

THADDEUS STEVENS HOME & LAW OFFICE

45-47 SOUTH QUEEN STREET
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

*“Thee has no better friend in the state than
the lawyer...the Hon. Thaddeus Stevens...”*

*Underground Railroad conductor Daniel Gibbons, Bird-In-Hand, PA,
to a group of freedom seekers assisted by Stevens, August, 1848.*

Application to National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

Submitted on behalf of

Lancaster County Convention Center Authority

And

LancasterHistory.org

Lancaster County's Historical Society & President James Buchanan's Wheatland

In Partnership with

Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau

January 2011

Prepared by Randolph J. Harris, consulting historian, Lancaster, PA



January 27, 2011

Ms. Sheri Jackson
Network to Freedom Regional Coordinator
National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
Old Customs House, 200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Ms. Jackson:

SUBJECT: Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Application - Revised
 Thaddeus Stevens Home and Law Office
 45-47 South Queen Streets, Lancaster, PA

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lancaster County Convention Center Authority, owner of the subject property, consent is hereby given to include the Thaddeus Stevens Home and Law Office as a Site in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

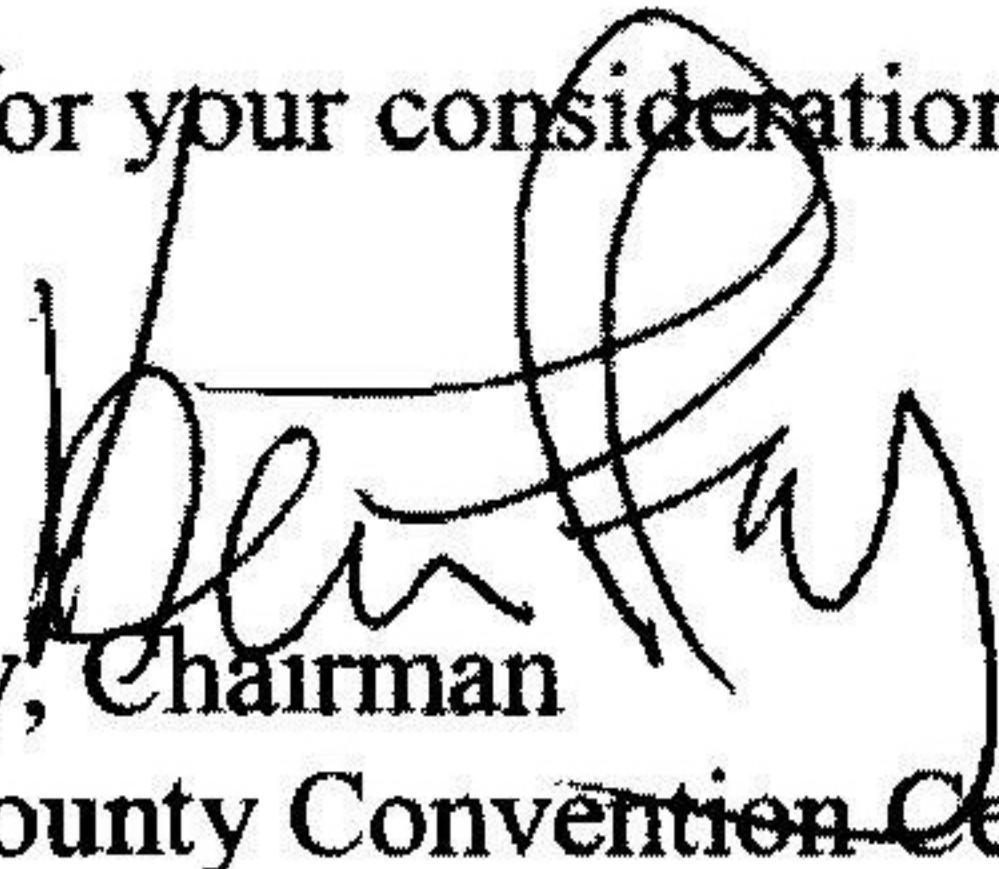
The attached application has been revised according to comments contained in your letter of September 9, 2010, in which you explained that our previous application was not accepted into the Network to Freedom at that time, pending receipt of suggested revisions.

The most significant change in the attached application relates to recently obtained documentation of support given to a group of formerly enslaved men by U.S. Congressman Thaddeus Stevens at his home and law office at 45 South Queen Street. This documentation corroborates previously submitted information about this episode in the history of the Underground Railroad.

This application is submitted in partnership with LancasterHistory.org, and the Pennsylvania Dutch Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,


Kevin F. Fry, Chairman
Lancaster County Convention Center Authority
25 South Queen Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Attachments

cc: Mr. Tom Ryan
LancasterHistory.org

Mr. Chris Barrett
PA Dutch Convention & Visitor Bureau

Stephanie H. Gilbert
3244 Bridlepath Lane
Dresher, PA 19025
(215) 519-1113

January 28, 2011

Sheri Jackson
Network to Freedom Regional Coordinator
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Old Customs House
Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Ms. Jackson:

SUBJECT: Narrative of O.C. Gilbert, re: Underground Railroad
Network to Freedom Application-Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Site
South Queen and East Vine Streets, Lancaster, PA

I am the owner of the 52-page O.C. Gilbert manuscript, of which copies of certain pages are attached hereto as documentation of Underground Railroad activity at the subject property in 1848.

Oliver Cromwell Gilbert, also known as O.C. Gilbert, (b.1832- d.1912) was my great-great grandfather. He was born Oliver Cromwell Kelly, a slave to Dr. William W. Watkins of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. At 16 years of age he escaped slavery with a group of others on August 20, 1848 and we know that, with the help of his written account, his escape-route took him through Lancaster, PA.

I obtained his un-published manuscript in 2009 from an antiques dealer in Philadelphia, who obtained it from a "clean-out man", who "found" it while cleaning out the Philadelphia home of my uncle, William Oliver Gilbert, Jr., grandson of Oliver Cromwell Gilbert, following William's death. While my family had always been in possession of a much shorter version, as written by my deceased cousin Julia Gilbert, granddaughter to Oliver Gilbert, we were unaware that the version we held was simply a condensed version of a 52 page manuscript. The manuscript was written sometime around the end of the 19th century at Oliver Gilbert's home in Philadelphia, PA. We have reason to believe the narrative was transcribed by Oliver Gilbert's wife, Maria.

I give my consent for the attached copies of the Gilbert manuscript pages 31-34 to be included on a one-time basis in an application for site designation by the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

I understand that this application is being prepared by Randolph J. Harris, a consulting historian of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the Lancaster County Convention Center Authority, site owners, and in partnership with LancasterHistory.org, and the Pennsylvania Dutch Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

(Electronically via email transmission)

Stephanie H. Gilbert

Attachments

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type: X Site Facility Program

Name: Thaddeus Stevens Home and Law Office

Address: 45-47 South Queen Street

City, State, Zip: Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602

County: Lancaster Congressional District: 16th-PA

Date Submitted: January 2011

Summary: What is being nominated and how it is connected to the Underground Railroad.

On August, 23, 1848, at his property at 45-47 South Queen Street, attorney Thaddeus Stevens (1792-1868) assisted several freedom seekers from Maryland, guiding the group seven miles east to the next Underground Railroad outpost, the farm of Daniel and Hannah Gibbons at the Village of Bird-In-Hand.

The previous year, 1847, while he was a well-known attorney at this location, Stevens paid agents to infiltrate the ranks of slave catchers operating in Lancaster County. He thwarted their plans by alerting Underground Railroad activists before the bounty hunters arrived to capture their targets.

Also in the late 1840s and 1850s, Stevens' Caledonia Iron Works in Franklin County, PA provided employment and support for African Americans through the agency of his superintendent and other Underground Railroad operatives in Franklin and Adams Counties.

As Lancaster County's U.S. Congressman, Stevens served as co-counsel to defendants charged with treason in connection with the Christiana Resistance, which occurred on September 11, 1851.

As Lancaster Congressman, Stevens was an avowed Abolitionist and Constitutional scholar, playing key roles enacting major civil rights Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The "Old Commoner" was one of the prime movers of Reconstruction and the leading advocate for the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson, whom he regarded as too lenient towards the rebellious South.

FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE USE ONLY

I hereby certify that this site facility program is included in the Network to Freedom.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date



Owner/Manager (Share contact information ___Y ___ N)

Name: Kevin F. Fry, Chairman, Board of Directors
Lancaster County Convention Center Authority
Address: 25 South Queen Street

City, State, Zip: Lancaster, PA 17603

Phone: 717.207.4100 **Fax:** 717.207.4101 **E-mail:** info@lccca.com

Owner/Manager (Share contact information ___Y ___ N)

Name: Thomas R. Ryan, Ph.D., President and CEO, LancasterHistory.org

Address: 230 North President Avenue
City, State, Zip: Lancaster, PA 17603

Phone: 717-392-4633 **Fax:** (717) 293-2739 **E-mail:** tom.ryan@lancasterhistory.org

Application Preparer (Enter only if different from contact above.) (Share contact information ___Y ___ N)

Name: Randolph Harris, consulting historian

Address: 314 West Chestnut Street

City, State, Zip: Lancaster, PA 17603

Phone: 717-808-2941 **E-mail:** rmkharris314@verizon.net

Privacy Information: The Network to Freedom was established, in part, to facilitate sharing of information among those interested in the Underground Railroad. Putting people in contact with others who are researching related topics, historic events, or individuals or who may have technical expertise or resources to assist with projects is one of the most effective means of advancing Underground Railroad commemoration and preservation. Privacy laws designed to protect individual contact information (i.e., home or personal addresses, telephone numbers, fax numbers, or e-mail addresses), may prevent NPS from making these connections. If you are willing to be contacted by others working on Underground Railroad activities and to receive mailings about Underground Railroad-related events, please add a statement to your letter of consent indicating what information you are willing to share.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom to nominate properties, facilities, and programs to the Network to Freedom. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Response to this request is required for inclusion in the Network to Freedom in accordance with the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act (P.L. 105-203).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 25 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Coordinator, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, NPS, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.



SITES:

This application includes the following attachments:

- 1) Letter of consent from property owner for inclusion in the Network to Freedom
- 2) Text and photographs of all site markers
- 3) Original photographs illustrating the current appearance and condition of the site
- 4) Maps showing the location of the site

S1. Type:

☒ Building ☐ Object ☐ District (neighborhood)
☐ Structure ☐ Landscape/natural feature ☐ Archeological site

S2. Is the site listed in the National Register of Historic Places? ☒ Y ☐ N

What is the listing name: City of Lancaster National Historic District

The subject property is a contributing building to the City of Lancaster National Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places September 7, 2001.

S3. Ownership of site:

☐ Private ☐ Private, non-profit (501c3) ☐ Multiple ownership
☒ Public, local government ☐ Public, state government ☐ Public, federal government

S4a. Type(s) of Underground Railroad Association (select the one(s) that fit best)

☒ Station ☒ Assoc. w/ prominent person ☐ Rebellion site ☒ Legal challenge
☒ Escape ☐ Rescue ☐ Kidnapping ☐ Maroon community
☐ Destination ☐ Church w/active congregation ☐ Cemetery ☐ Transportation route
☐ Military site ☐ Commemorative site/monument ☐ historic district/neighborhood
☐ Archeological site ☐ Other (*describe*)

S4. Describe the site's association and significance to the Underground Railroad. Provide citations. Timelines are encouraged.

The site is associated with the Underground Railroad through the ownership and occupancy of Thaddeus Stevens (1792-1868), attorney, Pennsylvania State Representative from Gettysburg, Adams County, PA (various terms - 1833-35, 1837, 1841); U.S. Congressman who represented Lancaster County (Whig Party-1849-53 and also Republican Party-1857-1868); civil rights advocate and Underground Railroad activist.

Stevens owned the subject property on South Queen Street in Lancaster from 1843 until the time of his death. He conducted his law practice from this site in 1848, while his residency apparently began here in 1856 (County of Lancaster, PA Recorder of Deeds, Sheriff's Deed Book Vol. 1-317; Palmer, *The Papers of Thaddeus Stevens, Vol. I*, 1997: 23; O.C. Gilbert Manuscript, c. 1890: 31; Smedley, 1883: 38; Boyd's Lancaster City Directory, 1857; *The Lancaster Inquirer*, 6, 20 and 27 October 1883 (See Figure 11); Blockson, 1994:130; Hoch, 2005: 245.

Stevens' direct assistance to freedom seekers in 1848 at his law office at 45-47 South Queen Street is documented in the recently-discovered, unpublished manuscript of Oliver Cromwell Gilbert, also known as



O.C. Gilbert, (b.1832- d.1912). Born Oliver Cromwell Kelly, he was enslaved by Dr. William W. Watkins of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. See Figure 3 for advertisement offering a reward for the capture of Kelly and his group, published in The Baltimore Sun, Wednesday, August 23, 1848.

By his 52-page hand-written account, Gilbert, at age 16, escaped while attending a camp meeting with a group of enslaved men on Sunday, August 20, 1848. Within a few days, their escape route took them across the Maryland-Pennsylvania border, through York County to Wrightsville, PA, then across the Susquehanna River to Columbia, Lancaster County. Thinking they had reached Canada, the group was informed by an unidentified man of their real location and the danger they faced from being captured.* The man gave them a note and directed them about 10 miles to the east to the City of Lancaster, where the group was instructed to see an attorney at No. 45 South Queen Street “who was a friend to the slaves.”

*** See Figures 5 and 6 for location of Columbia, PA and the detailed map of the riverfront where the Gilbert group stopped. Directly opposite the bridge landing and amid this industrial riverfront, there are properties on the 1850 map shown in Figure 5 that are identified with Thaddeus Stevens, as well as those of William Whipper and Stephen Smith, African American lumber merchants and well-documented Underground Railroad agents.**

The key passage of the Gilbert narrative (Pages 31-32) is as follows (transcription retains the vernacular; quotation marks added by the submitter):

“We arrived at Lancaster about noon. We were directed to call at No. 45 South Queen Street and we would find a lawyer, who was a friend to the slaves. We moved very cautiously towards his place. He said, ‘What can I do for you?’ Ben said, ‘We are looking for work and we heard dat you gave work to colored people.’ ‘How far have you came?’ ‘Right smart ways sir.’”

“‘Can you walk several miles further?’ said he. ‘Yes sir.’ ‘Well, you take this note and go to Burdenhand (sic) and give it to Daniel Gibbons and I think he will find you work. Just before you get into the village you will see a white painted house sitting back in the field, then up a lane and ask for Daniel Gibbons and give him this note.’”

Gibbons and his wife Hannah, the narrative continues, fed and clothed the group. The following mid-morning, Gibbons hastily awakened the freedom seekers, telling them:

“Boys! Awake and dress as quick as thee can, the hunters have found out your whereabouts and are on your track. A messenger has just arrived from Lancaster saying warrants are out for thy arrest.”

O.C. Gilbert manuscript, circa 1890: 34-35

It can be reasonably assumed that the messenger was sent by Thaddeus Stevens. Gibbons hastily drove the group in his wagon further east to several of the safe houses of some of the most well known Underground Railroad operatives in Southeastern Lancaster County: Thomas Whitson (1796-1864), James Jackson, Amos Gilbert (1782-1863) and Joseph Moore.

See S11: Appendix 1: Transcription of pages 31 through 37 of the Oliver Cromwell Gilbert manuscript, and Figures 11 through 17 for photo scans of the Gilbert manuscript pages.

According to the O.C. Gilbert Manuscript, the formerly enslaved Oliver Kelly assumed the surname of Quaker educator, essayist and Underground Railroad activist Amos Gilbert (1782-1863) of Bart Township. O.C. Gilbert’s brother, Reuben, arrived in Southeastern Lancaster County and stayed among Quaker Abolitionists shortly before Oliver’s arrival. Reuben assumed the name of his host, “Amos Gilbert,” and Oliver was advised to assume a new name as well. Amos Gilbert was a teacher with Thaddeus Stevens in 1815-1816 at York (PA) Academy. He was a strong proponent of free public education – as was Stevens – and he was a frequent writer in Anti-slavery newspapers. The following publication of his obituary in



Garrison's *The Liberator* in September, 1863 indicates that Amos Gilbert engaged in support for freedom seekers at about the same time period that he lived and taught in York, PA with Stevens:

"Descended from an ancestor who liberated his slaves from a conscientious conviction that man had no right to property in his fellow-man, before the Commonwealth led the way in legislative emancipation, he was true to the hereditary principles of his family, bearing a firm and constant testimony against American slavery, in season and out of season, and was actively engaged more than half a century ago in aiding fugitives in their efforts to escape from Southern bondage. He was, for some time, editor of *The Genius of Universal Emancipation*, established by Benjamin Lundy, with them he was on terms of personal intimacy.

"He discharged this duty at the capital of the nation, at a time when to speak the truth of the Great American Crime against Humanity exposed the friend of liberty to the danger of assassination. His testimony was so faithful to the last, that more than one Abolitionist who had lowered his standard to the more support of "the Union and the Government," was offended with his stringent applications of unadulterated truth; and he died as he lived, unpopular with all but the perfectly faithful.

May his reward be that of the just made perfect, and may our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ receive him into his blessed kingdom!

"We have long known and regarded the deceased friend, whose death we are now called upon to record, as one of the most upright and faithful of the Anti-Slavery host—as a fearless investigator and lover of the truth, an independent thinker, and a friend of progress and reform in their widest manifestations. He was, occasionally, a contributor to the columns of the *Liberator*, his style always marked by clearness and precision, and his suggestions or criticisms worthy of consideration. A truly good man has departed.—[*Ed. Lib.*]"

"DIED—In Lancaster Co., Pa., on the 14th of August, AMOS GILBERT, in the 81st year of his age,"
***The Liberator*, Boston, MA, September 4, 1863.**

O.C. Gilbert became the leader of his family's traveling troupe of singers and musicians. This family performed in many communities in Pennsylvania and other Northeastern states from the mid- to late 19th Century. During this time the family was known not only for their entertainment; O.C. Gilbert would also relate his life history from slavery to freedom and he also was involved in political activities with some of the nation's foremost anti-slavery and civil rights leaders.

The following is one of the earliest accounts located of Gilbert's public performances:

Collection: African American Newspapers
Publication: FREDERICK DOUGLASS PAPER
Date: June 30, 1854
Title: *We attended a meeting on Monday evening in Zion Church...*
Location: Rochester, New York

"We attended a meeting on Monday evening in Zion Church to hear an address for Mr. **Oliver C. Gilbert**, of Boston. His theme was the recent slave hunt in Boston. He gave a thrilling account of those murderous proceedings. After addresses by others, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: *Resolved*. That so help us Heaven, no man shall be taken out of Rochester, as a slave. - W."

From Accessible Archives, Malvern, PA, accessed January 20, 2010.



Gilbert is referenced in a Lancaster newspaper in 1880, describing essentially the same episode of his escape from slavery and meeting Stevens in 1848:

“On last Saturday evening, Mr. Oliver C. Gilbert and family (formerly slaves in this South) six in number, gave a concert at Orchestra Hall. After the concert, Mr. Gilbert gave a very thrilling account of how he escaped from slavery with fifteen of his companions, twenty five years ago. It was during a camp meeting that they started off, and were not long on their way when they were pursued by hunters and blood hounds, but through their cunningness, managed to get into Lancaster County, when they were directed to go to No. 45 South Queen street where they would meet a friend who would get them work. They went and got work seven miles below Lancaster. The friend who sent them there was none other than Thaddeus Stevens.”

