 2.4 The memorial service at the Tubman grave site during the annual Harriet Tubman Pilgrimage, 2004. (National Park Service, "Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study") [Replace with more recent photo?]**



**Figure 2.5. The northern part of the South Street Area historic district with older and more urban houses, looking south , 2018. (SUNY ESF)**



Figure 2.6. The southern portion of the South Street Area historic district with larger properties looking south toward The Harriet Tubman Home, 2018. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.7. South Street looking south across Metcalf Drive/Clymer Street toward The Harriet Tubman Home showing the transition to suburban-rural character, 2018. (SUNY ESF)




**Figure 2.8. Aerial photograph showing the setting of The Harriet Tubman Home, 2011. (US Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency aerial, annotated by SUNY ESF)**




**Figure 2.9. Context of the Harriet Tubman Home showing residential development along the west side of NY 34, looking east from the ridge west of the Home, 2017. The white lines indicate boundaries of the Tubman properties. (Drone photograph courtesy of Matthew Leach, annotated by SUNY ESF)**



Figure 2.10. The former Tic-Toc Tavern owned by Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., looking west from The Harriet Tubman Home, 2017. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.11. The Kearney Avenue neighborhood east of the Harriet Tubman Home, looking south, 2018. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.12. The Auburn South Street Armory, looking southeast across South Street, 2018. The Harriet Tubman Home property is to the south (right). (SUNY ESF)




**Figure 2.13 Aerial photograph showin the setting of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, 2011. (US Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency aerial, annotated by SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 2.14. Parker Street looking south showing modest houses across from Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, 2017. (SUNY ESF)**



Figure 2.15. The Copes Johnson House adjacent to the parsonage, looking west, ca. 2017. (Google Streetview/replace)



Figure 2.16. The John Henry Ross Stewart House adjacent to Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, looking northwest, 2017. (Google Streetview) [Replace]

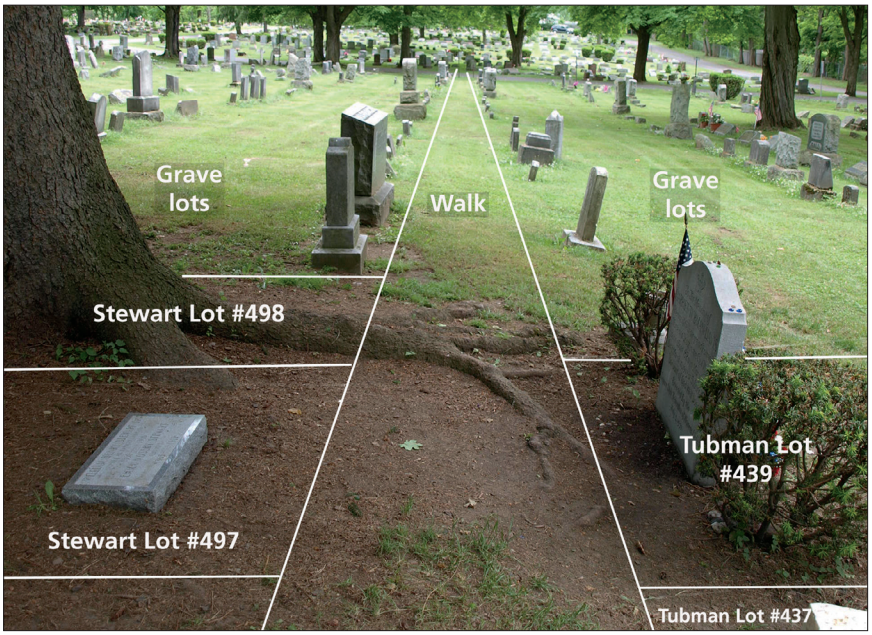



Figure 2.17. Photograph of the front of the Tubman gravesite and surrounding area annotated to show location of turf access walk and Stewart lots, looking south, 2018. (SUNY ESF)




**Figure 2.18. The front of Harriet Tubman Davis's grave marker, looking west, 2018. The houses in the background are along Parker Street. (SUNY ESF)**

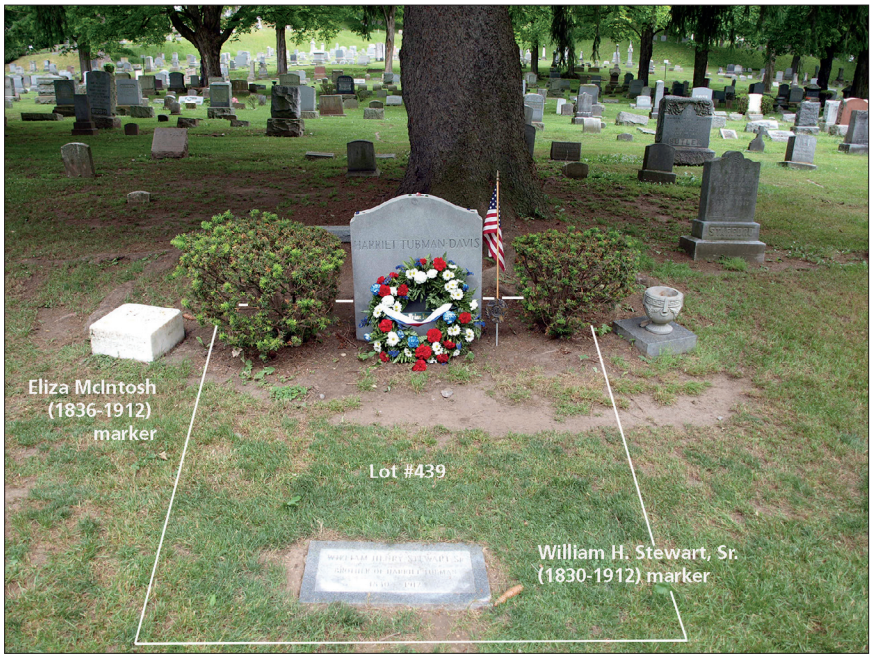



**Figure 2.19. The rear of Harriet Tubman Davis's grave marker, and the Stewart and McIntosh grave markers, looking east, 2018. Lot #439 extends farther west (bottom) than indicated. (SUNY ESF)**



Figure 2.20. The Norway spruce that marks the graves of William H. Stewart, Jr. and Emma Moses Stewart, looking east, 2016. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.21. Wood Creek, looking south from a point east of the Multi-Purpose Building, 2016. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.22. Characteristic successional woods on the eastern portion of the Home property, looking southeast, 2017. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.23. The old-growth grove at the western boundary of the Harriet Tubman Home property, looking north, 2016. These trees are within the park boundary. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.24. The NYSEG power transmission line, looking east across the Harriet Tubman Home property from the hill to the west, 2017. To the right of the line is the entrance gate. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.25. The frontage of the Harriet Tubman Home along South Street, looking southwest with the state-style historical marker at the right of the entrance drive, 2016. (SUNY ESF)




Figure 2.26. The entrance gates and signs to the Harriet Tubman Home, looking southeast, 2017. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.27. The pedestrian entrance and walk to the Harriet Tubman Home, looking east from South Street, 2017. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.28. The sewer pump station and gas drip at the northwest corner of the Harriet Tubman Home property, looking east from South Street, 2017. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.29. The visitor parking lot, looking southwest with the frame house (Home for the Aged) at right, 2016. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.30. The frame house, known as the Home for the Aged, looking northwest, 2017. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.31. The frame house (Home for the Aged) showing beds along the porch and in the front lawn, looking north, 2017. (SUNY ESF)






**Figure 2.32 (left). The flagpole in the lawn west of the frame house, looking northwest with the Norway spruce windbreak in the background, 2016. (SUNY ESF)**

**Figure 2.33 (right). The Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs plaque in front of the frame house, looking north, 2018. (SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 2.34. The Harriet Tubman Memorial Library, looking northeast with the frame house at left, 2017. (SUNY ESF)**



Figure 2.35. The lawn in front of the Harriet Tubman Memorial Library, with the Tubman house and barn in the background, 2017. The two trees along the entrance drive are invasive Siberian elms. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.36. Ornamental plantings and an aged apple tree in the lawn east of the library and south of the entrance drive, looking east, 2016. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.37. Distant view of the Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building, showing location at rear of the maintained grounds around the Harriet Tubman Home, looking east across South Street, 2017. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.38. An aerial photograph of the Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building (visitor center), looking east with the parking lot in the foreground, pond in the background, and crossing of the NYSEG power transmission line, 2017. (Drone photograph courtesy of Matthew Leach)



Figure 2.39. The pond, looking northeast from inside the Multi-Purpose Building, 2017. Wood Creek is beyond the berm at the far side of the pond. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.40. The mown path off the lawn at the rear of the Multi-Purpose Building that follows the historic alignment of Danforth Street, looking east, 2018. (SUNY ESF)



**Figure 2.41. The ruins of John Brown Hall, looking southeast, 2017. The low piles of brick and stone are all that remain above ground. (SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 2.42. The north-south trail that follows a former truck trail, looking south near the north property line of the Harriet Tubman Home, 2016. The large trees at left are basswoods along an old hedgerow that most likely date to Tubman's lifetime. (SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 2.43. Depressions and rises in the low ground along Wood Creek that are most likely 19th-century clay pits, looking north in the woods north of the frame house, 2018. The clearing in the distance beyond Wood Creek is the state armory. (SUNY ESF)**




**Figure 2.44. Aerial photograph of the maintained landscape of the Tubman Farm showing absence of physical boundaries between the properties. (Drone photograph courtesy of Matthew Leach, annotated by SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 2.45 (above). The Tubman house and surrounding grounds, looking east across South Street, 2017. At left is the Tubman barn and at right is the Norris house. (SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 2.46 (right). The back and north sides of the Tubman house showing incomplete rear addition and south porch, looking southwest, 2017. The area behind the house was the barnyard in Tubman's day. The ghost marks on the brick wall are from a Norris-era kitchen wing. (SUNY ESF)**



Figure 2.47. The Tubman barn, looking northeast, 2017. (SUNY ESF)




Figure 2.48. The stone and earth causeway across Wood Creek that carries the abandoned farm road on the Tubman Farm, looking northeast (upstream), 2017. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.49. The western base of the borrow pit at the back of the Tubman Farm, looking north showing a portion of the northern bank and a vernal wetland, 2016. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.50 (above). The Norris house and site of the Tubman garden, looking southeast showing relationship to the Tubman house, 2017. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.51. The back of the Norris House lot, looking southwest from church property, 2016. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.52. The Thompson A.M.E. Zion church, looking south showing ongoing stabilization work, 2018. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.53. The parsonage of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, looking south showing ongoing stabilization and exterior restoration, 2018. (SUNY ESF)



Figure 2.54. Inside of the successional woods at the back (west) part of the church property, looking southeast showing bank with young trees and English ivy groundcover, 2018. The materials and buildings in the background are on the adjacent properties along Park Place. (SUNY ESF)

# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## Existing Conditions

### Harriet Tubman Home Property and Tubman Farm


**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
www.nps.gov/oclp

in partnership with
Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, www.esf.edu/la/cclp


### SOURCES

1. Aerial photos, TopoQuest, 2016; USGS, 2003
2. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map, 2007
3. US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Survey, 2016
4. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016
5. NYS DOT South Street Corridor Enhancement prelim. plans, 2016
6. SUNY ESF Field inventory, 2016

### DRAWN BY

Claire Fisher, John Auwaerter, AutoCAD and Illustrator CS6, 2018

### LEGEND

- AME Zion Property Boundary
- Tax Parcel Boundary
- NPS Authorized Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Building
- Culvert or Causeway
- Asphalt Road
- Unpaved Road
- Concrete Walk
- Trail or Road Trace
- Chain-link Fence
- Wire Fence
- Overhead Power Line
- Sign, Streetlight, Pool
- Planting Bed
- Shrub
- Successional Woods
- Older-growth Woods
- Conifer Woods
- Deciduous Tree
- Conifer Tree
- Meadow, Successional Field
- Mown Turf
- Other Ground
- Wetland
- Stream
- Aprx. 1% Flood Zone
- Embankment
- 1' Contours

### NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Map does not identify minor vegetation and small-scale features.
3. Contours outside of HART site extrapolated.

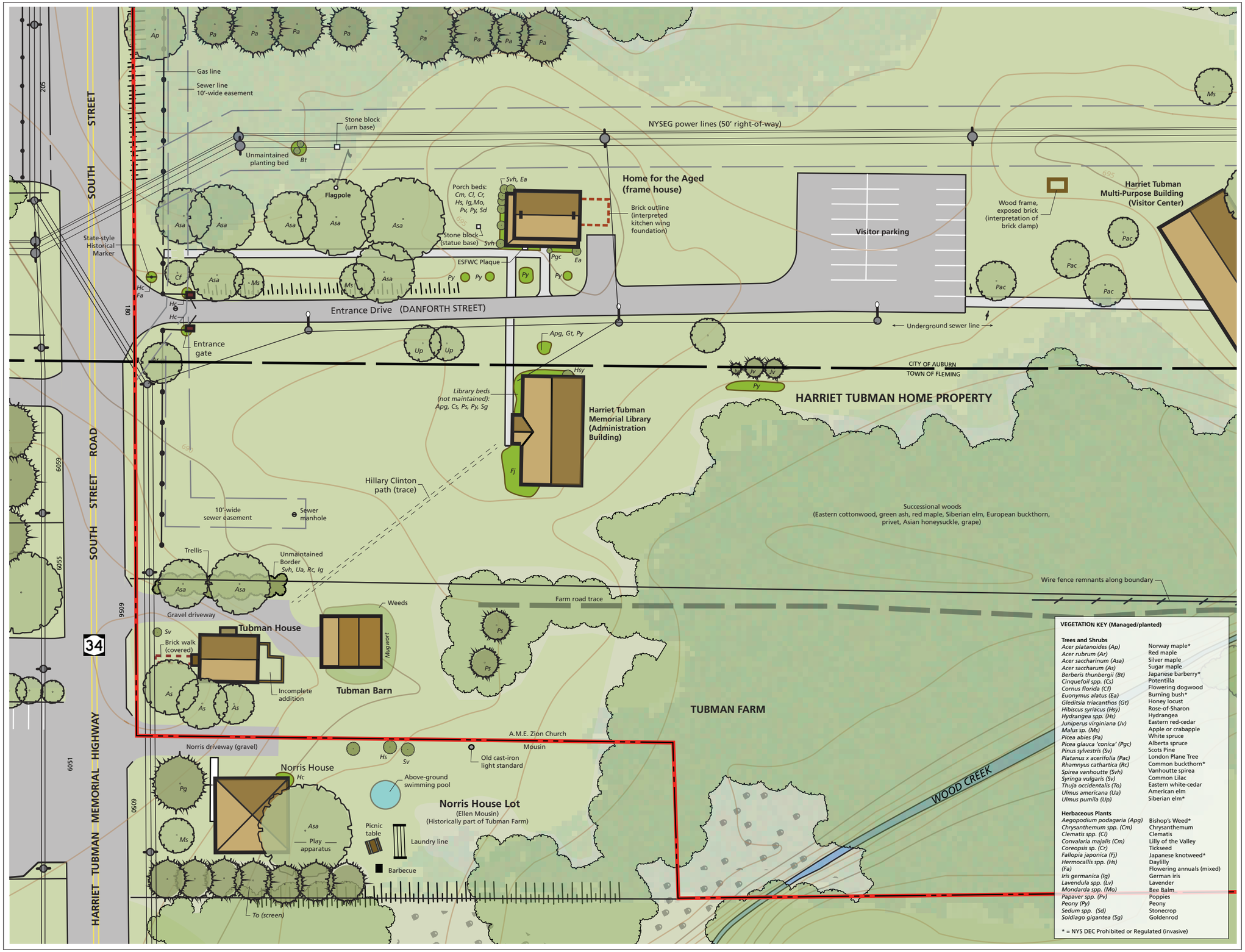
0' 100' 200' 400'

**Drawing 2.1**

# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## Existing Conditions
### Harriet Tubman Home Property Detail




**VEGETATION KEY (Managed/planted)**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Trees and Shrubs** | |
| *Acer platanoides (Ap)* | Norway maple* |
| *Acer rubrum (Ar)* | Red maple |
| *Acer saccharinum (Asa)* | Silver maple |
| *Acer saccharum (As)* | Sugar maple |
| *Berberis thunbergii (Bt)* | Japanese barberry* |
| *Cinquefoil spp. (Cs)* | Potentilla |
| *Cornus florida (Cf)* | Flowering dogwood |
| *Euonymus alatus (Ea)* | Burning bush* |
| *Gleditsia triacanthos (Gt)* | Honey locust |
| *Hibiscus syriacus (Hsy)* | Rose-of-Sharon |
| *Hydrangea spp. (Hs)* | Hydrangea |
| *Juniperus virginiana (Jv)* | Eastern red-cedar |
| *Malus sp. (Ms)* | Apple or crabapple |
| *Picea abies (Pa)* | White spruce |
| *Picea glauca 'conica' (Pgc)* | Alberta spruce |
| *Pinus sylvestris (Sv)* | Scots Pine |
| *Platanus x acerifolia (Pac)* | London Plane Tree |
| *Rhamnyus cathartica (Rc)* | Common buckthorn* |
| *Spirea vanhoutte (Svh)* | Vanhoutte spirea |
| *Syringa vulgaris (Sv)* | Common Lilac |
| *Thuja occidentalis (To)* | Eastern white-cedar |
| *Ulmus americana (Ua)* | American elm |
| *Ulmus pumila (Up)* | Siberian elm* |
| **Herbaceous Plants** | |
| *Aegopodium podagaria (Apg)* | Bishop's Weed* |
| *Chrysanthemum spp. (Cm)* | Chrysanthemum |
| *Clematis spp. (Cl)* | Clematis |
| *Convalaria majalis (Cm)* | Lilly of the Valley |
| *Coreopsis sp. (Cr)* | Tickseed |
| *Fallopia japonica (Fj)* | Japanese knotweed* |
| *Hermocallis spp. (Hs) (Fa)* | Daylilly<br>Flowering annuals (mixed) |
| *Iris germanica (Ig)* | German iris |
| *Lavendula spp. (Lv)* | Lavender |
| *Mondarda spp. (Mo)* | Bee Balm |
| *Papaver spp. (Pv)* | Poppies |
| *Peony (Py)* | Peony |
| *Sedum spp. (Sd)* | Stonecrop |
| *Soldiago gigantea (Sg)* | Goldenrod |

* = NYS DEC Prohibited or Regulated (invasive)


**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
www.nps.gov/oclp

in partnership with
Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, www.esf.edu/la/cclp


### SOURCES


1. Aerial photos, TopoQuest, 2016; USGS, 2003
2. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map, 2007
3. US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Survey, 2016
4. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016
5. NYS DOT South Street Corridor Enhancement prelim. plans, 2016
6. SUNY ESF Field inventory, 2016


### DRAWN BY

Claire Fisher, John Auwaerter, AutoCAD and Illustrator CS6, 2018

### LEGEND

- AME Zion Property Boundary
- Tax Parcel Boundary
- NPS Authorized Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Building
- Culvert
- Asphalt Road
- Unpaved Road
- Concrete Walk
- Trail or Road Trace
- Chain-link Fence
- Wire Fence
- Overhead Power Line
- Sign, Streetlight, Pool
- Planting Bed
- Shrub
- Young Deciduous Woods
- Older-growth Woods
- Conifer Woods
- Deciduous Tree
- Conifer Tree
- Successional Field
- Mown Turf
- Other Ground
- Wetland
- Stream
- Aprx. 1% Flood Zone
- Embankment
- 1' Contours

### NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Map does not identify minor vegetation and small-scale features.
3. Contours outside of HART site extrapolated.
4. Not all vegetation identified.

0' 25' 50' 100'

**Drawing 2.2**

# Cultural Landscape Report
# Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## Existing Conditions

### Thompson AME Zion Church and Harriet Tubman Gravesite


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### SOURCES

1. Aerial photos, TopoQuest, 2016; USGS, 2003
2. US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Survey, 2016
3. Google Mpas, 2016
4. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016
5. NYS DOT South Street Corridor Enhancement prelim. plans, 2016
7. SUNY ESF Field inventory, 2016

### DRAWN BY

Claire Fisher, John Auwaerter, AutoCAD and Illustrator CS6, 2017

### LEGEND

- AME Zion Property Boundary
- Tax Parcel Boundary
- NPS Authorized Boundary
- Building
- Asphalt Road
- Unpaved Road
- Concrete Walk
- Trail or Road Trace
- Chain-link Fence
- Overhead Power Line
- Sign
- Planting Bed
- Shrub
- Successional Woods
- Deciduous Tree
- Conifer Tree
- Mown Turf
- Other Ground
- Embankment
- 1' Contours

### NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Map does not identify minor vegetation and small-scale features.
3. Contours outside of HART site extrapolated.

0' 50' 100' 150'

**Drawing 2.3**

# ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The properties designated by Congress as Harriet Tubman National Historical Park are nationally significant for their association with Harriet Tubman. They represent her remarkable achievement of freedom for herself and others, her pursuit of justice, and her selfless care for the needy. Harriet Tubman's seven-acre farm including her brick house and barn, the twenty-five-acre property where she and the A.M.E. Zion Church established The Harriet Tubman Home institution, and the place where she worshiped and from which she was buried, Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, are tangible connections to her remarkable story and tireless work toward a more just society (fig. 3.1).

The purpose of this chapter is to document and assess the landscape resources that are within the legislated park boundaries and are managed by the National Park Service and its partner, The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. These include the Tubman properties on South Street and the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church on Parker Street. The Tubman grave in Fort Hill Cemetery, which is outside of park boundaries, is also addressed because of its historical association with the park properties. The first section of the chapter evaluates the cultural landscape based on the National Register of Historic Places, while the second section contains a more detailed inventory and evaluation of the landscape based on National Park Service methods.

Harriet Tubman considered the founding of The Harriet Tubman Home institution in 1895 her crowning achievement—"My people's free, thank my God, and de home is started. When de good Lord calls me I'm ready."[1] At the time, the twenty-five-acre property and the adjacent seven acres of Tubman's own farm were rural properties with vernacular brick and frame buildings, set within a larger rural area south of Auburn city proper. Her church on Parker Street was in a modest residential neighborhood on the west side of Auburn. The character of these two distinct landscapes remained little changed through Harriet Tubman's death in 1913.

Findings of this analysis and evaluation document that the cultural landscape of Harriet Tubman National Historical Park has undergone extensive change since the end of Harriet Tubman's lifetime in 1913. The most widespread change is due to natural processes that can be reversed; most of the fundamental built resources remain, with the exception of John Brown Hall, where the home for the aged was located during the historic period and where Tubman died in 1913. The twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property also retains cultural resources that reflect the long history of the A.M.E. Zion Church in memorializing and perpetuating the life and work of Harriet Tubman.

## NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION

The National Register of Historic Places provides the legal framework, through the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, for documenting the historical significance and integrity of Harriet Tubman National Historical Park's cultural landscape. This section summarizes existing National Register documentation, provides recommendations for future updates, and evaluates the cultural landscape according to the National Register aspects of integrity. These recommendations do not address all resource types, but only those that characterize the cultural landscape.

