

History of Slavery & the Underground Railroad in the United States

12. Fell Schoolhouse: The Fell Schoolhouse was a one-room schoolhouse used for the earliest meetings of the African-American AME Church. It is currently under renovation and is expected to be utilized for residential space.

13. Carbondale Road: Once an area of undeveloped land, Carbondale Road later became home to Waverly's African-American settlement. At one point, many runaway slaves decided to settle in the area and did so along Carbondale Road.

14. The First Baptist Church of the Abingtons: First church to be established in Lackawanna County and is one of the oldest religious congregations in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Many members of the congregation aided the runaways in their journey towards freedom.

15. The First Presbyterian Church of the Abingtons: Later location.

16. African Methodist Episcopal Church: The African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1844 and served as a place of comfort and refuge for Waverly's African-American runaways. It is still currently standing on Carbondale Road and is occupied as a private residence.

17. Fell's Woods: An area of woods on Carbondale Road behind the AME Church where the congregation would have their camp meetings and revivals.

18. Lott Norris' House: Lott Norris was a runaway slave who later went on to become one of the first officers of the African-American AME Church; he, like many other fugitives lived along Carbondale Road. His property was right next to the church and is still in use today as part of a private residence.

19. William Johnson's House: William Johnson was a runaway slave from Virginia; he later became the pastor at the AME Church. His property still stands and is now a private residence.

20. Thomas Burgette's House: Thomas Burgette fled slavery in Maryland and later settled in Waverly. His home was one of the first built along Carbondale Road; it was later torn down in 1901 and rebuilt for later generations of Burgette family members who subsequently lived in the location.

21. John Washington's House: John Washington was a runaway fugitive from Virginia who later joined combat at the age of 38. He and his wife are currently buried in Hickory Grove Cemetery; his former property on Carbondale Road is currently occupied as a private residence.

22. George Keys' House: George Keys was a fugitive slave who fled from Maryland. He later lived along Carbondale Road where he remained until his death. Keys' former property has since burned down.

23. Ignatius Thomas' House: Ignatius Thomas was a runaway slave who fled from Maryland; he later became an officer of the AME Sunday School. He lived along Carbondale Road.

24. John Stone & Esther Sisson Stone: John and Esther Stone owned a large, undeveloped area of land along Carbondale Road. Fugitives were offered reasonable terms to lease land from the Stones and several settled there.

25. Hickory Grove Cemetery: Hickory Grove Cemetery still stands today along Miller Road; it was established in 1807 and contains the gravesites of former slaves and abolitionists. This cemetery remains representative of the Underground Railroad Movement and is a testament to the end of slavery in the United States.

1501

1501: African slaves arrive in the New World. Spanish settlers bring slaves from Africa to Santo Domingo (now the capital of the Dominican Republic).

1581

1581: Slaves arrive in Florida. Spanish residents in St. Augustine, the first permanent settlement in Florida, import African slaves.

1619

1619: Slaves in Virginia. Africans brought to Jamestown are the first slaves to be imported into Britain's North American colonies.

1705

1705: Slaves as property. Describing slaves as real estate, Virginia lawmakers allow owners to bequeath their slaves. The same law allowed masters to "kill and destroy" runaways.

1775

1775: Abolitionist Society. Anthony Benezet of Philadelphia founds the first abolitionist society. Benjamin Franklin becomes its president in 1787.

1784

1784: Abolition Effort. Congress narrowly defeats Thomas Jefferson's proposal to ban slavery in the new territories after 1800.

1790

1790: Isaac T. Hopper aids fugitive slaves. Hopper was active in the anti-slavery movement and dedicated himself to protecting those attempting to obtain freedom. He is often referred to as the "father" of the Underground Railroad.

1793

1793: The Fugitive Slave Act of 1793. The United States outlaws any effort to impede the capture of runaway slaves.

1808

1808: The United States bans slave trade. Importing African slaves is outlawed, but smuggling continues.

1820s

1820's: Underground Railroad route from North Carolina to Indiana established. As early as the 1820's, the first long-distance route, with multiple stops, was established with the intent of transporting slaves.

1830s

1830's: New York City's Underground Railroad. David Ruggles and Isaac Hopper, work to construct the New York City stretch of the Underground Railroad, aiding over 1,000 fugitive slaves.