“Lititz Items – Jubilee Singers,” *The Weekly Examiner-Herald*, Lancaster, PA, August 4, 1880:3-1.

For further information on the career of O.C. Gilbert, see Figure 19 and 20: New York Times articles, August 8, 1873, *The Colored Men at Saratoga*, describing O.C. Gilbert as presiding over a political rally, and October 10, 1873, *The Colored Republicans*, chairing another political meeting.

It should be noted that these escape narratives involving the encounters with Stevens and Gibbons predated, and appears to be the source of, the similar narrative in the account given by Dr. R.C. Smedley in his book, *The Underground Railroad in Chester and Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania*, 1883.

Smedley states that the event occurred “about 1842.” Stevens moved to Lancaster that year. This contingent of former slaves is reported by Smedley to have fled Anne Arundel County, MD, making their way to York, PA, before arriving in Columbia, Lancaster County, and finally at Stevens’ office in the City of Lancaster. Smedley relates that Stevens fed them and directed them to the next stop on the Underground, the farm of Daniel Gibbons, located near the village of Bird-in-Hand, east of Lancaster (Smedley, 1883: 37-38).

Gibbons and his wife Hannah, along with their son Dr. Joseph Gibbons, are widely described as Lancaster County’s most prolific station masters at their farm (Still, 1872; Smedley, 1883; Seibert, 1898). Joseph Gibbons is reported to have corresponded regularly with Stevens. A letter dated April 17, 1862 from Stevens to Joseph Gibbons is included in *The Papers of Thaddeus Stevens: Volume I*.

There are ambiguities and discrepancies in the various records that deal with the location and dating of Stevens’ occupancy of properties used as his residences and his law offices.

The date of Thaddeus Stevens’ residency on South Queen Street appears in Beverly Palmer’s chronology (See Appendix 3) shows that the attorney Stevens established his residency and place of business in the home he acquired that year through Sheriff Sale as follows: “April 1843-Moves to 47-49 S. Queen St., where he lives and practices law.” This address is apparently mistaken (but not the property), since the home and law office is at Nos. 45-47, while the adjacent Kleiss Tavern, which Stevens acquired as part of the 1843 sheriff sale, is at No. 49 South Queen Street.

This date and the term of his occupancy are consistent with the text of the historical marker on the front of the Stevens Home and Law Office, placed there in 1931 by the Lancaster County Historical Society. See Contemporary Photos, October, 2009.

However, the May 9, 1854 edition of *The Independent Whig*, Stevens’ own newspaper, shows his office with other city attorneys under the “Professional Cards” listings as: “Thaddeus Stevens, Attorney at Law. Office in South Queen Street, next door below Wright’s Fountain Hotel.”



This location “next door to Wright’s Hotel” was on west side of South Queen Street at No. 38, according to the biography of William Penn Brinton (1824-1844), from *Biographical Annals of Lancaster County, PA*, J.H. Beers & Co., Chicago, IL. 1903:1391:

“In 1856 Mr. Brinton was united in marriage to Miss Susan M. Reigart, eldest daughter of the late Emanuel C. Reigart, one of the foremost of Lancaster’s lawyers a generation ago. They took up their residence in the house formerly occupied by Thaddeus Stevens, No. 38 South Queen street, and occupied it during all their married life.”

There is a listing for his home and office at 45-47 South Queen Street that appears in Boyd’s *The Lancaster City Directory*, a local city directory published 1857, which would have been based on a survey the previous year.

For reasons unknown to Lancaster area historians, there are no known city business and residency directories for the years 1843 through 1856. If there were publications of this type during this period, these discrepancies could be resolved, since tax records and deeds show ownership but not occupancy and residential or office uses.

Also, See Figure 11 showing three advertisements from *The Examiner & Herald*, Lancaster, PA, indicating Stevens’ office location on South Queen Street, with no specific address cited.

It is certain that Stevens owned the subject property at 45-49 South Queen from 1843 until his death in 1868, based on the deed record. None of the available evidence precludes the possibility that while Stevens may have lived at 38 South Queen Street as a tenant from the early 1840s until sometime in the early to mid-1850s, his law office could have been located at 45 South Queen Street when he received O.C. Gilbert and his group on August 23, 1848, as told by Gilbert on many public occasions throughout the mid- to late 19th century. Indeed, Gilbert’s account, both in Lancaster area newspapers in the 1880s, and in his own manuscript are definitive in the location of the place (45 South Queen Street) and the type or use of the building where the encounter occurred as Stevens’ law office. Smedley’s account also states the meeting was at Stevens’ office.

2) Stevens’ financial and tactical support for infiltration into the activities of slave catchers in Lancaster County, circa 1850. In 1847, while he was a well-known attorney at this location, Stevens paid agents to infiltrate the ranks of slave catchers operating in the Lancaster County, thwarting their plans by alerting Underground Railroad activists when the bounty hunters were approaching.

Stevens is reported to have been directly responsible for several actions in the late 1840s of thwarting the actions of slave catchers in Lancaster County and the surrounding region. He paid at least one acquaintance over a number of years to infiltrate the ranks of slave bounty hunters who were tracking freedom seekers then being sheltered at Underground Railroad stations in the rural Lancaster County farms of Stevens’ network of associates.

These activities are documented in two Lancaster newspapers – *The Inquirer* and *The Examiner & Herald* -- and in *The New York Times*, all published in late October and early November 1883. The articles were written by persons who knew Stevens personally and who had direct knowledge of Stevens’ secret activities. On November 3, 1883, *The New York Times* published an article (page 3, Col. 1) with the headline:

**THAD STEVENS'S ALLIES
INTERESTING REMINISCENCES OF THE DAYS OF SLAVERY;
HOW RUNAWAY NEGROES WERE SAVED FROM CAPTURE AND AIDED ON THEIR WAY
TO CANADA
From the Lancaster (Penn.) Examiner.**



The headline above and the accompanying article was based directly on, and attributed to, two separate but directly related news stories published nearly concurrently in the two leading Lancaster, PA newspapers: *The Examiner & Herald* (Publisher/Editor John A. Heisted) on October 27, 1883, and in *The Inquirer*, (a weekly; Ellwood Griest, Publisher/Editor and political ally of Stevens). They show the same publication date, although *The Examiner & Herald's* first account makes reference to *The Inquirer's* prior publication on October 27, 1883.

The Examiner & Herald article was published in response to what had been in *The Inquirer* perhaps a few days prior: A "hitherto unpublished letter," dated January 9, 1847 written by Thaddeus Steven (who had not yet become a U.S. Congressman) to Judge Jeremiah Brown, Jr., a resident of Fulton Township, Lancaster County, PA.

[The name of Judge Jeremiah Brown, Jr. appears years later (1898) in Prof. Wilbur Siebert's, *The Underground Railroad From Slavery to Freedom*, as an agent, or UGRR operative.]

The letter and accompanying narrative was written by Publisher Elwood Griest under his column, "This and That." **See Figure 10** for reproduction of the letter and column.

This letter is also reprinted in the 1963 pamphlet, *The Pilgrim's Pathway*, by Franklin and Marshall College (Lancaster, PA) professor, Dr. Charles Spotts.

Neither of the two Lancaster newspapers (as far as can be determined) nor *The New York Times* mentions the source of the 1847 Stevens-to-Brown letter.

In the letter re-printed in the Lancaster papers and, a few days later in *The New York Times*, Stevens warns Judge Brown to immediately move the two Negro girls he or his brother were then harboring. Stevens also openly describes his other recent actions in support of the Underground Railroad and makes reference to a spy who kept him apprised about the activities of slave catchers in the County. That letter elicited a question in print from the publisher of *The Inquirer*, "Major" Ellwood Griest, as to the identity of that spy.

A response to the newspaperman's query was published by John Hiestand, editor of the City's competing newspaper, *The Examiner & Herald*, as stated above, on the same date as the Stevens-to-Brown letter was reprinted in *The Inquirer*, and in which Griest stated his question as to the identity of the spy.

Editor Hiestand declared that the Stevens spy was Edward H. Rauch (1820-1902). At this time (1883) Rauch was editor of the Mauch Chunk, PA (today's Jim Thorpe, PA) newspaper, *The Democrat*, according to Griest.

Then, in the October 31, 1883 edition of *The Examiner & Herald*, Hiestand published the response by "Capt." E.H. Rauch, verifying Hiestand's account and the declaration that he, Rauch, was indeed Stevens' spy. This entire exchange was then re-printed in the November 3, 1883 edition of *The New York Times*.

To solidify the community connections with these journalists and their publications, it should be noted that E.H. Rauch assisted Stevens' close associate, Edward McPherson (1830-1895), in the editing and production of *The Independent Whig*, a newspaper started in November 1851 by a joint stock company with Thaddeus Stevens as the head, according to *A History of Lancaster County* (Ellis & Evans, 1883: 507).

In his 1883 letter, dated October 29 from Mauch Chuck, PA, Rauch wrote to Hiestand at *The Examiner & Herald*, that only four other men were aware of his activities:

"A.H. Hood, George Ford, the Rev. Robert Boston (colored) and I also believe Dr. Joseph Gibbons."

The latter was the son of Daniel Gibbons, Lancaster County's most prolific stationmaster who reportedly helped in excess of 1,000 fugitives prior to 1850. The reference to Robert Boston is slightly incorrect.



In 1847 Robert Boston was not a pastor. He first appears in the 1850 U.S. Census as a barber. In 1863 the local directory identifies him as pastor at Lancaster's Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

3) Stevens' Underground Railroad activity at Caledonia Iron Works, Franklin County, PA:

Nearby this property which Stevens owned during his occupancy in Lancaster, a small community known as "Africa" was established by Black families whose male members were employed in the iron making process. The use of this ironworks site as an Underground Railroad "station," circa 1850 was documented in the early 20th century and accepted as a site into the Network to Freedom in 2008. Stevens' Caledonia Iron Works in Franklin County, PA provided employment and support for African Americans through the agency of his superintendent and other Underground Railroad operatives in Franklin and Adams Counties. The ironworks site was first publically reported as a UGRR station in 1911.

According to Hoch, in *The Making of an Abolitionist*:

During much of the 1830s and 1840s, he [Thaddeus] fended off bankruptcy, and much of this financial instability was due to his iron business. Stevens appears to have sought money, in large part, to keep his struggling Caledonia Ironworks afloat because they and the surrounding 20,000 acres that he owned were conduits for the Underground Railroad, in addition to being the region's largest employers of African American workers (Hoch, 2005:194).

Stevens and Paxton were the firm's principals until 1848, when Stevens bought out his partner and assumed the firm's entire indebtedness. The sole proprietor put William Hammett in charge as superintendent (Hoch, 2005:207).

Hammett was described in a 1911 public address as an activist in the Underground Railroad by Hiram E. Wertz of Quincy, Franklin County, and a self-professed Underground Railroad "captain." Hammett, according to Wertz, would provide safe haven and employment to African Americans who worked at and lived near Caledonia Furnace. (*The Daily Record*, Waynesboro, PA, February 25, 1911, page 1)

Speaking February 24, 1911 before the Carlisle Historical Society in Carlisle, Cumberland County, PA, Hiram Wertz (1829-1911) described how he carried out his participation in the dangerous work of the Underground Railroad:

"...before the battle [of Gettysburg] I had been busy as a captain – for such was the title – of the Underground Railroad. The track which the fugitives used is passing through the sections in which I was to act as guide and preserver, led by way of the South Mountain from the Potomac river to the Pennsylvania border. Here the former bondmen left the shelter of the deep forests and emerged into open country. The first station in Pennsylvania was known as Shockeyes. It was near the present village of Rouzerville, at the mountain's foot. Thence they were guided north, about eight miles, to my father's barn, where they arrived generally in the very early morning and I fed them and guarded them during the day. When night came I led them north, about eight miles, to a settlement called Africa. This was near the old Caledonia furnace, owned by that great champion of the slave, Thaddeus Stevens. Twenty or twenty five families of colored people lived there and near the village of Greenwood.

In this latter place was the home of Robert Black, another captain of the Underground Railroad. He saw to it that the fugitives were cared for, working along with William Hammett, then superintendent of Stevens' furnace, which was located two miles to the east of Greenwood.

It would have been a sorrowful time for anyone to have ventured into this neighborhood with the idea of attempting to arrest any of the fugitives.



From this point they were piloted through the mountains by the Pine Grove Furnace to Mt. Holly and Boiling Springs and from there they were sent safely over the Susquehanna River. My personal knowledge of them ended at Greenwood

From the time I first assumed the captaincy of the Underground Railroad, in 1845, I piloted at least forty-five to fifty negroes, none of whom, to my knowledge, was captured and returned to slavery.” (Wertz, *The Daily Record*, February 25, 1911, page 1).

In 1850, the Robert Black family is enumerated in the U.S. Census as a family of seven headed by Robert, age 41, a merchant, and his wife Elizabeth, 34, with \$4,000 in real estate assets.

The newspaper, *The Public Opinion*, Chambersburg a story headlined: “Some history of Black Gap; was in Underground Railroad.” The story describes Robert Black as a farmer, storekeeper and postmaster of Black Gap Post Office, the place that bore his family name. The report also describes Black’s other activities:

The home of Robert Black was a station on the “Underground Railroad,” famous in days before the Civil War for aiding in the escape of runaway slaves. He was a “captain” or superintendent of this “railroad.” Slaves arriving at his “station” during the night were fed and concealed till the following night, when they would be sent forward, on horseback or otherwise to another “station” on the line of the road, mostly in the direction of Harrisburg. When the Confederates invaded Pennsylvania in their march toward Gettysburg, they “paid him up” for some of his work on the “railroad.” (*The Public Opinion*, Chambersburg, PA, November 3, 1921, page 1).

4) As a sitting U.S. Congressman, (1849-1853) and attorney residing in Lancaster, Stevens served as co-counsel to defendants charged with treason against the United States in connection with the Resistance at Christiana, Lancaster County PA, also known as the Christian Riot, September 11, 1851. In the months following the incident, Stevens and his co-counsels obtained acquittals for their clients who were tried in federal court held at famed Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The Resistance, the acquittals and the resulting weakening of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 have been described as a series of critical events that created a flashpoint leading to the outbreak of the Civil War some ten years later. His role in this highly inflammatory case is believed to have cost him his party’s nomination for a third term in Congress in the primary election of 1854 (Trefousse, 1997: 84-85, citing *Congressional Globe*, 32nd Congress, App. 742.; *Lancaster Herald & Examiner*, 28 July, 18 August, 14 September, 1852, and others).

S5. Provide a history of the site since its time of significance to the Underground Railroad, including physical changes, changes in ownership or use.

When Stevens purchased Lot 134 in 1843, several structures were extant, including a small brick story-and-a-half dwelling house fronting on Queen Street, as well as the two and one-half-story brick Kleiss Saloon. These deductions were based on a review of *United States Direct Tax of 1798* for Hamilton Plan Lot 134, City of Lancaster, PA, by historian Clarke Hess and a Board member of Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County. Several outbuildings also stretched between Queen and Christian Streets, including at least one framed barn, a malt house, and a brew house. **See Figure 8.**

Archeologists James Delle and Mary Ann Levine, in their 2004 article in an archeological journal, provide the following outline of the property history from the late 18th century through the early 20th century:

“Both the Stevens House and the Kleiss Saloon appear to have been built between 1759 and 1786 by John Frick, who operated a brewing establishment on site until he sold the property to Philip Kleiss in 1786. Kleiss operated the brewery until his death in 1800, when his two sons John and George were bequeathed the property. George bought his brother’s share out in 1801...Stevens purchased the property from George Kleiss’s estate at a sheriff’s sale in 1843, but apparently kept rooms across the street at the (Wright’s) Fountain Hotel until the mid-1850s.



The Kleiss Saloon remained a drinking establishment owned by Stevens but physically connecting the Stevens House and Kleiss Saloon with a storefront which served as his law office. The Kleiss Saloon remained a drinking establishment owned by Stevens but occupied and operated by Mrs. George Kleiss until ca. 1850 and Jonathan Whitlinger until ca. 1857, at which time it appears Stevens was resident in his property on Queen Street. At least one of the small houses at the corner of Queen and Christian Streets-the Lydia Hamilton Smith House-was constructed by Mrs. Smith sometime prior to 1860.

Following his death in 1868, the lot was subdivided, with Lydia Hamilton Smith purchasing the Stevens House and Law Office, and Jacob Effinger purchasing the Kleiss Saloon. Mrs. Smith operated the former residence as a boarding house, though she herself continued to live in Washington, DC. The Kleiss Saloon remained a tavern and saloon at least through Prohibition, known successively as Effinger's Tavern and the Southern Market Hotel. A variety of businesses were constructed and operated on the site in the later-19th and early-20th centuries, including a series of warehouses, a livery stable, and a veterinary hospital. In the later-20th century, all of the buildings were reconfigured into apartments."

Delle and Levine, "Excavations at the Thaddeus Stevens/Lydia Hamilton Smith Site, Lancaster PA: Archaeological Evidence for the Underground Railroad?" *Northeast Historical Archaeology* Vol. 33: 131-52.

Original concept plan of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County (January, 2001) established 1792-1884 as the period of historical significance: 1792 is the birth year of Thaddeus Stevens (owner of the subject properties from 1843 - 1868, the year of his death) and 1884 is the year of the death of Lydia Hamilton Smith (1813-1884). Smith, as Stevens' long-time housekeeper, property manager and confidante, acquired the main properties after Stevens' death and owned all of the subject properties from 1870 - 1884. She was one of only three women of color to have owned property in Lancaster County during the mid 19th century.

Initial funding for early planning of a Stevens museum and educational/interpretive center included a US Department of HUD Special Purpose grant (announced February 14, 2003) of \$202,500 to be used for preservation of this site. U.S. Rep. Joseph Pitts was instrumental in securing this assistance. Previous funding for this project had been received from private funders and public grants totaling approximately \$240,000. Once agreements were in place between Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County and the Lancaster County Convention Center, funding of approximately \$6 million was raised from local foundations and from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This funding focused on the subject properties and was used for building stabilization, restoration of the exterior elevations to their 1850s appearance, interface with the newly constructed convention center lobby and related costs.

See detailed list of these funders below under **S10**, and also, see **S11 – Appendix 4 for Project Chronology**.

S6. Describe current educational programs, tours, markers, signs, brochures, site bulletins, or plaques at the site. Include text and photographs of markers.

A. On the front of the Stevens & Smith House at 45-47 South Queen Street, Lancaster, an historical marker was placed Lancaster County Historical Society in 1930 (**See Contemporary Photos**).