### EXISTING NATIONAL REGISTER DOCUMENTATION

National Register/National Historic Landmark listing of Harriet Tubman National Historical Park dates back through several nominations completed over the past five decades. The twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property was designated a National Historic Landmark on May 30, 1974 as the "Harriet Tubman Museum," with "Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged" indicated as the historic name (see Appendix B). Like most nominations of its era, it contained minimal documentation on the property's historic resources: one short paragraph on the frame house, identified as the Home for the Aged, which was noted as a reconstruction completed after Tubman's death. The inventory-nomination form also contained inaccurate historical information, in particular that Tubman purchased the property from William Seward in 1859 (she purchased the adjoining seven-acre farm), and by extension, that the frame house was Harriet Tubman's residence (she never lived in the building according to current research).[2]

In 1999, with growing public interest in Harriet Tubman and new research on the historic context of the Underground Railroad in Central New York, three additional Tubman properties in Auburn and Fleming were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination project was initiated by the City of Auburn in partnership with The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., and supported by a grant from the Preservation League of New York State. Architectural historian Susanne R. Warren was hired to prepare a multiple properties nomination, "Historic Properties Relating to Harriet Tubman in Auburn, New York," which was completed on October 27, 1998.[3] It identified the Tubman Residence (Tubman Farm/brick house), the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, and the Harriet Tubman Grave in Fort Hill Cemetery as meeting the nomination criteria. These properties were nominated separately under Criterion B (associated with the lives of persons significant in our past), Criteria Consideration A (owned by a religious institution), and Criteria Consideration C (cemetery/grave). The overall period of significance was documented as 1859–1913. The multiple property

nomination and three individual property nominations were accepted by the New York State Historic Preservation Officer on December 15, 1998, and by the Keeper of the National Register on April 2, 1999.[4]

The National Register inventory-nomination form, "Tubman Residence" (Tubman Farm) documents a 5.2 [sic, 6.25]-acre property with two contributing resources, the Tubman Residence (brick Tubman house), and the Garage (Tubman barn). The period of significance was documented as beginning in 1859, the date Tubman acquired the property from William H. Seward, to her death in 1913. The separately-owned three-quarter-acre lot with the Norris house (1952) that was part of the historic seven-acre Tubman Farm was excluded from the nomination.[5]

The National Register inventory-nomination form, "Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church," documented a "less than 1 acre" property [0.5 acre] with one contributing resource, the church. The period of significance was documented as beginning in 1891, when the church was erected, to Tubman's funeral in 1913. The parsonage was not documented, although it is on the listed property and dates to the period of significance. The form used the church's old street address, 33 Parker Street (currently 49 Parker Street).

The National Register inventory-nomination form, "Harriet Tubman Grave," documented a "less than 1 acre" property (28 square feet, or 0.0006 acre), identified as Plot 439 in West Lawn Subsection C of Fort Hill Cemetery. The form documented one contributing resource (1 Site) and a period of significance for the date of burial in 1913. The grave marker was not identified as contributing since it post-dated the historic period (1937). Fort Hill Cemetery, established in 1851, is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places, but has been determined eligible for listing under Criterion C (embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction) by the New York State Historic Preservation Officer as part of the Fort-Westlake Historic District.[6]

In 2000, updated documentation was prepared for a boundary increase of the 1974 National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation, to include two of the three properties in the 1999 National Register multiple properties listing: the Tubman Residence (Tubman Farm) and the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church. The third property, the Tubman grave, was not included in the NHL designation. The listing was renamed "Tubman Home for the Aged, Harriet Tubman Residence, Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church," with "other name" noted as "Harriet Tubman District, Properties Relating to Harriet Tubman in Auburn, NY." National significance was documented under Criterion B and Exception A (religious properties), with 1859–1913 as the period of significance. The NHL context was

listed as "XXXI. Social and Humanitarian Movements," "D. Abolitionism." The Secretary of the Interior accepted the boundary increase on January 3, 2001.[7]

The expanded NHL designation counted three contributing resources: Frame house/Home for the Aged, Tubman Residence (brick Tubman house), and the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church. The gravesite was omitted from the NHL designation. Four resources were documented as non-contributing: Garage at the Home for the Aged (1954 building demolished in 2012), the Garage at the Tubman Residence (Tubman barn; the NHL changed the evaluation of contributing in the 1999 National Register documentation), the Harriet Tubman Memorial Library, and the Harriet Tubman Multipurpose Building (visitor center). The NHL documentation also identified one archaeological site ("Cellar Hole," John Brown Hall) as worthy of additional investigation, but did not count it as a contributing resource. Consistent with the 1999 National Register listing, the NHL expansion did not document the parsonage (1910) at the A.M.E. Zion Church.[8]

### NATIONAL REGISTER RECOMMENDATIONS

National Register/National Historic Landmark documentation for the properties that comprise Harriet Tubman National Historical Park has omissions and outdated information related to the park's cultural landscape. The following are recommendations for future updates to the park's National Register/National Historic Landmark documentation.

#### Terminology

The existing names used for the two Tubman properties on South Street are confusing, relate to buildings rather than the entire historic property, and do not reflect historic uses and associations.

It is recommended that the twenty-five-acre (25.5) property presently named "Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged" in the 2000 NHL documentation (also Harriet Tubman Museum in the 1974 NHL documentation) be changed to "The Harriet Tubman Home Property." This was the name of the institution created by Harriet Tubman and the A.M.E. Zion Church that was associated with the twenty-five-acre property during the historic period beginning in 1896. The home for the aged was the primary but not sole program of The Harriet Tubman Home institution. Between 1908 and 1913, the home for the aged was located in John Brown Hall (brick house at #2 Danforth Street, now an archaeological site), not in the frame house presently known as the Home for the Aged that had an address of #1 Danforth Street. The frame house was used as the Home for the Aged after Tubman's death, between 1914 and ca. 1926.

The 6.25-acre property (5.25 in the 2000 NHL documentation, and historically 7 acres) presently named the "Tubman Residence" (1999 National Register and 2000 NHL documentation) should be changed to "Harriet Tubman Farm." This name change would avoid confusion with The Harriet Tubman Home property and would reflect the importance of the entire agricultural property, including the brick house and barn, that was critical to Harriet Tubman's life of self-sufficiency and care for others. Although presently owned by the A.M.E. Zion Church of America and managed as part of the Harriet Tubman Home museum (25-acre property), the Tubman Farm property should retain its own identity in the National Register listing since it was a separate property throughout the historic period.

#### Boundaries

The current National Register boundaries, which collectively correspond to the boundaries of the national historical park, leave out a three-quarter acre (0.72) portion of the Harriet Tubman Farm (Tubman Residence property) (fig. 3.2). This privately-owned parcel was the site of a fenced garden and other agricultural uses during Harriet Tubman's lifetime, and was subdivided in 1955 following construction of a brick ranch-style house in 1954 for Harry and Alice Norris. Incorporation of this parcel into the National Register boundaries would complete the historic seven-acre extent of Harriet Tubman's farm she acquired in 1859 and held until her death in 1913.

A quarter-acre parcel off the northwest corner of The Harriet Tubman Home (Home for the Aged) property now owned by the State of New York as part of the South Street Armory was owned by Harriet Tubman and her brother, William H. Stewart, Sr. between 1890 and ca. 1909 (see fig. 3.2). It contained a house and barns. The property also included a quarter-acre to the south that was acquired by the A.M.E. Zion Church in ca. 1903 and is presently within the National Register boundaries. It contained no buildings. The northern state-owned parcel could be added as a separate Tubman property in the National Register multiple properties listing. Additional research is needed to determine if there are significant archaeological resources on the property that would warrant its nomination. There are no above-ground historic resources aside from the site.

The two tax parcels along the west side of South Street across from The Harriet Tubman Home that are owned by The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. and include the former Tic-Toc Tavern are not recommended for inclusion within the National Register/NHL boundaries because they have no historic association with Harriet Tubman (see fig. 3.2). Both parcels are, however, part of the historic setting of the park.

#### Resource Inventory (Section 7)

The following corrections and additions should be made to the resources identified in the National Register/NHL documentation. The histories of each resource need to be updated to reflect current research documented in this Cultural Landscape Report and in the Historic Structure Report for the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and parsonage. In addition, future revisions to the National Register documentation should include all historic associated features on the property, such as vegetation, roads, etc.

- Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged (180 South Street): "Frame House" should be added as a secondary name, and note should be made that the building was not known as the Home for the Aged, nor used for that purpose, during Harriet Tubman's lifetime.
- Garage, Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged (180 South Street): Remove; the building was demolished in 2012.
- Harriet Tubman Residence (182 South Street; also 6056 South Street Road): The description needs updating to reflect restoration work completed in 2012. It is recommended that the name "Harriet Tubman House" be used instead, since "residence" suggests a more formal status, and "house" better reflects the vernacular historic character of the property.
- Garage, Tubman Residence (182 South Street): This building, the Tubman barn (ca. 1885) that was restored in 2009, needs to be reevaluated as contributing. It should be renamed "Tubman Barn."
- Norris House: This building, within the recommended expansion of the Tubman Residence (Tubman Farm) property, should be evaluated as non-contributing.
- Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church (33 Parker Street; should be 49 Parker Street): Description requires updating to reflect ongoing stabilization/restoration work.
- Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church Parsonage (47 Parker Street): Building should be added as a contributing resource, since it was built in 1910 during the period of significance, and retains historic integrity.
- Archeological Remains – Cellar Hole: This resource needs to be renamed the John Brown Hall Ruins. This was the original location of the Home for the Aged and was where Harriet Tubman died. The ruins have been the subject of archaeological investigations undertaken by Dr. Douglas V. Armstrong of Syracuse University. Since John Brown Hall was not an archaeological site during the period of significance, the remains should not be considered contributing, except for information potential under Criterion D.

#### Significance (Section 8)

The Statement of Significance in the NHL nomination form, as well as the 1999 National Register multiple properties listing, needs to be updated to reflect

current scholarship, including recent archeological findings. In addition, the significance of the Tubman Residence (Tubman Farm) and Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged (Harriet Tubman Home Property) need to be updated to document the significance of both properties for the agricultural land that was central to Harriet Tubman's life of self-sufficiency and care for others.

The start of the period of significance should be clarified for each of the three properties, within the overall period of significance for the park from 1859 to 1913. For the Tubman Farm, the period begins in 1859 with Harriet Tubman's acquisition of the property from William H. Seward; for the Harriet Tubman Home Property, it begins in 1896 when Harriet Tubman purchased the land; and for the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, it begins in 1891 with the parish's acquisition of the property and construction of the church building.

#### Other Recommendations

Harriet Tubman's tiny grave lot is presently the only property in Fort Hill Cemetery that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (the New York State Historic Preservation Office has determined that the cemetery is eligible for listing as part of a district, Fort-Westlake Historic District). The entire cemetery by itself is historically significant under Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture as an intact and representative example of landscape design associated with the Rural Cemetery Movement in the United States, and in the area of architecture for the design of the main gate/chapel and monuments, notably Logan's Monument. In addition, the founding and initial development of the cemetery in 1851 maybe historically significant under Criterion A in the areas of social history and conservation for reflecting progressive attitudes toward Native American heritage. These attitudes in turn reflected the larger socially progressive community in Auburn that was the same community that welcomed Harriet Tubman later in the 1850s.

The National Park Service should work with the Fort Hill Cemetery Association and City of Auburn to list the entire cemetery in the National Register. Such listing may aid the cemetery association in preserving the cemetery and in protecting and honoring the setting of Harriet Tubman's grave. Although the grave is not within park boundaries, it is an essential part of Harriet Tubman's story.

### EVALUATION OF HISTORICAL INTEGRITY

Historical integrity as defined by the National Register is the ability of a property to convey its significance by physical resources, as recognized through seven aspects: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.[9] The following evaluation is applied to the cultural landscape of the

Tubman Farm and Harriet Tubman Home property (addressed collectively as the South Street properties), and the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church property, based on a comparison of existing conditions (2018) with conditions at the end of the historic period (1913). The Norris house lot is included in evaluation of the South Street properties based on the recommendation that it be included in the boundaries of the Tubman Farm (Tubman Residence).

#### Location

Location is defined by the National Register as the place associated with the person significant in the nation's past (Criterion B).

*Tubman Farm and Harriet Tubman Home Property*

The South Street properties retain all land owned by or associated with Harriet Tubman in 1913 (the 0.72-parcel on the Tubman Farm that contains the 1952 Norris house is presently outside park boundaries).
*Evaluation: Landscapes retains integrity of location.*

*Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church*

The church and parsonage are on the same half-acre parcel that the church owned during the historic period between 1891 and 1913.
*Evaluation: Landscape retains integrity of location.*

#### Design

Design is defined by the National Register as the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.

*Tubman Farm and Harriet Tubman Home Property*

The South Street properties retain vernacular 19th-century building design in the frame house, Tubman house, and Tubman barn, but there have been notable losses, particularly the removal of John Brown Hall and agricultural outbuildings. The landscape has also lost design integrity through removal or concealment of field and fence patterns, orchards, road alignments, and topography. Traces of these aspects remain in the landscape, and many are reversible.
*Evaluation: Landscape retains integrity of design*

*Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church*

The church and parsonage retain much of their historic Queen Anne and Classical Revival architectural styles; planning is currently underway to restore lost integrity. The landscape, characterized historically by lawn, entrance walks, and the public sidewalk, has undergone no known changes in design since completion of the parsonage in 1910, aside from modification of the entrance walk to the church and loss of open space at the rear to natural succession.
*Evaluation: Landscape retains integrity of design*

#### Setting

Setting is the physical environment of a property, and in particular the general character of a place.

*Tubman Farm and Harriet Tubman Home Property*

The setting of the South Street properties has changed considerably since the historic period due to loss of agricultural use and redevelopment as a historic site and suburban property (Norris house). Loss of John Brown Hall, one of two primary building on the Home property, detracts from the historic setting. Fields, meadows, barnyards, and views have been replaced by woods, lawn, and paved surfaces. Addition of entrance gates, chain-link fences, ornamental trees, and a power transmission line have further altered the vernacular rural landscape. In addition, the historic setting formed by adjacent properties has lost historic integrity through redevelopment of farmland for suburban residential and institutional uses, and through growth of successional woods.
*Evaluation: Landscape does not retain integrity of setting*

*Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church*

The grounds of the church and parsonage retain their residential scale and spare character that existed in 1913. The surrounding neighborhood along Parker Street retains its modest residential character, including most of the buildings that stood during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. One significant change to adjacent properties has been the construction of a house on the double lot across the street from the church that was open space during the historic period and provided a visual connection to Fort Hill Cemetery. Loss of street trees, removal of ditches along Parker Street, replacement of stone sidewalks with concrete, and resurfacing of the gravel street in asphalt have altered details of the historic residential setting.
*Evaluation: Landscape retains integrity of setting*

#### Materials

Materials are the physical elements, both constructed and natural, that give form to a historic property.

*Tubman Farm and Harriet Tubman Home Property*

Materials at the South Street properties remain primarily wood and brick in the buildings, and deciduous species in the vegetation. The dominance of brick has been diminished through the loss of John Brown Hall and concealment of the brick walk to the Tubman house. New types of building materials have been introduced since the historic period in the stained vertical plank siding and asphalt shingle roofing of the library and multi-purpose building. Conifer trees have been introduced in the row of Norway spruce north of the frame house, and asphalt has replaced earth and gravel in the roads on the Home property. Mown

turf has replaced meadow grasses and cultivated fields. Some fruit trees remain from the orchards that stood on both properties.
*Evaluation: Landscape retains integrity of materials*

*Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church*

Materials in the church and parsonage remain largely intact from the historic period, except for addition of asphalt roof shingles on the parsonage. Recent restoration work has removed unpainted wood members in the front porch of the parsonage. Loss of historic materials has occurred with replacement of stone paving with concrete at the entrance to the church and on the public sidewalk. Volunteer tree species, including black locust and box elder, have been introduced at the rear of the property since the end of the historic period.
*Evaluation: Landscape retains integrity of materials*

#### Workmanship

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts and methods of construction used during the historic period.

*Tubman Farm and Harriet Tubman Home Property*

The Tubman Farm retains integrity of workmanship evident in the brick masonry of the Tubman house, and the timber framing of the Tubman barn. Recent restoration work has reintroduced timber workmanship in the porches on the house. The frame house (Home for the Aged) reflects mid-20th century workmanship due to its reconstruction in 1950, although some of the timber framing that is largely hidden from view may date to the historic period. The notable brick workmanship of John Brown Hall (now an archaeological site) has been lost.
*Evaluation: Landscape retains integrity of workmanship*

*Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church*

The church and parsonage retain integrity of workmanship evident in the wood siding, trim, and windows, and in the masonry of the foundations. The stone foundation of the church is presently parged on the front and sides, but the original stone remains intact underneath. The parsonage reflects the workmanship of early 20th-century mass-produced masonry (cast stone foundation) and millwork except on the front porch where the original porch columns and railings have been lost.
*Evaluation: Landscape retains integrity of workmanship*

#### Feeling

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time that are conveyed by physical features.

*Tubman Farm and Harriet Tubman Home Property*

The Harriet Tubman Home property today retains the feeling of an institution, which is consistent with its intended historic use, but has lost the feeling of a vernacular rural landscape. The entrance gates, chain-link fence, paved parking, two modern buildings, and successional woods detract from the property's historic rural feeling. The Tubman Farm retains more of a rural feeling, but its primarily residential and commercial use over the past five decades, which led to abandonment of agricultural fields, removal of agricultural outbuildings, and addition of a suburban ranch-style house, has led to a loss of historic rural feeling that existed during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. In addition, development of suburban houses on surrounding farm fields and changes to Route 34 have also altered the historic rural feeling of the park landscape.
*Evaluation: Landscape does not retain integrity of feeling*

*Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church*

The setting of the church and parsonage retains the feeling of a modest, late-19th/early 20th-century neighborhood of detached houses on narrow lots in a mid-sized upstate New York city. The church with its short spire and location at the front of the lot remains a conspicuous, but not outsized part of the streetscape. The historic feeling of the neighborhood has been diminished through the addition of a modern house across from the church, addition of driveways and replacement sidewalk and street pavements, and widespread building alterations that include vinyl and asbestos-shingle siding, vinyl shutters, replacement windows, and redesigned porches.
*Evaluation: Landscape retains integrity of feeling*

**Association**

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

*Tubman Farm and Harriet Tubman Home Property*

The Harriet Tubman Home property retains integrity of association with Harriet Tubman and the founding of The Harriet Tubman Home institution through continual ownership by the A.M.E. Zion Church since 1903. The association of the property with Tubman remains evident in the land and the frame house (Home for the Aged), although it is a reconstruction. The Tubman Farm retains integrity of association through the brick house that was Tubman's long-time residence, and the frame barn that have been restored on the exterior to their appearance during Tubman's lifetime. Integrity of association has been diminished through loss of active philanthropic use of The Harriet Tubman Home property and removal of John Brown Hall, site of the Home for the Aged and place of Tubman's death.
*Evaluation: Landscape retains integrity of association*

*Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church*

The church and parsonage retain integrity of association with Harriet Tubman through preservation of both buildings, which retain much of their historic appearance. Integrity of association has been diminished through loss of continued religious use by the Thompson A.M.E. Zion congregation.
*Evaluation: Landscape retains integrity of association*

#### Summary Evaluation of Integrity

Harriet Tubman National Historic Park as a whole retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association, but has lost integrity of setting and feeling. As a whole, the landscape of the South Street properties has lost integrity through removal or concealment of features associated with its historic agricultural use, notably fields and outbuildings, and addition of built features associated with current use as a museum, including two buildings, a parking lot, pond, fences, and gates. The major building lost since the historic period is John Brown Hall, site of the home for the aged and place where Harriet Tubman spent her final years and died in 1913. The larger rural setting and views have been altered through construction of the state armory and suburban residential development. While the loss of philanthropic use as undertaken or planned during Tubman's lifetime has ceased, notably the home for the aged, the property still serves a philanthropic purpose as carried out by the educational mission of The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc.

The Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church landscape, presently undergoing stabilization, retains most aspects of integrity, except for feeling that has diminished due to building deterioration and overgrowth of vegetation. The church also retains much of its historic residential setting along Parker Street.

## CULTURAL LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

As stewards of the landscape legacy of Harriet Tubman, park managers must know what aspects of the landscape are historic and worthy of preservation, and which can be managed with flexibility. The following evaluation provides this information through a detailed analysis that uses a framework of landscape characteristics. These are broad aspects of the landscape, both tangible and intangible, and include the following within the park landscape: Natural Systems, Spatial Organization, Land Use, Circulation, Topography, Vegetation, Buildings and Structures, Views and Vistas, Constructed Water Features, Small-Scale Features, and Archaeological Sites. Each characteristic is evaluated through a brief narrative that summarizes changes that have occurred since the end of the historic period in 1913. These characteristic narratives are organized according to the three historic properties within the park: Harriet Tubman Home Property (25

acres), Tubman Farm (7 acres), and the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church (0.5 acre). [10]

Most but not all of the characteristics have associated features, which are physical aspects of the landscape that can be managed. An evaluated inventory of all features within park boundaries, organized by the three historic Tubman properties, is found in tables 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3. The historic condition and existing condition of each feature is described to inform an evaluation of contributing or non-contributing, or unevaluated if there is insufficient information. Features are documented on the analysis and evaluation plans (drawing 3.1, 3.2), which locate each feature and graphically distinguish historic features (contributing, in color) and non-historic features (non-contributing, in white). Character-defining features that have been lost since the end of the historic period (1913) are included in the tables, but are not evaluated since they do not exist and therefore cannot be managed. These features are also shown on the drawings 3.1 and 3.2 by dashed lines.

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS – HARRIET TUBMAN HOME PROPERTY

Overall, the cultural landscape of the twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property retains historic natural systems, circulation, and a building, but has lost its overall vernacular rural character defined by agricultural fields, open spaces, and broad views (figure 3.3, drawing 3.1; see also aerial photographs in Appendix D).

#### Natural Systems

Natural systems (geology, hydrology, flora, etc.) on the Harriet Tubman Home property, which are shared with the adjacent Tubman Farm, were characterized during the historic period (1896–1913) by the landform with its rise to the east, and Wood Creek. The creek may have been channelized during the property's pre-Tubman use as a brickyard, or earlier in its agricultural development to eliminate unproductive low-lying wetlands. Wetland communities may have become established by the historic period in abandoned clay pits along the creek banks. Hedgerows and small groves of native deciduous trees, including basswood, hickory, oak, cottonwood, and maple, were along the eastern edges of the property. The rest of the property was managed farmland. Today, these historic natural systems remain, but have become obscured by extensive deciduous woods that have grown up through natural succession, primarily since the 1960s. These woods detract from the historic open spatial character, views, and agricultural use of the Harriet Tubman Home landscape.

#### Spatial Organization

Spaces (defined areas or rooms) in the Harriet Tubman Home property during the historic period (1896–1913) consisted of open agricultural fields. These fields had external limits most likely defined by fences, hedgerows, and scattered trees along the rectangular property boundaries. No documentation has been found on internal division of the fields. Smaller internal spaces included what was most likely a former brickyard near Wood Creek to either side of Danforth Street (entrance road), bounded by four frame buildings that were probably removed in 1907 during the historic period. An orchard surrounded John Brown Hall. A fenced yard or garden established in ca. 1907 extended off the rear (north) side of the frame house (Home for the Aged). None of these spaces remain today due to loss of orchards, buildings, and fences, and most notably, growth of successional woods. Remnants of the open agricultural fields are in the maintained landscape around the frame house, library, and multi-purpose building, and in the cleared corridor beneath the NYSEG power transmission line. The front of the property along South Street has a more enclosed character than existed historically due to the chain-link fence and entrance gates added in the 1970s. Overall, the Harriet Tubman Home property has lost its historic spatial organization.

