

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN SUGAR GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA



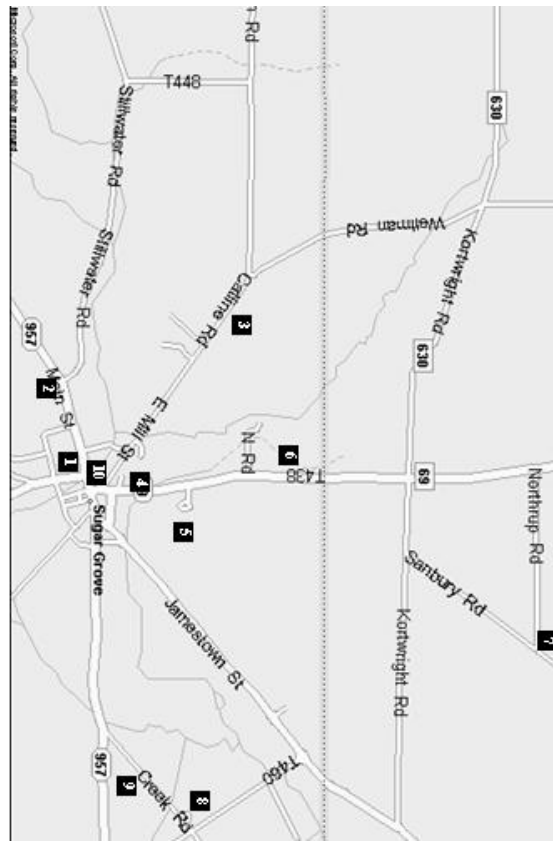
Escaping from a household, farm or plantation in what is today West Virginia, fugitive slaves made their way toward Canada along the western border of Pennsylvania. Arriving in northwestern Pennsylvania, abolitionists would have directed you toward Sugar Grove.

Situated about half way to Canada, this rural community on the border of Pennsylvania and New York was the perfect place to find refuge. Unlike other communities where bounty hunters lurked behind every corner, Sugar Grove was safe. Many escaped slaves remained in the area for several months, taking time to work in households or on farms earning money to buy clothing and passage across Lake Erie to Canada.

Sugar Grove does not stand alone, but is a link in a vast chain of local communities including Barnes, Spring Creek, Lottsville and Lander. Busti Township in the State of New York is but two miles outside of Sugar Grove, and many Busti and Sugar Grove residents moved to the area together from Oneida County, NY, where they were both friends and family.

In all, the area was rife with abolitionists from the time of its earliest residents. During the height of Underground Railroad activity, the area was noteworthy enough to draw visits from Will Brown, Rev. J.W. Loguen, Sallie Holley, and Frederick Douglass who was the keynote speaker at the 1854 Anti-Slavery Convention held in Sugar Grove which Douglass referred to in his newspaper as "the crowning convention of them all." Escaped slave and the "real-life" George Harris in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Lewis Clarke lived outside Lander, PA, for several years after the publication of his autobiography NARRATIVE OF THE SUFFERINGS OF LEWIS AND MILTON CLARKE.

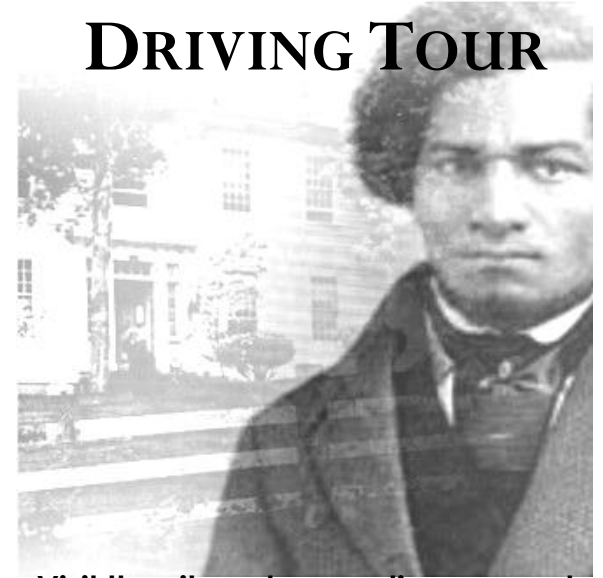
With the exception of First Presbyterian Church and Cherry Hill Cemetery, **NONE OF THE PROPERTIES LISTED ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR TOURS.**



APPROXIMATELY A 13-MILE DRIVE

- 211 Main Street (PA Rt. 957) heading W
- Turn right onto Stillwater Road
- Turn right onto The Crossroad
- Turn right onto The North Road
- Turn right onto Catlin Hill Road
- On your left are the former Catlin lands*
- Turn left onto Forest Street (PA 69)
- First house on left past Patterson is Congregational Church site*
- Cross into New York State
- Turn right onto Northrup Road
- On left at Northrup & Sanbury are former Storum lands*
- Turn right onto Sanbury Road
- Turn left onto Kortwright Road
- Turn right onto Jamestown Street
- Turn left onto Sanders Road
- Turn right onto Creek Road
- On left at Creek & 957 are former Pratt lands*
- Turn right onto PA 957

SUGAR GROVE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD DRIVING TOUR



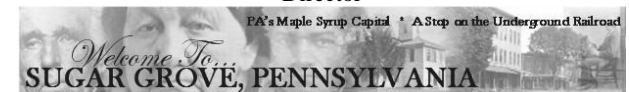
**Visit the sites where ordinary people
did extraordinary things!**

A self-guided Driving Tour that will take you through the countryside where fugitive slaves trod and abolitionists thrived during the pre-Civil War era in & around Sugar Grove, Warren County.