B. Nearby in the City of Lancaster, Thaddeus Stevens is the focus of the following historical markers placed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Historical and Museum Commission (**See Contemporary Photos**):

1) Thaddeus Stevens:



Name: Thaddeus Stevens
 Region: Hershey/Gettysburg/Dutch Country Region
 County Location: Lancaster
 Marker Location: W. Chestnut St. at Shreiner's Cemetery, Lancaster
 Dedication Date: March 24, 1950

Marker Text

Lawyer, congressman, defender of free public schools, abolitionist, lies buried in the rear of this cemetery. He believed in the "Equality of man before his Creator." Resided in Lancaster from 1842 until his death, 1868

The marker is on the property of Concord-Shreiner Cemetery in Lancaster, PA – Concord- Shreiner Cemetery is a contributing structure to the City of Lancaster National Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places September 7, 2001. The memorial at Stevens' gravesite, approximately 4 feet wide by 8 feet long and 7 feet high, is the most prominent in the small public cemetery. From its inception, this burial ground accepted ownership of plots and burials of people of all races. The cemetery grounds measure approximately 130 feet X 260 feet and generally the equivalent of two standard lots based on the City of Lancaster town plan. Stevens' grave and monument was included in the Network to Freedom in April, 2006. **See Figure 9.**

In addition, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of Tourism has included the Stevens and Smith Historic Site in its web-based and print marketing and promotional efforts, known as *Quest for Freedom*.

According to the PA Office of Tourism, the Quest for Freedom experience is designed to introduce Underground Railroad explorers, as well as regional visitors, to the rich stories and heritage of the Underground Railroad in southeastern Pennsylvania. The tours highlight the role of free Black communities and abolitionists as they aided escaping Africans on their journey to freedom.

After visiting the Quest web site or reading the collateral printed material, as well as exploring the many communities and their resources along the tour corridor, the heritage traveler should, to an increased level, better understand:

1. the Underground Railroad in southeastern Pennsylvania was made up of a diverse group of people – often acting in secret - who helped formerly enslaved people of African heritage in their quests for freedom;
2. that African Americans played a significant role in the early formation of the United States, including pronounced activity in the cause of the American Revolution, even though they were not recognized as free people;
3. some of the key federal and Pennsylvania state laws that created the social and political environment that gave rise to the movement that became known as the Underground Railroad, including the Pennsylvania 1780 Gradual Manumission Act and the Federal Fugitive Slave Acts of 1793 and 1850;
4. that many of the notable events in Underground Railroad history occurred in SE Pennsylvania;
5. that the name "Underground Railroad" may have derived from this region;
6. that the kind of assistance rendered was both organized and not organized;
7. the Underground Railroad is a figurative phrase that must be viewed in context as describing a movement that happened to have occurred at about the same time as the emergence and growth of the actual railroad industry, and that the name "underground" indicates its overall clandestine nature and not necessarily a physical location or space.

The Quest for Freedom initiative has resulted in the production of various publications, web presence and the development and execution of programs focused on the Commonwealth's Underground Railroad



heritage. The story of Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith in Lancaster has been featured in these efforts:

S7. Include a bibliography. Discuss historical sources of information and how you used them.

Assessment of Sources Consulted:

Sources for this nomination include research from a variety of categories including primary and secondary sources, which the applicants consider to be strong evidence and constitute reliable and credible information.

Within the application text, printed sources are cited by author's surname, or newspaper article headline, date of publication and page number.

Source available on-line show the website's URL and date of access.

If the publications of contemporary authors are cited, and depending on the significance of the reference to the UGRR connections to the application, the application text will show the primary or secondary sources cited by those authors, all of whose works are listed in the bibliography.

Primary Source Documents: These documents include cartographic evidence, federal, state, county and municipal records; birth, death, and marriage information; first-person accounts or autobiographies; and personal correspondence. Sources consulted included in this category are:

Public Records:

Historic Cartographic Resources: Lancaster City and County Atlas maps (Bridgens, 1864; Sanborn, 1873; Everts & Stewarts, 1875; Graves & Steinbarger, 1899; James Street Improvement District, 2008).

Court Records – Lancaster County Wills; Lancaster County Office of Recorder of Deeds.

Federal and State Records –U.S. Bureau of the Census 1800-1910.

Pennsylvania 2nd Geological Survey – Adams, Franklin, Cumberland County Maps.

City Directories, City of Lancaster, PA, 1857; 1869-70; 1875-76; 1882-1883.

Death Certificate, Washington, D.C. (Lydia Smith, 1884).

First Person Accounts/Autobiographies:

Oliver Cromwell Gilbert Manuscript, unpublished, 52 pages, written circa 1899, Philadelphia, PA, excerpts made available by special arrangement by descendants of Gilbert, specifically for use in this Network to Freedom Application. See consent letter included here from Stephanie Gilbert, January 28, 2011.

Classified advertisement, offering a reward for the capture and return of Oliver Kelly and others who had been enslaved in Maryland at the Plantation of Dr. William W. Watkins, as published in *The Baltimore Sun*, Baltimore, Maryland, Wednesday 23 August 1848.

Letters and accounts found in *The Papers of Thaddeus Stevens, Vol. I*, Beverly Wilson Palmer, University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA, 1997.



Secondary Source Documents: These documents include newspaper and journals articles, which give accounts from eyewitnesses, documented biographies, college term papers and locally published histories.

Sources consulted in this category are:

Newspapers and journal articles

The Intelligencer Journal, Lancaster, PA; *The Inquirer*, Lancaster, PA; *The Independent Whig*, Lancaster, PA; *The Herald & Examiner*, Lancaster, PA; *The Daily Evening Express*, Lancaster, PA; *Daily Record and Blue Ridge Zephyr*, Waynesboro, PA; *The New York Times*, New York, NY; *Star and Republican Banner*, Gettysburg, PA; *The Washington Post*, Washington D.C.; *The Philadelphia Times*, Philadelphia, PA; *The New Era*, Lancaster, PA; Lancaster Heritage Outlook, Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, Lancaster, PA; Delle, J.A. and M.A. Levine's 2005 article in *Northeast Historical Archaeology*;

Documented Biographies/Research

Authors include: William Still's *The Underground Railroad*, 1872; Robert Smedley's *The Underground Railroad in Chester and Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania*, 1883; Wilbur H. Siebert, *Underground Railroad From Slavery to Freedom*, 1898; Hans L. Trefousse, *Thaddeus Stevens: Nineteenth-Century Egalitarian*, 1997; Charles L. Blockson's 2001 *African Americans in Pennsylvania*; William Switala's *The Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania*, 2001; Fergus M. Bordewich's 2005 work on the Underground Railroad *Bound for Canaan – The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America*; Beer's & Co.'s *Biographical Annals of Lancaster County, PA*, 1903; Larry Gara's *The Liberty Line*, 1961; James Albert Woodburn's *The Life of Thaddeus Stevens: A Study in American Political History*, 1913, online version; Thomas Frederick Woodley's *Thaddeus Stevens*, 1913; "Accessible Archives," subscription on-line access to historical newspapers, local and regional histories; and *The Afrolumens Project*, a digital repository for scholars, educators and researchers on African American and Underground Railroad history.

Maps, annotated:

City of Lancaster, PA, from Bridgens' Atlas of Lancaster County, PA, 1864, annotated by Randolph Harris, July, 2010. See Figure 7.

City of Lancaster Historic Districts, courtesy Planning Department, City of Lancaster, PA, 2009, annotated by Randolph Harris, July, 2010. See Figure 9.

Columbia, 1850, from LancasterHistory.org, library of the Lancaster County Historical Society. Source and cartographer not identified. See Figure 6.

History of the Cumberland Valley Railroad, 1835-1919, by Paul Westhaeffer, National Railway Historical Society, Washington D.C. Chapter, Science Press, Ephrata Pennsylvania, 1979. See Figure 2.

Map of the City of Lancaster, Lancaster County, PA, from Records and Surveys by Moody & Bridgens, 1850. Courtesy, LancasterHistory.org., Lancaster County's Historical Society and James Buchanan's Wheatland.

Robert Proud's *The History of Pennsylvania in North America, Written Principally Between the Years 1776 and 1780*, Vol II. Published in Philadelphia, PA by Zachariah Poulson, Jr., 1789. Annotated by Randolph Harris, 7/2010. See Figure 1.

Prof. Wilbur H. Siebert, in his 1898 book, *The Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom*, uses an illustrated map based on the documentation found in Dr. R.C. Smedley's 1883 book, *History of the Underground Railroad in Chester and the Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania*. See Figure 4.



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S8. Describe any other local, state, or federal historic designations, records, signage, or plaques the site has.

These are described above under S2, re: subject properties as contributing resources to the City of Lancaster National Historic District, and under S6, where a site marker and related markers are described.

The Stevens and Smith Site was also the subject of a \$100,000 planning grant, received by Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County in 2000 from World Monuments Watch, a program of World Monuments Fund, supported by American Express, Inc. This grant was made in connection with the 1997 designation of Lancaster County as one of *The World’s 100 Most Endangered Places*, as determined by the World Monuments Watch program.



S9. Is the site open to the public? Describe accessibility conditions.

This site is a highly public venue visible from both the streetscape and the interior of the Lancaster County Convention Center. Until restoration and improvements are completed beyond their initial phase, regular public access to the interiors will be a limited basis (probably quarterly) or by special arrangement. However, the installation of interpretive kiosks, creating smartphone applications, and providing the public with traditional print materials at the site are under consideration or in the planning stage.

Entry doors are available from East Vine and South Queen Streets, and through the lobby of the Marriott Hotel off of Penn Square at Queen and King Streets. **See Contemporary Photographs.** Visitors can look through a glass wall at street level and see a display of artifacts unearthed during the archeological dig (2002-2003), large hanging portraits of Stevens and Smith, and the rear sections of the Stevens Home and Law Office, and the adjacent Kleiss Tavern.

S10. Describe the nature and objectives of any partnerships that have contributed to the documentation, preservation, commemoration, or interpretation of the site.

As the current lease-holder of the Stevens Home and Law Office and the adjoining Kleiss Tavern, LancasterHistory.org has begun developing a series of interpretive and education activities and programs focused on the contributions to our nation's history by Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith. These activities include lectures, symposia, publications, walking tours and outreach to area schools. Several partnerships are in place, including: The Thaddeus Stevens Society, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, the Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County. Other desired partnerships could include the Lancaster County Planning Commission, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology and Bethel Harambee Services of Bethel African Methodist Church of Lancaster, PA.

Since efforts to preserve the subject properties began 10 years ago, the Stevens Home and Law Office and adjoining historic properties have undergone an initial phase of redevelopment as of October 2009. This includes the complete rehabilitation of all exterior features of four buildings and the full excavation and rough completion of the underground space below the Stevens and Kleiss buildings that will be used for exhibits and displays.

These improvements have been completed through a partnership between the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County and the Lancaster County Convention Center Authority. The LCCCA holds title to the property while the Trust held a lease to the buildings, until December, 2010 when the rights and responsibility to design and develop an interpretive and visitor center focusing on Thaddeus Stevens, Lydia Hamilton Smith and their lives and legacies was turned over the LancasterHistory.org.

To date, funding for this multi-million dollar effort has come to date from the following partners, as well as numerous private donations:

- 1) US Department of Housing and Urban Development Special Projects Grant, \$202,500, February 14, 2003, on behalf of HPT through the City of Lancaster;
- 2) World Monuments Watch, supported by a grant from American Express to World Monuments Fund, New York, \$100,000.
- 3) Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development: \$107,500, spread over five grants;
- 4) Lancaster County Foundation, \$7,500 for creation of a plan to create an educational component with the upper floors of the historic buildings;



- 5) National Trust for Historic Preservation's Henry Jordan Fund for Preservation Excellence, \$1000;
- 6) National Park Service Diversity Internship Program through Student Conservation Association, 2001, \$4,250;
- 7) Heritage Preservation Fund of Lancaster County, administered by Historic Preservation Trust, \$15,000;
- 8) Donations from Lancaster area foundations and private individuals: approximately \$3 million;
- 9) Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, \$3million.

Note: Public and private funding from sources shown was used for improvements and related costs associated with four historic buildings that are now part of the Lancaster County Convention Center, of which the Stevens Home and Law Office is one.

S11. Additional data or comments. Appendices, Chronologies, etc.

APPENDIX 1:

Following is a transcription of the O.C. Gilbert Manuscript, pages 31 through 36, as copied by Gilbert's Great-great granddaughter, Stephanie Gilbert of Philadelphia, January 2011. Ms. Gilbert has given permission to include this transcription and copies of the hand-written pages (See Figures 12-18) in this Network to Freedom application. Ms. Gilbert states that the 52-page manuscript is not dated, but, based on other items in the O.C. Gilbert files she maintains, she estimates the date of the narrative to be circa 1890. She notes that each page is numbered and includes a word count at the bottom of each page, indicating an intention to publish.

It should be noted that the transcription is in the vernacular and the text includes no quotation marks and is missing other punctuation.

[PAGE 31]

"Come with me boys I'll show you how to get out of this town. He took us by a back route through a lumberyard and gave us a few lines and started us for Lancaster, PA. We pushed on hungry and tired. We had eat nothing since we left the camp meeting, but green corm and that we done ample justice to. We could roast the corn, whenever we got a chance. I guess some of the farmers imagine some kind of two legged opossum had been around. We halted at Mountpleasant and went to the back door of this tavern and asked for the lady to sell us a bite of something to eat. She charged us a level or 12 ½ cents each. This was Wednesday about 9am. The first we had eaten since we left except the corn. That was all the money we had. We arrived at Lancaster about noon. We were directed to call at No. 45 South Queen Street and we would find a

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lawyer, who was a friend to the slaves. We moved very cautiously towards his place. He said what can I do for you. Ben said we are looking for work and we heard dat you gave work to colored people. How far have you came. Right smart ways sir. Can you walk several miles further said he. Yes sir. Well you take this note and go to Burdenhand and give it to Daniel Gibbons and I think he will find you work. Just before you get into the village you will see a white painted house sitting back in the field, then up a lane and ask for Daniel Gibbons and give him this note. Up the turnpike we went that Wednesday afternoon. We entered the lane. There was sitting on the porch an old ballheaded man looking down the lane and the new arrivals. As we approached I dropped back in the rear, I expected there would be some retreating out of the lane. I meant to be in the lead on going out. Ben cautioned me not to run. Well boys, the old Quaker said, which way are you all going, I see you are all runaways. Ben said, we are looking for work, we heard there was a



great demand for help up here and we come to get something to do. How far has thee come? Right smart ways. What kind of work can thee do? Any kind of work on a plantation. I was born in de plantation. We can cut up corn, dig toatoes, plow and harrow, except Oliver and Reuben dare, dey are waiters, all rest of us work in the fields.

[PAGE 33]

What is the name of the place you came from? Here it became hard for Ben to think of a place. Ben finally said, we are from, from Philadelphia. Oh! Indeed. What part of Philadelphia, do they have plantations, where they dig potatoes and cut up corn. I am somewhat acquainted there myself. What is the name of the street you live on. Ben said, Oliver my memory is getting so poor you tell the gentleman the name of dat street I live on. I said indeed Mr. I forgotten da name of da street too. Mr. Gibbons said Boys, I guess that thee never lived in Phila. Thee is from the South and before thee claim to be a Philadelphian thee want o go and change thy clothes for Philadelphians don't dress like thee. There we were in full southern dress, tow linen shirt, pants and coat of the coarsest kind. He said come boys and we will have supper. We were introduced to his wife who bid us welcome to their home. We sat down with them at the supper table. I could hardly believe my own eyes. They counseled us to keep quiet an say nothing about where we came from. Mrs. Gibbons said now that thee is free, thee must respect thyself and thee will always be respected. We were shown where we were to sleep. They were fine resting places, something new to us. We all retired about three or four o'clock in the morning there came as sharp rap at the doors. Boys awake and dress as quick as thee can, the hunters have found out your whereabouts and are on

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your track. A messenger has just arrived from Lancaster saying warrants are out for thy arrest. "Thee go down the back stairs out into my Limekill. I'll get my wagon ready and take thee away. We got in the limekill watching the moment of the Quaker to appear. By and by we saw him going to the stable with his whip in his hand and broad brimmed hat and short coat on, the wagon had hopes and white cover something like a market wagon. He drove down a back lane and gave us the signal. We rushed for the vehicle. Ben handed the letter to him that he was given at Lancaster the day before. Mr Gibbons said why didn't thee give me this letter before. Ben replied he was afraid. Boys, this letter is from one of thy best friends. Thee has no better friend in the state than the man who wrote this letter. It was from the lawyer the late Hon. Thaddeus Stevens of noble memory. We were driven to Sadesburyville some distance from Burdenhand. The wagon was very crowded. We were left at Thomas Whitson a Quaker preacher who received us very kindly. The next day we separated among the farmers. I was sent to Barttownship to live with James Jackson, a Quaker preacher. When I arrived, Mrs Jackson ask my name. I said Oliver. Where is thee from Oliver. Maryland (Baltimore). Does thee know a colored man a waiter there at

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the Barnum's Hotel, by the name of Reuben. Yes, ma'am. Does thee know what became of him. He started to runaway but they caught him and sold him down to Georgia, so Miss Margaret said. There must be a mistake for there is a colored man over there at that house, pointing across the field to her neighbor. Asa Waltons another Quaker tells me he was head waiter at the hotel jest name. One of my brother's name was Reuben hired out at the hotel. He was to have joined us up in the country when we made the first attempt to run away, finding he could not do it, h got a white man to put him on the cars for Philadelphia, as in those days no colored person could come noth unless he was vouched for by some white man. Thinking we were gone from Howard Co. to the North and afraid he might be sold to Georgia, out of spite, he took the cars in Baltimore as being a free man of color. Soon after the cars cross Havre de Grace the conductor said to him, where are you going. He answered to Philadelphia. Ain't you a slave, let me see your free papers. My brother took out some papers and showed him. I am not satisfied with them, he said. I will have o take you back to Baltimore. When the train reached New Castle, Reuben was taken out of the car and put in



jail for safe keeping until the conductor returned from Wilmington, that being the end of his route. On his return to Baltimore the conductor stopped and had Reuben put aboard his train to take him back to slavery. Reuben says I saw it was all up with me. I made up my mind to make a dash for my liberty if it shook the whole Universe. As the train neared Havre de Grace he asked permission to stand out on the platform. While doing so he wanted his opportunity to jump from the cars. He made the leap and as he jump a man caught hold of his coat tail. He carried his coat tail back but not him. Reuben says it stunned him for a while and when he came to the train was out of sight. I was quick to throw away the balance of my coat and take to the woods. Five hundred dollars was offered for me and a thorough description of him was given. My brother was tall and stately fine looking. He wore a heavy beard. He got a razor and shaved to disguise himself. He hid away among some colored people for a few days then worked his way to a Quaker friend, who lived in Little Briton Lancaster Co. by the name of Amos Gilbert. And from there we met at Bart Township. I began to work for James Jackson Friday morning 1848, the later part of August. One day she, Mrs. Jackson came to me and told me to go over and see my brother laying sick unto death. We were surprised to meet each other again and it was

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a very pleasant meeting. Here there came a change in our names. Mrs. Jackson and the Quaker friends in the section advised us to take a new name. Brother Reuben changed his from Reuben to Amos Gilbert. I changed only a part of my name. Gilbert was added to Oliver which made my name Oliver Cromwell Gilbert. Our father was Joseph Kelly of Owingsville, Md. He was a free man and my mother a slave. We remained in Bart Township neighborhood for a while until my brother got better and we went to Philadelphia where I found Mr. Greenberry Howard whose wife was a distant relative of my mother by white blood. I made my home with the family until Spring. During my time I stayed up in Lancaster, before coming to Philadelphia, I worked for Joseph Moore and others and became well known to many Abolitionist Quakers. In the Spring of 1849 I got a situation as a waiter on the steamboat Penobscott running from Philadelphia to New York. The Spring of 1850 I went to Cape May, NJ to wait at the Columbia. "

APPENDIX 2:

Thaddeus Stevens Background:

As Congressman, Stevens was an avowed Abolitionist and Constitutional scholar, playing key roles enacting major civil rights Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The "Old Commoner" was one of the prime movers of Reconstruction and the leading advocate for the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson, whom he regarded as too lenient towards the rebellious South.