#### Land Use

The Harriet Tubman Home property was used long before the historic period for farming, while the western part had been used for brick making and clay extraction prior to Tubman ownership, from about the time of the Civil War through ca. 1885. During the historic period (1896–1913), the property was used as leased farmland and for the philanthropic programs of the Harriet Tubman Home institution, specifically the home for the aged that was housed in John Brown Hall (#2 Danforth Street). The frame house (#1 Danforth Street, today known as the Home for the Aged) was renovated in 1907 for an unrealized school of domestic science (industrial school). Plans for the school were never realized, and most of the property remained in tenant residential and agricultural use. Harriet Tubman moved into the home for the aged at John Brown Hall in 1911, and died there on March 10, 1913. The home for the aged operation moved into the frame house (#1 Danforth Street) in ca. 1914 and remained in operation until ca. 1926. The house was afterwards leased to tenants, and abandoned during World War II. Today, the Home property is used as a museum and historic site, a use begun by the A.M.E. Zion Church under the direction of Bishop William J. Walls through the rebuilding of the frame house in 1950. Overall, the property retains a strong connection to its historic land use. The A.M.E. Zion Church of America, which established The Harriet Tubman Home institution in 1895 along with Harriet Tubman, and has owned the Home property since 1903, continues in its historic mission of perpetuating Harriet Tubman's life of social justice

through education and interpretation. In contrast, there is little evidence left of the historic agricultural use of the property.

#### Circulation

The primary circulation (systems of movement through a landscape) in the Harriet Tubman Home property during the historic period (1896–1913) was an east-west private farm road known as Danforth Street, which followed an unnamed paper street platted by the City of Auburn in 1837 that bordered the south city boundary. This road was the spine of the property, along which most of the buildings were located. There may have been a defined walk from Danforth Street to the front entrance of the frame house (#1 Danforth Street), but most other circulation, including to the front door of John Brown Hall (#2 Danforth Street) was not paved or defined. Today, circulation in the landscape of the Home property is primarily asphalt paved roads/parking and concrete walks in the maintained western part, and rough trails in the eastern, wooded part. The western portion of Danforth Street remains in use as the entry to the site. The eastern portion of the street has been removed at the site of the multi-purpose building, and remains as a trace east of Wood Creek to the ruins of John Brown Hall. Unmaintained foot trails through these woods follow truck trails associated with development of the ca.1954 borrow pit on the Tubman Farm. Overall, the Harriet Tubman Home property has lost historic circulation character, but retains vestiges of the main feature, Danforth Street.

#### Topography

Topography (built landforms) on the Harriet Tubman Home property during the historic period (1896–1913) was characterized by clay pits along Wood Creek that had been dug during the property's use as a brick yard between ca. 1864 and 1885. The banks of Wood Creek may have been channelized during this same time, or possibly during earlier agricultural use. There may have been an earth causeway that carried Danforth Street over Wood Creek. Aside from minor grading for buildings, no other known topographic changes occurred during the historic period. Today, subtle traces of the clay pits remain along Wood Creek, hidden by woods and without ready access, and an earth causeway remains along Wood Creek on an abandoned segment of Danforth Street. A depression from the tollgate house along South Street, demolished in ca. 1915, existed until ca. 1976. Overall, topography was historically a minor characteristic of the Harriet Tubman Home property, and remains so today.

#### Vegetation

Vegetation (planted or managed flora) on the Harriet Tubman Home property during the historic period (1896–1913) included a few deciduous roadside trees along South Street and scattered elsewhere around the property, and an apple-

pear orchard south and east of John Brown Hall. The most widespread vegetation types were pasture grasses and undetermined crops in cultivated fields. Mown turf may have been maintained in limited areas around the residences. After Tubman's death in 1913, deciduous shrubs, including lilac and spirea, and daylilies were established around the frame house (#1 Danforth Street) when it was converted to use as the home for the aged. Today, all existing vegetation, which includes numerous specimen trees, a Norway spruce windbreak, herbaceous beds around the frame house and library, and large areas of lawn, date to reconstruction of the frame house in 1950 and subsequent improvements through the 1980s. A few old apple trees in the maintained grounds most likely date to an orchard established east of the frame house in ca. 1920. Overall, existing vegetation on the Harriet Tubman Home property reflects a suburban, maintained landscape character that is inconsistent with the vernacular, rural conditions of Tubman's lifetime

#### Buildings and Structures

Buildings and Structures on the Harriet Tubman Home property during the historic period (1896–1913) were mostly aligned along the east-west farm road known as Danforth Street. There were three residences (frame house built in ca. 1855, brick house/John Brown Hall built in ca. 1870, and the old tollgate house moved to the property in ca. 1883), and two barns/frame outbuildings, one across from the frame house and the other across from John Brown Hall. A small frame shed behind the frame house, perhaps a privy, was built in ca. 1907. A group of four frame buildings, probably built as part of the brick yard that operated on the property between ca. 1864 and 1885, existed to either side of Danforth Street near Wood Creek, but were demolished in ca. 1907 during the historic period. Structures were probably limited to a culvert that carried Danforth Street over Wood Creek. Today, the frame house, substantially rebuilt in 1950, is the only building remaining from the historic period. John Brown Hall, site of the home for the aged and place of Harriet Tubman's death in 1913, was demolished in ca. 1940. The two modern museum buildings (library, 1978, and multi-purpose building, 1983) are located near where frame outbuildings stood during the historic period, but differ in scale and style. Overall, buildings and structures were defining characteristics of the Harriet Tubman Home property landscape, but have lost historic character due to demolition and new construction. Despite this, the frame house conveys significant historic character due to its prominent location and exterior appearance that retains a character similar to what existed during Tubman's lifetime (fig. 3.4).

#### Views and Vistas

Broad, unobstructed views across open farmland to surrounding ridges characterized the Harriet Tubman Home property during the historic period

(1896–1913). Views were blocked in limited areas by buildings, orchards, and scattered trees. Today, none of these broad views remain due to woods that have grown up on farm fields abandoned after World War II both on the property and on adjacent properties. The woods on the eastern part of the property screen residential development on the top of the ridge, and those on the north screen the state armory complex. The NYSEG power transmission line interrupts views within the property. External views of farmland looking west across South Street have become blocked by suburban residential development, although open fields remain to the west of the houses. A minor view of the frame house, with its street-front gable that once contained a sign, "Harriet Tubman Home," remains from along South Street. Overall, views were a defining characteristic of the Harriet Tubman Home landscape during the historic period; their loss detracts from the historic character of the landscape.

#### Constructed Water Features

Constructed water features (structures that display water for aesthetic or functional purposes) were not part of the Harriet Tubman Home property during the historic period (1896–1913). Visible water was largely limited to the natural stream of Wood Creek, and there may have been periodic standing water in the old clay pits along Wood Creek, as well as concealed standing water in wells and cisterns. Today, the property contains one major constructed water feature: the pond constructed in ca. 1983 in the picnic grounds at the rear of the Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building. Overall, constructed water features did not characterize the Harriet Tubman Home landscape during the historic period. The pond detracts from the landscape's spatial character.

#### Small-Scale Features

Small-scale features (small built features or furnishings) in the Harriet Tubman Home property during the historic period (1896–1913) included fences of undetermined types that most likely existed along the property boundaries and in corrals and around gardens near the buildings. The only documented fence was a six-foot-tall plank fence built in ca. 1907 to enclose a yard or garden at the rear of the frame house (Home for the Aged). The number and type of small-scale features proliferated after Harriet Tubman's death in 1913, mostly after 1950. These included signs, wood utility poles (notably in the NYSEG power transmission line), street lights, picnic tables, and a chain-link fence and entrance gates along South Street. Commemorative and decorative features, including a flagpole, urn, and statue of Harriet Tubman, were added to the west lawn of the frame house, but have been removed or are unmaintained. Overall, small-scale features were a minor characteristic of the Harriet Tubman Home landscape, with the exception of fences that are not well documented. The existing features overall detract from the historic rural character of the landscape.

#### Archaeological Sites

Archaeological sites (for the purposes of this report defined as visible above-ground remnants) were not characteristic of the Harriet Tubman Home landscape during the historic period (1896–1913), although the abandoned clay pits along Wood Creek reflected remnants of past land use (see Topography). Today, there are three visible archaeological sites, most important being the ruins of John Brown Hall, which was a standing building during the historic period (fig. 3.5) (see Buildings and Structures section). There is also a small exposed portion of a brick clamp between the parking lot and visitor center, and a brick interpretation of a waster-brick foundation of the kitchen wing on the frame house. Three are other subsurface sites that have yielded, or have the potential to yield, significant information about the history of the property.[11]

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS – TUBMAN FARM

Overall, the cultural landscape of the seven-acre Tubman Farm (including the Norris house lot) retains historic natural systems, circulation, and buildings, but has lost its overall vernacular rural character defined by agricultural fields, open spaces, and broad views (see figure 3.3, drawing 3.1; see also aerial photographs in Appendix D).

#### Natural Systems

Natural systems (geology, hydrology, flora, etc.) on the Tubman Farm. which are shared with the adjacent Harriet Tubman Home property, were characterized during the historic period (1859–1913) by the landform with its rise to the east, and Wood Creek. The creek may have been channelized during early agricultural development of the property to eliminate unproductive low-lying wetlands. Hedgerows and small groves of native deciduous trees, including basswood, hickory, oak, cottonwood, and maple, were along the eastern edges of the property. The rest of the property was managed farmland. Today, these historic natural systems remain, but have become obscured by extensive deciduous woods that have grown up through natural succession, primarily since the 1960s. The natural landform has been extensively altered through excavation of the hillside on the eastern part of the farm to supply fill for the construction of Mount Carmel High School in 1954. The woods and borrow pit detract from the historic open spatial character, views, and agricultural use of the Tubman Farm landscape.

#### Spatial Organization

Spaces (defined areas or rooms) in the Tubman Farm landscape during the historic period (1859–1913) consisted of open agricultural fields that extended

east from the farmstead along South Street. These fields had external limits most likely defined by fences and vegetation along the rectangular property boundaries. No documentation has been found on internal division of the fields, aside from an apple orchard on the eastern hillside. Smaller spaces associated with the farmstead included a front and side yard at the Tubman House, a barnyard between the house and barn, fenced livestock corrals for pigs and chickens, and a fenced garden south of the house (current site of Norris house). The change in ownership following Tubman's death in 1913, and the end of farming after 1950, led to alteration and removal of the barnyard and corrals, loss of the fenced garden to residential development, and loss of the open fields to natural succession. Overall, the Tubman Farm landscape has lost its historic spatial character, but retains the front yard and remnants of the open space in the western portion surrounding the house and barn.

#### Land Use

The Tubman Farm was Harriet Tubman's property, residence, and place where she raised food to support her dependents for much of the historic period (1859–1913). She and Nelson Davis raised pigs, poultry, dairy cows, fruit, potatoes, and other crops. Her house served as the first home for the aged until 1908, when the A.M.E. Zion Church opened the home for the aged in John Brown Hall on the twenty-five-acre Home property. By 1911, when Tubman entered John Brown Hall due to her failing health, her farm operation had probably ceased and the house was shuttered. In 1914, a year after her death, Tubman's legal estate sold the seven-acre property to England and Ellen Norris, who continued to farm the property until around World War II. By the 1950s, the Norris family abandoned farming and instead used the property for resource extraction (excavation), a delivery and transportation business, and for building a second house south of the Tubman house. In 1999, the A.M.E. Zion Church acquired the farm, except for the 1950s Norris house lot, for incorporation into the Harriet Tubman Home historic site. The church initially used the property as a residence for the caretakers of the Home property, and between 2007 and 2012 undertook exterior restoration on the barn and house, but the work was not completed to allow for public access and interpretation. Today, the landscape of the farm, including the Norris house lot that is outside park boundaries, still reflects the change in land use from agricultural during Harriet Tubman's lifetime to suburban residential following her death. The historic buildings are visible from the Home property, but remain closed to the public.

#### Circulation

The primary circulation (systems of movement through a landscape) at the Tubman Farm during the historic period (1859–1913) was an east-west earth farm road with a base of waster brick that followed the northern property line. It

provided access to the barnyard at the rear of the Tubman house, and extended along the north side of the barn and east across Wood Creek to the hillside pastures and orchard on the eastern part of the farm. The second known circulation feature was a brick walk to the front entrance of the Tubman house, which was probably built when the brick house was constructed in 1881-1882. With the end of farming on the property by the 1950s, the eastern part of the farm road was abandoned, and truck trails were built north from the large borrow pit developed in 1954 to provide fill for Mount Carmel High School. Construction of the Norris house on the Tubman garden site in 1954 added a driveway and entrance walk. Today, circulation in the Tubman Farm landscape continues to reflect the change in land use that occurred in the decades following Harriet Tubman's death.

#### Topography

Topography (built landforms) at the Tubman Farm during the historic period (1859–1913) was most likely limited to the area along Wood Creek that may have been raised and channelized to create improved farmland, probably prior to Tubman's ownership. An earthen causeway may have been built at the same time to carry the farm road over Wood Creek. Aside from minor grading for buildings, no other known topographic changes occurred during the historic period. Two topographic features were added after Tubman's death in 1913: a bank along the south property line, from fill added on the property to the south in ca. 1925; and a large borrow pit on the eastern half of the farm excavated in 1954 to provide fill for the construction of Mount Carmel High School. Tubman's orchard most likely existed at the site of the pit. Overall, topography was historically a minor characteristic of the Tubman Farm landscape, but is today more prominent due to borrow pit, but it is concealed by successional woods that grew up after 1960.

#### Vegetation

Vegetation (planted or managed flora) at the Tubman Farm during the historic period (1859–1913) included an orchard with apple trees on the hillside at the eastern part of the farm, pasture grasses, crops that included potatoes, and a garden south of the house. No complete record of crops and livestock raised has been found. Shrubs, probably lilac, lined the front yard along South Street. After Tubman's death in 1913, the Norris family added ornamental trees and shrubs around the Tubman house and the brick ranch-style house built in 1954. Crops and pasture grasses remained until farming operations ended around 1950. Remnants of Tubman's orchard were probably removed for excavation of the Mount Carmel High School borrow pit in 1954. Overall, existing vegetation on the Tubman Farm property reflects the shift to suburban land uses that occurred after Tubman's death, but the mature deciduous trees and remaining shrubs in

the front and side yards of the Tubman house are characteristic of domestic rural plantings during Tubman's lifetime.

#### Buildings and Structures

Buildings and Structures at the Tubman Farm during the historic period (1859–1913) were clustered in the farmstead at the western side of the property. These included the two-story brick house built in 1881-1882 to replace a frame house built prior to 1859 that was lost to fire, and a frame barn of hybrid construction that was built around the same time as the brick house. There were most likely a number of frame outbuildings, including privies, in and around the rear barnyard. After Harriet Tubman's death in 1913, the Norris family made alterations to the house, barn, and outbuildings, and built a new brick ranch-style house south of the Tubman house. By the time the A.M.E. Zion Church purchased the property in 1999, none of the outbuildings remained. Between 2007 and 2012, the church restored the barn and most of the house's exterior. Overall, buildings and structures were defining characteristics of the Tubman Farm landscape and due to recent restoration, reflect the character that existed during Harriet Tubman's lifetime (fig. 3.6). The 1954 Norris house and loss of agricultural outbuildings detract from the landscape's historic character.

#### Views and Vistas

Broad, unobstructed views across open farmland to surrounding ridges characterized the Tubman Farm landscape during the historic period (1859–1913). Views were blocked in limited areas by buildings, orchards, and scattered trees. Today, none of these broad views remain due to woods that have grown up on farm fields abandoned after World War II both on the property and on adjacent properties. The woods on the eastern part of the property screen residential development on the top of the ridge and a large borrow pit on the Tubman Farm. Expansive rural views looking out the front windows of the Tubman house have been replaced with limited views of suburban residential landscapes, although open fields remain to the west of the houses. Overall, views were a defining characteristic of the Tubman Farm landscape during the historic period, but have been lost in large part.

#### Small-Scale Features

Small-scale features (small built features or furnishings) at the Tubman Farm during the historic period (1859–1913) included farm equipment and tools, and fences of undetermined types that existed along the property boundaries and in corrals and around gardens near the buildings. The only documented fences included a picket fence around the garden south of the Tubman house that existed by 1896, and the fence (unknown type) built by William H. Seward, Jr. along Tubman's south property line in 1881 to enclose his orchard on the

property to the south. After Harriet Tubman's death in 1913, the Norris family most likely replaced the boundary fences with woven-wire fences (remnants remain today), and removed the picket fence around that garden by the early 1940s. A wood trellis was installed in a planted border north of the house. Numerous small-scale features were introduced in the rear yard of the Norris ranch-style house that was built in 1954, including a clothes line and play equipment, as well as an above-ground swimming pool. Overall, small-scale features were historically a minor characteristic of Tubman Home landscape, with the exception of fences.

#### Archaeological Sites

Archaeological sites (for the purposes of this report defined as visible above-ground remnants) were not characteristic of the Tubman Farm landscape during the historic period (1859–1913). Today, there are no visible ruins on the site, although traces of the farm road exist in the woods west of the house (see Circulation). There are substantial subsurface archaeological resources within the farmstead area that have yielded significant information about the history of the property.

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS – THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Overall, the cultural landscape of the half-acre Thompson A.M.E. Zion church property retains historic spatial character, circulation, buildings, and views (figure 3.7, drawing 3.2; see also aerial photographs in Appendix D). Some historic details of the buildings, which are the dominant features of the landscape, are missing, but will be restored in the near future.

#### Natural Systems

As an urban maintained landscape, natural systems (geology, hydrology, flora, etc.) were largely absent from the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church landscape during the historic period (1891–1913). There may have been native grasses at the rear of the property that were remnants of the site's earlier use as a farm. After 1960, maintenance of the rear half of the property ceased, and the area grew up in successional woods dominated by black locust, box elder, and Norway maple. Due to their location and height, the woods detract from the historic character of the landscape due to their alteration of the property's historic spatial character.

#### Spatial Organization

Spaces (defined areas or rooms) in the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church landscape during the historic period (1891–1913) consisted of an open lawn between the church and parsonage, and open ground at the rear of the half-acre lot that may

have been used as a garden and planted with trees along the west side to screen houses to the west along Park Place. Houses to the north and south framed narrow side yards of the church and parsonage. The front of the church and parsonage were open to the street, without fences or street trees. After Harriet Tubman's death in 1913, dense successional woods grew up on the rear half of the property. Overall, the church landscape retains the key open space between the church and parsonage, but has lost most of the open ground at the rear of the lot.

#### Land Use

The Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church property was used for religious purposes beginning with the completion of the church building in 1891, and for residential purposes following completion of the parsonage in 1910. The lawn between the buildings was probably used for outdoor social gatherings. Harriet Tubman worshipped at the church and was buried from it on March 13, 1910. In 1993, the parish, then named the Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, moved to larger space at the former Wall Street Methodist Church in Auburn. The old church and parsonage on Parker Street stood vacant, but remained under the ownership of the A.M.E. Zion Church. The buildings were stabilized in the early 2000s. In 2016, ownership was transferred to The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., and then to the United States for incorporation into Harriet Tubman National Historical Park. Future use of the property has not yet been determined, but will involve public access and interpretation. Loss of the historic religious use of the property has diminished the historic association of the property and led to deterioration of the buildings and grounds that is currently being addressed.

#### Circulation

Circulation (systems of movement through a landscape) within Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church landscape was limited to pedestrians during the historic period (1891–1913). Parker Street, a dirt road lined by ditches and without curbs in front of the church, provided vehicular access to the property. Circulation into the church, built in 1891, was by stone sidewalks and by a crosswalk on Parker Street that was paved in small stone slabs. Stone pavement covered the short distance from the sidewalk to the foundation of the church and two large stone slabs formed the steps to the front entrance. This pavement sloped down across the face of the church, toward the north. The parsonage, built in 1910, featured a short concrete walk from the sidewalk to wood steps that led up to the front porch. After Harriet Tubman's death in 1913, a gravel and asphalt driveway was added along the north side of the parsonage, the stone crosswalk on Parker Street was removed and the street was paved in asphalt, and the public sidewalks were rebuilt in concrete. The entrance to the church was altered through replacement or concealment of the stone pavement and steps with concrete, and the addition

of concrete ramps with pipe-railings to either side of the front entrance steps. A parking lots was never added to the property, and no surfaced walks appear to have been added to the rear entrances of the buildings. Overall, circulation was a defining characteristic along the front of the property. The same systems remain today, but the materials have been altered. The concrete ramps detract from the historic character of the landscape.

#### Topography

Topography (built landforms) in and adjacent to the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church landscape during the historic period (1891–1913) included drainage ditches along both sides of Parker Street, within the public right-of-way. These ditches drained to the north, following the natural grade. A stone slab provided circulation across the ditch directly in front of the church entrance. The church lot was graded to create relatively level ground that ended in a bank of approximately two to three feet along the west boundary and portions of the north boundary. This grading may have been done when the parsonage as built in 1910. After Harriet Tubman's death in 1913, the roadside ditches were removed with road widening and paving. Aside from this notable change, overall the topography of the site appears to be little changed from the historic period.

#### Vegetation

Vegetation (planted or managed flora) in the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church landscape during the historic period (1891–1913) was limited to turf and most likely specimen trees and English ivy groundcover at the rear of the property. There were no foundation plantings around either the church or parsonage, and no trees along the street frontage. After Harriet Tubman's death in 1913, foundation plantings composed of yew surrounded by deciduous shrubs were added to the front corners of the church, and vines were planted along the higher north foundation wall. Shrubs were also planted around the parsonage. Specimen trees at the rear of the property became enveloped after the 1960s in volunteer woods that included black locust, box elder, and Norway maple (see Natural Systems). The overgrown foundation plantings were removed during stabilization of the buildings in 2017. Overall, the existing sparse vegetation, which is limited to turf, is consistent with the historic character of the landscape.

#### Buildings and Structures

Buildings and structures in the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church landscape during the historic period (1891–1913) included the Queen Anne-style church built in 1891, and the Classical Revival-style Foursquare-plan parsonage built in 1910. No known outbuildings existed during the historic period. After Harriet Tubman's death in 1913, exterior details of the buildings were altered. These included

addition of asbestos-shingle siding and removal of the balustrade, railings, and columns on the parsonage porch. A prefabricated shed was added to the rear of the parsonage. These changes were reversed by 2018, and today both buildings retain much of their exterior historic character.

#### Views and Vistas

Views in the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church landscape during the historic period (1891–1913) were characterized by general prospects of the surrounding residential streetscape, with the church bell tower serving as prominent focal point. There were also views into Fort Hill cemetery through an empty double lot across from the church. Harriet Tubman's grave may have been visible from the church in winter when trees along the cemetery boundary were bare, or beneath the canopy. Houses along Park Place at the rear of the church were also visible. After Harriet Tubman's death, the views remained largely unchanged, except for the view into Fort Hill Cemetery, which became obstructed by growth of trees along the cemetery boundary and by a house built on the former open double lot. Views of the houses on Park Place became screened by specimen trees, and later blocked by successional woods. Overall, the historic openness of the landscape has been reduced, but the church bell tower still serves as a focal point.

#### Small-Scale Features

There is no record of any small-scale features (small built features or furnishings) in the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church landscape during the historic period (1891–1913). There were wood utility poles near the church along Parker Street, and an arc light several lots to the north. It is not known whether the rear of the property was fenced. Today, there remain no permanent small-scale features in the landscape aside from nearby utility poles and streetlights.

#### Archaeological Sites

Archaeological sites (for the purposes of this report defined as visible above-ground remnants) were not characteristic of the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church landscape during the historic period (1891–1913), or after Harriet Tubman's death in 1913. No archaeological testing has been undertaken to determine if there are any subsurface resources.

**ENDNOTES, ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION**

[1] "The Moses of Her People, Harriet Tubman's Wonderful Half Forgotten Career," *The Sun* (New York, New York), 2nd edition, June 7, 1896, 5.

