



May 11, 2022

Dear Site Administrator,

Your site is eligible for a sign indicating its acceptance into the National Network to Freedom and the Michigan Freedom Trail Registry.

The Michigan Freedom Trail Commission works to preserve, protect and promote the rich legacy of the Underground Railroad and the antislavery movement in Michigan. It believes that interpretive can help make more people aware of Michigan's role in the Underground Railroad.

In June, the commission was awarded a grant from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) and the National Network to Freedom to support signs for sites listed in the Michigan Freedom Trail Registry. This one-time grant allows us to offer identifying signs **free of charge** based on approved applications.

The interpretive signs are 10"x14" and vertically oriented. They can be mounted onto a post or structure. They are made of a high-pressure laminate used for outdoor history interpretation and proven to hold color well. The signs display the National Park Service's Network to Freedom Logo, the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission logo, and a QR code and internet address for interpretive information. The sign indicates that the location is historically significant. By scanning the QR code, visitors are linked to additional historical information about your site and other Underground Railroad sites in Michigan.

The sign and mounting hardware are available to you at no cost. To obtain a sign, you must complete a brief, one page application. After your application is submitted and approved, a sign will be delivered to you. It is your responsibility to install the sign in a publicly accessible place, on or adjacent to the property.

We are excited to share this opportunity with you and hope that you respond with questions or an application. The Michigan Freedom Trail Commission aims to support site owners and stewards in the preservation and interpretation of the Underground Railroad. If we can be of any assistance to you, please reach out to Sheri Giffin at GiffinS@michigan.gov – 517-231-1299.

Sincerely,

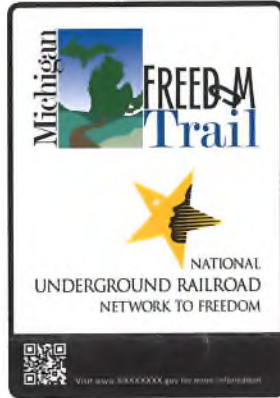
Amanda Campbell

Chair

Michigan Freedom Trail Commission

Frequently Asked Questions

MICHIGAN FREEDOM TRAIL INTERPRETIVE SIGN PROGRAM



FAQs

Does my site have to be listed with the Network to Freedom Program to be eligible for a sign?

Yes. The Michigan Freedom Trail register aligns with the National Network to Freedom list of sites. The Michigan Freedom Trail Commission is always interested in partnering with individuals and organizations for new nominations.

What are the dimensions of the sign?

The sign is a 10"x 14" vertical sign made of high-pressure laminate used for outdoor history interpretation.

How long will the sign last?

The signs have been field tested and last at least 10 years. They are used by the Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan History Center and the National Park Service for outdoor interpretation at many sites.

How do I care for the sign?

Warm soapy water will wash off almost anything. Check with us before using anything else.

What will people find when they scan the QR code?

The QR code will direct visitors to a list of Michigan sites with a brief history of each site. The information will be taken from the original site nomination along with updated research from trusted scholars. A link to a site of your choice can be included if requested.

What happens if my sign is damaged or stolen?

The site manager is encouraged to contact the program coordinator for current options. Lost or stolen signs may be replaced, however, there may be a cost to the site owner. Contact program coordinator Sheri Giffin at GiffinS@michigan.gov or 517-231-1299.