According to Dr. Bradley R. Hoch in his 2005 book, *Thaddeus Stevens in Gettysburg – The Making of an Abolitionist*, Stevens' legal acumen and political contacts, his abolitionist sympathies and his connections to the Underground Railroad evolved at the Borough of Gettysburg and in surrounding Adams County, PA where he lived from 1816 until 1842 (Hoch, 2005: 248).

As Hoch also records, Stevens' role in various anti-slavery activities and Underground Railroad support also began in Adams County, based on the accounts of R. C. Smedley and others. Smedley, in his 1883 *History of the Underground Railroad in Chester and the Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania*, wrote:

"Among the most active agents at Gettysburg, the station nearest the Maryland line was a colored man whose residence was at the Southern boundary of the town [Henry Butler] and Hamilton Everett, who lived a short distance north of the suburbs. Thaddeus Stevens, as a young lawyer, first practicing his profession, rendered valuable assistance" (Smedley, 1883: 36).

Unfortunately, Stevens' residences and law offices at that location have long been demolished, leaving few opportunities to fully interpret his legacy through a compelling physical site or structure in that larger, historic community.



Thaddeus Stevens was born in Caledonia County, Vermont. He became an attorney in Gettysburg and developed a reputation as a lawyer who vigorously defended freedom seeking, formerly enslaved people. He was one of the founders of the Pennsylvania and national Anti-Masonic Party in the 1820s. As a member of Pennsylvania General Assembly representing Adams County, Stevens was a strident abolitionist and the chief defender of state support for public education. He continued his campaign to advance equality among the races in his other public activities until the time of his death (Hoch, 2005: 244). The often-cited epitaph on his grave and memorial at Shreiner-Concord Cemetery in Lancaster, PA echoes his life's work. It reads, in part, as a call for: "Equality of Man Before His Creator."

From the time of the outbreak of the Civil War, Stevens called for the defeat and subjugation of the Confederacy. For these reasons and others, Stevens' Caledonia Furnace located at the border of Adams and Franklin counties, was destroyed in a raid on June 26, 1863 by Confederate Cavalrymen under the command of General Jubal A. Early, despite orders to preserve private property by General Robert E. Lee (Treffouse, 2001: 134-135).

Despite having become one of the most powerful and influential American politicians of the mid-19th century, Stevens is often overlooked or forgotten in the popular consciousness today. As a leader of the so-called radical Republicans in the years leading to the U.S. Civil War, Stevens fought for the abolition of slavery and granting equal rights to emancipated blacks. Stevens was a pivotal figure in the public affairs of Pennsylvania and the nation from the 1820s through 1868, when he died in Washington D.C. Stevens was an attorney, major landowner and an industrialist in Adams County from the 1817 through 1842. As a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly representing Adams County, Stevens made his most indelible mark as a state legislator when he delivered a key speech in 1835 that preserved legislative support for free public education (Palmer, Thaddeus Stevens Papers, 1997: 22-25).

As an indicator of his early reputation as a public figure who spoke out against slavery and racism, as a state legislator from Gettysburg, Stevens was invited to attend the dedication on May 15, 1838 of the ill-fated Pennsylvania Hall in Philadelphia. Anti-black rioters burned this meeting center for Abolitionists on May 18. Stevens' sentiments, expressed in a letter to the event organizer and printed in an anti-slavery newspaper, indicate that by this time the representative had evolved to a more open and vocal supporter of Abolitionist thought and action:

Letter of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, of the State Legislature. GETTYSBURG, May 4th, 1838.

*Gentlemen, — I have delayed answering your letter of the 10th of December last, until this time, that I might be able to decide with certainty, whether I could comply with your invitation, to be present at the opening of the 'Pennsylvania Hall for the Free Discussion of Liberty and equality of Civil Rights, and the evils of slavery.' I regret that I cannot be with you on that occasion. I know of no spectacle, which it would give me greater pleasure to witness, than the dedication of a Temple of Liberty. Your object *should* meet with the approbation of every freeman. It *will* meet with the approbation of every man, who respects the rights of others, as much as he loves his own. Interest, fashion, false religion, and tyranny, may triumph for a while, and rob man of his inalienable rights: but the people cannot always be deceived, and will not always be oppressed. The slaveholder claims his prey by virtue of that Constitution which contradicts the vital principles of our Declaration of Independence. But while it remains unchanged, it must be supported. If his heart exacts the fulfillment of the cruel bond, let him take the pound of flesh, but not one drop of blood. This we must yield to existing laws, not to our sense of justice. I can never acknowledge the *right* of slavery. I will bow down to no Deity, however worshipped by professing Christians, however dignified by the name of Goddess of Liberty, whose footstool is the crushed necks of groaning millions, and who rejoices in the resoundings of the tyrant's lash, and the cries of his tortured victims.*

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
THADDEUS STEVENS.



To Samuel Webb and others, Committee. From *The Liberator*, Boston MA, June 1, 1838

From "Accessible Archives," <http://www.accessible.com/accessible/ THELIBERATOR.18380504>, Accessed June 15, 2010.

Stevens served in the U.S. Congress, representing Lancaster County as a member of the Whig Party from 1849 until 1853, and for the last 10 years of his life – throughout the term of the Civil War – he was Lancaster's Republican representative in Congress and one of the nation's most outspoken critics of the South and the institution of slavery (Palmer, *Stevens Chronology*-See **S11, Appendix 3**).

At the end of the Civil War, Stevens shepherded legislation through Congress to confiscate the plantation of those who fought for the Confederacy. The concept was to subdivide the huge estates, and redistributed the land to the emancipated slaves. Stevens believed that social equality could only come if individuals could attain economic equality (Woodburn, 1913: 606-620).

His biographers (nine biographies published since 1876: Brodie 1959; Callender 1882; Current 1942; Harris 1876; Korngold 1955; Miller 1939; Trefousse 1997; Woodburn 1913; Woodley 1934) indicate in varying degrees that Stevens' belief in social equality through free public education and equal protection under the law for everyone, regardless of race, is evidenced in his relationship with Lydia Hamilton Smith (1815-1884), an Adams County native, a woman of African-American descent and Stevens housekeeper and confidante from 1844 until his death in 1868 (Trefousse, 1997: 69-70; Blockson, 1994: 130). As housekeeper to the bachelor Stevens, Smith served as manager of his household. Upon the congressman's death, Smith was bequeathed \$5000, a sum she used to purchase Stevens' house, which she ran as a boarding house until her death (Delle and Levine, 2004: 136, drawing on Brodie, 1959: 86-93; Trefousse, 1997: 69-70; and others).

After four years out of public office, Stevens was elected as a Republican in 1858 and served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1859 through his death on August 11, 1868. An avowed Abolitionist, attorney and Constitutional scholar, Stevens played key roles as strategist and advocate for the passage of the 13th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, outlawing slavery and establishing equal protection under the law. He also laid the groundwork for what would become the 15th Amendment, which broadened voting rights. The amendment was enacted after his death:

"Stevens was ahead of his time because he truly believed in racial equality," Says Hans Trefousse, author of *Thaddeus Stevens: Nineteenth Century Egalitarian* (1997). "Without Stevens, the effects of Reconstruction, the Fourteenth Amendment and the Fifteenth Amendment, guaranteeing suffrage to the freedmen, would have been impossible." Although he would not live to see the enactment of the Fifteenth Amendment, in 1870, no one had worked harder or longer to make it a reality. Says Trefousse, "In practice, those amendments were effectively nullified in the South, in the years after the end of Reconstruction. But they were still in the law. In the twentieth century, they would remind Americans of what they had once stood for: they were still there as the standard that the nation had set for itself" (Bordewich, "Digging Into History," *Smithsonian Magazine*, February, 2004).

Stevens was one of the prime movers of Reconstruction in the Southern States following the Civil War and was the leading advocate in the U.S. House of Representatives in the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. Along with his business interests in real estate and the iron industry, Stevens was also a newspaper publisher. The Rev. Dr. J. Isidor Mombert, rector of Saint James Episcopal Church, Lancaster, delivered the eulogy at Stevens' funeral, held at Shreiner-Concord Cemetery, Lancaster, on August 17, 1868. He stated, in part:

Thaddeus Stevens loved liberty. This inborn love of liberty and abhorrence of all exclusiveness, made him actually select this retired spot for his burying place, for he refused even to allow his



ashes to lie in a cemetery, which, unlike God's earth and air, forbids that those who are created with His image carved in ebony instead of ivory, should sleep there their last sleep
(*The Daily Evening Express*, Lancaster, PA 8/18/1868. Page 1).

In summing up Stevens' accomplishment, author Bradley Hoch states:

What Thaddeus Stevens and his fellow congressmen gifted to the nation remains as an indispensable constitutional base for the civil rights that all Americans enjoy today. Their courageous work brought about the inclusion of minorities into the American Dream and the creation of safeguards for our civil rights. The Thirteenth Amendment granted freedom. Lives, liberty, property, due process, and equal protection under the law were given constitutional guarantee by the Fourteenth Amendment. The Fifteenth Amendment granted the right to vote to minorities. Our civil rights as Americans are firmly grounded in the United States Constitution, in large part, because of the work of Thaddeus Stevens and those who legislated with him more than one hundred thirty years ago (Hoch: 2005: 248).

APPENDIX 3:

Thaddeus Stevens Chronology, reproduced from Palmer, Beverly Wilson, *The Papers of Thaddeus Stevens, Vol. I*, University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA, 1997.

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- 4 April 1792** Born near Danville, Vermont, to Joshua and Sarah Morrill Stevens, second of four sons: Joshua, TS, Abner Morrill, Alanson
- c. 1807** Sarah Stevens and children move to Peacham, Vermont
- 1807–11** Attends Caledonia County Academy in Peacham
- 24 Aug 1814** Graduates from Dartmouth College
- 1815–16** Teaches in York, Pennsylvania, and reads law under David Casset
- 26 Aug 1816** Passes bar in Bel Air, Maryland
- 16 Sept 1816** Admitted to practice in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; opens law office on Chambersburg St.
- 1822** Elected to council of the Borough of Gettysburg council; further terms in 1824, 1827, 1829, 1831
- 1824** Elected director of Gettysburg Bank; begins to acquire real estate
- 1826** Partnership with James D. Paxton & Co., iron manufacturer (Maria Furnace operates 1826–38)
- 1828** Stevens & Paxton Co. founded; dissolved in 1848
- 1830** Helps found Anti-Masonic Gettysburg newspaper, *Star and Banner*
- 1831** Attends national Anti-Masonic conference in Baltimore
- 1832** Supports William Wirt as Anti-Masonic presidential candidate



3 Dec 1833 Takes seat in Pennsylvania House of Representatives; 44th session ends, 15 April 1834

1834 Elected trustee of Gettysburg College and to local school board

27 May 1834 Attends convention of Pennsylvania party calling itself Whig in Harrisburg

15 April 1835 45th session of Pennsylvania House of Representatives
11 April 1835 Gives “On the School Law” speech before Pennsylvania legislature

c. 1835 Organizes Wrightsville, York & Gettysburg Railroad Co.

Oct 1835 Joseph Ritner elected governor on Anti-Masonic and Whig platform over Democratic incumbent George Wolf

**1 Dec 1835–
16 June 1836** 46th session of Pennsylvania House of Representatives

25 Jan 1836 Moves that Pennsylvania re-charter Bank of the United States

30 May 1836 Issues resolutions in Pennsylvania legislature against slavery extension

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Oct 1836 Defeated in election for Pennsylvania legislature

Nov 1836 Elected as delegate to Pennsylvania constitutional convention

1837 Erects Caledonia Iron Works in Franklin County

May 1837 Delegate to Pennsylvania constitutional convention, which meets in Harrisburg 2 May–14 July and 17 Oct–23 Nov 1837; in Philadelphia 28 Nov 1837–22 Feb 1838

21 June 1837 Introduces amendment to Pennsylvania constitution that “every freeman of the age of twenty-one years” who has been a resident and paid taxes “shall be entitled to vote”

Fall 1837 Reelected to Pennsylvania House of Representatives

**5 Dec 1837–
17 April 1838** 48th session of Pennsylvania House

22 Feb 1838 Refuses to sign revised state constitution

May 1838 Appointed canal commissioner; organizes Ritner’s reelection campaign

9 Oct 1838 Election for state governor and ratification of amended constitution; TS reelected to Pennsylvania House

Oct 1838 TS and other Ritner Whigs try to redress election results that declare Democrat David R. Porter governor over incumbent Joseph Ritner; they unsuccessfully contest results from Philadelphia County, which gave Democrats a majority in the House and Porter the governorship



13 Nov 1838	Nominates William Henry Harrison as party's presidential candidate at Anti-Masonic Convention in Philadelphia
4–25 Dec 1838	Buckshot War—Fearing violence, Stevens and two others escape from opening session of legislature; Ritner summons militia to restore order
4 Dec 1838– 25 June 1839	49th session, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
8 May 1839	Belatedly claims seat in House
24 May 1839	House votes to exclude Stevens
14 June 1839	Reelected to Pennsylvania House of Representatives for term ending 25 June 1839
19 June 1839	Takes oath of office in House
Fall 1840	Campaigns for Harrison for US president
Oct 1841	Reelected to Pennsylvania House of Representatives
4 Jan– 26 July 1842	52d session of Pennsylvania House of Representatives; TS's final term
16 Aug 1842	Admitted to Lancaster bar, after moving from Gettysburg to Lancaster
April 1843	Moves to 45–47 S. Queen St., where he lives and practices law
Aug 1843	Tries to revive Anti-masons and block Henry Clay's nomination
1844	Reluctantly campaigns for Clay for president
1847	Brother Abner Morrill, a doctor (known as Morrill), dies in March; brother Alanson dies in December

THADDEUS STEVENS CHRONOLOGY PAGE 24

1848	Nephews Alanson, Jr., and Thaddeus, Jr., become wards of TS
1848	Lydia Smith comes to work for TS
23 Aug 1848	Nominated by Whig county convention as congressional candidate
10 Oct 1848	Elected to 31st Congress; Whig William F. Johnston elected governor of Pennsylvania
3 Dec 1849– 30 Sept 1850	31st Congress, 1st session
20 Feb 1850	Delivers "Slave Question" speech before Congress
14 Aug 1850	Re-nominated by Whig county convention as congressional candidate
Oct 1850	Oliver et al. v Weakley — TS defends Stephen Weakley and others on charges of harboring fugitive slaves; judge declares mistrial
2 Dec 1850–	



3 March 1851	31st Congress, 2d session
11 Sept 1851	Christiana riot
24 Nov– 8 Dec 1851	Stevens and other attorneys successfully plead in Philadelphia for defendants Caster Hanway and forty others (thirty-eight blacks) on trial for treason
1 Dec 1851– 31 Aug 1852	32d Congress, 1st session
Aug 1852	Whig convention chooses more conservative Whig, Isaac Hiester, as its candidate for Congress
Fall 1852	Supports Whig candidate Winfield Scott for president
6 Dec 1852– 3 March 1853	32d Congress, 2d session
March 1853	Returns to Lancaster after congressional session
Sept 1854	Lancaster Whigs accuse TS of joining Know-Nothings lodge in Lancaster
5 Oct 1854	Sarah Morrill Stevens dies in Vermont
Oct 1854	Independent Whig candidate Anthony E. Roberts backed by TS and Know-Nothings elected to Congress
17 June 1856	Delegate to Republican convention in Philadelphia; supports John McLean
April 1858	Brother Joshua dies in Indianapolis
25 Aug 1858	Nominated by convention in Fulton Hall, Lancaster, as Republican congressional candidate
12 Oct 1858	Elected to 36th Congress
5 Dec 1859– 25 June 1860	36th Congress, 1st session
Dec 1859	Rents home at 279 South B St., Washington, DC (permanent Washington residence)
Jan 1860	Argues last major legal case, in Lancaster
16 May 1860	Attends Republican convention in Chicago
27 Sept 1860	Delivers “Presidential Question” speech at Cooper Union, New York City
6 Nov 1860	Abraham Lincoln elected president

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3 Dec 1860– 2 March 1861	36th Congress, 2d session
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20 Dec 1860– 1 Feb 1861	Seven states of lower South secede from Union
29 Jan 1861	Delivers “State of the Union” speech before Congress
12 April 1861	Confederates fire on Ft. Sumter
17 April– 20 May 1861	Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina secede from Union
4 July– 6 Aug 1861	37th Congress, 1st session
8 July 1861	Named chairman of Ways and Means Committee
2 Dec 1861– 17 July 1862	37th Congress, 2d session
22 Jan 1862	Delivers “Subduing the Rebellion” speech before Congress
6 Feb 1862	Delivers “Treasury Note Bill” speech before Congress
25 Feb 1862	Legal Tender Act (HR 240) becomes law
8 April 1862	Delivers “Tax Bill” speech before Congress
1 July 1862	Comprehensive Tax Bill (HR 312) becomes law
22 Sept 1862	Lincoln issues preliminary Emancipation Proclamation
1 Dec 1862– 4 March 1863	37th Congress, 3d session
1 Jan 1863	Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation
8 Jan 1863	Delivers “Conquered Provinces” speech before Congress
2 Feb 1863	Delivers “Negro Soldiers” speech before Congress
24–26 June 1863	TS’s iron works at Caledonia burned by Jubal Early’s troops
7 Dec 1863– 4 July 1864	38th Congress, 1st session
28 March 1864	In the House introduces 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery
2 May 1864	Delivers “Government of Rebellious States” speech before Congress
7–8 June 1864	Serves as delegate to Republican convention in Baltimore
8 Nov 1864	Lincoln reelected president
5 Dec 1864– 3 March 1865	38th Congress, 2d session



13 Jan 1865 Delivers “Abolition of Slavery” speech before Congress
31 Jan 1865 Congress approves 13th Amendment
9 April 1865 General Robert E. Lee surrenders at Appomattox
15 April 1865 Lincoln dies
6 Sept 1865 Delivers “Reconstruction” speech in Lancaster
**4 Dec 1865–
28 July 1866** 39th Congress, 1st session
11 Dec 1865 Named chairman of the newly formed Appropriations Committee
13 Dec 1865 Named House chairman of the Joint Committee on Reconstruction
18 Dec 1865 Delivers “Reconstruction” speech before Congress
18 Dec 1865 13th Amendment ratified
31 Jan 1866 Delivers “Basis of Representation” speech before Congress

THADDEUS STEVENS CHRONOLOGY PAGE 26

19 Feb 1866 Breaks openly with President Andrew Johnson when he vetoes Freedmen’s Bureau Bill
6 April 1866 Congress overrides Johnson’s veto of Civil Rights Bill
8 June 1866 Reconstruction Committee report presented to Congress
13 June 1866 Congress approves 14th Amendment, giving blacks citizenship and civil rights protection
4 Sept 1866 Delivers “The Pending Canvass” speech in Bedford, Pennsylvania
**3 Dec 1866–
2 March 1867** 39th Congress, 2d session
13 Feb 1867 Delivers “Government of Insurrectionary States” speech before Congress
2 March 1867 Congress passes Reconstruction Act of 1867
**4–30 March,
3–20 July, and
21–30 Nov 1867** 40th Congress, 1st session
19 March 1867 Delivers “Damages to Loyal Men” speech before Congress
**2 Dec 1867–
27 July 1868** 40th Congress, 2d session
24 Feb 1868 House votes to impeach Johnson
2 March 1868 Elected as one of seven impeachment managers



- 4 March 1868** Impeachment trial begins
- 27 April 1868** Delivers “Impeachment of the President” speech before Congress
- 16 May 1868** Senate acquits Johnson of Article XI charges
- 20–21 May 1868** Republicans nominate Ulysses S. Grant in Chicago
- 11 July 1868** Delivers “Democracy and Its Policy” speech before Congress
- 28 July 1868** 14th Amendment ratified
- 11 Aug 1868** Stevens dies in Washington, DC; buried Aug. 17 in Shreiner’s Cemetery, Lancaster.

