

National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

Church Creek, Maryland, 21622

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National Park Service

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Contact: Amanda Pollock, network\_to\_freedom@nps.gov

**Underground Railroad Site Recognized**

*National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Accepts New Listings*

**Church Creek, MD** – The National Park Service’s National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom accepted Union Baptist Cemetery, managed by Union Baptist Church, as one of over 650 sites, programs, and facilities within the Network. It joins 12 new listings from the 40th round of Network to Freedom applications, representing sites and programs in eight states across the United States. New listings were accepted in the final days of September, which represented International Underground Railroad Month in 11 states.

Twice per calendar year, the Network to Freedom reviews and accepts applications from sites, facilities, and programs with verified connections to the Underground Railroad. Diane Miller, the National Program Manager, says, “We have a unique opportunity to work with incredible people bringing little known stories to light.”

Union Baptist Cemetery in Cincinnati, established in 1864, is the oldest African American burial ground in Hamilton County, Ohio. As its name suggests, the cemetery was associated with the (African) Union Baptist Church, which was organized in 1831. Many Black men and women escaping slavery from the south travelled the Underground Railroad through Cincinnati. Members of three local Black churches, which included Union Baptist Church, provided a safe-haven for those seeking freedom. The cemetery is the final resting place of many individuals who were freedom seekers themselves and/or assisted with the movement.

“I think people often don’t realize how many Underground Railroad stories are in their backyards,” says Miller. “I am eager to see how communities representing these new listings work together to continue to share these stories with the American public.”

Union Baptist Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk 7 days per week. For more information, visit [their website](http://www.union-baptist.net).

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom serves to honor, preserve, and promote the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight, which continues to inspire people worldwide. The Network currently represents over 650 locations in 40 states, plus Washington D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Through its mission, the Network to Freedom helps to advance the idea that all human beings embrace the right to self-determination and freedom from oppression.