This tour is made available by
THE SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

www.mysugargrove.com

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Director



1 THE HOME OF BEBE BLODGET

211 Main, Sugar Grove, PA



A member of both the Female Assisting Society which sewed clothes to send to abolitionists in Philadelphia and the Ladies Fugitive Aid Society which provided

clothes for local fugitive slaves, Bebe, a Quaker and mother of local abolitionist W.O. Blodget, was revered for her generosity and compassion, helping with the abolitionist cause as early as 1836.

Bebe's family were among the original pioneers to this area in the very early eighteenth hundreds who eventually became the major players in the abolitionist movement throughout the region.

2 THE YOUNIE FARMSTEAD

415 Main Street, Sugar Grove, PA



Site of the June 17 & 18, 1854 Anti-Slavery Convention, the largest recorded in the area, and hailed by Frederick Douglass as "the crowning convention of them all."

Lecturers for the two-day event included Frederick Douglass, Rev. JW Loguen, and Lewis G. Clarke. Hundreds of local abolitionists packed the property, eager to hear the news of their cause.

3 SITE OF THE CATLIN FARMSTEAD

SE of the intersection of Catlin Hill Rd. & North Road



The home of abolitionist leader Dr. James Catlin and his wife Martha, a doctor in her own right. Catlin hid his first slave while attending Allegany College in Meadville and later went on to found the *True American* abolitionist

newspaper in Erie, PA. For many years Dr. Catlin was a leading voice in the movement with numerous articles and letters to his credit appearing in anti-slavery heralds including *Frederick Douglass' Paper*.

4 SITE OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

107 Forest Street, Sugar Grove, PA



The Congregational Church was the meeting hall of the area abolitionist movement. Among some of the most honored speakers are Rev. JW Loguen, author and leader of the UGRR in Syracuse, Sallie Holley, female lecturer for the American Anti-Slavery Society, and Will Brown, the first African-American

novelist and playwright.

5 CHERRY HILL CEMETERY

267 Forest St., Sugar Grove

Tour at www.mysugargrove.com/2010CHUGRR

6 THE MILLER MANSION

One-quarter mile SW of PA/NY State line on Big Tree Road, PA Rt. 69



Considered to be the most notable of the Underground Railroad stations still preserved in the area, it was here that Frederick Douglass dined with the Millers before an abolitionist convention in

town during 1854. Home to society matriarch Cynthia Catlin Miller, it was from here that she organized sewing events for the Ladies Fugitive Aid Society which provided aid to escaping slaves. Her son Franklin's diaries provide an account of the harboring of a slave at this home.

7 SITE OF THE STORUM FARMSTEAD

NW corner of Sanbury and Northrup Roads, Busti Twp., Chautauqua Co., NY



It was on Storum's farm, being tended to by son-in-law Lewis Clarke and his brother Milton, that a band of slave-catchers descended capturing the fugitive slave Harrison

Williams on September 30, 1851.

8 THE MILES MANSION HOUSE

West of intersection of Sanders & Dobson Rd., Sugar Grove, PA



Home of Frederick Miles whose father established the first settlement in the area in 1797. Frederick's wife was a sister of Cynthia Catlin Miller, and the two were firm abolitionists as shown in Frederick's writings.

They were listed among the guests at the dinner at the Miller Mansion for Frederick Douglass in 1854. Through Miles' letters we learn about the life of Lewis G. Clarke, an escaped slave and one time resident of Sugar Grove, who was most famous for being the basis of the character "George Harris" in UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

9 SITE OF THE PRATT FARMSTEAD

NE of the intersection of PA Rt. 957 & Creek Road



Linus Humphrey Pratt was such a notable Underground Railroad participant during his life that he was the first stop for the Chautauqua County Sheriff when

searching for five fugitive slaves in the area. Pratt was able to avoid a search of his property by informing the Sheriff that he was on the wrong side of the State line. After the capture of fugitive slave Harrison Williams, Pratt's wife, a niece of Cynthia Catlin Miller, prepared a dinner for the remaining slaves who had all been hidden at the McDonald farm on Lanning Hill before their departure for Canada.

10 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

202 Main Street, Sugar Grove, PA 16350



Organized in 1821 the formation of this congregation touted such leaders Frederick Miles and Cynthia Catlin Miller. The building was constructed in 1833 and remodeled after the Civil War. Today it is County's oldest house of worship still in use.