[2] Marcia M. Greenlee, "Harriet Tubman Museum/Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged," National Register/National Historic Landmark Inventory-Nomination Form, July 1973, NRIS #74001222, downloaded from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS), "Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged," 90PR04122. The existing NHL plaque on the front of the house incorrectly identifies 1975 as the date of NHL designation (should be 1974).

[3] Mike Long, e-mail to John Auwaerter, August 28, 2018. Mike Long, then the city planner, applied for the grant, and Rev. Paul Carter of The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. was the contact for the nomination.

[4] CRIS, inventory-nomination forms under 90PR04122, 98PR4085, 98PR4087, and 98PR04088.

[5] The sketch map in the inventory-nomination form has incorrect boundaries for the Tubman Residence (Tubman Farm) property (shown as the southern part of the Harriet Tubman Home property). These boundaries may be the reason for the inaccurate acreage cited in the nomination.

[6] CRIS, USN 01140.001891, evaluation completed May 30, 2017.

[7] National Historic Landmark Nomination, "Tubman Home for the Aged, Harriet Tubman Residence and Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church" (Unpublished unsigned report, February 18, 2000), page 8, https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/74001222 (accessed August 28, 2018); Caridad de la Vega, National Historic Landmark Program, e-mail to John Auwaerter citing the official date of NHL boundary increase (January 3, 2001), September 12, 2018. The form for the boundary expansion was prepared by Susanne R. Warren and edited by Patty Henry of the National Park Service's National Historic Landmarks Survey.

[8] NHL nomination, February 18, 2000, pages 4-7.

[9] *How to Apply the National Register Criteria*, 44-45.

[10] Robert R. Page, Cathy A. Gilbert, and Susan A. Dolan, *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1998). The cultural landscape evaluation is necessary because the National Register does provide for a comprehensive inventory and evaluation of cultural landscapes. There is no one-to-one correlation between inventory and evaluation methods of the National Register and NPS cultural landscape program.

[11] Alan D. Armstrong and Douglas V. Armstrong, "Craft Enterprise and the Harriet Tubman Home," in *Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage*, volume 1, number 1 (Spring 2012), 50.



Figure 3.1. Historic buildings at the Tubman properties. Left: The frame house (Home for the Aged) and Tubman House looking southwest toward South Street, 2017; Right: The Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and parsonage undergoing stabilization, looking southwest from Parker Street, 2018. The historic rural landscape of the South Street properties that was so important to Harriet Tubman's free life has been concealed for decades. (SUNY ESF)

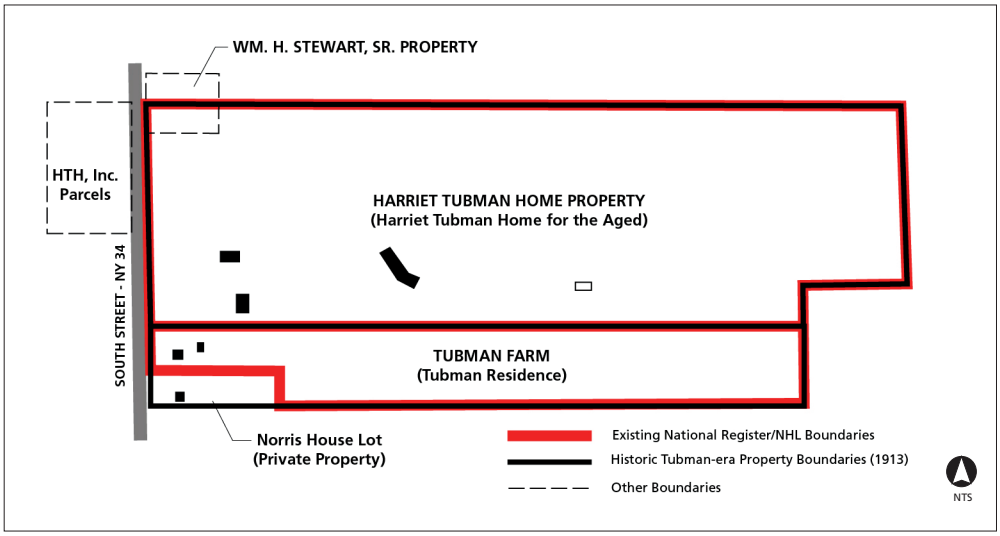



Figure 3.2. Boundaries at the Tubman properties on South Street showing recommended incorporation of the Norris house lot. (SUNY ESF)

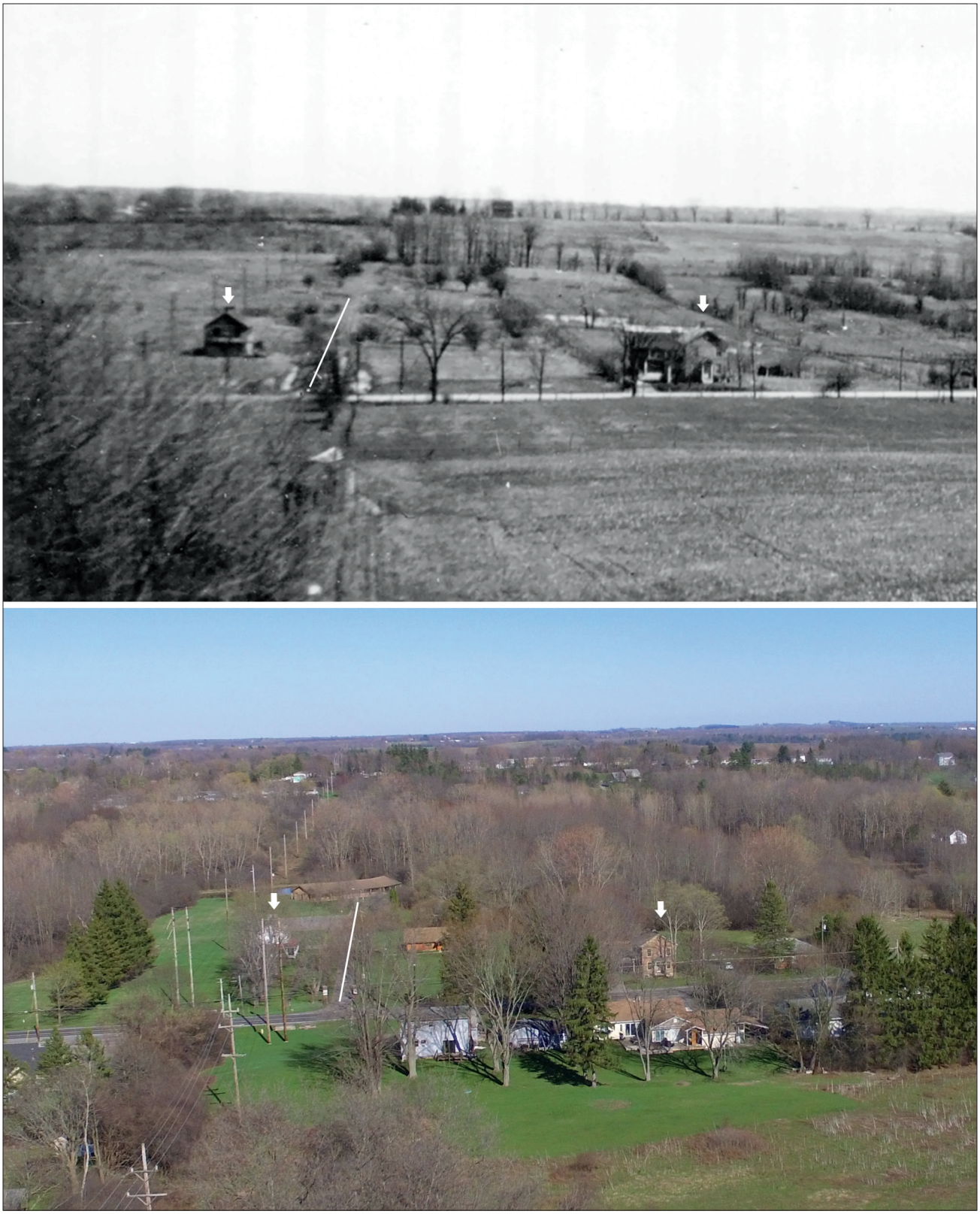


**Figure 3.3. The South Street properties (Harriet Tubman Home at left and Tubman Farm at right), looking east from the hill west of South Street. Top: In ca. 1943, showing overall rural character that had changed little since Harriet Tubman's lifetime. (Norris Family photograph). Bottom: In 2017 showing loss of agricultural fields, expansion of maintained landscape, and addition of buildings both on and adjacent to the site. The white arrows point to the frame house (Home for the Aged) at left, and the Tubman House at right; the white line marks the entrance drive (Danforth Street).**



**Figure 3.4. Comparison of the frame house (Home for the Aged) showing historic and existing conditions. Left: Historic condition reflecting renovations completed in 1907 for a planned technical school, looking northeast showing lack of surrounding plantings, ca. 1914. (James E. Mason, *Tribute to Harriet Tubman: The Modern Amazon*, 1914) Right: Existing condition that reflects the reconstruction completed in 1950, looking northeast showing plantings made after 1954, 2018. (SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 3.5. Comparison of John Brown Hall (home for the aged during the historic period) showing historic and existing conditions. Left: Historic condition showing new front porch, looking southeast, ca. 1910. (Program for the Second Pilgrimage to the Harriet Tubman Home, 1954, Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Charles L. Blockson, 2009.50.5) Right: Existing archaeological site that dates to the building's demolition in ca. 1940, looking southeast, 2017. (SUNY ESF)**

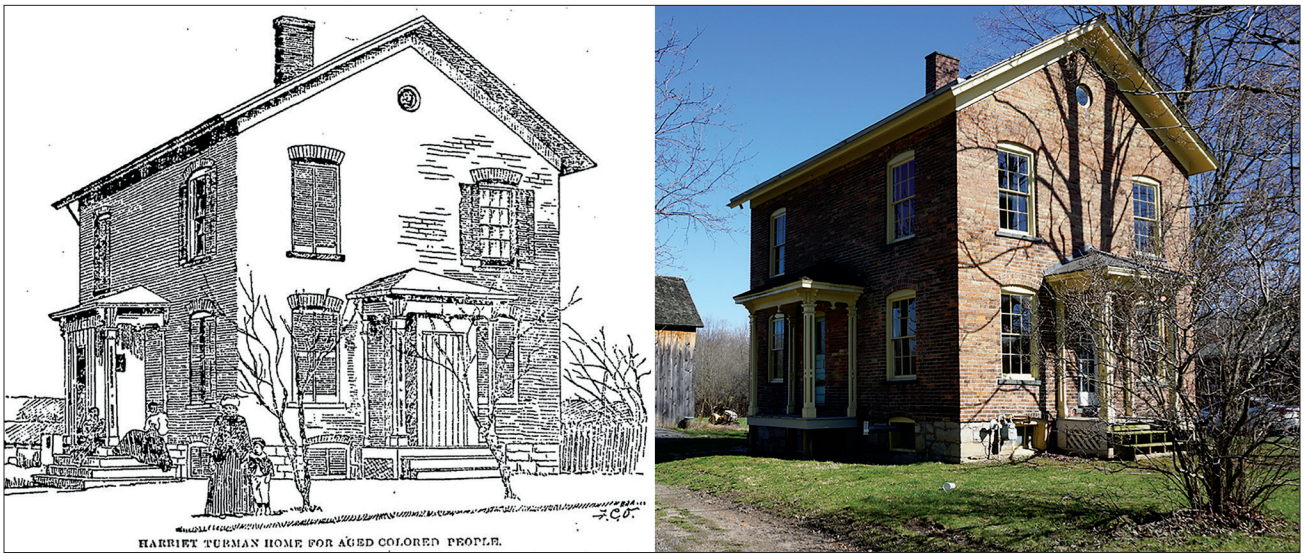



**Figure 3.6. Comparison of the Tubman House showing historic and existing conditions. Left: Historic condition looking southeast with the barn in the left background, ca. 1896. (Syracuse *Sunday Herald*, April 19, 1896) Right: Existing condition showing exterior restoration and the restored barn in left background, looking southeast, 2017. (SUNY ESF)**



**Figure 3.7. Comparison of the Thompson A.M.E.Zion church landscape showing historic and existing conditions. Top: Historic condition looking northwest along Parker Street, 1913. (Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Charles L. Blockson, 2009_50_9_001) Right: Existing condition showing retention of overall character, but loss of details, looking northwest, 2017. (SUNY ESF)**

**TABLE 3.1. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: HARRIET TUBMAN HOME PROPERTY** (DRAWING 3.1)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

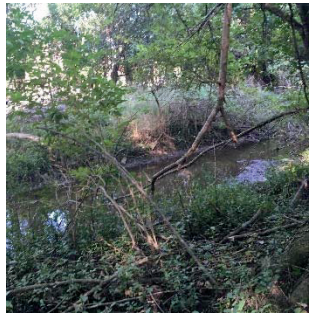
| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Natural Systems** (Drawing Key: NS) | | | | | |
| NS-1. Wood Creek (Home and Tubman Farm) | | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** Prior to the historic period, Wood Creek, a minor tributary of Crane Brook and the Seneca River, probably had a natural winding alignment through the Home property and Tubman Farm, with headwaters within a mile to the southeast, north of Owasco Lake. The creek was most likely channelized as part of agricultural development or brickmaking operations prior to Tubman ownership. Brickmaking also resulted in excavation of pits along the banks on the Home property. During Tubman's lifetime, the creek flowed through open fields without significant riparian vegetation, and through culverts/causeways at Danforth Street and the farm road on the Tubman Farm.<br>**Existing Condition:** Wood Creek today extends through dense vegetation that has grown up since the 1960s on abandoned agricultural fields, except for one open area in the NYSEG power line corridor clearing. The creek flows through a concrete pipe culvert on Danforth Street and a slab culvert on the Tubman farm road. Wood Creek has high-quality water and flow.<br>**Evaluation:** Wood Creek is a significant feature of the Harriet Tubman Home landscape that appears to retain the same flow and course it had during Tubman's lifetime, but is today less visible due to growth of vegetation. |  |
| NS-2. Successional Woods (Home and Tubman Farm) | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** Most of the Home property was open fields during Tubman's lifetime, except for an orchard around John Brown Hall, and trees along the eastern property boundaries.<br>**Existing Condition:** The Home property outside of the maintained grounds and the NYSEG power line corridor is dominated by deciduous successional woods that have grown up since the 1960s on agricultural land abandoned around World War II. These woods are characterized by lowland-areas of silver maple and Eastern cottonwood, and by black walnut, black oak, cherry, and green ash in upland areas. There are pockets of semi-open canopy. Invasive European buckthorn is pervasive through the understory of young areas. There are old hedgerows and a grove along the eastern property boundaries that have native old-growth trees (see NSF-3), and volunteer apple trees (see NSF-4).<br>**Evaluation:** The successional woods are a non-historic feature that detract from the landscape's open spatial character, rural use, and expansive views that existed during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. |  |

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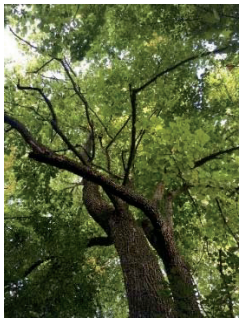
| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NS-3. Old-Growth Forest Trees (Home and Tubman Farm) | : | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** There were most likely native trees on the Home property along property lines, particularly on the eastern uphill areas of the site.<br>**Existing Condition:** There are large basswood, sugar maple, red oak, shagbark hickory, hornbeam, and cottonwood trees along the northern boundary of the property adjacent to the school district property, and along the south boundary at the west end of the Tubman Farm. This grove is mostly on private property. All of these trees are today surrounded by younger successional woods.<br>**Evaluation:** The existing older-growth trees may be the only trees on the property that date to Tubman's lifetime. While further research would be necessary to determine if they are from the historic period (such as through dendrochronological testing), their location and species are compatible with the historic character of the landscape. |  |
| NS-4. Volunteer Forest Apple Trees | | | Unevaluated | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** There was an apple and pear orchard south and east of John Brown Hall. It was planted in ca. 1875. Harriet Tubman maintained an on orchard on the hillside at the eastern end of her farm.<br>**Existing Condition:** There are scattered apple trees in the woods, particularly along the NYSEG power line corridor, that may have seeded from the historic orchard near John Brown Hall, which was abandoned after the 1930s (John Brown Hal was demolished in ca.1940), or from the Tubman orchard that was largely removed by the 1930s. The volunteer apple trees may have also seeded from a post-Tubman apple orchard planted east of the frame house in ca. 1920.<br>**Evaluation:** Volunteer apple trees in the successional woods (NSF-2) may have value for the genetic material they contain from the historic orchards on the property. Research is needed to determine if these trees are varieties commonly grown in the late 19th century; no documentation has been found on specific varieties that were grown historically. The existing volunteer trees are not significant landscape features because they appear to all be outside the limits of the historic orchards. |  |
| **Spatial Organization Features** (Drawing Key: SO) | | | | | |
| *Frame House Fenced Yard (Not Extant)* | *A ca. 1920 photograph (Jane Searing) of the frame house (Home for the Aged) showed a partially vine-covered plank fence approximately 6 feet tall, which most likely enclosed a yard or garden at the rear of the frame house. This fenced yard probably dated to a ca. 1907 renovation of the frame house for its planned use as an industrial school. The yard was probably removed in ca. 1931 for construction of the NYSEG power line, which crossed the yard. A larger area of cultivated ground was subsequently maintained at the site of the yard, as shown in a 1938 aerial photograph, probably through 1943 when tenant use of the frame house ended.* | | | | |
| *Harriet Tubman Home Farm Fields (Not Extant)* | *The agricultural fields (cultivated land and pasture) that existed on the property during the historic period (1896–1913) were lost due to cessation of farming by World War II and subsequent natural succession. Their loss detracts from the historic character of the landscape, in particular its open space and broad views, and its character as working land. No documentation was found on internal division/organization of the fields, aside from the orchard that existed near John Brown Hall (see Vegetation) and a garden plot across Danforth Street (see following entry).* | | | | |

**TABLE 3.1. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: HARRIET TUBMAN HOME PROPERTY** (DRAWING 3.1)
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| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *John Brown Hall Garden Plot (Not Extant)* | *When the Board of Lady Managers operated the home for the aged in John Brown Hall beginning in 1908, they kept pigs and maintained a garden nearby, most likely to the north, across Danforth Street and east of a small barn. It is not known whether the garden was fenced. This area was maintained in cultivation through the late 1930s.[1] After this time, the area grew up in woods, except along the NYSEG power line. No trace of the garden plot is presently visible in the landscape.* | | | | |
| SO-2. Harriet Tubman Home Maintained Grounds Area | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The western part of the Home property was part of the larger agricultural open space that extended across the entire twenty-five-acre property.<br>**Existing Condition:** The maintained grounds between Wood Creek and South Street around the frame house, library, and multi-purpose building form an open space of approximately 5.75 acres unified by mown lawn and enclosed on three sides by woods and along South Street by a chain-link fence. This space dates to reconstruction of the frame house in 1950, when a front lawn was established west of the frame house to South Street, north to a windbreak of Norway spruce, east to a picket fence and arbor that extended from the back of the house, and south to the entrance road (Danforth Street). This maintained landscape was expanded south of the entrance road with construction of the library in 1978, and west to near Wood Creek with construction of the multi-purpose building in 1983. The woods that enclose the space grew up beginning in the 1950s.<br>**Evaluation:** The landscape space created by the maintained grounds at the western part of the Home property is not historic, but the area does maintain some of the larger open rural space that existed historically. |  |
| SO-3. NYSEG Power Transmission Line Clearing (See also LU-1, BS-4) | | | Non-Contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The NYSEG power line clearing did not exist.<br>**Existing Condition:** A clearing, 50 feet wide and 850 feet long, extends through the woods west of the multi-purpose building along the NYSEG power transmission line built in ca. 1931. The clearing continues east for another 550 feet. The clearing became a distinct space with growth of woods on former agricultural fields after World War II.<br>**Evaluation:** The NYSEG power line clearing is a non-historic feature that detracts from the landscape's rural character that existed during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. It does maintain a portion of the larger open space that existed historically. |  |

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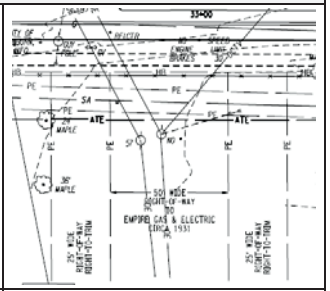
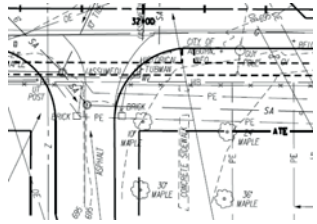
| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Land Use Features** (Drawing Key: LU) | | | | | |
| LU-1. NYSEG Power Transmission Line Right-of-Way (See also SO-3, BS-4) | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The power line right-of-way did not exist. **Existing Condition:** A high-voltage power transmission line extends in a 50-foot-wide right-of-way ("PE" on plan) across the Home property from South Street to the eastern property line. NYSEG has the right to trim an additional 25 feet to either side of the 50-foot corridor. This right of way easement was created in ca. 1931 by the Empire Gas & Electric (later New York State Electric and Gas). [2] **Evaluation:** The NYSEG utility right-of-way is a non-historic land use feature that is associated with features (power lines, corridor) that detract from the landscape's historic rural character. It crosses through the core of the property, 20 feet north of the frame house. |  |
| LU-2. Picnic Area | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The picnic area did not exist during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. **Existing Condition:** The lawn between the multi-purpose building and the pond is a picnic area with wood picnic tables that are stored beneath the porch of the building. The area's use dates to construction of the multi-purpose building and pond in 1983. Organized picnics were first held on the property by the A.M.E. Zion Church and Board of Lady Managers of the Harriet Tubman Home in 1922 as part of a tribute to Harriet Tubman that included a pilgrimage to her grave. **Evaluation:** Picnicking is a non-historic use of the Home landscape, and the area presently designated for that use is contemporary with the 1983 multi-purpose building. Picnicking has a long tradition at the site. |  |
| LU-3 Sanitary Sewer Line Easement (See also SSF-4) | | | Unevaluated | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The sewer easement did not exist. **Existing Condition:** A sanitary sewer ("SA" on plan) is within a 10-foot-wide easement ("PE on plan") along the western boundary of the Home property from the Library lawn north. A natural gas line is closer to the road. The easement was established in ca. 1956 when the City of Auburn extended sewers to accommodate suburban development at the southern part of the city and in the Town of Fleming. The line was upgraded in 1976, when a lateral was extended into the Home property for the planned Harriet Tubman Memorial Library. A portion of the walk from South Street to the frame house (see C-7) was probably removed for this upgrade. **Evaluation:** The sewer line easement is a non-historic use of the Harriet Tubman Home landscape. The only above-ground (visible) features associated with the easement are manhole covers in the entrance drive and library lawn, and at the sewer pump station at the northwest corner of the property (see SSF-4). |  |