Appendix 4 - Project Chronology: early 20th century to present, based on Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County files, *Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith National Historic Landmark, Presentation of a Preliminary Concept Plan, January 5, 2001*, and local reports and news accounts:

- 1) Changes to Thaddeus Stevens House prompt Lancaster County Historical Society to place historical marker on building front. Residence is enlarged to three full stories and façade is covered with Formstone, a veneer to simulate white brick, circa 1930
- 2) Thereafter other 20th century changes for use of property as a car repair shop, tavern, apartments, etc.
See Historical Photos.
- 3) Placement of historic preservation easements, donated to Historic Preservation Trust by New Jersey-based developer, Lancaster III, 12/1983
- 4) Sale of properties to Dennis Nathan, et. al. 3/1989
- 5) Threat to buildings expected by announcement of plans for expanded Convention Center; will include Stevens, Kleiss and Smith Buildings, 11/1999
- 6) Historic Preservation Trust notifies Authority of property interest through easements, 12/99
- 7) Community Design Forum held to discuss plans for Convention Center, and historic properties, 6/2000
- 8) Authority acquires historic properties and announces plans to demolish them, 9/2000
- 9) Alternatives discussed among parties: 9/2000 through 12/2000
- 10) Trust develops project concept plan and presents at public meeting, 1/2001
- 11) Widespread public and media support for preservation plans. State Historic Preservation Board, meeting in Lancaster in June, approves recommendation of the City of Lancaster’s original four-square mile town plan for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Stevens, Kleiss and Smith buildings included as contributing resources); Preservation Board also approves a special resolution sanctioning and encouraging the full restoration of the façade of the Stevens House and Law Office to its original form and shape, while also endorsing the Historic Preservation Trust’s overall concept plan for the site. January through June, 2001.
- 12) Authority requests and City Redevelopment Authority acts to extinguish Trust property interests through eminent domain, 5/2001



13) Compromise reached wherein Trust agrees to accept removal of rear sections of two of the four historic buildings and the moving of the two Smith buildings across the street to vacant lot to accommodate the planned convention center. In exchange, the Authority would grant access and development rights to create museum and interpretive center. New preservation easements would be placed. June 13, 2001

14) Legal challenge filed by local hoteliers, as major impediment to hotel, convention center and S&S Site, both in terms of momentum and fundraising. 2000-2006

15) Historic Preservation Trust engages archaeologists from Kutztown University and Franklin and Marshall College (Professor James Delle and Assistant Professor Mary Ann Levine, respectively) to conduct on-site research on selected areas around the Stevens and Smith properties (including rear portions of Stevens House, Kleiss Saloon, and the two Lydia Hamilton Smith buildings). Large number of artifacts uncovered, as well as discovery of two underground cisterns, leading to the theory of the use of one as an emergency safe house/hiding place for freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad. Subsequently the Historic Preservation Trust had the archaeologists' theory vetted by a recognized nationally known historian and several other, well regarded archaeologists who collectively supported the hypothesis. 2002-2003

16) Originally plans for turning the Stevens House and Kleiss Tavern into a small interpretive and education center dedicated to the lives and legacy of Stevens and Smith, the discovery of the cistern spurred further review into Stevens and Smith lives. It was determined that their lives had a much broader impact on America than originally thought. Therefore an expansion of the space was planned to create an underground museum to allow a better telling of their stories and lasting impact on American life. Therefore, museum consultants were retained to develop the stories and the space in which it would be told. Thus several thousands of additional square feet of space were added to the adaptive use plan for the historic Stevens and Smith buildings. Enough space was granted to allow for the construction of an education center to be added to the planned interpretive areas. It was decided that the historic site would include the main themes of Underground RR, the civil rights amendments to the constitution fathered by Stevens (13th, 14th and 15th), women's rights, civil war, public education, and urban archaeology. The site was to be incorporated within the footprint of the large, new convention center being built adjacent to the historic site. 2004-2006

17) A combination of millions of dollars in public and private funding was secured to develop the facades of the four historic buildings and develop significant underground interpretive and education space in new construction behind the Stevens House and Kleiss Tavern. 2006-2008

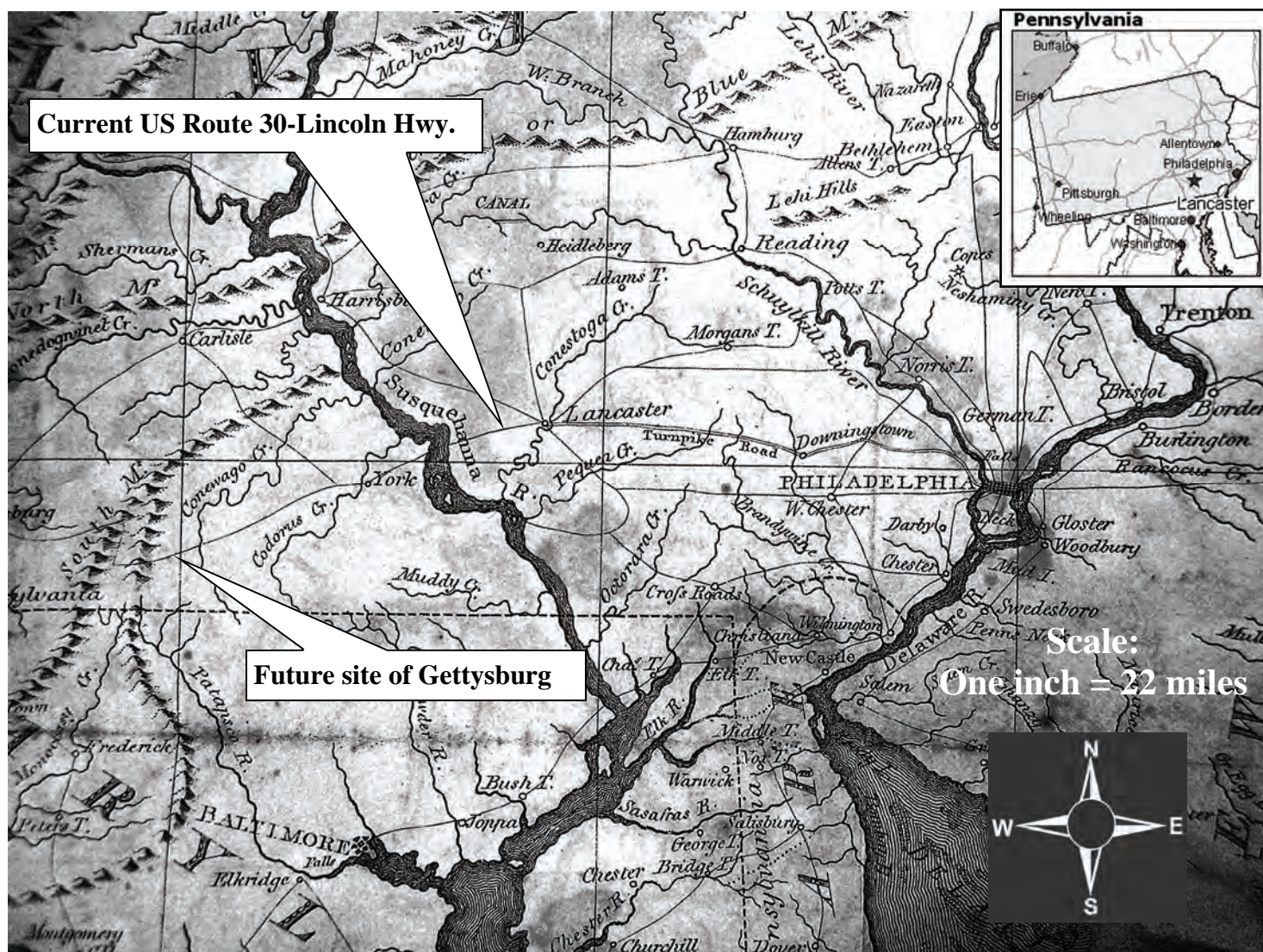
18) The Stevens House and Law Office and Kleiss Tavern were developed simultaneously with the development of the new Lancaster Convention Center and Marriott Hotel. The planned first phase of the Stevens and Smith Site was successfully completed in September, 2009 with a dedication in October of that year. Phase II of the historic site, which completes the interior portions of the historic buildings, is now in the planning stages. The site includes the completed facades and a large viewing area overlooking the "roughed in" area below grade where interpretive installations area planned; lighting with explanatory display boards facilitate understanding of the significance of the site. 2007-2009

19) The Historic Preservation Trust relinquished its lease rights to the partially completed museum and educational/interpretive center in favor of LancasterHistory.org, formerly known as Lancaster County Historical Society. LancasterHistory.org and Lancaster County Convention Center announce the new agreement, stating that the site will be developed for the originally intended purposes over the next several years. No specific timetable is established, however, educational and public programming will commence in 2011. December, 2010.



Location of Lancaster City Within Mid-Atlantic Region during Colonial Era

Figure 1



Robert Proud's *The History of Pennsylvania in North America, Written Principally Between the Years 1776 and 1780, Vol II*. Published in Philadelphia, PA by Zachariah Poulson, Jr., 1789. Annotated by Randolph Harris, 7/2010

Illustrating the location and significance of Lancaster as one of the largest inland cities in the United States at this time, linked by an early transportation network of six major roads. Lancaster's key link is its road to the East Coast, the Philadelphia & Lancaster Turnpike, which served as an early route to the Western US. Three cities central to the life of Thaddeus Stevens are linked by this road: Lancaster, York and Gettysburg. Main portions of this road became US Route 30, also known by the early 20th century as The Lincoln Highway .

Thaddeus Stevens Home and Law Office

45-47 South Queen Street, City of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
Application to National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

Submitted January 2011 on behalf of

Lancaster County Convention Center Authority and LancasterHistory.org

In partnership with

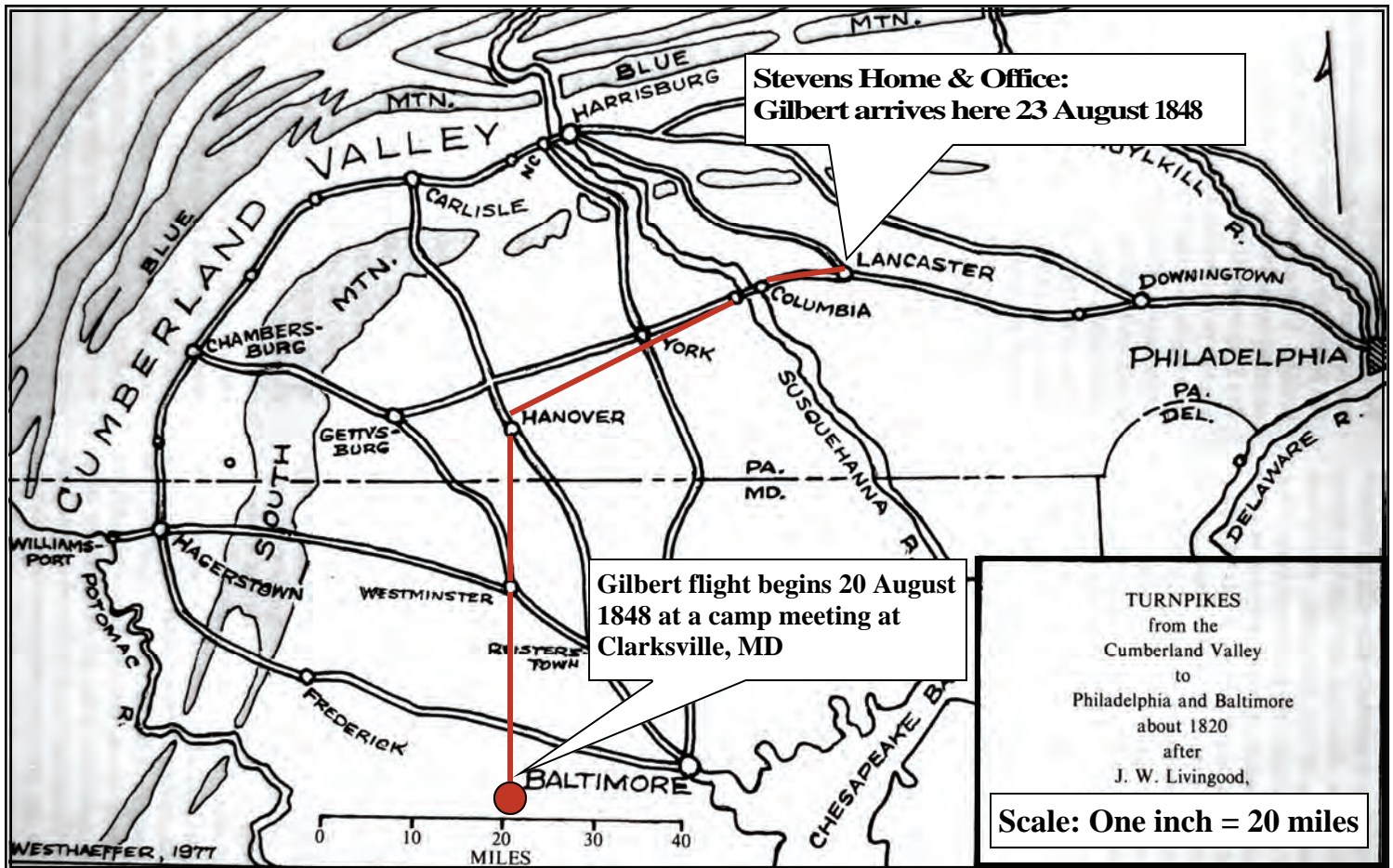
Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau

Prepared by Randolph J. Harris, consulting historian, Lancaster, PA rmkharris314@verizon.net

Figure 2

Location of Subject Property within Region, circa 1820;

Route taken by O.C. Gilbert and his group of freedom seekers, August, 1848



History of the Cumberland Valley Railroad, 1835-1919, By Paul Westhaeffer. National Railway Historical Society, Washington D.C. Chapter. Science Press, Ephrata Pennsylvania, 1979.

Southeastern Pennsylvania/Northern Maryland/Northern Virginia, circa 1820

Illustrating early transportation corridors, some of which were used by freedom seekers, and some of which were later used to develop railroads. US Route 30, the nation's first transcontinental highway, also known as the Lincoln Highway, links Philadelphia to the east with Chambersburg and points beyond to the west.

O.C. Gilbert and his group of freedom seekers traveled approximately 77 miles between Clarksville, MD and Stevens' Office, Lancaster, PA, following the route shown in red, and another 7 miles east to the Daniel and Hannah Gibbons Farm at Bird-in-Hand, Lancaster County.

From O.C. Gilbert manuscript, pages 25-32, circa 1890, unpublished, Philadelphia, PA

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Classified Advertisement.

The Baltimore Sun, Wednesday 23 August 1848, page 4, column 5

Road, or secured in jail so that I get him.
 a 22-1w" **M. M. DUVAL**


\$500 REWARD will be given for the delivery in Baltimore or Howard District Jail, or \$200 for either, of the following described **NEGRO BOYS**, who left the Camp Meeting at Hobbs' School House, Howard District, on Sunday evening, 20th instant:

BEN, a tall Black Boy, about 20 years of age.
SAM, a tall Mulatto; impediment in speech; brother of Ben.
OLIVER KELLY, a stout, thick set Black, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches high. Address Clarks-ville, Howard District.

WM. CLARK, or
DR. WM. W. WATKINS.
 a 22 31"

STEAM : -Delivered at the Kilm wharf at 36 per
SPR : -house and or in the city at prices accord-
BRICKS : -ing to distance.

By the day this notice was published, O.C. Gilbert and his group of freedom seekers had traveled approximately 77 miles to Stevens' Office, Lancaster, PA, and within the same day, they walked another 7 miles east to the Daniel and Hannah Gibbons Farm at Bird-in-Hand, Lancaster County. *From O.C. Gilbert manuscript, pages 25-35, circa 1890, unpublished, Philadelphia, PA.*

This notice corroborates many of the details of the Gilbert manuscript, such as the day their flight began; where they were at the time they escaped bondage; the name Ben as a key member of Gilbert's group.