1840s

1840's: Waverly's fugitive slaves arrive. It is estimated that sometime in the mid-1840's, fugitive slaves began to arrive in Waverly to pass through on their way to Canada.

1844

1844: Adopted language of the Railroad. As the railways spread across America, the Underground Railroad takes on a distinct language. Individuals working the Underground Railroad were called conductors, and safe places, stations.

1850

1850: Harriet Tubman escapes. Harriet Tubman went on to become one of the most important conductors on the Underground Railroad, not only assisting individuals, but also going into the South to bring fugitive slaves to the North.

1853

1853: Support for the Underground Railroad grows. By 1853, support for the Underground Railroad grew rapidly. More people were willing to offer assistance to fugitive slaves, regardless of the law.

1860

1860: Abraham Lincoln elected President of the United States.

1860

1860: Southern secession. South Carolina secedes in December, more states to follow the next year.

1861-5

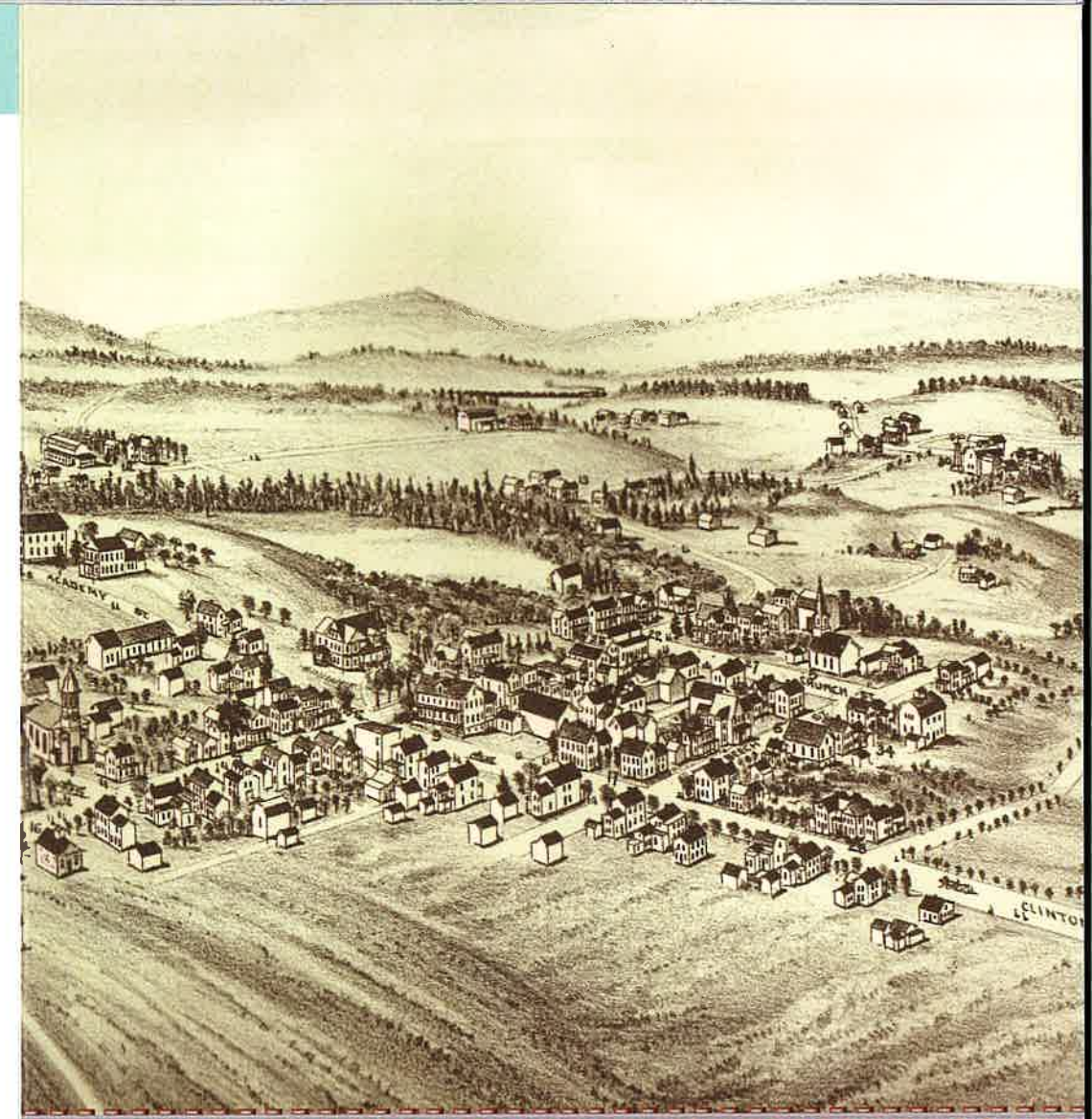
1861-1865: United States Civil War. Four years of brutal conflict claims 623,000 lives.