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**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Circulation Features** (Drawing Key: C) | | | | | |
| C-1. Entrance Road (Danforth Street) | | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The 1837 City of Auburn plat map showed a planned east-west road off South Street that paralleled the boundary with the Town of Fleming. A private road most likely existed along this alignment by the time the frame house (Home for the Aged) was built in ca. 1855. The road extended east of Wood Creek by the time John Brown Hall was built in ca.1870, but based on available documentation, never went east to Moravia Street (present NY 38) at the top of the hill. During operation of the Harriet Tubman Home, the road was known as Danforth Street (frame house was at #1 Danforth, John Brown Hall at #2 Danforth). This name, with avenue rather than street, was originally given to a paper street or farm road on the Flavel Danforth property to the north, as shown on an 1860 survey (the name Danforth Avenue is presently used for the entrance road to the state armory, which is in the approximate location of the 1860 Danforth Avenue). All of the buildings on the Home property were accessed from Danforth Street, except for the old tollgate house.<br>**Existing Condition:** The entrance road into the Harriet Tubman Home is a 12-foot wide paved road that extends 495 feet from South Street to the entrance walk to the multi-purpose building. It widens to approximately 16 feet east of the garage driveway and then becomes part of the parking lot. The road follows the historic alignment of Danforth Street, a name that was dropped by the time the frame house was rebuilt in 1950. The road was paved in asphalt in 1978. The middle section of the old road was obliterated for construction of the multi-purpose building in 1983. A trace of the old roadbed remains east of Wood Creek, where there is an unmaintained footpath. No visible traces remain from the extension that was built east of John Brown Hall in ca. 1954 to access the Mount Carmel High School borrow pit on the Tubman Farm.<br>**Evaluation:** The entrance road was historically the main circulation feature in the Harriet Tubman Home landscape, and remains so today. The asphalt pavement, widening, and loss of the eastern half of the road to John Brown Hall detract from the historic character of the landscape. The multi-purpose building blocks the historic alignment of the road. |  |
| C-2. Frame House (Home for the Aged) Entrance Walk | | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** There was most likely a short walk from the front entrance of the frame house to the entrance road (Danforth Street).<br>**Existing Condition:** A four-foot-wide concrete walk extends 15 feet from the frame house to the entrance road. It was built in ca. 1952 following rebuilding of the frame house in 1950.<br>**Evaluation:** The entrance walk to the frame house is a historic circulation feature that was paved in concrete after the historic period. No documentation has been found on the historic surface of the walk. |  |

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**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C-3. Garage Driveway | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The driveway did not exist. **Existing Condition:** A short asphalt driveway, 18 feet wide by 35 feet long, extends from the entrance road east of the frame house. It originally provided access to a two-car concrete-block garage built in 1954.The driveway was paved along with the entrance road in 1978. The garage was removed in 2012, but the driveway was retained. **Evaluation:** The driveway is a non-historic feature that does not relate in materials or location to historic circulation in the landscape. |  |
| C-4. Library Entrance Walk | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The walk to the library did not exist. **Existing Condition:** A 4-foot wide concrete walk extends 108 feet from the library entrance across the entrance road to the frame house (Home for the Aged). It was built in in 1978 along with the Harriet Tubman Memorial Library. **Evaluation:** The walk to the library building is a non-historic feature that does not relate in materials or location to historic circulation in the landscape. |  |
| C-5. Hillary Clinton Path | | | Non-Contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The path did not exist. **Existing Condition:** A gravel walk overgrown with turf extends along a diagonal from the Harriet Tubman Memorial Library to the rear of the Tubman House. It was built for First Lady Hillary Clinton's visit to the site in 1998.[3] The path is not maintained, but continues to be used as pedestrian access to the Tubman House. **Evaluation:** The Hillary Clinton path is a non-historic feature that is inconspicuous in the landscape. No documentation has been found on defined circulation between the Tubman Farm and Harriet Tubman Home property during the historic period. |  |
| C-6. South Street Entrance Walk | | | Non-Contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The South Street entrance walk did not exist. **Existing Condition:** A 4-foot-wide concrete walk extends from South Street 220 feet to the front entrance of the frame house (Home for the Aged), parallel to the entrance road. There walk terminates at a pedestrian gate in the fence along South Street. The walk appears to be little used; there are no connecting sidewalks along South Street. The walk was built in ca. 1952 following rebuilding of the frame house in 1950. A missing piece of pavement near the gate in the chain-link fence along South Street probably dates to upgrades of the sewer line made in ca. 1976. **Evaluation:** The South Street entrance walk is a non-historic feature that does not relate in materials or location to historic circulation in the landscape. |  |

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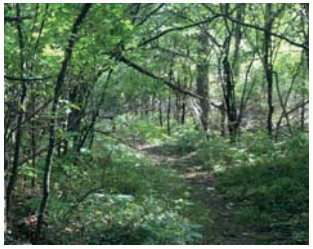
| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C-7. Multi-Purpose Building Entrance Walk | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The walk did not exist. Its alignment was occupied by Danforth Street (entrance road).<br>**Existing Condition:** A 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk extends from the end of the entrance road and visitor parking lot 140 feet east to the multi-purpose building (visitor center). The walk was built as part of the construction of the multi-purpose building in 1983. The walk wraps around the front and south sides of the building, beneath a porch.<br>**Evaluation:** The visitor center entrance walk is a non-historic feature that follows part of the historic alignment of Danforth Street that provided access to John Brown Hall. |  |
| C-8. Parking Lot | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The parking lot did not exist. The site was a field that was used in part for brickmaking up until ca. 1885.[4]<br>**Existing Condition:** An asphalt-paved parking lot at the east end of the entrance road measures approximately 65 feet by 100 feet, and contains 22 parking spaces. A parking lot was probably first built in the area in ca. 1978 along with construction of the library building. The current parking lot was built in 1983 as part of the construction of the multi-purpose building.<br>**Evaluation:** The visitor parking lot is a non-historic feature that detracts from the landscape's rural character that existed during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. It occupies a conspicuous location in the center of the Home landscape. |  |
| C-9. Trails | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** No documentation has been found on trails on either the Home property or Tubman Farm during the historic period. There were most likely informal foot paths throughout both properties.<br>**Existing Condition:** A well-worn foot train extends north-south across the east end of both the Home property and the Tubman Farm. It extends north to the school district playing fields, and south to an east-west trail across the Seward Orchard Lot (private property). This trail mostly follows a truck trail that existed by 1954 for the transportation of fill from the borrow pit on the Tubman Farm to the Mount Carmel High School then under construction. Other small trails, such as those that extend north from Danforth Street near the site of John Brown Hall, also post-date the historic period. Some of these may be deer tracks.<br>**Evaluation:** The trails on the Home property and Tubman Farm post-date the historic period and reflect the post-agricultural use of the properties. They are within wooded areas and are not highly visible. The footpath from the rear of the multi-purpose building to the site of John Brown Hall is part of Danforth Street (see C-1). |  |

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| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Topography Features** (Drawing Key: T) | | | | | |
| T-1. Clay Pits | | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** At the time Harriet Tubman purchased the twenty-five-acre property in 1896, there were abandoned clay pits along the banks of Wood Creek that were remnants of brickmaking operations on the site between ca. 1864 and 1885. These shallow pits were dug so that water from Wood Creek could flood the pit to allow for easier extraction of clay. The pits remained unwooded during the historic period.<br>**Existing Condition:** Approximately fifteen clay pits line the banks of Wood Creek on the Home property. These are subtle features due to overgrowth by trees and scrub, and siltation that has filled the pits during times of high water. The pits were still clearly visible from the air in 1938.[5] At least one pit was destroyed for construction of the multi-purpose building and pond in 1983.<br>**Evaluation:** The clay pits along Wood Creek are remnants of the landscape that existed during Harriet Tubman's lifetime, and the post-Civil War craft economy that provided employment for many African Americans in Auburn. Additional research is needed to accurately document that extent of the remaining pits. |  |
| T-2. Danforth Street Causeway | | | Unevaluated | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** Danforth Street (entrance road) crossed Wood Creek during the historic period to provide access to John Brown Hall. The crossing was most likely an earthen causeway with a culvert, which was the most economical way to bridge a small creek.<br>**Existing Condition:** An earthen causeway with a 36-inch diameter concrete culvert exists at the crossing of a trail (abandoned Danforth Street) over Wood Creek. The concrete culvert was most likely added in 1954 at the time Danforth Street was used for truck access to the Mount Carmel High School borrow pit on the Tubman Farm (Norris property). The causeway may have been enlarged at this time.<br>**Evaluation:** The Danforth Street causeway is most likely a historic topographic feature; the concrete culvert is a non-historic component. Additional research is needed to document the causeway's date of construction and its historic size/profile. The causeway is compatible with the historic character of the landscape. |  |
| **Vegetation Features** (Drawing Key: V) | | | | | |
| *John Brown Hall Orchard (Not Extant)* | *At the time the home for the aged opened in John Brown Hall in 1908, a mature apple and pear orchard surrounded the building to the east and south. The orchard may have dated back to the construction of John Brown Hall in ca. 1870. The orchard was maintained by the church's tenant farmers until ca. 1920, when a new orchard was planted west of Wood Creek. Fruit trees remained into the late 1930s, but disappeared in successional woods after 1960.* | | | | |

**TABLE 3.1. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: HARRIET TUBMAN HOME PROPERTY** (DRAWING 3.1)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V-1. Harriet Tubman Home Turf | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** Mown lawn was not maintained. There were small areas of rough cut or pastured grass around the frame house and John Brown Hall. buildings during Harriet Tubman's lifetime.<br>**Existing Condition:** The ground from the frame house west to South Street, south to the entrance road, and north to a Norway spruce windbreak were maintained as lawn following rededication of the frame house as a shrine to Harriet Tubman in 1953. The area of lawn was expanded to the south with the addition of the library in 1978, and west to Wood Creek with addition of the multi-purpose building in 1983.<br>**Evaluation:** In overall extent and species composition, the existing lawn on the Home for the Aged property detract from the landscape's rural character that existed during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. |  |
| V-2. Frame House Porch and Lawn Beds | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** No plantings were maintained around the frame house or in the surrounding ground.<br>**Existing Condition:** A bed of shrubs and mixed flowering perennials is along the front/side porch, and there are four beds of peonies in the lawn in the front of the house. A fifth unmaintained bed, presently with two barberry shrubs, is in the lawn north of the flagstaff. These beds trace back to grounds beautification undertaken following rebuilding of the frame house as a shrine to Harriet Tubman in 1950. Most of the herbaceous plantings were made by Rev. Arthur E. May and his wife Margaret May, including long borders of peonies, roses, spring bulbs, and flowering annuals along the entrance walk from South Street. Shade from an allee of silver maples planted along the walk in ca. 1964 led to relocation of the peonies to several small lawn beds in front of the frame house by the 1990s.<br>**Evaluation:** The porch and lawn beds around the frame house post-date the historic period and reflect the later commemorative use of the site. While they are attractive, they do not reflect the simple and unadorned rural character of the landscape during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. |  |
| V-3. Library Foundation and Lawn Beds | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The grounds surrounding the library were agricultural land or meadow.<br>**Existing Condition:** Herbaceous beds, including foundation beds and a small circular bed in the lawn north of the library, are not presently maintained and include invasive bishop's weed and Japanese knotweed, along with ferns, peonies, potentilla, and a honey locust sapling. A maintained bed of peonies is east of the library.These beds were added after construction of the library in 1978.<br>**Evaluation:** The library foundation and lawn beds are a non-historic feature that detracts from the simple and unadorned rural character of the landscape during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. |  |

**TABLE 3.1. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: HARRIET TUBMAN HOME PROPERTY** (DRAWING 3.1)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

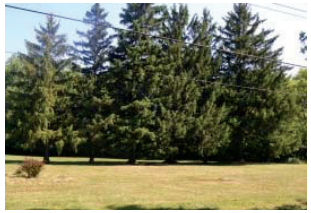
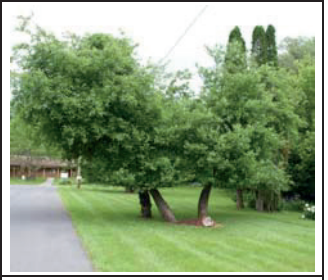
| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V-4. Norway Spruce Windbreak | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The windbreak did not exist.<br>**Existing Condition:** A single row of eight mature Norway spruce trees, approximately 190 feet long, extends along the lawn north of the frame house. The trees were planted in ca. 1954 as part of grounds beautification associated with rebuilding of the frame house as a shrine to Harriet Tubman. The trees served as a windbreak in what was then an open rural landscape. At least one tree has been lost from the row, and one is presently in decline.<br>**Evaluation:** The Norway spruce windbreak post-dates the historic period and reflects the later commemorative use of the site. It detracts from the historic open spatial character of the site. There were no planted evergreens on the property during the historic period. |  |
| V-5. Silver Maple Allee | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913)**: The allee did not exist.<br>**Existing Condition:** An allee (rows to either side) of silver maples, a native species, lines the unused South Street entrance walk. There are presently seven trees; several have been lost. The allee was planted in ca. 1964 and originally bordered flower beds along the walk, which were later relocated due to shade from the trees.<br>**Evaluation:** The silver maple allee post-dates the historic period and reflects the later commemorative use of the site. It detracts from the historic rural and open spatial character of the site. |  |
| V-6. Specimen Apple Trees | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** There was an apple and pear orchard south and east of John Brown Hall, planted in ca. 1875.<br>**Existing Condition:** There is one aged apple tree south of the parking lot, and a younger apple tree east of the multi-purpose building. These are most likely remnants or progeny of an orchard planted in this area in ca. 1920, probably by tenant farmers to replace the older orchard around John Brown Hall.<br>**Evaluation:** The existing specimen apple trees in the maintained grounds post-date the historic period, and are in what was open field during the historic period. Additional investigation, such as dendrochronological testing, should be undertaken to confirm the age of the trees. See also NS-4 |  |
| V-7. Specimen Trees - Harriet Tubman Home Maintained Grounds | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** There is no record of specimen trees on the Home for the Aged property, except for one in front of John Brown Hall.<br>**Existing Condition:** Single (specimen) trees in the maintained grounds (aside from apple trees, silver maple allee, and Norway spruce windbreak) include arborvitae east of the library, Siberian elms (exotic invasive species) along the entrance drive, and London Plane trees in front of the multi-purpose building. These trees post-date dedication of the frame house as a shrine to Harriet Tubman in 1953. The London Plane trees were planted as part of the multi-purpose building construction in 1983. There is also an ash and red maple along South Street, which may be volunteers.<br>**Evaluation:** Existing specimen trees on the maintained grounds post-date the historic period and reflect the later commemorative use of the site. The trees detract from the historic open spatial character of the site. The three trees along |  |

**TABLE 3.1. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: HARRIET TUBMAN HOME PROPERTY** (DRAWING 3.1)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | South Street are compatible with scattered roadside trees that characterized the roadside historically. | |
| **Buildings and Structures Features** (Drawing Key: BS) | | | | | |
| *East Barn (Not Extant)* | *Descriptions of the Harriet Tubman Home in 1914 and 1918 indicated two barns on the property. One barn was north and slightly east of John Brown Hall, across Danforth Street and adjacent to a cultivated plot.[6] It had a gable roof oriented north-south. This barn does not show up on the 1904 map of Auburn; it may have been one of the brickyard buildings that was moved in ca. 1907 as part of the renovations to the frame house and John Brown Hall. The barn may have been where the Board of Lady Managers kept their pigs beginning in ca. 1908. The barn was probably demolished by scavengers when the property was abandoned in 1943. No documentation has been found on the construction details of the building.* | | | | |
| *John Brown Hall (Not Extant)* | *See entry under Archaeological Sites* | | | | |
| *Old Tollgate House (Not Extant)* | *In 1883, the South Street tollgate built by the Auburn and Fleming Plank Road Company in ca. 1848 was moved south 500 feet to the Harriet Tubman Home property then owned by Sylvester Ross. The 1904 map of Auburn showed this as a square building along South Street south of the city line. It was one of three residences on the property, along with the frame house and brick house (John Brown Hall). A 1915 newspaper article describd the building as vacant, and it was demolished prior to November 1918. The cellar hole remained until ca. 1976, when the site was disturbed by sewer construction. No documentation has been found on the dimensions and exterior appearance of the building.* | | | | |
| *Shed (Not Extant)* | *A frame shed or small barn with plank siding and its gable oriented north-south was located at the rear (north side) of the frame house, along the west side of a fenced yard or garden. The shed was probably built in 1907 as part of the renovation of the frame house for a planned industrial school, or may have been moved from the brickyard area to the east. A 1904 map of Auburn showed no outbuildings behind the frame house. The shed was demolished by the 1930s.[7]* | | | | |
| *West Barn (Not Extant)* | *The 1904 map of Auburn documented a frame building (indicated as "stable or shed") across from and east of the frame house (Home for the Aged). The building, which had a footprint of two offset squares, was probably a barn, one of two described as being on the property in 1918 (the other was across from John Brown Hall). The barn was removed by ca. 1935.[8] No documentation has been found on the dimensions and exterior appearance of the barn.* | | | | |
| BS-1. Frame House (Home for the Aged, #1 Danforth Street) | NR: Resource (Contributing) | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The frame house was constructed in ca. 1855 (based on 1859 map of Auburn) during ownership of the property by William H. Seward. It was located on one of the 1837 City of Auburn lots and faced south, away from South Street. Harriet Tubman acquired the house in 1896, and transferred it to the A.M.E. Zion church in 1903. It was used by tenants during this time and was known as the red house after its exterior paint color. Its address was #1 Danforth Street. The house was renovated ca. 1907 for an unrealized industrial school to be operated by The Harriet Tubman Home; alterations probably included lighter color scheme, porch, and two-over-two window sash. Remained as tenant housing through 1913.<br>**Existing Condition (1913-present):** The frame house, known today as the Home for the Aged, is a substantial reconstruction of the historic building; some framing members may be historic. After Tubman's death, the frame house was used as the home for the aged between ca. 1914 and 1926; a sign "Harriet Tubman Home" was installed on the west gable facing South Street. Used by tenants from 1926 through 1943. The house was abandoned after this time and stripped, leaving the roof and framing. Demolition ordered by the City of Auburn in 1944; Bishop William J. Walls of the A.M.E. Zion Church saved the building and |  |

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**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | developed plans for its restoration as a shrine to Harriet Tubman. Rebuilding designed by architect Wallace P. Beardsley, Jr. and constructed by Shaver Brothers of Auburn in 1950; changes included concrete foundation/cellar, six-over-six window sash, narrower posts on the porch, and exterior white with green window sash. The building was dedicated in 1953.<br>**Evaluation**: The overall exterior character of the frame house is consistent with the building that stood during Harriet Tubman's lifetime, but differs in details and is missing the kitchen wing on the east side. The frame house reflects the commemorative and educational use of the site in the second half of the 20th century, and the long period of stewardship by the A.M.E. Zion Church. Harriet Tubman never lived in the house. | |
| BS-2. Harriet Tubman Memorial Library (Administration Building) | NR: Resource (Non-contributing) | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The library did not exist.<br>**Existing Condition:** The Harriet Tubman Memorial Library is a one-story 30' by 60' frame building with stained vertical plank siding. It was erected by the A.M.E. Zion Church in 1978 and dedicated in 1979.<br>**Evaluation:** The Harriet Tubman Memorial Library is a non-historic building that is distinguishable from the historic landscape. It does not relate to the historic spatial organization of the landscape, but is west of where a barn stood during the historic period. |  |
| BS-3. Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building (Visitor Center) | NR: Resource (Non-contributing) | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The multi-purpose building did not exist.<br>**Existing Condition:** The Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building is a 30 by 100-foot building with stained vertical plank siding. It was built 1983 with funds raised to support The Harriet Tubman Home, and was sited over the alignment of Danforth Street (road to John Brown Hall), near where a brickyard had existed. It was designed for visitor use and by large gatherings such as the annual picnic.<br>**Evaluation:** The multi-purpose building is a non-historic feature that is distinguishable from the historic landscape. It detracts from the landscape's historic open spatial character, circulation, and views. |  |
| BS-4. NYSEG Power Transmission Line #506 (See also SO-4, LU-1) | | | Non-Contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The power transmission line did not exist.<br>**Existing Condition:** NYSEG (New York State Electric and Gas) maintains a high-voltage power line, designated as #506, in a 50-foot-wide right-of-way across the Home property from South Street to the eastern property line. The lines are carried on single wood poles without cross arms, approximately 60 feet tall; ten are located on the Home property, numbered #57 to #66 (#57 is a double pole). The western poles also carry secondary service to the frame house and multi-purpose building. The power line continues east and west of the site. It was built in ca. 1931 and upgraded to taller poles in ca. 1980.<br>**Evaluation:** The NYSEG power transmission line is a non-historic structure that is incompatible with the historic rural character of the landscape. It crosses through the core of the maintained grounds, 20 feet north of the frame house. |  |

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**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Constructed Water Features** (Drawing Key: CWF) | | | | | |
| CWF-1. Pond | | | Non-Contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The pond did not exist during the historic period. The site prior to 1896 was part of a brick yard and may have contained one or more clay pits.<br>**Existing Condition:** A third-acre oval-shaped pond is at the rear of the multi-purpose building, in an area used in part as picnic grounds. The pond was built as an aesthetic feature in 1983 along with the multi-purpose building. No information has been found on how water is supplied to the pond, which is adjacent to Wood Creek. Most of the banks are mown or have scrubby vegetation. As a closed and largely stagnant system, it does not appear to have high biodiversity value.[9]<br>**Evaluation:** The pond is a non-historic feature; no areas of open water aside from Wood Creek existed during the historic period. Its regular shape and graded banks detract from the landscape's historic rural character and open space. |  |
| **Views and Vistas Features** | | | | | |
| There are no managed views or vistas; broad views across the property from South Street characterized the property during the historic period. These views are today obstructed by successional woods and managed trees (see Natural Systems and Vegetation). Views from the front porch of the frame house have changed from rural farmland to managed grounds and suburban residential landscapes across South Street. | | | | | |
| **Small-Scale Features** (Drawing Key: SSF) | | | | | |
| SSF-1. Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs Plaque | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The plaque did not exist.<br>**Existing Condition:** A bronze plaque set in a concrete pad is located in the bed along the porchof the frame house (Home for the Aged). The plaque was installed in 1974 in the lawn west of the frame house to mark a feature donated by the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs. The feature, possibly a statue of Tubman, was removed at an undetermined date, and the plaque was moved to the flower bed in front of the home.[10]<br>**Evaluation:** The plaque is a remnant of a feature associated with the commemorative use of the landscape following Harriet Tubman's death. Additional research is needed to determine what it marked. |  |
| SSF-2. Entrance Road Lights | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** There were no street lights along Danforth Street.<br>**Existing Condition:** Three wood poles with cobra-style sodium-vapor street lights are along the entrance road. A streetlight was maintained across from the frame house beginning in ca. 1970.[11] Two additional lights were probably added between 1978, when the road was paved, and 1983, when the parking lot was built.<br>**Evaluation:** The street lights along Danforth Street are not historic, and detract from the historic rural character of the landscape. |  |

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**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