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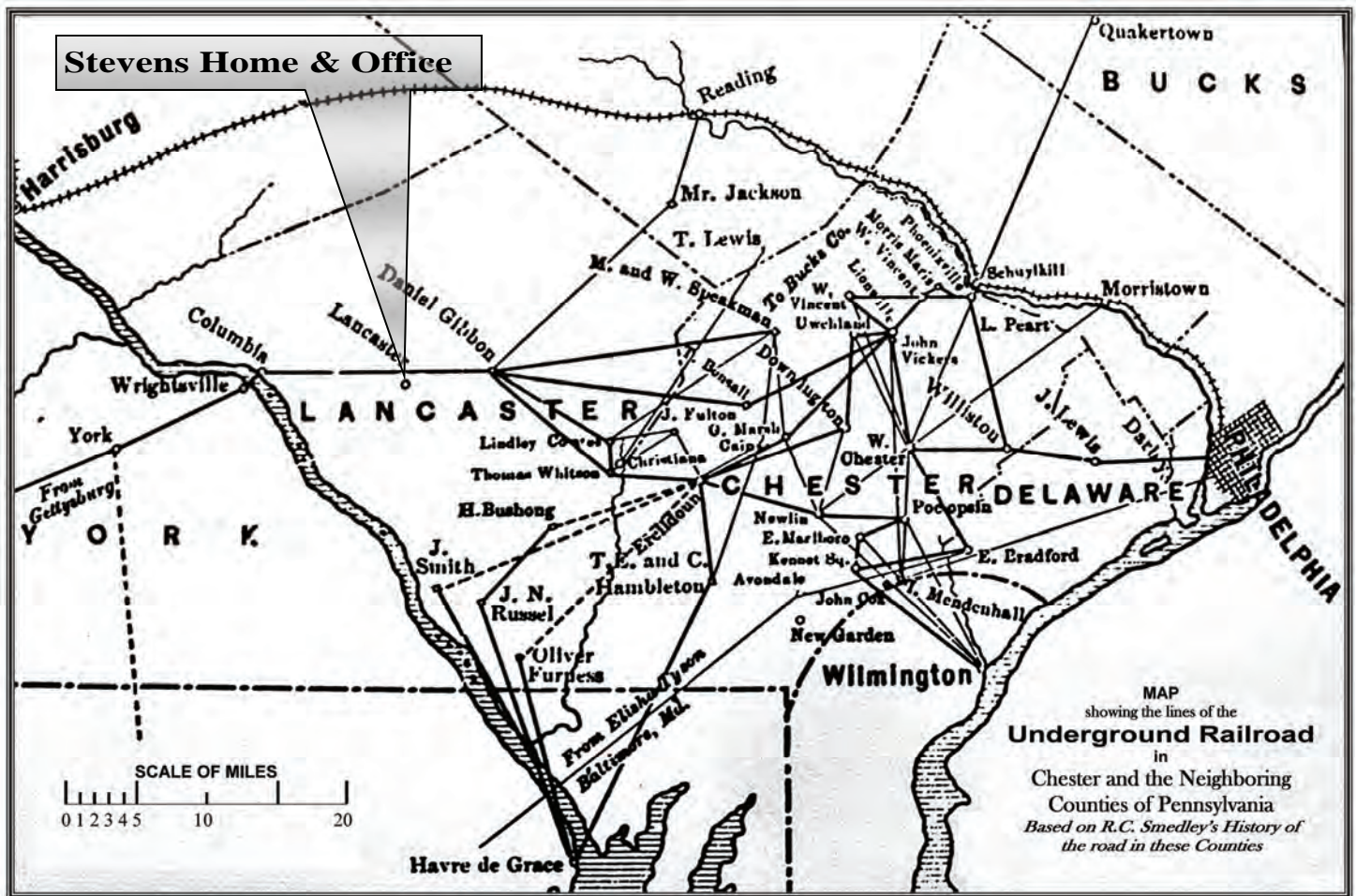
In partnership with

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Pathways of the Underground Railroad in Southeastern Pennsylvania, as depicted in 1898

Figure 4



Pennsylvania's "The Southeastern Corridor," so named by William J. Switala, in his book *The Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania* (2001). Underground Railroad operatives often guided freedom seekers north or east out of Adams County. If directed or guided east, they traveled into the counties of York, Lancaster, Chester and Philadelphia. This corridor tracks the map above, published by Prof. Wilber H. Siebert in his 1898 book, *The Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom*. Seibert notes in his book that this illustration is based on the documentation found in Dr. R.C. Smedley's 1883 book, *History of the Underground Railroad in Chester and the Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania*. Gettysburg, Adams County is not shown on this map, but is 30 miles west of the City of York. Note the strategic focus of the Daniel and Hannah Gibbons farm immediate east of Lancaster and the Stevens Home & Law Office.

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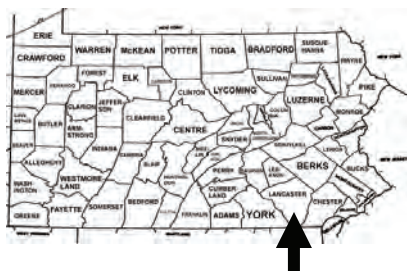
Submitted January 2011 on behalf of

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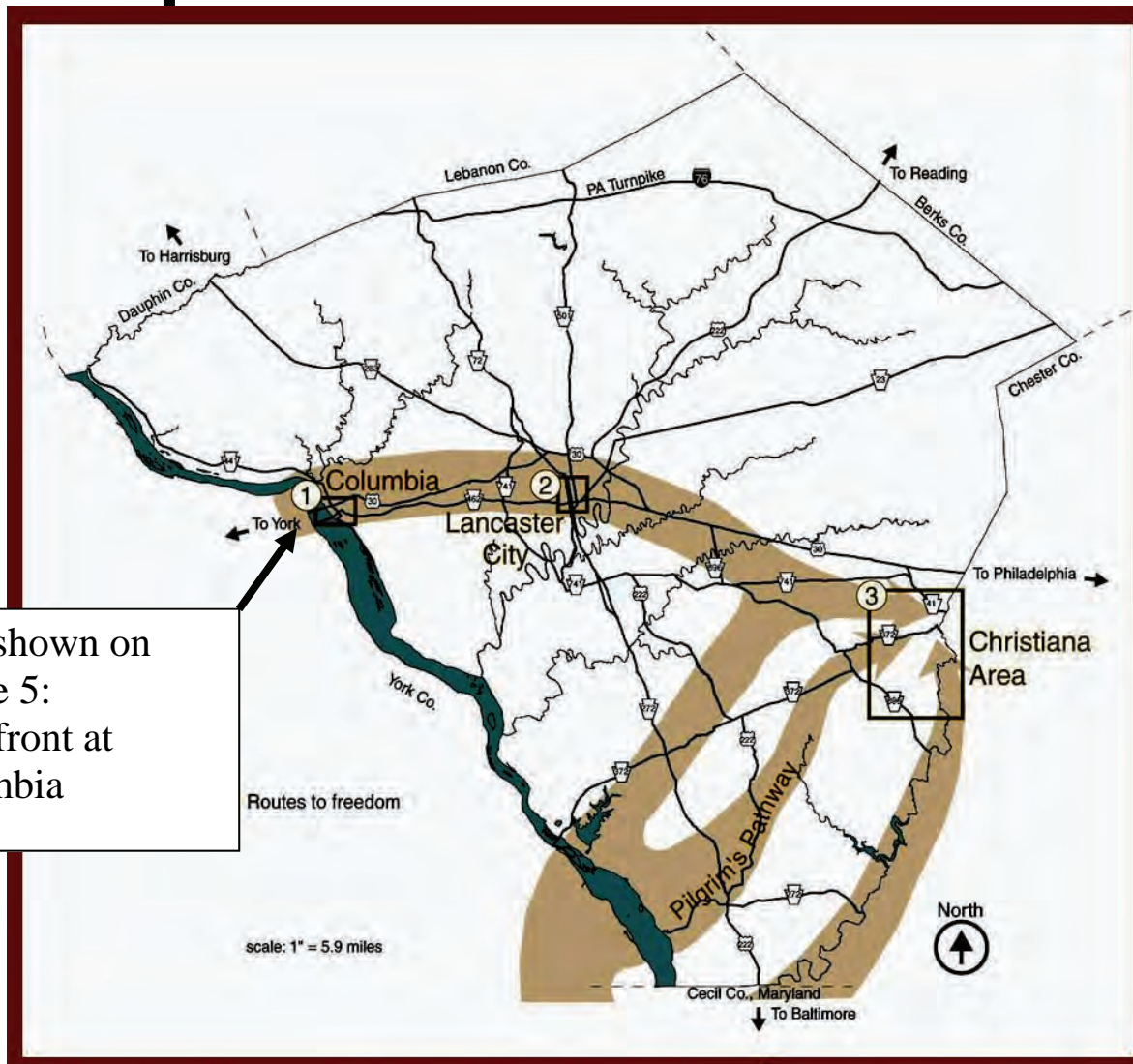
Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau

Prepared by Randolph J. Harris, consulting historian, Lancaster, PA rmkharris314@verizon.net



Underground Railroad routes, Lancaster County, PA.

Figure 5



Area shown on
Figure 5:
Riverfront at
Columbia

UGRR Explorer's Map and Guide—Produced by Lancaster County Heritage, a partnership among the County of Lancaster, the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, and the Pennsylvania Dutch Convention & Visitors Bureau. Map & Guide 1st edition 1999. 2nd Edition 2001. Shows the Columbia to Christiana UGRR route that is the general route of the subject railroad corridor. These pathways were adapted from Seibert's 1898 map. (See Figure 3), and from Spotts' *Pilgrims Pathways*, 1963. Map courtesy of Lancaster County Office of Geographic Information Systems, 2006.

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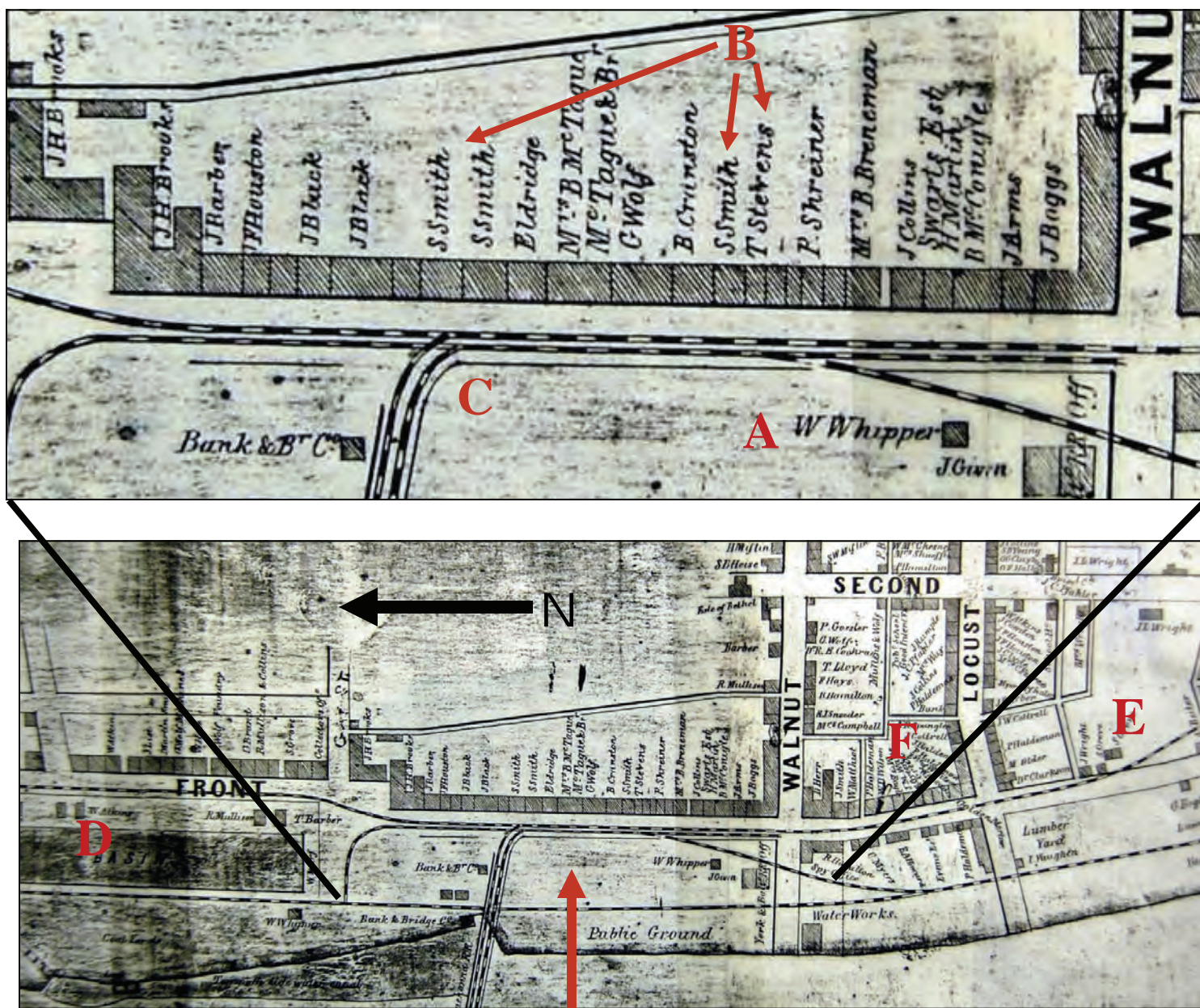
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Figure 6

Plan view showing **A**) business property of William Whipper; **B**) properties of "S. Smith" and "T. Stevnes," among others along the rail line; **C**) junction of railroad line from bridge over Susquehanna River and Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad; **D**) Canal Basin of Main Line of Public Works; **E**) residence of Wright family; **F**) First National Bank Museum, an NPS Network to Freedom Facility, designated 2003, hold books of accounts of Whipper and Smith. Base map from Lancaster County Historical Society map collection. Author, cartographer unknown. Annotated by Randolph Harris, December, 2009.



Where O.C. Gilbert and his group would have landed: the interface between the counties of York and Lancaster at the Susquehanna River bridge crossing, showing property holdings of key Underground Railroad activists: the Wright Family; William Whipper; Stephen Smith; U.S. Congressman Thaddeus Stevens.

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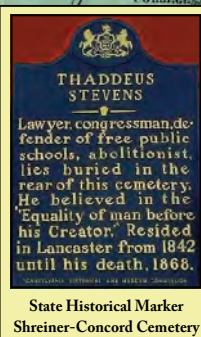
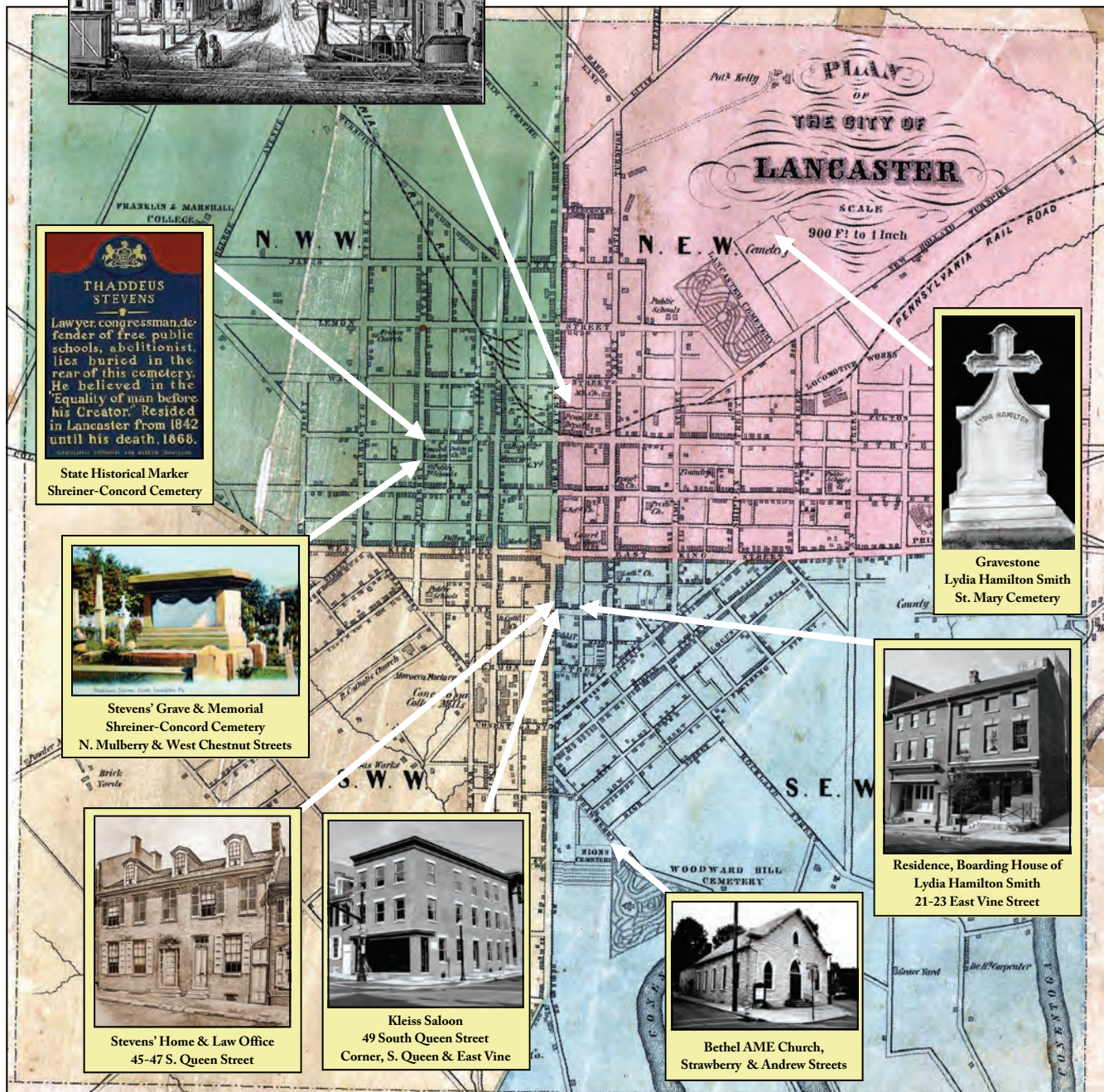
Historical Views-City of Lancaster, PA

Stevens Home & Law Office and Related Sites

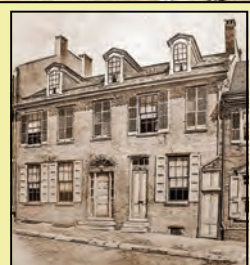
Figure 7



Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad Depot, view south
North Queen and Chestnut Streets, City of Lancaster, circa 1840
From *History of the Pennsylvania Railroad*, by
William Bender Wilson, 1895



Stevens' Grave & Memorial
Shreiner-Concord Cemetery
N. Mulberry & West Chestnut Streets



Stevens' Home & Law Office
45-47 S. Queen Street



Kleiss Saloon
49 South Queen Street
Corner, S. Queen & East Vine



Bethel AME Church,
Strawberry & Andrew Streets



Gravestone
Lydia Hamilton Smith
St. Mary Cemetery



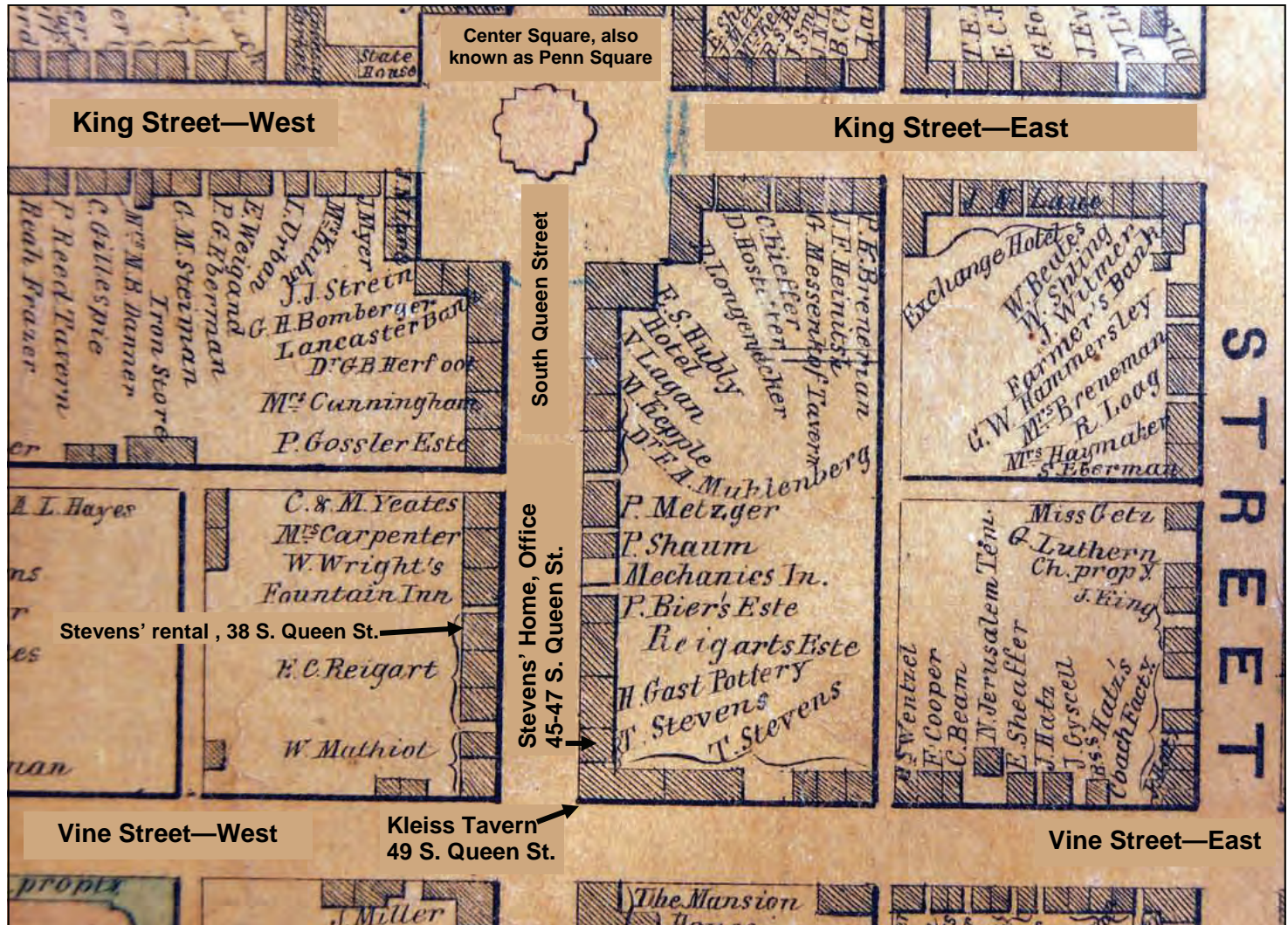
Residence, Boarding House of
Lydia Hamilton Smith
21-23 East Vine Street

Base map City of Lancaster, from Bridgens' Atlas of Lancaster County, PA, 1864.
Photography & design by Randolph Harris.

