
Boston's Black Heritage Trail Hands-on

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Directions:

Pick 2–4 locations to make slides for in a StoryMap. These images are just examples, feel free to pick other images online (just make sure to give credit!). All of the information in this demo comes from the National Parks Service website on Boston's Black Heritage Trail. As you make your sample StoryMap, try to make different design choices from the [DITI sample map](#). Some examples of design choices: different basemaps, different map markers, or different images!

To get started, go to the [StoryMap website](#). Then, select from the resources below to build a map of your own. See the [DITI StoryMap handout](#) for more instructions on using StoryMap.

Locations:

1. **Name:** African Meeting House

Address: 8 Smith Ct, Boston, MA 02114

Caption: “The African Meeting House, built by free Black laborers in 1806, is considered the oldest surviving Black church building in the United States. In the 1800s the building served as the center of religious, social, educational, and political activity for Boston’s free Black community. William Lloyd Garrison founded the New England Anti-Slavery Society here in 1832. Frederick Douglass spoke here, and it was a recruitment station for the 54th Massachusetts Regiment during the Civil War. At the end of the 1800s a Jewish congregation bought the building, and it served as a synagogue until 1972, when it was acquired by the Museum of African American History.” —[National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail, “African Meeting House.”](#)



Image:

Credit: [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail, "African Meeting House."](#)

2. **Name:** Abiel Smith School

Address: 46 Joy St, Boston, MA 02114

Caption: "White philanthropist Abiel Smith willed money to the city of Boston for educating African American children. The city built this school building with Smith's legacy. In 1835 Boston's Black children attended the Smith School, which replaced the school in the African Meeting House. The school remained Boston's Black public school until public schools were integrated in 1855." — [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. "Abiel Smith School."](#)



Image:

Credit: [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. "Abiel Smith School."](#)

3. **Name:** John Coburn House

Address: 2 Phillips St, Boston, MA 02114

Caption: "John Coburn (1811–1873) was a clothing retailer and community activist. He served as treasurer of the New England Freedom Association, an organization dedicated

to helping people escape from slavery. In 1851 he was arrested, tried, and acquitted for the courthouse rescue of Shadrach Minkins, a freedom seeker who was caught in Boston by federal slave catchers empowered by the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. Coburn was co founder and captain of the Massasoit Guards, a Black military company in 1850s Boston that was a precursor to the 54th Regiment.” —[National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. “John Coburn House.”](#)



Image:

Credit: [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. “John Coburn House.”](#)

4. **Name:** Lewis & Harriet Hayden House

Address: 66 Phillips St, Boston, MA 02114

Caption: “Lewis Hayden (1816–1889), born enslaved in Lexington, Ky., escaped with his wife Harriet and settled in Boston. Lewis became a leader in the abolition movement, and the Hayden House became an integral stop on the Underground Railroad. The Haydens reportedly kept kegs of gunpowder in their home that they threatened to ignite if slave catchers tried to enter. Hayden also recruited for the 54th Regiment, was a Grand Master of the Prince Hall Masons, and was later elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives.” —[National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. “Lewis & Harriet Hayden House.”](#)



Image:

Credit: [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. "Lewis & Harriet Hayden House."](#)

5. **Name:** Charles Street Meeting House

Address: 70 Charles St, Boston, MA 02114

Caption: "This meeting house was built in 1807 by the white Third Baptist Church of Boston. New England's segregationist tradition of church seating prevailed. Timothy Gilbert, church member and abolitionist, tested the tradition in the mid 1830s by inviting black friends to his pew one Sunday. Gilbert was expelled. Joined by other white abolitionist Baptists, Gilbert founded the First Baptist Free Church, which became Tremont Temple considered to be one of the first integrated churches in America. After the Civil War, Boston's Black population increased, and the largest of its churches bought the building in 1876. The African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.) remained here until 1939, the last Black institution to leave Beacon Hill." — [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. "Charles Street Meeting House."](#)