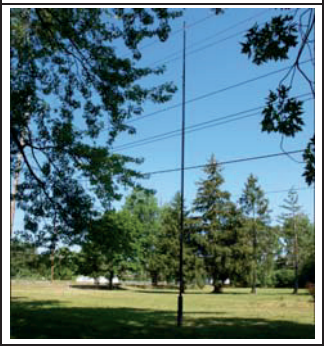
| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SSF-3. Entrance Gate | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The entrance gate did not exist.<br>**Existing Condition:** Two 11-foot-tall brick piers with steel picket gates and daylilies are at the entrance to the Harriet Tubman Home on South Street. Information signs are affixed to the piers. The gate was built in 1976, with funds provided in part by the City of Auburn. The gate was tied into the chain-link fence along South Street installed in ca. 1972.<br>**Evaluation:** The entrance gate relates to the commemorative use of the site after Harriet Tubman's death. They detract from the historically open, vernacular rural character of the landscape. |  |
| SSF–4. Flagpole | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The flagpole did not exist.<br>**Existing Condition:** A rusted steel flagpole, approximately 30 feet tall and presently unused, is in the lawn west of the frame house. It is partly obscured by the adjacent silver maple allee (see V-5). The flagpole was erected in 1956 through donations by the local community to fly a flag that was flown over the national capitol. It was meant to be visible from South Street.<br>**Evaluation:** The flagpole is a non-historic feature that conveys the commemorative use of the Harriet Tubman Home property, and the conversion of the agricultural fields to maintained landscape after Harriet Tubman's death. |  |
| SSF-5. Sewer Pump Station and Gas Drip | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The sewer pump station and gas drip did not exist. The site was the southern part of the William H. Stewart, Sr. property that was acquired by the A.M.E. Zion Church in ca. 1903.<br>**Existing Condition:** Two manhole covers and an electrical box located at the northwest corner of the Home property are associated with an underground sewer pump station and natural gas-line drip. These features were most likely installed by 1976, when the city-owned sewer line was upgraded. The gas line is owned by NYSEG. The city maintains a mown area surrounding the utilities.[12]<br>**Evaluation:** The sewer pump station and gas drip are non-historic features. They are inconspicuous in the landscape, but are within a larger area of archaeological sensitivity associated with the home of Tubman's brother, William H. Stewart, Sr. |  |
| SSF-6. South Street Fence | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** There was most likely no fence along South Street during the historic period.<br>**Existing Condition:** A Sears-brand partially rusted and bent 4-foot-tall galvanized chain-link fence extends along the entire South Street frontage of the Home property, and turns east near the north property line for approximately 110 feet. There is a pedestrian gate at the entrance walk to the frame house. The fence was installed in 1972, probably in response to vandalism that had occurred at the frame house when the site was closed in 1971.<br>**Evaluation:** The South Street fence conveys a mid-century suburban character to the landscape and provides enclosure that did not exist historically. |  |

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| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SSF-7. State-Style Historical Marker | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The historical marker did not exist.<br>**Existing Condition:** A cast-iron state-style historical marker is on the shoulder of South Street near the entrance to the Home. It is within the state right-of-way, but may be the property of Cayuga County. It contains inaccurate text that reads: "Harriet Tubman / Moses of Her People / Served Underground Railroad / Frequented this Site After the Civil War." The first marker was installed in 1932 by the New York State Education Department to mark the frame house. It contained inaccurate text that read "Home of / Harriet Tubman / 'The Moses of Her Race' / Underground Railroad Station in Slavery Days." The existing sign is a replacement installed by Cayuga County in ca. 2000, after the NYS Education Department ceased the marker program. Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. maintains a bed of daylilies at the base of the sign.<br>**Evaluation:** The historical marker along South Street is a non-historic feature, but is the only conspicuous sign for the Harriet Tubman Home along South Street. It conveys an official style of historical marker that is well recognized across the state. The existing inscription does not reflect that Tubman lived on the property to the south, or that the twenty-five-acre property was historically The Harriet Tubman Home. |  |
| SSF–8. Urn Base | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The urn base did not exist.<br>**Existing Condition:** As part of the landscape beautification undertaken following rebuilding of the frame house, a classical-style iron planter urn on a square stone base was installed in ca. 1955 along the walk from South Street, off the southwest corner of the frame house. In ca. 1985, the urn and base were moved closer to South Street, in the lawn north of the flagpole. The urn was removed at an undetermined date, but the stone base was left.<br>**Evaluation:** The stone base is a remnant of a feature associated with the commemorative use of the landscape following Harriet Tubman's death. |  |
| SSF-9. Wire Field Fences | | | Unevaluated | **Historic Condition (1859-1913):** There is no documentation that wire fences existed during the historic period.<br>**Existing Condition:** Fragments of old wire fence that has both woven and welded components exists along the east boundary of the Home property in the old-growth grove, and near the south boundary along the Tubman Farm, west of the farm road causeway over Wood Creek. No fence posts appear to survive (the fences may have been attached to trees). There may be other fence remnants on the two properties.<br>**Evaluation:** The two documented fragments of wire field fence along existing or former property boundaries of the Home property and Tubman Farm reflect past agricultural use of the landscape prior to World War II. Additional research is needed to document their origin and extant segments on the two properties. Woven wire fencing has been in use since the late 19th century and welded wire fence was patented in the US in 1901. [13] It is possible these fence fragments date to the historic period, although they more likely date to later agricultural use by |  |

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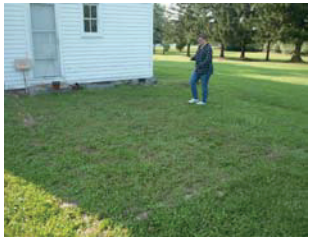
| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | the Norris family and tenants of the A.M.E. Zion Church, or by property owners to the east. | |
| **Archeological Sites Features** (Drawing Key: AS) | | | | | |
| AS-1. Brick Clamp Site Interpretation | | | Non-contributing (significance under NR Criterion D) | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** The Harriet Tubman Home property was used in part as a brick yard prior to Harriet Tubman's ownership. The brick yards operated under Farmer, Rice, Ross, and Saunders from about 1864 through 1885. At least one brick clamp, a temporary type of brick kiln, operated west of Wood Creek and north of the entrance road (Danforth Street).<br>**Existing Condition:** A wood frame box, approximately 4 feet by 2 feet, was built in ca. 2003 to interpret a small area of the exposed brick clamp that was the subject of archaeological investigation under Douglas V. Armstrong of Syracuse University in ca. 2002-2003.[14]<br>**Evaluation:** The wood box is a contemporary feature built to interpret remains that predate the historic period. It is unknown whether the remains of the brick clamp were visible during the historic period. The brick clamp did operate during Harriet Tubman's lifetime, but not during her ownership of the Harriet Tubman Home property. The brick archaeological remains, some of which are visible on the ground surface, may have significance under National Register Criterion D for their information potential. |  |
| AS-2. Frame House Kitchen Wing Interpretation | | | Non-contributing (significance under NR Criterion D) | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** A frame kitchen wing on a foundation of waster brick extended from the east side of the frame house (Home for the Aged). It was most likely built prior to 1896.<br>**Existing Condition:** An outline of modern brick marks the outline of the kitchen foundation. It was built as an interpretive device in ca. 2012, after archaeological investigation performed under Douglas V. Armstrong of Syracuse University. A garage built in 1954 was demolished to allow for this work.<br>**Evaluation:** The brick outline of the kitchen wing is a modern interpretive device. The underlying brick remains may have significance under National Register Criterion D for their information potential. The kitchen wing stood during the historic period; its loss detracts from the historic character of the landscape. |  |
| AS-3. John Brown Hall Ruins (#2 Danforth Street) | NR: Resource (Non-contributing) | | Non-contributing (potential significance under NR Criterion D) | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** Prior to the historic period, a one-story brick house with a side (east) wing and a high stone foundation was built in ca. 1870 at the base of the hill east of Wood Creek. The house may have been a residence for one of the owners or foremen of the Farmer & Ross brickyard, perhaps Sylvester Rice, using bricks manufactured on the site. The interior was renovated in 1908 to house the home for the aged by the Board of Lady Managers of the Harriet Tubman Home. An open porch was added to the front in ca. 1910. In 1911, Harriet Tubman entered the home for the aged in John Brown Hall, and died there on March 1, 1913). |  |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | **Existing Condition:** John Brown Hall is an archaeological site that is characterized by a slight depression with brick and stone remnants on the ground surface that reflect archaeological investigations completed under the direction of Douglas V. Armstrong of Syracuse University beginning in 1998. The house had been demolished nearly six decades earlier. The home for the aged moved to the frame house in ca. 1914, and John Brown Hall was left vacant. By 1939, the building was reported as decaying, and in 1940, the city had it torn down even thought it was in the Town of Fleming. Scavengers soon took away most of the building materials, and the site became overgrown.<br>**Evaluation:** The ruins of John Brown Hall do not contribute to the historic character of the landscape, since it was an intact building during the historic period. While there has been data retrieval, the site may still possess significance under National Register Criterion D for its information potential. | |
| AS-4. Site of William H. Stewart, Sr. Home (Extends outside park boundaries) | | | Unevaluated | **Historic Condition (1896–1913):** In 1890, Harriet Tubman acquired the half-acre Jacob Jasper home, and in ca. 1897, conveyed it to her brother, William H. Stewart. He sold the southern half that may have contained a garden to the A.M.E. Zion Church in ca. 1903, and the northern part that contained the house, barn, and a shed to Charles T. Whelan in ca. 1909. The buildings were demolished that same year. Stewart moved to the Home property or Tubman's brick house, and died in 1912.<br>**Existing Condition:** The half-acre site of the William H. Stewart, Sr. property straddles the A.M.E. Zion Church and State of New York properties. It is mostly wooded, except for a sewer pump station and gas drip on the southern parcel, within the existing Home property (see SSF-4). There are no visible remnants of the Jasper-Stewart home on the northern parcel (state property). No archaeological testing has been undertaken to date. The half-acre site remained an open space framed by trees through the early 1960s.[15]<br>**Evaluation:** The half-acre site of the William H. Stewart, Sr. Home is important as a property associated with Harriet Tubman in Auburn. While the buildings disappeared during the historic period, archaeological resources may convey important information about the history of the property. The building sites appear to be undisturbed, except for a sewer line that extends across the front of the lot. |  |

**GENERAL NOTES**

1. Features are numbered consecutively by characteristic for the three historic Tubman properties, beginning with Harriet Tubman Home property.
2. All documentation is from the Site History (CLR chapter 1), except where noted.
3. All photographs are by SUNY ESF and date to between 2016 and 2018.
4. Character-defining features removed since the end of the historic period (1913) are listed in the inventory and indicated on drawings 3.1–3.2, but are not evaluated since they do not exist.

**ENDNOTES**

[1] Aerial photograph, 1938, New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1938_ARW-1-080.

[2] C & S Companies, "South Street (NYS Route 34) Corridor Enhancement Project, City of Auburn, Cayuga County," Utility Plan (Preliminary project plans, July 2016), Sheet UTP-02.

[3] Mike Long, personal communication with John Auwaerter, January 4, 2016.

[4] Alan D. Armstrong and Douglas V. Armstrong, "Craft Enterprise and the Harriet Tubman Home," in *Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage*, volume 1, number 1 (Spring 2012), 63. The authors unearthed a brick clamp north and east of the parking lot in 2006.

[5] Aerial photograph, 1938.

[6] Aerial photograph, 1938.

[7] Aerial photograph, 1938.

[8] Aerial photograph, 1938.

[9] Donald J. Leopold and James P. Gibbs, "Summary of Biodiversity-related Observations Made at the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park on September 22, 2016" (Unpublished SUNY ESF report, 2016), 2.

[10] Rev. Paul Carter, communication with John Auwaerter, June 6, 2018.

[11] Photograph of the Home showing wood pole with street light across from the frame house, March 1977, Cayuga County Historian's Office.

[12] "South Street (NYS Route 34) Corridor Enhancement Project, City of Auburn, Cayuga County," Utility Plan, Sheet UTP-03.

[13] Lydia Barnes, "History of Wire Fence," http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/lydiabarnes/teach/history-of-wire-fence/ (accessed September 13, 2018).

[14] Douglas V. Armstrong, "Harriet Tubman's Farmsteads in Central New York," in James A. Delle, editor, The *Limits of Tyranny* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2015), 158-159.

[15] Aerial photograph, 1964, New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1964_ARW-1DD-217.

**TABLE 3.2. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: TUBMAN FARM** (DRAWING 3.1)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Natural Systems and Features** (Drawing Key: NSF) | | | | | |
| NSF-1. Wood Creek | | | Contributing | See Table 3.1 | |
| NSF-2. Successional Woods | | | Non-contributing | See Table 3.1 | |
| NSF-3. Old-Growth Forest Trees | | | Contributing | See Table 3.1 | |
| NSF-4. Volunteer Forest Apple Trees | | | Unevaluated | See Table 3.1 | |
| **Spatial Organization Features** (Drawing Key: SO) | | | | | |
| *Tubman Farm Fields (Not Extant)* | *During the historic period (1859–1913) the Tubman Farm consisted of agricultural fields (cultivated land and pasture) outside of the farmstead and fenced garden, except for an orchard on the hillside. The lowlands along Wood Creek were most likely used for growing vegetables (potatoes) and the hillside was probably pasture. The fields were bounded by the Seward orchard to the south, and open fields to the east and north. There was a fence along the south side of the property around the Seward orchard, and most likely fences on the other sides as well (fence types not known). No documentation was found on internal field divisions. The fields were lost due to cessation of farming around World War II, excavation of the Mount Carmel High School borrow pit in 1954, and subsequent natural succession. Loss of the farm fields detracts from the historic character of the landscape, in particular its open space and broad views, and its character as working land.* | | | | |
| *Tubman Garden*<br><br>*(Part outside park boundaries)* | *Harriet Tubman maintained a fenced garden immediately south of her house during most of the historic period (1859–1913). The dimensions of the garden are not know, but it extended south from the southeast corner of the brick house as rebuilt in 1881-1882, and to near South Street Road.[1] The garden or yard was enclosed by a white picket fence. It was abandoned by the time Tubman entered John Brown Hall in 1911. The Norris family maintained a garden in the same area after 1914, bounded by vegetation and most likely a fence.[2] In 1954, the garden was removed for construction of a brick ranch house built for Harry and Alice Norris; most of the garden site was subdivided as a new parcel. Two sugar maples were planted in the former garden space adjacent to the Tubman House.* | | | | |
| SO-4. Norris House Front and Back Yards<br><br>(Outside park boundaries) | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** The Norris house yards did not exist. The spaces were part of the Tubman garden and agricultural fields.<br>**Existing Condition:** The brick ranch-style Norris house has an ornamental front yard and back yard, encompassing 0.5 acre, that date to construction of the house in 1954. The front yard is lawn with trees, with a screen or arborvitae to the south. The larger back yard is enclosed by the screen of arborvitae and volunteer trees to the south and successional woods to the east. There is no boundary with the church property (Tubman Farm) to the north.<br>**Evaluation:** The yards around the Norris house have no relationship to the landscape spaces that existed during the historic period, except that they maintain some of the historic open space. |  |

**TABLE 3.2. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: TUBMAN FARM** (DRAWING 3.1)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

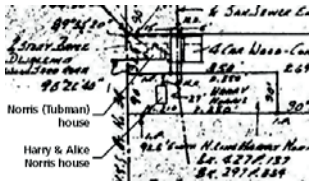
| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SO-5. Tubman Barnyard | | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** The area at the rear of the Tubman house was a barnyard that most likely contained small outbuildings, fenced corrals, and work areas.<br>**Existing Condition:** Open space between the Tubman house and barn, and surrounding the barn, is a remnant of the historic barnyard. The space today reflects restoration work on the barn that removed post-1913 wings, and the removal of outbuildings, fences, and other agricultural features during Norris ownership between 1913 and 1999.<br>**Evaluation:** The Tubman barnyard remains as open space surrounding the restored barn, but has lost much of its historic enclosure. Further research is needed to determine the historic layout of the barnyard. |  |
| SO-6. Tubman House Grounds | | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** Harriet Tubman's house, as rebuilt in 1882, had small yards at the front and north side, off the two entrance porches. The front yard extended to South Street and included at least two deciduous shrubs along the road, and the north yard was bounded by the farm road and north property boundary. The yards were not enclosed by fences. There were no foundation shrubs around the house.<br>**Existing Condition:** The grounds around the Tubman house include small front and side yards characterized by mown turf bounded by South Street, the Norris house driveway, and the farm road that encompass approximately 1,500 square feet. The north yard is framed by trees and shrubs that were established along the old north property line after 1913. The south yard with large sugar maple trees was created with removal of the fenced Tubman garden for construction of the brick Norris house in 1954.<br>**Evaluation:** The front and north yards of the Tubman House retain much of their historic spatial character. The south yard is a non-historic space created after the historic period. |  |
| **Land Use Features** (Drawing Key: LU) | | | | | |
| *Tubman Farm North Property Boundary* | *During the historic period, the Tubman farm remained a separate legal parcel from the twenty-five-acre Harriet Tubman Home property, even when both properties were owned by Harriet Tubman between 1896 and 1903. There was most likley a fence, hedgerow, or other marker along the property line. The boundary was maintained through Norris family ownership that ended with A.M.E. Zion Church acquisition in 1990. Joint ownership of the two historic properties erased the legal boundary, and the physical boundary has been removed within the maintained grounds near South Street. Remnants of wire fences in the woods indicate the location of the boundary.* | | | | |
| LU-4. Norris Lot<br><br>(Outside park boundaries) | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** The Norris Lot did not exist. The property was part of the seven-acre Tubman Farm.<br>**Existing Condition:** The existing 0.72-acre parcel of private property south of the Tubman house, presently rented, is outside park boundaries. The parcel was subdivided as a 0.3-acre lot in 1955 following construction of the ranch-style brick house built for Harry and Alice Norton. The parcel was expanded to its current size when the A.M.E. Zion Church acquired the remaining 6.25-acres of the Tubman Farm in 1990. |  |

**TABLE 3.2. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: TUBMAN FARM** (DRAWING 3.1)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | **Evaluation:** Although outside park boundaries and church ownership, the Norris lot is part of Harriet Tubman's seven-acre farm that she acquired in 1859 and owned through her death in 1913. The existing parcel boundaries and private ownership do not contribute to the historic significance of the Tubman Farm. | |
| **Circulation Features** (Drawing Key: C) | | | | | |
| C-9. Trails | See Table 3.1 | | | | |
| C-10. Norris House Driveway<br><br>(Outside park boundaries) | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** The driveway did not exist. The site was part of the Tubman garden.<br>**Existing Condition:** A gravel driveway, approximately 18 feet wide and 85 feet long, is north of the Norris house and appears to straddle the church property boundary. The driveway was probably built along with the Norris house in 1954.<br>**Evaluation:** The Norris House driveway is part of the suburban landscape that replaced the Tubman garden after the historic period. |  |
| C-11. Norris House Entrance Walk<br><br>(Outside park boundaries) | | | | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** The entrance walk did not exist. The site was most likely part of the Tubman garden.<br>**Existing Condition:** A narrow concrete entrance walk, approximately 35 feet long, extends from the driveway to the front door of the Norris house. It was most likely built along with the Norris house in 1954.<br>**Evaluation:** The Norris House entrance walk is part of the suburban landscape that replaced the Tubman garden after the historic period. |  |
| C-12. Tubman Farm Road (Driveway) | | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** The primary circulation through the Tubman Farm was a dirt or gravel farm road that extended from South Street east across Wood Creek, roughly following the north property line. The road ran along the north side of the Tubman barn and crossed Wood Creek over a causeway (see T-4). The road most likely predated Tubman ownership.<br>**Existing Condition:** A two-track 8-foot-wide gravel driveway extends from South Street past the north side of the Tubman house and curves south toward the entrance of the barn. There is no trace of the historic alignment of the road that extended east past the north side of the barn. Traces of the old roadbed exist in the woods east of the maintained grounds. The eastern portion of the road remained into the late 1930s and was abandoned following the end of agricultural use of the property by the 1950s. The road section along the north side of the barn was obliterated with the Norris family's construction of concrete wings on the barn in ca.1955.<br>**Evaluation:** The Tubman Farm road remains in part. The western end in the Tubman house yard and barnyard appears to retain its historic alignment and |  |

**TABLE 3.2. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: TUBMAN FARM** (DRAWING 3.1)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

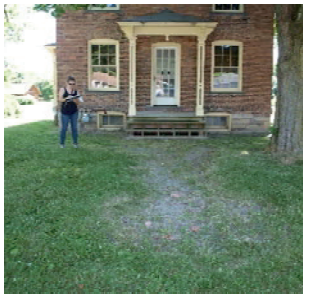
| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | earth/gravel surface. The causeway over Wood Creek remains, and traces of the roadbed are visible to either side. The rest of the road has been lost or is concealed by vegetation. Additional research is needed to document the extent of the surviving roadbed within the successional woods. | |
| C-13. Tubman House Brick Walk | | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** A brick walk extended from the front porch to South Street by 1896. It was most likely laid in ca. 1882 as part of the building of Harriet Tubman's new brick house.<br>**Existing Condition:** A poorly-defined and eroded gravel walk extends from the front door of the Tubman house. Several bricks are visible from the historic brick walk beneath it. This walk was probably abandoned after 1913 when the north side and rear entrance became the main entries from cars. A section near the road may have been removed for construction of underground utility lines, and the grade around the walk was raised over the years. The walk was excavated in ca. 2002 during archaeological investigations at the house under Douglas Armstrong of Syracuse University.<br>**Evaluation:** Although concealed, the brick walk to the Tubman House is significant as the only known extant surfaced walk remaining from Tubman's lifetime. Its concealment is reversible. |  |
| **Topography Features** (Drawing Key: T) | | | | | |
| T-3. Mount Carmel High School Borrow Pit | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** The borrow pit did not exist. The site consisted of hillside agricultural fields and an orchard.<br>**Existing Condition:** An abandoned three-acre borrow pit occupies the eastern third of the Tubman Farm. The pit is upwards of ten feet deep and is mostly wooded. The pit was in use in 1954 to provide fill for construction of the Mount Carmel High School campus north of the Harriet Tubman Home property (present Seward Elementary School), which was completed in 1955. Numerous truck trails provided access between the pit and the school. The Norris family owned the Tubman Farm at the time, and had ceased farming the property. Construction of the pit probably removed the last remaining trees from Harriet Tubman's orchard. Hedgerow trees along the Tubman property boundaries were retained during excavation.[3]<br>**Evaluation:** The borrow pit is a non-historic feature that detracts from the rural character and gently sloping natural landform of the Tubman Farm landscape. The pit is today largely concealed from view by woods. |  |

**TABLE 3.2. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: TUBMAN FARM** (DRAWING 3.1)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T-4. Tubman Farm Road Causeway | | | Unevaluated | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** The farm road through the Tubman Farm paralleled the north property line, and curved south a short distance to cross Wood Creek at a right angle.<br>**Existing Condition:** An abandoned earth and stone causeway is across Wood Creek near the former north boundary of the Tubman Farm. Wood Creek flows through the causeway by a small culvert that consists of angle iron supporting an unknown roof material. The causeway and roadbed are covered in vegetation. The farm road was abandoned when agricultural use of the eastern part of the property ceased after World War II.<br>**Evaluation:** The Tubman Farm road causeway is an old topographic feature that may date to the historic period. No documentation was found to verify that the causeway existed prior to 1913, but it is likely one existed here because they were an economic way for farmers to bridge small creeks. The culvert may have been rebuilt since Tubman's lifetime, given the likelihood there have been damaging floods since 1913. Despite the lack of documentation, the causeway is compatible with the historic character of the landscape. . |  |
| **Vegetation Features** (Drawing Key: V) | | | | | |
| V-8. Norris House Trees, Shrubs, and Lawn<br><br>(Outside park boundaries) | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** There were most likely no trees or lawn on the Norris lot since it was the Tubman garden and agricultural fields. There may have been small fruit trees in the garden.<br>**Existing Condition:** There are large specimen trees, including a silver maple, fir, and magnolia, around the Norris house, a row of arborvitae along the south property line, and several hydrangeas in the back yard. These trees and shrubs were planted after construction of the house in 1954. Lawn is maintained across the entire lot.<br>**Evaluation:** The existing trees and shrubs on the Norris lot post-date the historic period and detract from the historic open spatial character of the landscape. |  |
| V-9. Tubman House Lawn | | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** There was cut grass around Harriet Tubman's house, most likely limited to the front and north side yards.[4]<br>**Existing Condition:** The area of lawn around the Tubman House expanded under Norris and later AME Zion Church ownership to cover the rear yard (barnyard), south yard (former garden) and former agricultural fields east of the barn.<br>**Evaluation:** The turf around the Tubman house is a historic feature of the landscape, although the limits of the turf have changed. The species composition of the turf has not been analyzed to determine if it may date to the historic period. |  |