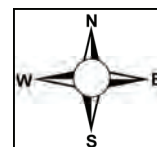
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Base map, City of Lancaster, Lancaster County, PA , from the *Records and Surveys of Moody & Bridgens*, 1850. From archives of Lancaster County Court House, Lancaster, PA.
Annotated by Randolph Harris, July, 2010.



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Detail of original town plan and historic districts, City of Lancaster, PA

Figure 9



City of Lancaster historic districts, codified in municipal zoning ordinance, are located within the City's larger Heritage Conservation District, which encompasses the original town plan of the City, circa 1730, and which also defines the boundary of the National Register Historic District (not shown here in its total coverage). These five historic districts are administered under 1967 enabling legislation granted to local municipalities by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to regulate certain physical changes to the exteriors of buildings. The Stevens' properties — shown within the red city block/footprint of the hotel and convention center development — are within the more recently enacted Heritage Conservation District (1998). Stevens' gravesite at Shreiner-Concord Cemetery, shown here in blue, is within Heritage Conservation District. Map, courtesy Planning Department, City of Lancaster, PA.

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THE LANCASTER INQUIRER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT
NO. 26 SOUTH QUEEN ST.,
(SECOND FLOOR).

**\$1.50 per Year in advance;
\$2.00 if not paid in advance.**

ELLWOOD GRIEST, Proprietor.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1883.

THIS AND THAT.

The following hitherto unpublished letter, which fully explains itself, was written by Thaddeus Stevens to Hon. Jeremiah Brown, of Fulton township:

LANCASTER, January 9, 1847.

Dear Sir: I learn that the man-stealers of this place have taken means to obtain authority from Maryland (which they soon expect) to arrest and take into slavery two colored girls who lately lived with you, and your brother Slater.

Ellen Jackson and Emeline Raines—They are thought to be now with Whitson. It is said they belong to Wm. C. Norris, Baltimore.

Will you see that they have immediate notice to flee to a city of refuge? They should not stop short of Canada.

There is a regular chain of agents and spies of the slave holders in this and all the adjoining counties. I have a spy on the spies, and thus ascertain these facts. All this, however, must be a secret or we should lose all advantage, which we now have.

These are the 8th set of slaves I have warned within a week.

I doubt not you will attend to the cause of human rights.

Yours truly,

THADDEUS STEVENS.

HON. JEREMIAH BROWN.

A few days after the receipt of the above letter, two men, armed with a warrant and accompanied by a constable, arrived at the residence of Slater Brown, in Fulton township, shortly after dark. They entered the house without knocking. Mr. Brown was reading a newspaper, when one of the men took up a light without any ceremony and proceeded to the kitchen. Mr. Brown, who suspected their business, followed. The girl, fortunately, was in the cellar with Mrs. Brown, where they next attempted to enter. Mr. Brown planted himself against the cellar door and forbade their going further without producing their authority. This created somewhat of a rum-pus which was overheard by those in the cellar and by the time the warrant was read the fugitive had escaped by another door. In the meantime a messenger was despatched post haste to the residence of Judge Brown, one mile distant, who was fully prepared to receive the visitors. In a few minutes they presented themselves at the door, which they found locked. In answer to their knock the Judge met them at the door and demanded their authority for coming there at that hour. The constable produced the warrant which the Judge carefully scanned and then permitted them to enter. They were shown into that part of the house not usually occupied by the family and invited to search. By the time they reached the kitchen the prize had flown, taken an early train on the Underground Railway and was then safe in charge of a careful conductor to a "city of refuge."

The above letter of Mr. Stevens shows the great interest he took in fugitives from slavery at that early day, and the wonderful extent of his knowledge respecting them. Through this he was enabled to aid many a one to escape, and to prevent their re-capture. But for his timely information the Browns would probably have been taken by surprise, and the girls who were living with them re-captured. The declaration in his letter, "these are the 8th set of slaves I have warned within a week," shows how extensive must have been his knowledge and correspondence on that subject. The "Whitson" he refers to, must have been Thomas Whitson, who then lived in Bart township. Does any one know who was the "spy" that Mr. Stevens says he had on the "spies of the slaveholders?"

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Advertisements:

Lancaster Examiner & Herald-

No addresses given in any of these ads, from 1846 through 1854.

Top:

Attorney Herr shows that his office can be found by its location opposite Stevens' office on S. Queen Street,
March 18, 1847

Lancaster City, March 31, 1847

BENJAMIN HERR,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,
OFFICE in South Queen street, nearly opposite the office of Thaddeus Stevens, Esq. where he will be prepared to attend to all business entrusted to his care with promptness and despatch.
March 31. 1y-18
Estate of JACOB GIBBEL in of Penn

Middle:

Attorney Hiener shares his office with Stevens on S. Queen Street,
July 7, 1847

L. F. HIENER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
OFFICE with Thaddeus Stevens, Esq., South Queen street, Lancaster, Pa. Offers his professional services to the public. Attends also to the preparation of Deeds and all other legal instruments, sales of Lands, &c. May be consulted in the German language.
N. B.—He has the agency for the sale of two farms, in Muskingum county, Ohio, and also the renting of a third, which will be disposed of upon fair terms.
June 30 31-1yr
REMOVAL
A. SLAYMAKER'S OFFICE REMOVED to South Queen Street, 4th floor below Kendig's hotel.
March 24, 1847. 1-yr 18
DAVID G. ESHLEMAN,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
HAS removed to the South West corner of Centre Square, three doors west of the Lancaster Bank.
April 5, 1847. 19

Bottom:

Attorney Simon Stevens shares a South Queen Street office with Thaddeus Stevens,
September 6, 1848

(Simon Stevens was a one-time Stevens law student of Thaddeus Stevens and not related(Hoch, 2005:211).

Sep 6 3t-41

SIMON STEVENS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
OFFICE with Thaddeus Stevens, Esq., South Queen street, Lancaster, Pa. [Sep 6 6m-41]
FEMALE SEMINARY.
MISS O. C. Howe, respectfully announces to

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Canada. But mist⁽³¹⁾ what place am in. I sit
 aint Canada. This is Pennsylvania. At night
 Penna. was on the other side of this big river. It
 is on both sides. Where are you boys from. O
 a little ways down in the country. We thought
 Canada could not be very far off. Mister how
 far do you call it to Canada. How far. Why
 it is about five hundred miles. You can
 imagine our feelings better than I can de-
 scribe them. There we had run, jump and
 skiped and thought we were sure in
 Canada and come to find out that we were
 still five hundred miles away. Come with
 me boys I'll show you how to get out of
 this town. He took us by a back route, through
 a lumberyard and gave us a few lines
 and started us for Lancaster Pa. We push-
 ed on hungry and tired. We had eat noth-
 ing since we left the camp meeting, but
 green corn and that we done ample justice
 to. We would roast the corn, whenever we got
 a chance. I guess some of the farmers ima-
 gine some kind of a two legged ~~exposure~~
 had been around. We halted at Mount plea-
 sant and went to the back door of the Tavern
 and asked the lady to sell us a bite of some
 thing to eat. She charged us a silver or
 (stick). Each. This was Wednesday about nine
 A.M. the first we had eaten since we left
 except the corn. That was all the money
 we had. We arrived at Lancaster about
 noon. We were directed to call at No. 45
 South Queen St. and we would find a ^{Post} 77.

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lawyer, who was a friend to the slaves. He moved very cautiously towards his places. He said what can I do for you. Ben said we are looking for work and we heard that you gave work to colored people. How far have you come. Right smart ways sir. Can you walk seven miles further said he. Yes sir. Well you take this note and go to Burdenhand and give it to Daniel Gibbons and I think he will find you work. Just before you get into the village you will see a white painted house sitting back in the field, then up a lane and ask for Daniel Gibbons and give him this note. Up the turn pike we went that Wednesday afternoon. We entered the lane. There was sitting on the porch an old tall headed man looking down the lane at the new arrivals. As we approached I dropped back in the rear, I expected there would be some retreating out of the lane, & I meant to be on the lead in going out. Ben cautioned me not to run. Well boys the old Quaker said, which way are you all going, I see you are all runaways. Ben said, we are looking for work, we heard there was a great demand for help up here and we come to get something to do. How far has thee come? Right smart ways. What kind of work can thee do? Any kind of work on a plantation. I was born on de plantation. We can cut up corn, dig tatoes, plow and harrow except Oliver and Reuben day, dey are waiters all rest of us work in the field.

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Page 33- Unpublished manuscript of Oliver Cromwell Gilbert, circa 1890

What is the name of the place you came from. Here it became hard for Ben to think of a place. Ben finally said, We are from from Phila., Oh! indeed. What part of Phila., do they have plantations, where they get potatoes and corn. I am somewhat acquainted there myself. What is the name of the street you live on Ben said, Oliver my memory is getting so poor you tell the gentlemen the name of that street live on. I said indeed Mr. I forgotten the name of the street too. Mr. Gibbons said boys I guess that thee never lived in Phila., thee is from the south and before thee claim to be a Philadelphian thee want to go and change thy clothes for Philadelphians don't dress like thee. There we were in full southern dress too linen shirt, pants and coat of the coarsest kind. He said, come in boys and we will have supper. We were introduced to his wife, who bid us welcome to their home. We sat down with them at the supper table. I could hardly believe my own eyes. They counselled us to keep quite and say nothing about where we came from. Mrs. Gibbons said now that thee is free, thee must respect thyself and thee will always be respected. We were shown where we were to sleep. They were fine resting places something new to us. We all retired, about three or four o'clock in the morning there came a sharp rap at our doors. Boys awake and dress as quick as thee can, the hunters have found out your whereabouts and are on

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your track. A messenger ³⁴ ³⁵ has just arrived from Lancaster saying warrants are out for thy arrest. They go down the back stairs out into my back yard. I'll get my wagon ready and take thee away. We got in the line of Quakers watching the moment of the Quaker to appear. By and by we saw him going to the stable with his whip in his hand and broad brimmed hat and short coat on, the wagon had horses and white cover something like a market wagon. He drove down a back lane and gave us the signal. We rushed for the vehicle. Ben handed the letter to him that he was given at Lancaster the day before. Mr. Gibbons said, Why didn't thee give me this letter before. Ben replied he was afraid. Boys this letter is from one of thy best friends. Thee has no better friend in the state than the man who wrote this letter. It was from the lawyer the late Hon. Thaddeus Stevens of noble memory. We were driven to Sadsburyville some distance from Berdenland. The wagon was very crowded. We were left at Thomas Whitson a Quaker preacher who received us very kindly. The next day we separated. Among the farmers. I was sent to Bart township to live with James Jackson a Quaker preacher. When I arrived, Mrs. Jackson ask my name. I said Oliver. Where is thee from Oliver. Maryland (Baltimore). Does thee know a colored man a waiter there at

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the Barnum's hotel, by the name of Reuben. yes man. Now she know what became of him. He started to run away, but they caught him and sold him down to Georgia. So Miss Margaretts said. There must be a mistake for there is a colored man over there at that house pointing across the field to her neighbors. Asa Walton another Quaker, tells me he was headwaiter the hotel just named. One of my brother's names was Reuben - hired out at the hotel. He was to have joined us up in the country when we made the first attempt to run away, finding he could not do it, he got a white man to put him on the car for Phila, as in those days no colored person could come north unless he was vouched for by some white man. Thinking we were gone from Howard Co. to the north and afraid he might be sold to Georgia, out of spite, he took the car in Baltimore - being a free man of color, soon after the car crossed Howard Co. the conductor said to him. Where are you going. He answered to Phila, - ain't you a slave? let me see your free papers. My brother took out some papers and showed him. I am not satisfied with them, he said. I will have to take you back to Baltimore. When the train reached New Castle, Reuben was taken out of the car and put in jail for safe keeping until the conductor returned from Wilmington, that being the end of his route 258

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On his return to ⁽³⁶⁾Baltimore the conductor stopp-
 ed at New Castle and had Reuben put aboard
 of his train to take him back to slavery. Reu-
 ben says I saw it was all up with me.
 I made up my mind to make a dash
 for my liberty if it shook the whole Universe.
 As the train neared a Haure de Grace he ask-
 ed permission to stand on the platform.
 While doing so he watched his opportunity
 to jump from the cars. he made the leap
 and as he jump a man caught hold of
 his coat tail. He carried his coat tail back
 but not him. Reuben says it stuned him
 for a while and when he came to ~~my~~ his
 senses again the train was out of sight.
 I was quick to throw away the balance
 of my coat and take to the woods. Five
 hundred dollars was offered for me a
 thorough description of him was given.
 My brother was tall and statley fine look-
 ing. He wore a heavy ~~and~~ beard. He got
 a razor and shaved to disquised him-
 self. He hid away among some colored
 people for a few days then worked his way
 to a Quaker friend, who lived in Little Britton
 Lancaster Co. by the name of Anna Gilbert.
 and from there we met at Barton
 Township. I began to work for James Jack-
 son Friday morning 1848. The latter part of
 August. One day she Mrs Jackson came to
 me and told me to go over and see my
 brother laying sick unto death. We were
 supried to meet each other again and it was ^{R 60}

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~~very pleasant meeting.~~ Here there came a
 change in our names. Mr Jackson and the
 Quaker friends in the section advised us to
 take a new name. Brother Reuben changed
 his from Reuben to Amos Gilbert. I changed
 only a part of my name. Gilbert was added
 to Oliver. Which made my name read Oli-
 ver Cromwell Gilbert. Our father was Joseph
 Kelly of Owingsville Md. He was a free man
 and my mother a slave. He remained in
 East Township neighborhood for a while
 until my brother got better and ^{went} came
 to Phila., where I found Mr. Greenbury
 Howard who's wife was a distance relative
 of my mother by white blood. I made my
 home with the family until Spring. I
 During my time I stayed up in Lancas-
 ter, before coming to Phila. I worked for
 Joseph Moore and others and became
 well known to many abolitionist Quakers.
 In the spring of 1849 got a situation
 as waiter on the steamboat Penobscott
 running from Phila., to N. York. The spring
 of 1850 I went to Cape May N. J. to wait at
 the Columbia. Mr. Thomas Doney was
 head waiter my master brother John came
 there to board. He came down stairs
 one morning, while I was going up
 with a tray of breakfast. I saw it was
 unsafe to remain here any longer at Cape
 May so I took the steamboat for New York and
 got a position at Carlo's hotel in Park Row,
 on the site where the New York Press now
 is.

Thaddeus Stevens Home and Law Office

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Prepared by Randolph J. Harris, consulting historian, Lancaster, PA rmkharris314@verizon.net

THE COLORED MEN AT SARATOGA.

SARATOGA, N. Y., Aug. 7.—A large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, the 6th inst., composed of many prominent white and colored ladies and gentlemen. O. C. Gilbert, Esq., presided, assisted by a full corps of Vice Presidents. The meeting was addressed by J. Henri Burch, A. E. Barber, and Col. James Lewis, of Louisiana, and Rev. William F. Butler and Wm H. Johnson, Esq., of New-York. The speakers were enthusiastically received and repeatedly cheered. The Louisiana delegation are announced to speak on Louisiana affairs on Tuesday night, the 12th inst. Invitations are being extended to them to speak at various parts of several States, which have been accepted. The Louisianians now here are Col. James Lewis, Senators Barber and Burch, Representative J. Ross Stewart, T. Morris Chester, Esq., B. F. Latimore, Esq. Hon. Wm. G. Brown is expected here in a few days.

The New York Times

Published: August 8, 1873

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THE COLORED REPUBLICANS.

The colored Republicans held their State Convention in Republican Hall on Wednesday. The Chairman, Mr. O. C. Gilbert, of Saratoga, in calling the meeting to order, stated that its object was to decide whether it was advisable for the colored people to maintain in the future their own organizations. It was then proposed by Mr. Geo. W. Myers that a committee of one from each Senatorial district be appointed to name the members of the State Central Committee. This resolution having been adopted, Rev. W. F. Butler called the attention of the Convention to the fact that a convention of colored men was to be held in Washington on the 10th of December to urge Congress to pass Senator Sumner's Supplementary Civil Rights bill. The Convention then took a recess.

On reassembling, the Committee on Resolutions presented a preamble and resolutions expressing want of faith in the Republican Party, and censuring the leaders of said party for not fairly distributing, as alleged, the patronage among the colored men. After a spirited debate, these resolutions were recommitted to the Committee. The Committee then retired, whereupon Rev. W. F. Butler offered a series of resolutions in relation to the Louisiana diffi-

culties. These resolutions express the sympathies of the colored men of New-York toward their Republican brethren in Louisiana, in their efforts to sustain Republicanism in that State; thank Gen. Grant for his proclamation which restored peace, order, and quiet in that State, and enlogize Judge Durell for the ability, honesty, and impartial justice displayed by him in protecting the newly-enfranchised race in their political rights, and in conclusion welcomed Senator Pinchback to this City.

After addresses from Senator Burch and others, the Committee on Resolutions returned, and presented a series of resolutions indorsing the nominees of the Republican State Convention held at Utica, and pledging the voice of the colored men of this City and State for the Republican Party.