Image:

Credit: [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. "Charles Street Meeting House."](#)

6. **Name:** John J. Smith House

Address: 86 Pinckney St, Boston, MA 02114

Caption: "Born free in Richmond, Va., John J. Smith (1820–1906) moved to Boston in the late 1840s. He opened a barbershop that became a center for abolitionist activity and a rendezvous point for people escaping on the Underground Railroad. During the Civil War, Smith was a recruiting officer for the all-black 5th Cavalry. He was later elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives for three terms. Smith lived here from 1878 to 1893." —[National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. "John J. Smith House."](#)



Image:

Credit: [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. "John J. Smith House."](#)

7. **Name:** Phillips School

Address: Phillips School, 65 Anderson St, Boston, MA 02114

Caption: “This architecture is typical of 1800s Boston schoolhouses. Built in 1824, this was a white only school until 1855. Black children attended school on the first floor of the African Meeting House or, after 1834, the Abiel Smith School. When the Massachusetts Legislature abolished segregated schools in 1855, the Phillips School became one of Boston’s first integrated schools.” — [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. “Phillips School.”](#)



Image:

Credit: [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. “Phillips School.”](#)

8. **Name:** George Middleton House

Address: 5 Pinckney St, Boston, MA 02114

Caption: “Built in 1787 this structure is one of the oldest standing homes on Beacon Hill. George Middleton (1735–1815), one of the original owners, was a Revolutionary War veteran. Middleton led the Bucks of America, one of three black militias that fought against the British. After the war he became an activist and community leader, helping found the Free African Society and serving as the 3rd Grand Master of the Prince Hall Masons, a fraternal order started by black Bostonian Prince Hall.” — [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. “George Middleton House.”](#)



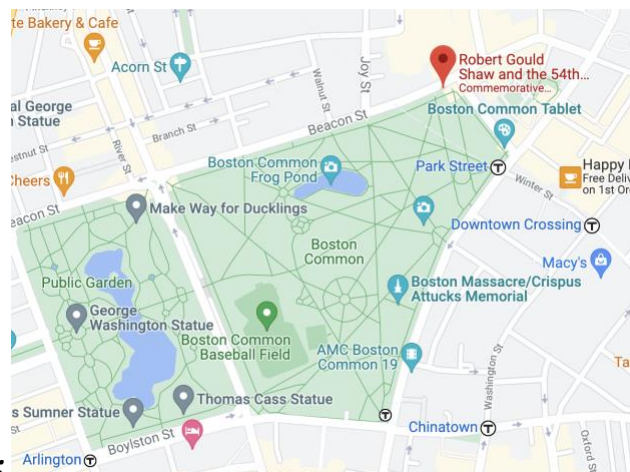
Image:

Credit: [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. "George Middleton House."](#)

9. **Name:** Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment Memorial

Address: Northmost corner of Boston Common

Boston Common Address: 139 Tremont St



Reference Image: [Arlington](#)

Caption: "Responding to pressure from Black and white abolitionists, President Lincoln admitted African American soldiers into the Union forces in 1863. The 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry was the first Black regiment recruited in the North. On July 18, 1863, the 54th regiment led an assault on Fort Wagner in an attempt to

capture Confederate-held Charleston, S.C. In this hard-fought battle, Col. Robert Gould Shaw and many of his soldiers were killed. Sgt. William Carney of New Bedford was wounded while saving the flag from capture. Carney was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery, the first Black soldier to receive this honor. This bronze memorial by Augustus Saint-Gaudens was dedicated May 31, 1897, in a ceremony that included Carney and members of the 54th Regiment.” — [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. “Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment Memorial.”](#)

The memorial is located in Boston Common, the oldest public park in the country.



Image:

Credit: [National Parks Service, Black Heritage Trail. “Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment Memorial.”](#)

Embed code for panorama of Boston Common:

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