**TABLE 3.2. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: TUBMAN FARM** (DRAWING 3.1)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V-10. Tubman House North Border | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** The may have been a hedgerow or vegetation along a fence line on the north boundary that separated the Tubman House yard from the Harriet Tubman Home property to the north.<br>**Existing Condition:** An overgrown border consisting of two silver maples, Vanhoutte spirea, young elms, European buckthorn, and a wood trellis line the north boundary of the Tubman yard. These plantings date to Norris family ownership and existed by 1954.[5] The trellis suggests there may have been an herbaceous bed<br>**Evaluation:** The existing overgrown plantings along the north border of the Tubman House north yard are not historic. Although the overgrown condition is incompatible, a hedgerow may have existed during the historic period, since the site was a property boundary. |  |
| V-11. Tubman House Specimen Trees and Shrubs | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** Harriet Tubman maintained shrubs in the front yard of her house, including at least two deciduous shrubs along South Street, but no foundation plantings. There were no shade trees in proximity to the house; there may have been fruit trees in the garden to the south.[6]<br>**Existing Condition:** Three large sugar maple trees are along the south side of the house, and an old lilac shrub is in the front yard near South Street Road. Two Scots Pines are surrounded by volunteer vegetation east of the barn. The maples were planted after the Tubman garden was removed, which occurred by 1954 when the Norris house was built. The lilac was most likely planted around the same time, since the Norrises previously maintained a low hedge or border around the front yard prior to World War II.[7]<br>**Evaluation:** The existing specimen trees around the Tubman house and barn were planted after the historic period. While the maples are attractive and valuable in terms of shade, they detract from the historic open character of the landscape. The old lilac shrub is compatible because it is in the approximate location of where a deciduous shrub was depicted in the 1896 engraving of the house. |  |
| **Buildings and Structures Features** (Drawing Key: BS) | | | | | |
| *Tubman Farm Outbuildings (not extant)* | *During the historic period, there were most likely several farm outbuildings in the vicinity of the barn to shelter pigs and chickens, and for storage. No documentation has been found on the appearance or location of these buildings. [Check Doug Armstrong recent research]. These outbuilding were rearranged, new ones added during Norris family ownership between 1915 and ca. 1950; the outbuilding were removed after 1950. Only the main barn remains (see BS-7).* | | | | |

**TABLE 3.2. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: TUBMAN FARM** (DRAWING 3.1)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BS-5. Norris House<br><br>(Outside park boundaries) | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** The Norris house did not exist. The site was part of Harriet Tubman's garden.<br>**Existing Condition:** A one-story brick ranch-style house is located on a parcel of private property south of the Tubman house, at #6050 South Street Road. The house is presently rented to tenants. It was built 1954 for Harry and Alice Norris.<br>**Evaluation:** The Norris house is a non-historic feature that detracts from the historic rural character of the Tubman Farm, and occupies part of the site of Tubman's fenced garden. Although outside park boundaries, the house is within Tubman's 7-acre farm property she acquired in 1859. |  |
| BS-6. Tubman House | | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** Harriet Tubman's 7-acre farm she acquired in 1859 from William Seward included a frame house on a stone foundation. This house burned in 1880, and Tubman had a new two-story brick house constructed on the same foundation in 1881-1882. She lived in this house until 1911, when due to failing health she moved into the home for the aged in John Brown Hall. The house was shuttered.<br>**Existing Condition:** The Tubman House has been restored on the exterior to its appearance during Tubman's residency. The interior and planned exterior rear accessible entrance addition remain unfinished. Historic exterior features yet to be restored include window shutters, the front door, and steps and skirting on the porches. The restoration, completed in 2012, removed front and side porches, one-over-one window sash, and a rear kitchen wing added by the Norris family in ca. 1928.<br>**Evaluation:** The Tubman House is a character-defining historic feature of the landscape that has been restored on the exterior to the character that existed during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. |  |
| BS-7. Tubman Barn | NR | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** When Harriet Tubman acquired her seven-acre farm in 1859, there was most likely a timber-frame barn at the rear of the house. This this barn was probably replaced or substantially rebuilt during Tubman's lifetime, most likely soon after the house was rebuilt in 1881-1882. The new barn was a simple gable-roof building of hybrid wood frame construction, with a rear shed addition.<br>**Existing Condition:** The Tubman barn has been restored to its appearance during Harriet Tubman's lifetime. The restoration removed two concrete-block wings on the north and south sides that had been added by the Norris family in ca. 1955 for their transportation business. The restoration also restored the original openings, roofing, and siding.<br>**Evaluation:** The Tubman Barn is a character-defining historic feature of the landscape that has been restored to its historic appearance. |  |
| **Views and Vistas Features** | | | | | |
| There are no managed views or vistas; broad views across the property from South Street characterized the property during the historic period. These views are today obstructed in part by trees (see Vegetation). Views looking out the front windows of the Tubman House have changed from rural farmland to suburban residential landscapes. | | | | | |

**TABLE 3.2. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: TUBMAN FARM** (DRAWING 3.1)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Condition Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Small-Scale Features** (Drawing Key: SSF) | | | | | |
| *Seward Orchard Lot Fence (Not Extant)* | *Harriet Tubman's seven acre farm most likely had fences around the agricultural fields, and in particular around any areas used for pasture. The only documented fence ran along the south boundary, and was built by William H. Seward, Jr. in 1881 on the property boundary as part of a larger fence that enclosed his newly-planted orchard on the seven-acre lot to the south. This fence was removed at an undetermined date after 1913.* | | | | |
| *Tubman Garden Fence* | *The garden south of Harriet Tubman's brick house was enclosed by a picket fence, approximately three feet tall. The pickets were widely spaced and had pointed tops. The fence probably enclosed a rectangular area that occupied most of the ground between the brick house and the south property line. By 1913, the fence was in dilapidated condition, and was probably removed by the Norris family shortly after their purchase of the property in 1914.*[8] | | | | |
| SSF-9. Wire Field Fences | See Table 3.1 | | | | |
| SSF-10. Norris Lot Yard Furnishings and Pool<br><br>(Outside park boundaries) | | | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1859–1913):** The yard furniture and pool did not exist. The back yard of the Norris house was part of site was part of Harriet Tubman's garden, barnyard, and/or agricultural field.<br>**Existing Condition:** An above-ground pool, T-clothes line, picnic table, outdoor furniture, play equipment, and an old cast-iron light standard are in the back yard of the Norris house. These features all appear to be of recent origin and post-date construction of the Norris house in 1954.<br>**Evaluation:** The outdoor furnishings and pool at the Norris house are not historic. They detract from the historic rural character of the Tubman Farm landscape and are clearly visible from the Tubman house. |  |
| **Archeological Sites Features** | | | | | |
| There are no above-ground (visible) archaeological features on the Tubman Farm property (the remnants of the farm road and causeway are addressed under Circulation and Topography). The are subsurface archaeological remains from buildings and other features in the Tubman barnyard. | | | | | |

**GENERAL NOTES**

1. Features are numbered consecutively by characteristic for the three historic Tubman properties, beginning with Harriet Tubman Home property.
2. All documentation is from the Site History (CLR chapter 1), except where noted.
3. All photographs are by SUNY ESF and date to between 2016 and 2018.
4. Character-defining features removed since the end of the historic period (1913) are listed in the inventory and indicated on drawings 3.1–3.2, but are not evaluated since they do not exist.

**ENDNOTES**

[1] Newspaper photograph of the Tubman house showing overgrown garden with picket fence extending to the edge of South Street, 1913.

[2] Aerial photograph, 1938, New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1938_ARW-1-080.

[3] Aerial photograph, 1954, New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1954_ARW-2N-100.

[4] Engraving of Tubman House, "The Harriet Tubman Home, Trustees Met to Consider Enlarging Facilities—Property Formally Transferred," Syracuse *Herald*, June 28, 1896.

[5] Aerial photograph, 1954.

[6] Engraving of Tubman house, Syracuse *Herald*, June 28, 1896; Photograph of Tubman house, ca. 1907, San Francisco *Call*, September 29, 1907, 14.

[7] Panoramic photo of the Home and Tubman Farm properties, ca. 1943, Norris family photograph collection.

[8] Engraving of Tubman house showing part of fence adjacent to house, Syracuse *Herald*, June 28, 1896; Photograph of Tubman house showing dilapidated fence, "A Mysterious House," Unattributed newspaper clipping, October 17, 1913, Cayuga County Historian's Office.

**TABLE 3.3. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH** (DRAWING 3.2)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

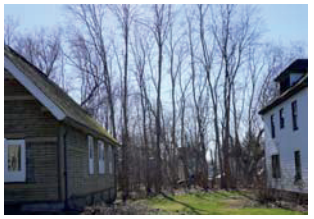
| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Conditions Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Natural Systems and Features** (Drawing Key: NSF) | | | | | |
| NSF-1. Successional Woods | | 246336 / -- | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1891–1913):** The successional woods did not exist. There may have been planted specimen trees along the back of the church lot. **Existing Condition:** The west (rear) half of the church lot is occupied by a tall stand of successional woods dominated by black locust and box elder, with Virginia creeper, ferns, periwinkle, and buckthorn. This area was mown grass or meadow; by the late 1930s and into the 1950s there was one or two rectangular cultivated plots, possibly gardens. There were also mature trees along the west property line, possibly Norway maples. The successional woods grew up after ca. 1965.[1] **Evaluation:** The successional woods are non-historic and have altered the historic open space of the church lot. |  |
| **Spatial Organization Features** (Drawing Key: SO) | | | | | |
| *Church Garden (presumed; not extant)* | *The Thompson A.M.E. Zion parish maintained one or two rectangular cultivated areas at the rear of the church by the late 1930s through the 1950s. This may have been a church garden (no historic reference to one has been found). The cultivated areas were abandoned after ca. 1960 and grew up in successional woods.[2] It is not known whether these gardens existed during the historic period.* | | | | |
| S0-1. Church Lawn | | 246336 / -- | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1891–1913):** The open, level ground between the church and parsonage, and possibly also at the rear of both buildings, was maintained as lawn that was probably used as a gathering space during the historic period, such as for a lawn social reported in June 1912. There is no record of any built or planted features in the lawn. **Existing Condition:** The ground between the church and parsonage is open lawn. There is no record of any changes to this area after Harriet Tubman's death. Most of the rear, which may have also been cultivated (see Church Garden), has grown up in successional woods. **Evaluation:** The church lawn is a historic spatial feature of the Thompson A.M.E Zion Church landscape that remains intact between the church and parsonage, but has lost its open character at the rear of the buildings due to the growth of successional woods since the historic period. |  |
| **Circulation Features** (Drawing Key: C) | | | | | |
| *Stone Crosswalk (Outside park boundary)* | *A crosswalk paved in small stone slabs laid in a random pattern extended on axis from the front doors of the church across Parker Street by 1913. It crossed ditches along both sides of the street. Stone curbs along the street side supported a larger stone slab that bridged the ditches. The stone crosswalk was probably removed in ca. 1935 when Parker Street was paved in asphalt.* | | | | |

**TABLE 3.3. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH** (DRAWING 3.2)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Conditions Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C-1. Church Entranceway | | 246334/ -- | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1891–1913):** The front doors of the church were approximately 8 feet from the public sidewalk along Parker Street. The area between the building foundation and the sidewalk, which sloped down to the north approximately 1.5 feet, was paved in similar large slabs of stone (probably bluestone) used for the public sidewalk.[3] Two large, graduated square slabs of stone formed the two steps.<br>**Existing Condition:** The entranceway to the church from the public sidewalk consists of concrete pavement that extends between the building and the sidewalk, concrete steps composed of two graduated rectangular slabs with rounded corners, and two concrete ramps with galvanized pipe railings. The concrete pavement and steps replaced the stone pavement and steps of similar dimensions at some point after 1913, most likely when major renovations were undertaken to the building and grounds in ca. 1940. The concrete ramps were a later addition made in ca. 1985. In ca.2000, the concrete pavement from the sidewalk to the road was removed; this was in the location of the stone crosswalk that existed in 1913.<br>**Evaluation:** The entranceway to the church is a historic feature, but has lost historic character due to replacement of original stone materials and addition of concrete ramps. The existing components appear to maintain the same design and location as existed historically. It is possible the original stone steps are encased in concrete. The loss of the section of walk that connected to the street (outside park boundaries) also detracts from the historic character of the church entranceway. |  |
| C-2. Parker Street (Outside park boundary) | | | | **Historic Condition (1891–1913):** Parker Street during the historic period was a dirt road approximately 18 feet wide with ditches to either side. There were no curbs near the church. There was a stone-paved crosswalk on axis with the entrance to the church.<br>**Existing Condition:** Parker Street is an asphalt paved, unstriped city road that is 30 feet wide and has intermittent concrete curbs. There are no curbs along the church property. The road was probably first paved and widened in ca. 1935, which would have required removal of the ditches and the stone crosswalk.<br>**Evaluation:** Parker Street, a city street outside of park boundaries, is an important part of the historic setting of Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church. Although now paved and widened, it retains its overall character defined by the roadbed without curbs. |  |
| C-3. Parker Street Sidewalk (Outside park boundary) | | | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1891–1913):** Sidewalks of large-slab stones (probably bluestone) were built along the west side of Parker Street at an undetermined date after the neighborhood was developed following the Civil War. A crosswalk extended on axis with the sidewalk in front of the church.<br>**Existing Condition:** Five-foot-wide concrete sidewalks line both sides of Parker Street, within the public right-of-way. These were rebuilt in ca. 2000, probably replacing an earlier generation of concrete sidewalks that in turn replaced the stone sidewalks after 1913. The piece of walk between the sidewalk and road |  |

**TABLE 3.3. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH** (DRAWING 3.2)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Conditions Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | directly in front of the church entrance (site of crosswalk) may have been removed during the last rebuilding of the sidewalk.<br>**Evaluation:** The public sidewalks along Parker Street are part of the historic circulation to and adjacent to the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and parsonage. While the materials have changed, the sidewalk appears to retain its historic location and alignment, except for the loss of the portion between the road and sidewalk directly in front of the church entrance. The loss of the original stone material detracts from the historic character of the landscape. | |
| C-4. Parsonage Driveway | | 246336 / -- | Non-contributing | **Historic Condition (1891–1913):** The parsonage driveway did not exist.<br>**Existing Condition:** A deteriorated overgrown gravel driveway with a concrete apron along the north side of the parsonage, and ends at a broken-up asphalt parking area. It was added at an undetermined date after 1913.<br>**Evaluation:** The parsonage driveway is a non-historic feature that is inconspicuous in the landscape. |  |
| C-5. Parsonage Entrance Walk | | 246336 / -- | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1891–1913):** An entrance walk connected the parsonage with the sidewalk along Parker Street (the walk did not extend to the street). The material was most likely concrete, given that the foundation of the parsonage was concrete block (cast stone).<br>**Existing Condition:** A well-worn 3-foot-wide concrete walk extends from the public sidewalk five feet to where the front steps were located (now removed). The walk does not connect to the street. The concrete of the public sidewalk is of recent construction.<br>**Evaluation:** The parsonage entrance walk appears to retain its historic alignment and materials. |  |
| **Topography Features** (Drawing Key: T) | | | | | |
| *Parker Street Ditches (Outside park boundary)* | *During the hsitoric period, turf and bare-earth drainage ditches were parallel to both sides of Parker Street. They carried runoff downhill, toward the north. A stone cross-walk provided access across the ditches in front of the church (see Circulation). The ditches were probably filled when Parker Street was paved in asphalt and widened in ca. 1935. The existing slope along the inner sides of the sidewalk in front of the church is a remnant of the inside bank of the ditch.* | | | | |
| **Vegetation Features** (Drawing Key: V) | | | | | |
| *Rear Boundary Trees and Groundcover* | *Deciduous trees existed along the rear property line at the top of the bank by the 1930s. These may have been planted when the parsonage was built and the grade of the church lot was leveled. The steep bank along the property line may have been planted in English ivy. The trees existed into the 1960s, but were lost due to competition from successional woods that grew up on the back half of the property after 1970.[4] The species is not known.* | | | | |

**TABLE 3.3. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH** (DRAWING 3.2)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Conditions Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V-2. Turf | | 246336 / -- | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1891–1913)**: Following construction of the church building in 1891, most of the half-acre property was maintained as mown turf or low meadow, up to the building foundation. This condition was maintained around the parsonage after its construction in 1910.<br>**Existing Condition:** The front (east) half of the church property surrounding the church and parsonage is maintained in mown turf. Foundation plantings, established by ca. 1940, were introduced to the front corners of the church and along the front porch of the parsonage. The back half of the lot, which may have been used as a cultivated plot (garden) by the 1930s, grew up in successional woods after ca. 1965. The foundation plantings and volunteer vegetation around the buildings were cleared in 2017 as part of building stabilization work.<br>**Evaluation:** The lawn around the church and parsonage reflects the extent of vegetation on the east half of property during the historic period. Turf or garden vegetation on the west half of the property has been lost to successional vegetation. |  |
| **Buildings and Structures Features** (Drawing Key: BS) | | | | | |
| BS-1. Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church | NR: Resource (Contributing) | 246334 / -- | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1891–1913):** By the1880s, Harriet Tubman was attending the A.M.E. Zion Church of Auburn on Washington Street. The congregation purchased the half-acre lot on Parker Street in 1891 and erected the Queen Anne-style church in 1891, built and most likely designed by B. H. Benham of Seneca Falls. The cornerstone was laid on August 9, 1891, and the church was completed later that year. In ca. 1894, the parish renamed itself in honor of the recently deceased Bishop Joseph P. Thompson, who had founded the Auburn congregation in 1838.[5] In 1913, Harriet Tubman was buried from the church.<br>**Existing Condition:** The church is presently undergoing stabilization and planning is underway for its rehabilitation as part of the national historical park. Protective covering is presently concealing the original window sash. A number of changes were made to the exterior of the building after Harriet Tubman's death, most notably addition of asbestos shingle siding, asphalt roofing, concrete parging on the limestone foundation, and a white color scheme. The asbestos shingle siding was removed and a wood shingle roof was restored in the early 2000s.<br>**Evaluation:** The Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church is the primary historic resource on the property and retains much of its exterior historic character. See Rebekah Krieger, Historic Structure Report Part I (2018) for further evaluation and additional history. |  |

**TABLE 3.3. LANDSCAPE FEATURE INVENTORY: THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH** (DRAWING 3.2)
**HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

| Feature Name | Other Resource Inventory | FMSS Data (Location / Asset records) | Evaluation Status | Evaluation | Existing Conditions Photo Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BS-2. Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church Parsonage | (Not in NHL/NR documentation) | 246333 / -- | Contributing | **Historic Condition (1891–1913):** The parsonage for the Thompson AME Zion Church, a Foursquare-plan building with classical revival details, was built in 1910 on the northern part of the church property. The building witnessed the burial of Harriet Tubman from the church in 1913.<br>**Existing Condition:** The parsonage is presently undergoing stabilization and planning is underway for its rehabilitation as part of the national historical park. A number of changes were made to the exterior of the building after Harriet Tubman's death, most notably the addition of asbestos-shingle siding that resulted in removal of window moldings and other details; and replacement of the original porch columns, cast-stone piers, and balustrades with stained dimensional lumber. These components were removed in 2017 as part of stabilization work by NPS.<br>**Evaluation:** The parsonage is part of the historic church property that reflects the growth and vibrancy of the church at the end of Harriet Tubman's life. Recent stabilization work has returned some of the building's historic character. See Rebekah Krieger, Historic Structure Report Part I (2018) for further evaluation and additional history. |  |
| **Small-Scale Features** | | | | | |
| No record of small-scale features from the historic period has been found. There are no stand-alone maintained small-scale features existing; there is a couch and other debris in the successional woods. | | | | | |

**GENERAL NOTES**

1. All documentation is from the Site History (CLR chapter 1), except where noted.

2. All photographs are by SUNY ESF and date to between 2016 and 2018.

3. Character-defining features removed since the end of the historic period (1913) are listed in the inventory and indicated on drawings 3.1–3.2, but are not evaluated since they do not exist.

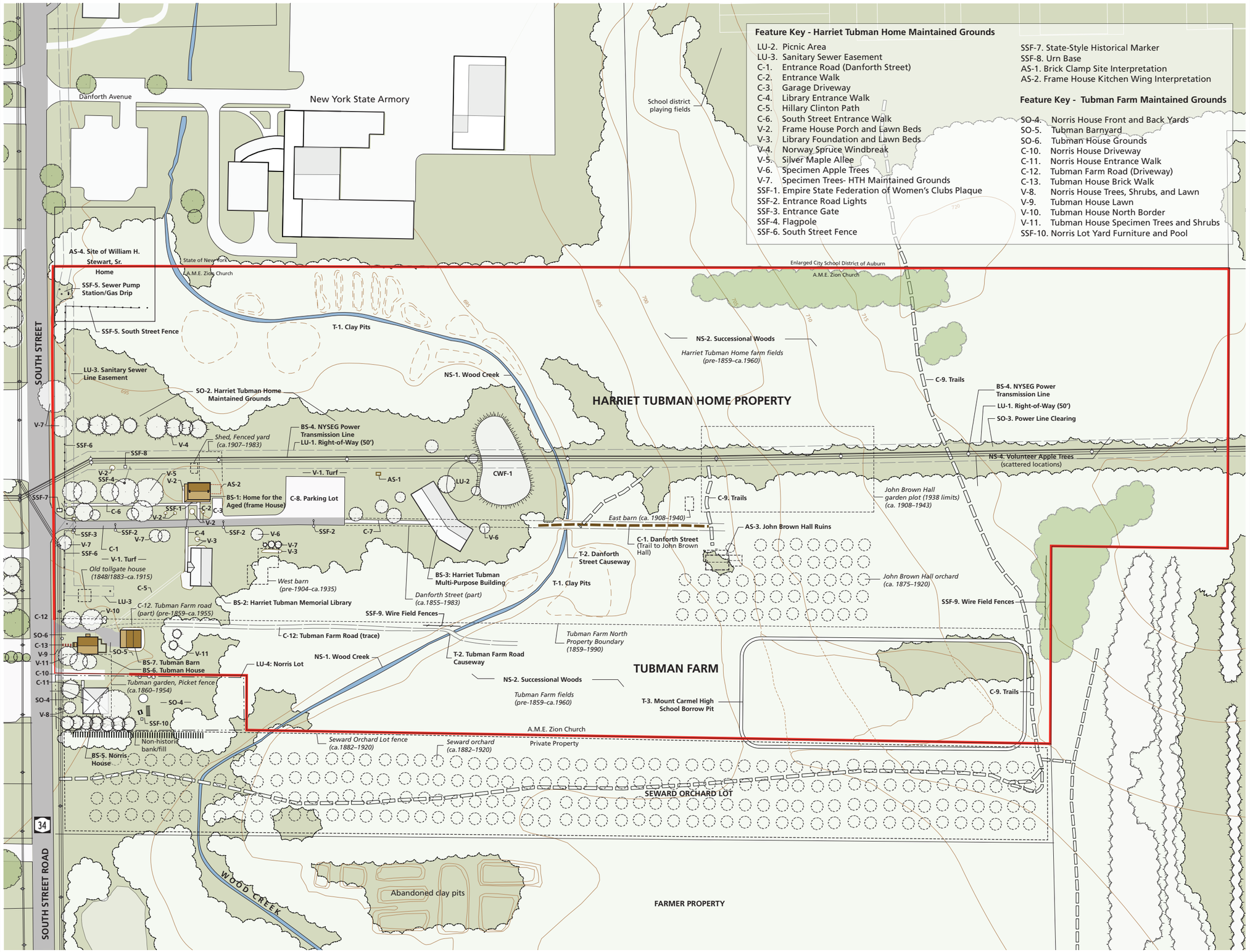
**ENDNOTES**

[1] Aerial photographs, 1938 and 1954, New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1938_ARW-1-081, 1954_ARW-2N-100; Photograph of church showing specimen deciduous trees and open ground at the back of the lot, ca. 1965, Cayuga Museum of History and Art.