1863

1863: Emancipation Proclamation: On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln decrees that all slaves in Rebel territory are free.

1865

1865: Slavery Abolished. The 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution outlaws slavery.



A Self-Guided Walking Tour of Waverly

The Waverly Community House, Waverly, Pennsylvania

Walking Tour Route

1. The Waverly Community House: The Waverly Community House currently stands on what was previously known as Main Street; the area of land contained many stores and shops during the time that the Underground Railroad was active throughout the Abingtons.

2. Dr. Andrew Bedford House: Dr. Andrew Bedford was the Abington area physician who had varying levels of involvement in the Underground Railroad Movement. His property was built in 1826 and still stands across the street from the Waverly Community House.

3. Rev. S. S. Kennedy House: Reverend Kennedy was a member of the Waverly United Methodist Church and was remembered as being helpful and friendly towards the runaways. This property was built in 1850 and stands along North Abington Road.

4. Rodman Sisson House: Rodman Sisson was a member of the Sons of Freedom, a group dedicated to ending slavery in the United States. Like many others, he harbored fugitives on his property at the risk of his own life. His property was built in 1851 and is currently occupied as a private residence on North Abington Road.

5. Miller Schoolhouse: The Miller Schoolhouse was a one room schoolhouse that was known to have African American students; it was built along North Abington Road and is now an empty space of land.

6. John Raymond's House: John Raymond was considered a radical abolitionist; he assisted fugitives as they passed through Waverly. His property still stands on North Abington Road as a private residence.