The Chairman then announced as the State Central Committee Messrs. Reuben Smith, J. P. J. Howard, Alexander Corfrew, Daniel A. Brown, Geo. W. Myers, Lewis Williams, James P. Robinson, John S. Freeman, Edward Hesdraw, Abram Bolin, William S. Bolin, Robert McIntyre, Thomas Dellilly, John R. Wood, J. J. Johnson, Albert Freeman, George B. Wright, Gerrit Logan, Thos. Thomas, George Johnson, J. M. Hollingsworth, and Charles H. Newton.

To the Washington Convention: Charles L. Rea-son, Louis Williams, O. C. Gilbert, W. S. Baltimore, S. W. Clay, W. P. Powell, E. B. Conover, Geo. W. Johnson, J. W. Hollingsworth, H. H. Garnet, W. F. Butler, E. V. C. Eato, J. J. Freeman, Gerrit S. Logan, W. H. Johnson, Abram Bolin, Geo. W. Myers, Peter S. Porter, Chas. H. Newton, and J. P. J. Howard.

The Convention then adjourned.

The New York Times

Published: October 10, 1873

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Contemporary Photographs—Site redevelopment & rehab phases, 2002-2010



Above: *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 14 August 2001, reports on preservation of historic buildings.
Below: Stevens House after rehabilitation, October, 2009.

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General Location: Hotel, convention center, Thaddeus Stevens Home & Law Office
Key to contemporary photos-exterior



Base map by Iron Compass Map Company, Lancaster, PA, for James Street Improvement District, Lancaster, PA, Revised January, 2008. GIS data file from Lancaster County GIS.

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Contemporary Photographs—Site redevelopment & rehab phases, 2002-2010

Site of proposed Lancaster County Convention Center, Stevens House & Law Office, Marriott Hotel



Lydia Smith Houses/remains

Kleiss Tavern/remains—Cistern—Thaddeus Stevens
Law Office/Residence/remains

Montgomery House

Watt & Shand Building remains

View west: block bounded by South Christian, East Vine, South Queen and East King Streets

Photo imaging—Randolph Harris, Mount Joy, PA 11-29-06

**Photo 1—Site of Lancaster County Convention Center &
Thaddeus Stevens Home & Law Office, November 2006**
Panorama view west



Photo 2—Thaddeus Stevens Home and Law Office 4 April 2007
View Southwest, showing extent of demolition of rear sections of Kleiss and Stevens buildings

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Key to contemporary photos-exterior



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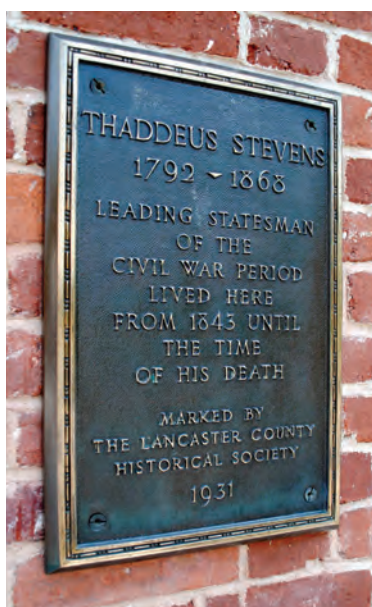
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Contemporary photographs-exterior

Photo 3

View east of west elevations of Stevens House (left) at 45 and 47 South Queen Street; and Kleiss Saloon (right) at 49 South Queen, corner of East Vine Street. Citizens gather here to dedicate the completion of the exterior rehabilitation and restoration of the buildings.

Randolph Harris photo,
October 4, 2009.



Historical marker, above, restored,
located between the doors of the Stevens Home and Law Office.

Randolph Harris photo,
October 4, 2009



Photo 4

View southeast of South Queen Street, showing Marriott Hotel, partially at left, Montgomery House, entrance to Lancaster County Convention Center, Stevens and Kleiss Buildings partially visible in background.

Randolph Harris photo, July, 2010

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Contemporary photographs-exterior

Photo 5

View Northeast at corner of South Queen and East Vine Streets. L-R: Marriott Hotel; Historic Montgomery House (partial view of south elevation); Lancaster County Convention Center; Thaddeus Stevens Home & Law Office; Kleiss Tavern; Convention Center lobby entrance on East Vine Street.

Randolph Harris photo,
July, 2010



Photo 6

Montgomery House (1804) and entrance to Convention Center, South Queen Street, view southeast.

Randolph Harris photo,
October 4, 2009



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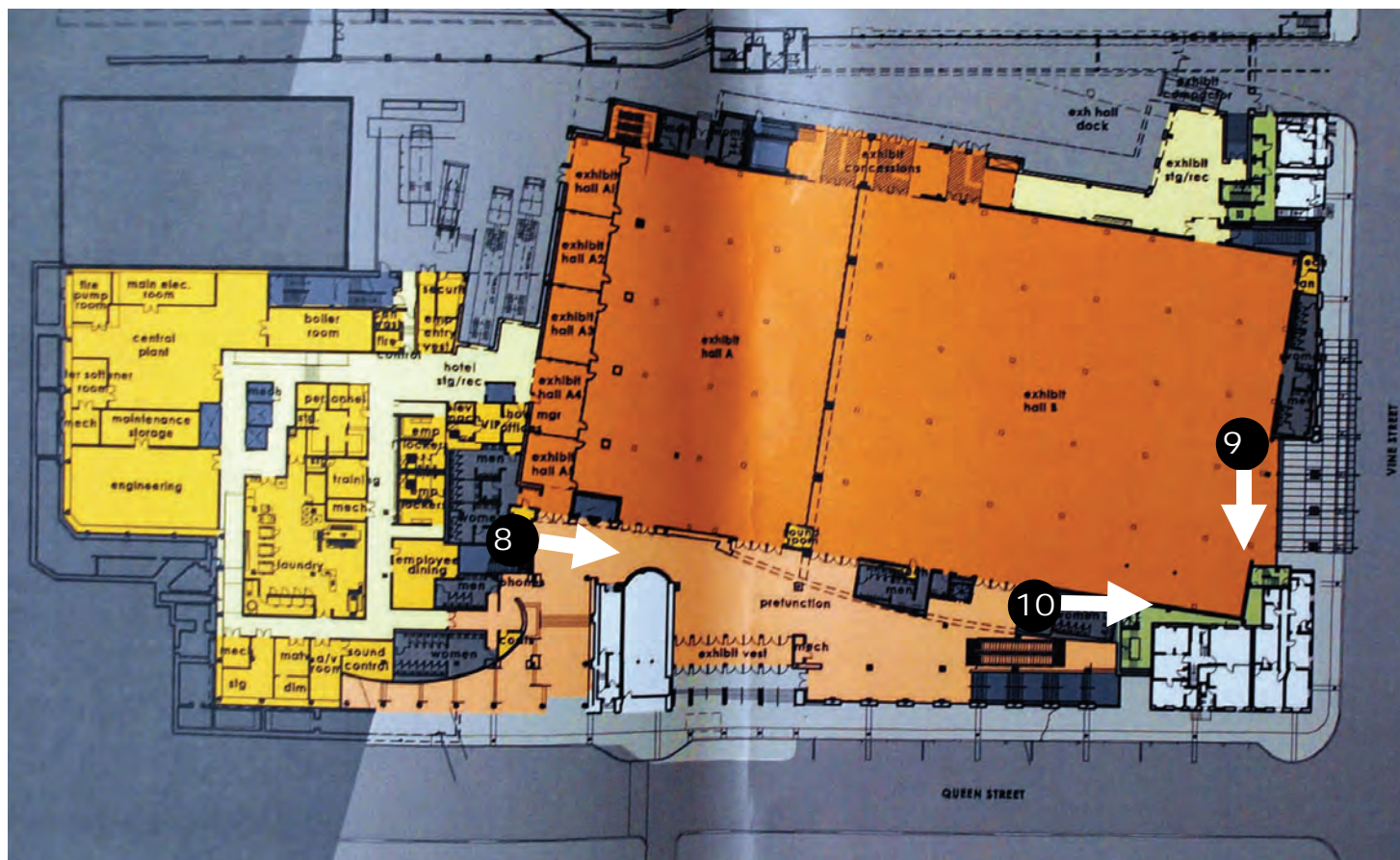
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Key to contemporary photos—interior



Penn Square Center Marriott Hotel and Lancaster County Convention Center, Lancaster, PA.

Composite Plan-Exhibit Hall Level, 1/10/2005
Cooper Carry Architects, Atlanta, GA.

Photo 7

View southeast at Penn Square of entrance to 300-room Marriott Hotel within façade of former historic Watt & Shand Department Store (circa 1880-1920) incorporated into the new construction, completed June, 2009.

Randolph Harris photo,
October 4, 2009



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Contemporary photos—interior

Photo 8

View South inside connecting hall between Marriott Hotel lobby and Lancaster County Convention Center hall, which leads to Stevens Home & Law Office area. This walkway runs parallel to South Queen Street (beyond doors/entrance hall at right). Primary exhibit area named “Freedom Hall” in commemoration of Stevens’ efforts to advance human rights and opposition to slavery. Rear of historic Montgomery House, 1804, at center, incorporated into the complex’s new construction. Montgomery House, which fronts on South Queen Street, listed in National Register, 1999.

Randolph Harris photo,
October 4, 2009



Photo 9

View west of glass-wall viewing area where below ground exhibit space has been prepared and seen by visitors to convention center. Located in what was the rear courtyards of the Stevens Home and Law Office and Kleiss Tavern. Large portraits of Stevens and his confidante, Lydia Hamilton Smith hang above planned exhibit area.

Photograph by Randolph Harris,
July, 2010.



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Contemporary photos—interior

Photo 10

Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray addresses the public in the lobby of the Lancaster County Convention Center, East Vine Street entrance, at the dedication of the completion of the exterior rehabilitation and restoration of the properties. Members of the Pennsylvania Past Players portraying Lydia Hamilton Smith (Darlene Color) and Thaddeus Stevens (Stephen Andrews) look on. Interpretive panel shown on glass wall of exhibit viewing area.

Randolph Harris Photo,
October 4, 2009.



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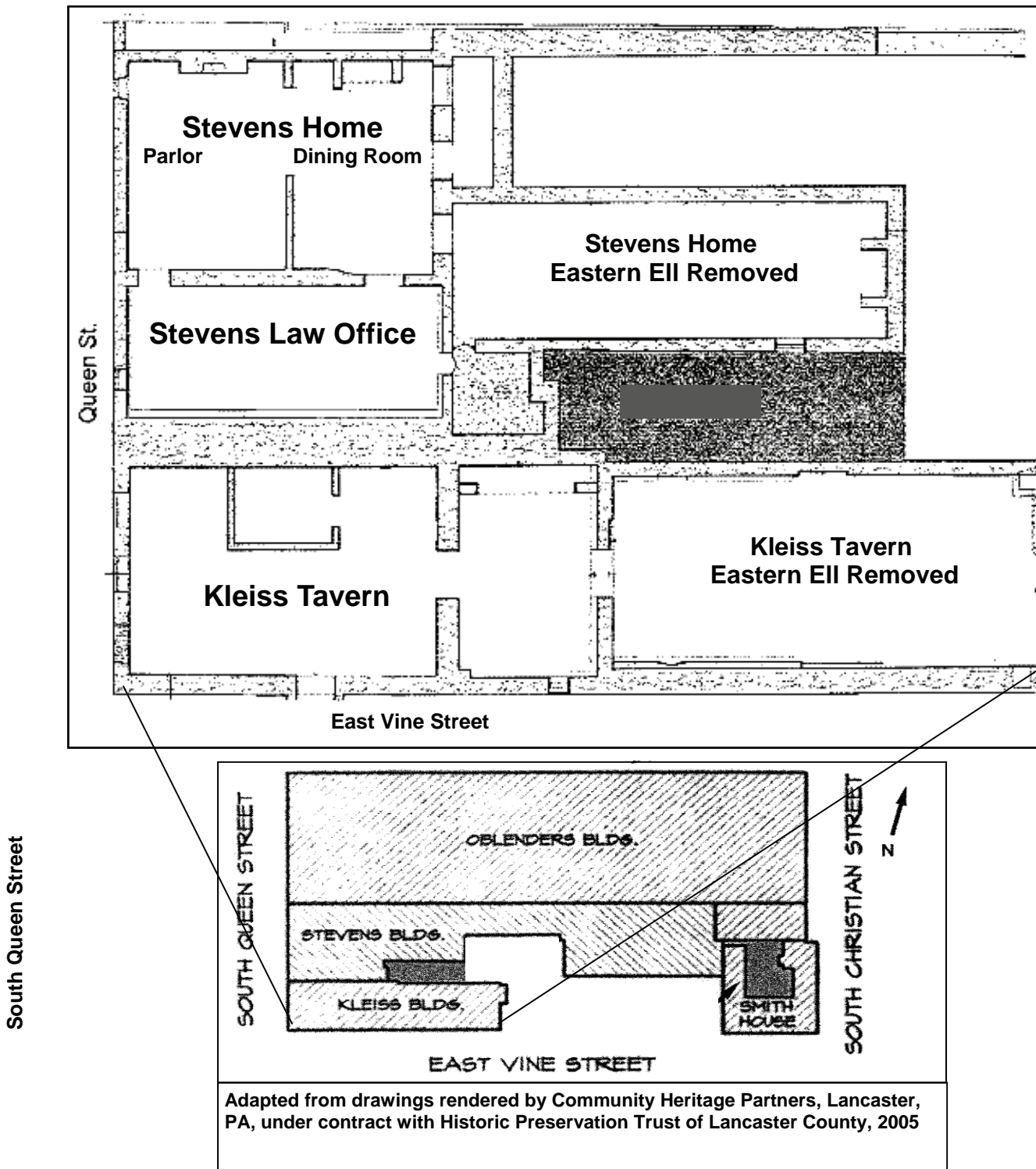
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First Floor Plan

Stevens Home & Law Office, 45-47 South Queen St. Kleiss Tavern, 49 South Queen St.



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Contemporary photos—interior

Photo 11

Interior view of the Stevens Home and Law Office, prepared for the next phase of rehabilitation and restoration. View northwest. Fanlight main door is visible in Exterior Photo 3.

Randolph Harris photo,
October 4, 2009



Photo 12

Interior view of the second floor hall and bedroom areas of the Stevens Home and Law Office, prepared for the next phase of rehabilitation and restoration.

Steel supports needed to treat a sag in the main beam that spans the center of the entire building in a north-south alignment. View north.

Randolph Harris photo,
October 4, 2009



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Contemporary photos—interior

Photo 13

Interior view of a second floor bedroom area of the Stevens Home and Law Office.

View west. These are the two southernmost second floor windows visible in exterior view of Photo 3 and 5.

Randolph Harris photo,
October 4, 2009



Photo 14

Newly constructed roof system in the attic area of the restored Stevens House, including sprinklers for fire protection. View south-west.

Man at right is looking out of the northernmost dormer of the three that penetrate the new roof, visible in exterior Photo 3 and 5.

Randolph Harris photo,
October 4, 2009



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Historical Views of Stevens and his properties: Photographs, renderings, reproductions

No. 1

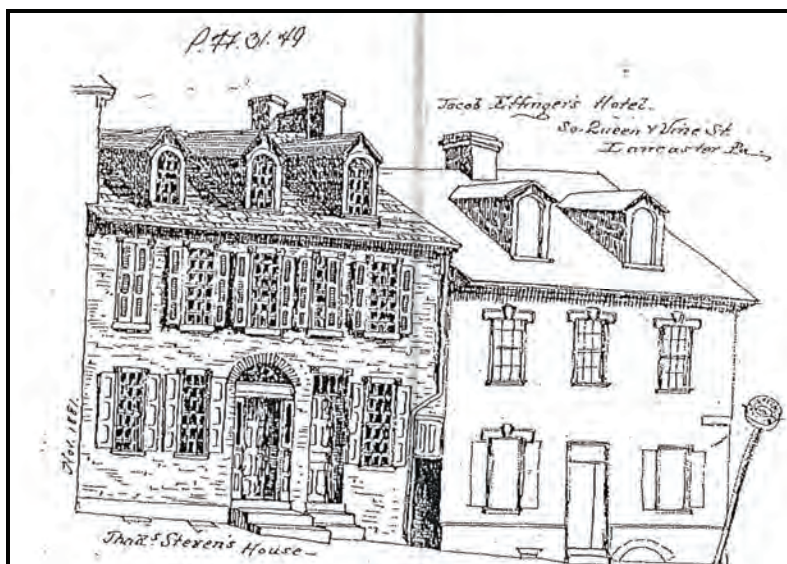
“Home of Thaddeus Stevens,”
drawing from a photograph.
Rendered circa 1870 by “McLintock.”
Courtesy of LancasterHistory.org.

Also published in Thomas Frederick Woodley’s book, *Thaddeus Stevens*. Harrisburg, PA: The Telegraph Press, 1913, page 288. This drawing was used to re-create the façade of the home and law office as it currently appears. Note partial view of original feature of Kließ Tavern at right. View Northeast of west elevations.



No. 2

Rendering by David McNeilly Stauffer, 1881. View Southeast of facades of Thaddeus Stevens House and Law Office and Jacob Effinger’s Hotel, originally Kleiss’ Saloon. This may be the only depiction extant of the Kleiss/Effinger building prior to its approximate current appearance, which was executed approximately 1900, increasing the building to three floors, when known as the Southern Market Hotel.



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No. 3

Thaddeus Stevens Home,
circa 1930.

This expansion of the original building to three full stories and the addition of a brick veneer prompted the Lancaster County Historical Society to place a historical marker on the front of the building in 1931 to the right of the display window, first floor right. Photographer unknown. See Contemporary Photos for view of marker.



Marker placed by Lancaster
County Historical Society
1931

No. 4

Thaddeus Stevens Home,
as “Paul’s Restaurant and
Bar,” circa 1950. Also at
this time, the area of the
front façade/first floor, to
the left of the main door,
was opened into a garage
for automobile repairs, partially
visible here. Photographer
unknown.



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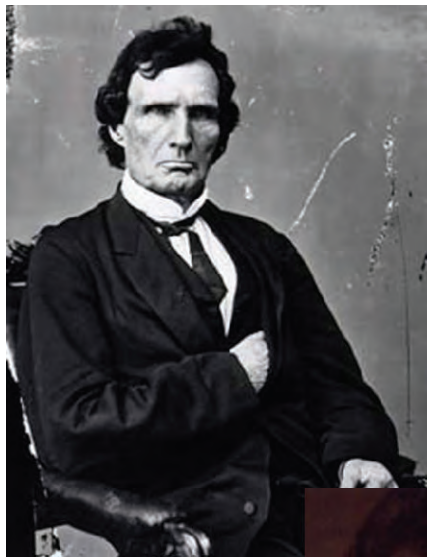


Engraving from a photograph, circa 1865.
National Archives & Records Administration



Photograph by Charles W. Eberman,
Lancaster, PA, 1856

Thaddeus Stevens 1792-1868



"Hon. Thaddeus Stevens of Penn."
Taken between 1860 and 1868
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.
Brady-Handy Photograph Collection



Oil Painting by Jacob Eichholtz of
Lancaster, PA, circa 1838.
Special Collections, Gettysburg College, PA

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