[2] Aerial photographs, 1938 and 1954, showing cultivated plots in different areas; 1964 aerial showing no apparent cultivated plots, New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1964_ARW-1DD, 217.

[3] Photograph of Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church looking north, 1913, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, 2009_50_9_001; Group outside entrance to the church showing what appears to be stone pavement, 1905, Collection of Pauline Johnson, Auburn.

[4] Photograph of Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, ca. 1965, showing aged deciduous trees and open ground at the rear of the lot, Cayuga Museum of History and Art. Existence of English ivy based on existing conditions; no historic documentation has been found.




# Cultural Landscape Report Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Auburn, New York

## Analysis and Evaluation

### Harriet Tubman Home Property and Tubman Farm

**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
www.nps.gov/oclp

in partnership with
Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry, www.esf.edu/la/cclp

### SOURCES

1. City of Auburn map, 1904
2. USGS Auburn Quadrangle, 1943
3. Norris panoramic photograph, ca. 1943
4. Searing, Norris, and Putter photographs, ca. 1925–1947
5. Aerial photograph, 1938
6. Auburn/Cayuga County tax parcel data, 2016

### DRAWN BY

John Auwaerter, Illustrator CC, 2018

### LEGEND

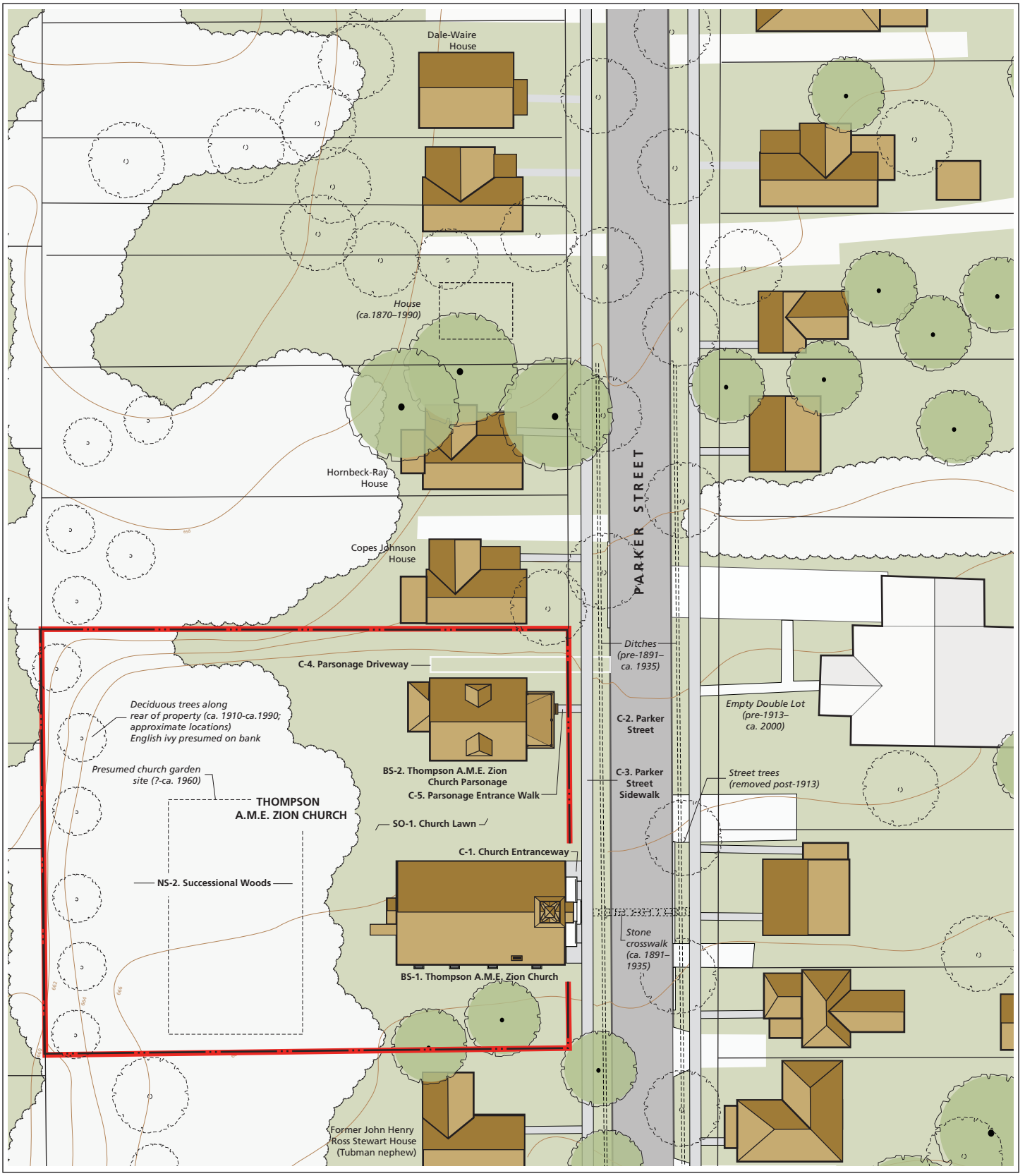
- 2016 Parcel Boundary
- NPS Legislated Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Building
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Bridge or Culvert
- Brick Walk
- Trail or Road Trace
- Utility Line
- Fence
- Deciduous Tree
- Orchard
- Shrubs
- Successional Woods
- Conifer Woods
- Lawn
- Stream
- Wetlands
- 5' Contours
- Clay Pit
- Feature Removed During Period

### NOTES

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Plan does not document all changes in vegetation or composition of planting beds; existing non-historic lawn not graphically indicated as non-contributing.
3. Reduced detail documented in landscape outside of park boundaries.

0′ 100′ 200′ 300′

**Drawing 1.8**




**DRAWN BY**

John Auwaerter, Illustrator CC, 2018

**NOTES**

1. All features shown in approximate scale and location.
2. Historic features labeled in upper case.
3. White mask indicates limits of CLR study area.
6. See Drawing 3.1 for sources.

**LEGEND**

- NPS Property Boundary
- NPS Legislated Boundary
- Tax Parcel Boundary
- Building
- Paved Road / Sidewalk
- Paved Road with Curb
- Unpaved Road/Driveway
- Deciduous Tree
- Deciduous Woods
- Turf
- Feature removed since 1913
- Non-Historic Feature (White Fill)

0′ 50′ 100′

**National Park Service**
**Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation**
in partnership with Dept. of Landscape Architecture
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Cultural Landscape Report
Harriet Tubman
National Historical Park

# Analysis and Evaluation

## Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church

**Drawing 3.2**

# TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Forthcoming

# SELECTED REFERENCES

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# A. Landscape Chronology

| | |
|---|---|
| pre-1789 | Tubman properties part of Cayuga homeland; near village of *Osco* (Fort Hill Cemetery) |
| 1789 | Haudenosaunee Confederacy cedes territory to the US federal government through Treaty of Canandaigua. Military Tract surveyed; established 26 towns and square 600-acre "Great Lots" awarded to Revolutionary War veterans. Tubman sites on South Street within Auerilus, Town No. 8, Great Lots #57 (City of Auburn) and #66 (Town of Fleming) |
| 1793 | Auburn settled by John Hardenbergh, an American Revolution veteran |
| 1847 | The Auburn and Fleming Plank Road (NY 34/South Street Road) is chartered |
| 1855 | Around this time, the frame house (Home for the Aged) is constructed, on land owned by William H. Seward |
| 1859 | Prior to this time, a frame house (Tubman House) is built on the Burton Farm |
| 1859 | William H. Seward sells Harriet Tubman a seven-acre portion of the Burton Farm, includin g the Burton farmhouse |
| 1864 | William H. Seward sells a 25-acre parcel north of the Tubman Farm to John W. Farmer, who starts a brick yard |
| 1870 | Around this time, a brick house (John Brown Hall) is built east of Wood Creek on the 25-acre Farmer-Rice brickyard property |
| 1880 | Harriet Tubman's frame house is destroyed by fire |
| 1881-82 | Harriet Tubman and Nelson Davis build their new brick house on the foundation of the frame house destroyed by fire |
| 1883 | The Auburn and Fleming Plank Road Company ceases operation; the north tollgate house is moved to the 25-acre Farmer-Ross property (Harriet Tubman Home property) |
| 1885 | Around this time, the Ross & Farmer/Ross & Rice/S.J. Saunders brickyard on the 25-acre property ceases operation; the Tubman barn is rebuilt around this time |
| 1888 | Nelson Davis, Harriet Tubman's husband, dies |
| 1890 | Harriet Tubman purchases the half-acre Jasper property at the northwest corner of the 25-acre Farmer-Ross property |
| 1891 | The A.M.E. Zion Church of Auburn (Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church) builds a new church on Parker Street |
| 1895 | The Harriet Tubman Home institution is chartered |
| 1896 | Harriet Tubman buys the 25-acre Farmer-Ross property (Harriet Tubman Home property) at auction |
| 1897 | Harriet Tubman sells the Jasper property to her brother, William H. Stewart, Sr. |
| 1903 | Harriet Tubman sells the 25-acre property to the A.M.E. Zion Church |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1907 | The frame house at #1 Danforth Street is renovated for a planned industrial school |
| 1908 | The home for the aged of the Harriet Tubman Home opens in the renovated John Brown Hall |
| 1909 | The Jasper house, former home of Harriet Tubman's brother, William H. Stewart near the northwest corner of the Home property, is demolished |
| 1910 | Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church builds a parsonage on Parker Street |
| 1911 | Harriet Tubman moves into the home for the aged in John Brown Hall |
| 1913 | Harriet Tubman dies on March 10 in John Brown Hall; her funeral is held at the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church on March 13 and she is buried in Fort Hill Cemetery |
| 1914 | The seven-acre Tubman Farm is sold by Tubman's legal estate to the Norris family; the home for the aged moves from John Brown Hall to the frame house at #1 Danforth Street; John Brown Hall is abandoned |
| 1915 | Around this time, the old tollgate house is demolished. A stone marker is installed on Harriet Tubman's grave |
| 1926 | Around this time, the home for the aged at #1 Danforth Street (frame house) closes and the building is rented to tenants |
| 1928 | Around this time, the Norris family renovates the Tubman house with new front and side porches, windows, and a new rear wing |
| 1931 | The A.M.E. Zion Church grants Empire State Electric and Gas a right-of-way to build a power transmission line across the 25-acre Harriet Tubman Home property. |
| 1937 | A new stone marker is installed on Harriet Tubman's grave |
| 1940 | Around this time, John Brown Hall is demolished |
| 1943 | The last tenants move out of the frame house (Home for the Aged) and the building is stripped over the next few years; agricultural use of the 25-acre property ceases |
| 1947 | A small fire occurs at the frame house (Home for the Aged); the City of Auburn orders its demolition; Bishop William J. Walls announces plans for its rebuilding as a shrine to Harriet Tubman |
| 1950 | The frame house (Home for the Aged) is rebuilt. Around this time, the Norris family ceases agricultural use of the Tubman Farm |
| 1953 | The frame house (Home for the Aged) is dedicated as a shrine to Harriet Tubman and operated as a museum and caretaker residence |
| 1954 | The Norris family builds a brick ranch house on the site of the Tubman garden, and grant the Carmelite Brothers permission to excavate a large borrow pit on the eastern part of the Tubman Farm. Rev. and Mrs. May begin adding gardens around the frame house (Home for the Aged); a two-car garage is built next to the frame house |
| 1955 | A third-acre parcel around the 1954 Norris house is subdivided from the seven-acre Tubman Farm |
| 1955 | Around this time, the Norris family builds concrete-block additions to the Tubman barn for its use as a bus garage |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1974 | The Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged (frame house) is designated a National Historic Landmark |
| 1978 | Harriet Tubman Memorial Library is built south of the frame house; entrance gates are built and entrance road is paved around the same time |
| 1983 | Harriet Tubman Multi-Purpose Building (visitor center) is built, along with a pond and picnic grounds |
| 1990 | The A.M.E. Zion Church acquires 6.7 acres of the Tubman Farm, including the Tubman house, from the estate of Edith Norris |
| 1993 | The Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church moves out of its church on Parker Street |
| 1997 | The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. is incorporated to manage the Harriet Tubman Home property |
| 1999 | The Tubman Residence (Tubman Farm), Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, Tubman gravesite, and Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged (25-acre property) are listed together in the National Register of Historic Places through a multi-properties nomination |
| 2001 | The National Historic Landmark designation of the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged is expanded to include the Tubman Residence (Tubman Farm) and Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church. |
| 2003 | Stabilization work is undertaken on the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church |
| 2009 | The Tubman barn is restored |
| 2012 | Restoration of the exterior of the Tubman house is largely completed; the two-car garage next to the frame house built in 1954 is demolished |
| 2016 | The A.M.E. Zion Church sells the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and parsonage to The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc.; property purchased by the US/National Park Service |
| 2017 | Harriet Tubman National Historical Park is officially established |

# B. Park Legislation

### 16 U.S. CODE, SECTION 410ttt
### HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, AUBURN, NEW YORK

Note: Became law, December 19, 2014, PL 113-291, Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015; amended by PL 114-298, title VI, Section 601(d), December 16, 2016 (130 Stat. 1491)

(a) Definitions in this section:

(1) Historical park: The term "historical park" means the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park established by subsection (b)(1)(A).

(2) Home: The term "Home" means The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., located in Auburn, New York.

(3) Map: The term "map" means the map entitled "Harriet Tubman National Historical Park", numbered T18/80,000, and dated March 2009.

(4) Secretary: The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) State: The term "State" means the State of New York.

(b) Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

(1) Establishment

(A) In general

Subject to subparagraph (B), there is established the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, as a unit of the National Park System.

(B) Determination by Secretary

The historical park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land, or interests in land, has been acquired to constitute a manageable park unit.

(C) Notice

Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary makes a determination under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of the establishment of the historical park.

(D) Map

The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(2) Boundary

The historical park shall include the Harriet Tubman Home [sic, Tubman Farm brick house], the Tubman Home for the Aged, the Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church and Rectory [sic, parsonage], and associated land, as identified in the area entitled "National Historical Park Proposed Boundary" on the map.

(3) Purpose

The purpose of the historical park is to preserve and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the life of Harriet Tubman.

(4) Land acquisition

(A) In general

The Secretary may acquire land and interests in land within the areas depicted on the map by purchase from a willing seller, donation, or exchange.

(B) No condemnation

No land or interest in land within the areas depicted on the map may be acquired by condemnation.

(c) Administration

(1) In general The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with this section and the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(A) the National Park System Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); [1] and

(B) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).1

(2) Interpretive tours

The Secretary may provide interpretive tours to sites and resources located outside the boundary of the historical park in Auburn, New York, relating to the life of Harriet Tubman.

(3) Agreements

(A) In general The Secretary may enter into an agreement with the owner of any land within the historical park to mark, interpret, or restore nationally significant historic or cultural resources relating to the life of Harriet Tubman, if the agreement provides that—

(i) the Secretary shall have the right of access to any public portions of the land covered by the agreement to allow for—

(I) access at reasonable times by historical park visitors to the land; and

(II) interpretation of the land for the public; and

(ii) no changes or alterations shall be made to the land except by mutual agreement of the Secretary and the owner of the land.

(B) Research

The Secretary may enter into an agreement with the State, political subdivisions of the State, institutions of higher education, the Home and other nonprofit organizations, and individuals to conduct research relating to the life of Harriet Tubman.

(C) Cost-sharing requirement

(i) Federal share

The Federal share of the total cost of any activity carried out under this paragraph shall not exceed 50 percent.

(ii) Form of non-Federal share

The non-Federal share may be in the form of in-kind contributions or goods or services fairly valued.

(D) Attorney general

(i) In general

The Secretary shall submit to the Attorney General for review any agreement under this paragraph involving religious property or property owned by a religious institution.

(ii) Finding

No agreement subject to review under this subparagraph shall take effect until the date on which the Attorney General issues a finding that the proposed agreement does not violate the Establishment Clause of the first amendment to the Constitution.

(d) General management plan

(1) In general

Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the historical park in accordance with section 100502 of title 54.

(2) Coordination. The Secretary shall coordinate the preparation and implementation of the management plan with—

(A) the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park established by section 410sss of this title; and

(B) the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

# C. NHL AND NATIONAL REGISTER DOCUMENTATION COVER PAGES

**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION**

NPS Form 10-900 USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86) OMB No. 1024-0018

**TUBMAN HOME FOR THE AGED, HARRIET TUBMAN RESIDENCE AND THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH** **Page 1**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

## 1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: **TUBMAN HOME FOR THE AGED, HARRIET TUBMAN RESIDENCE, THOMPSON A.M.E. ZION CHUCH**

Other Name/Site Number: Harriet Tubman District
Properties Relating to Harriet Tubman in Auburn, NY

## 2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 180 South Street
182 South Street
33 Parker Street
Not for publication:

City/Town: Auburn
Vicinity:

State: NY County: Cayuga Code: 011 Zip Code: 13201

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

| Ownership of Property | | Category of Property | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Private: | X | Building(s): | X |
| Public-Local: | | District: | |
| Public-State: | | Site: | |
| Public-Federal: | | Structure: | |
| | | Object: | |

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|---|---|
| 3 | 4 buildings |
| | sites |
| | structures |
| | objects |
| 3 | 4 Total |

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 4

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: (National Register)Historic Properties Relating to Harriet Tubman in Auburn, New York

## 4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**
**MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM**

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

[x] New Submission [ ] Amended Submission

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

Historic Properties Relating to Harriet Tubman in Auburn, New York

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period of each.)

Harriet Tubman's life, activities and commemoration in Auburn, N.Y., 1859-1913.

**C. Form Prepared by**

name/title Susanne R. Warren, Architectural Historian/Consultant
organization _____ date October 27, 1998
street & number 101 Monument Avenue telephone 802-447-0973
city or town Bennington state Vermont zip code 05201

**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.
([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

J.W. Adams 15 Dec. 98

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

NHL

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM**

*(Type all entries — complete applicable sections)*

STATE: New York
COUNTY: Cayuga
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Harriet Tubman Museum

AND/OR HISTORIC: *Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 180 – 182 South Street

CITY OR TOWN: Auburn

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: New York — CODE:

COUNTY: Cayuga — CODE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ District ☑ Building<br>☐ Site ☐ Structure<br>☐ Object | ☐ Public<br>☑ Private<br>☐ Both | Public Acquisition:<br>☐ In Process<br>☐ Being Considered | ☑ Occupied<br>☐ Unoccupied<br>☐ Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br>☑ Restricted<br>☐ Unrestricted<br>☐ No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Agricultural | ☐ Government | ☐ Park | ☐ Transportation | ☐ Comments |
| ☐ Commercial | ☐ Industrial | ☐ Private Residence | ☐ Other (Specify) | |
| ☐ Educational | ☐ Military | ☐ Religious | | |
| ☐ Entertainment | ☑ Museum | ☐ Scientific | | |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

STREET AND NUMBER: 520 Red Cross Street

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington

STATE: North Carolina 28401 — CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Cayuga Courthouse in Auburn , City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER: 24 South Street

CITY OR TOWN: Auburn

STATE: New York — CODE:

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: — STATE: — CODE:

STATE: New York
COUNTY: Cayuga
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

55

# D. Aerial Photograph Comparisons

## South Street Properties



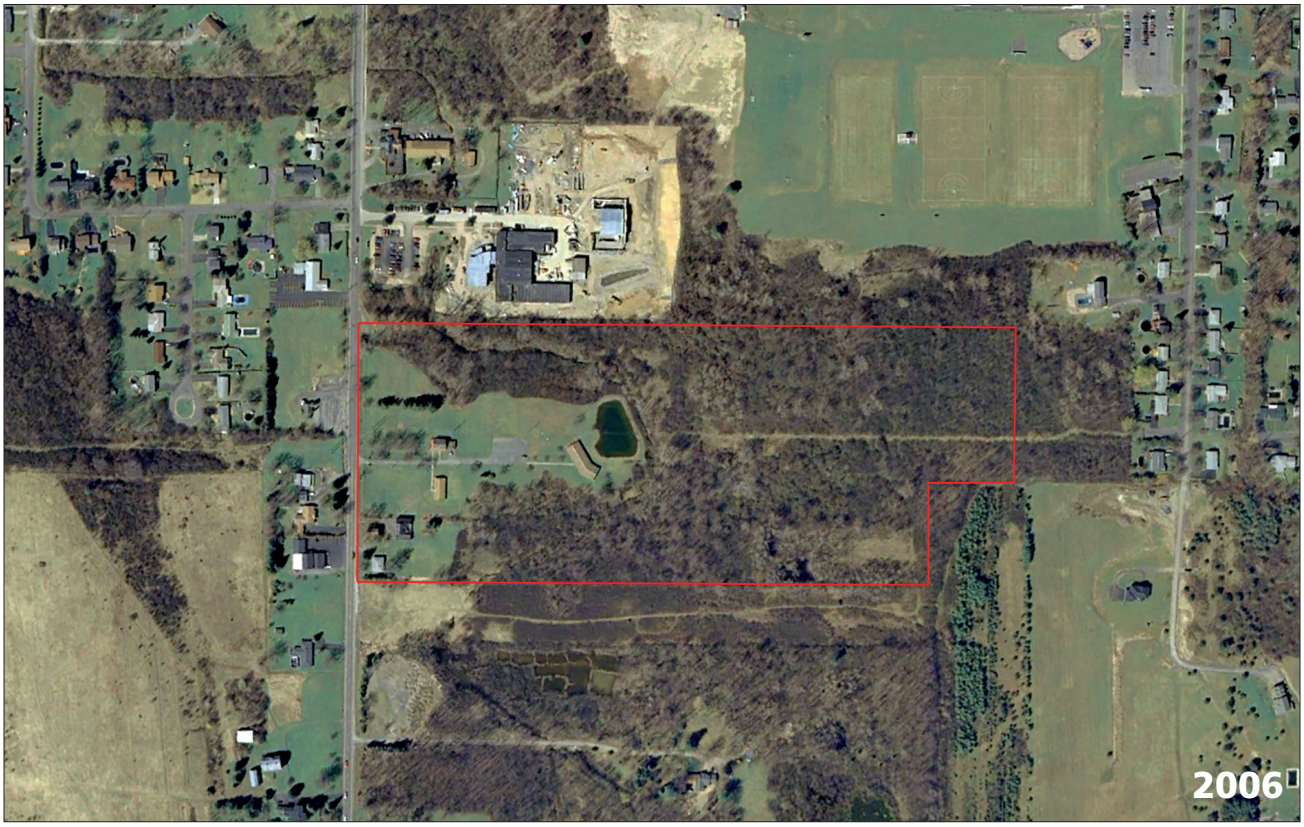

Source: New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1938_ARW-1-080, annotated by SUNY ESF.




Source: New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1954_ARW-2N-100, annotated by SUNY ESF.




Source: New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1963_ARW-1DD-217, annotated by SUNY ESF.




Source: New York State GIS Clearinghouse, annotated by SUNY ESF.

# Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church, Tubman Grave




Source: New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1938_ARW-1-080, annotated by SUNY ESF.




Source: New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1954_ARW-2N-100, annotated by SUNY ESF.




Source: New York State Aerial photos digital collection, Cornell University, 1963_ARW-1DD-217, annotated by SUNY ESF.




Source: New York State GIS Clearinghouse, annotated by SUNY ESF.

# E. Contacts and Consulted Repositories

[Forthcoming]

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
15 State Street. 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02109
www.nps.gov/oclp