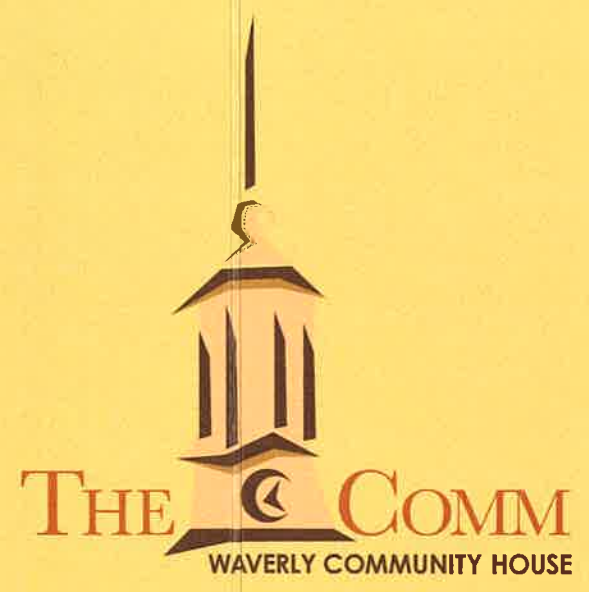
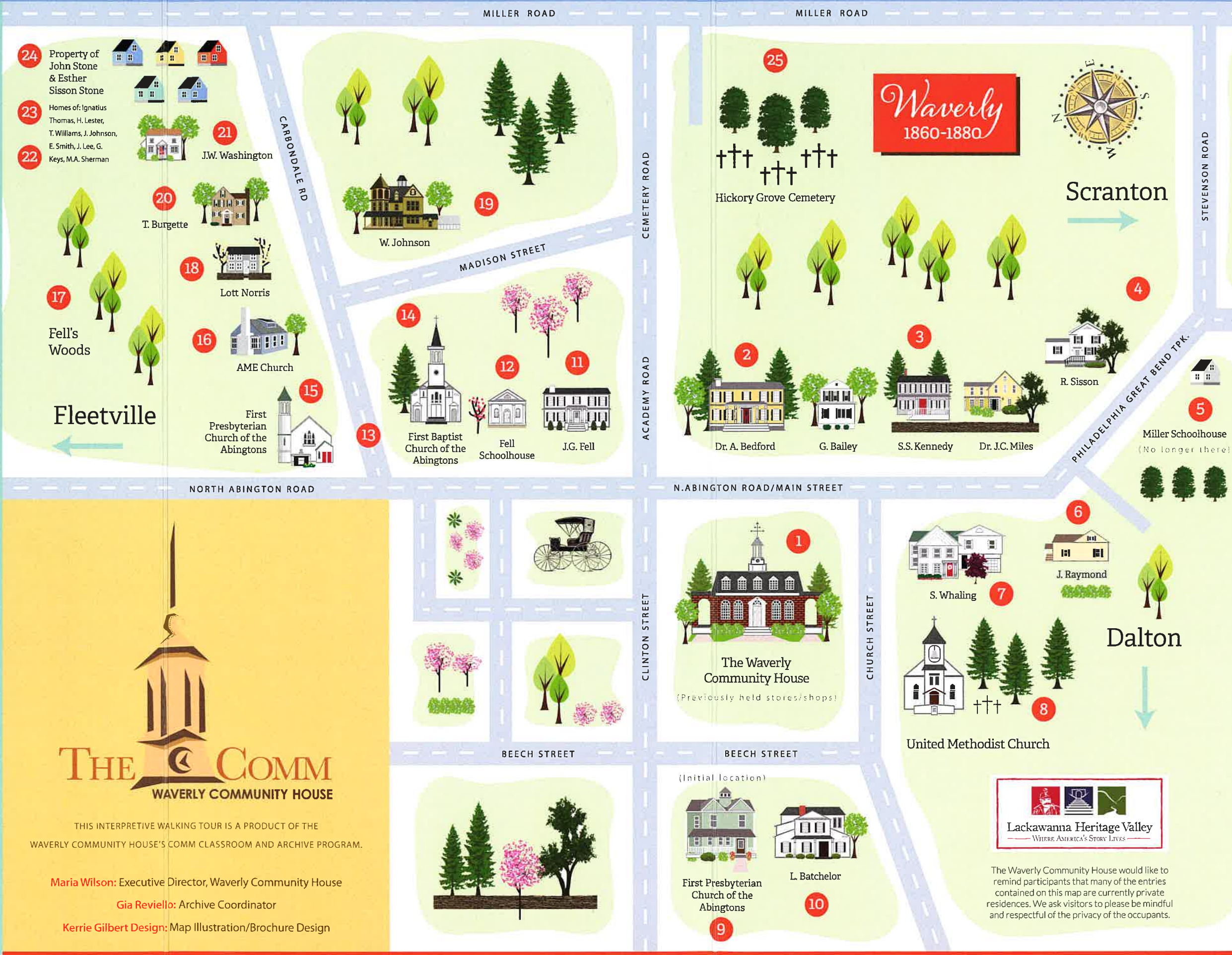
7. Samuel Whaling's House: Samuel Whaling was the village blacksmith and also a member of the Sons of Freedom. His property still stands along North Abington Road.

8. Waverly United Methodist Church: The Waverly United Methodist Church was known to open their congregation up to runaways; former fugitive slave and Waverly resident George Keys is buried in their cemetery.

9. First Presbyterian Church of the Abingtons: The First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1850 with only 5 members; it was dedicated in 1871 and split between the Old School and New School. The New School was very welcoming to the runaways. The church still stands today where North Abington Road meets Carbondale Road.

10. Leonard Batchelor House: Leonard Batchelor was one of the main organizers of the Underground Railroad Movement through the Abington area; he often hid slaves on his property and aided them towards their next destinations. His house was built in 1850 and is currently occupied on Beech Street.

11. John Fell's House: John Fell was an area abolitionist. A memorial stone was erected in the Hickory Grove Cemetery dedicated to his son's efforts in the war; it is still there today.



THIS INTERPRETIVE WALKING TOUR IS A PRODUCT OF THE WAYERLY COMMUNITY HOUSE'S COMM CLASSROOM AND ARCHIVE PROGRAM.

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The Waverly Community House would like to remind participants that many of the entries contained on this map are currently private residences. We ask visitors to please be mindful and respectful of the privacy of the occupants.