



June 6, 2009

Mr. Donnie Snow, Director
Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services
800 Center Street
Racine, WI 53403

Dear Mr. Snow:

The Professional Women's Network for Service has been in the forefront of preserving the heritage and culture of African Americans in the community for a number of years while highlighting "People of different cultures collaborating and cooperating in the common causes of justice, freedom, and understanding." Presently, we have plans ready for the development of the area surrounding the Underground Railroad/Maritime Memorial at Gaslight Point Lakewalk Circle. Further enhancement of this area will make it even more attractive for all citizens and visitors who are enthusiasts of the Underground Railroad Movement.

This Underground Railroad/Maritime Memorial is highly significant to our community for it is the second historical marker in Racine that is approved by the U.S. National Parks Service and its Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. Racine is one of three U.S. cities that have two such markers, along with a facility that have met the exacting standards required for designation as part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

To further assist us in this designated site development, we are requesting approval and assistance of the City Council of Racine in the following ways:

- Placing a National Parks approved large signage at a front entrance to the granite historical marker explaining the significance of the Underground Railroad/Maritime Memorial at Gaslight Point Lakewalk Circle
- Placing a concrete/brick walkway around the granite historical marker at Gaslight Point Lakewalk Circle (*See plans previously submitted that will necessitate modifying.*)
- Placing City of Racine installed lighting (Solar LED Lighting as an option) reflecting on the historical marker meeting the specifications of the National Parks Service
- Preservation of this Memorial site dedicated specifically to commemorating Dutton's role in the maritime connection of the Underground Railroad with no further placement of signs or markers that impinge on the area by other groups.

The soul of a city holds those who have walked on its shores and born tears of sorrow forever etched in its memory. Our City of Racine took a bold stand more than a century ago to preserve human dignity and assist in offering slaves a route to freedom on the shores of Lake Michigan. We ask that the City of Racine take a bold stand today and assist us in our efforts to enhance an historical site on this same shore for citizens and tourists to behold for centuries to come.

Sincerely,

Pauline G. Mitchell, Arts Committee Chair
Professional Women's Network for Service, Inc.



Racine's Honors
U.S. National Park Service
Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

Racine's Underground Railroad Markers have been approved by the U.S. National Park Service and its Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program.

Underground Railroad Marker I is on Monument Square

It honors the Racine Citizens who went to assist fugitive slave Joshua B Glover, who was courageous and determined to be free from slavery.

The Network to Freedom program has also approved the Racine Heritage Museum as an Underground Railroad Resource site: Ruby West Jackson has been endorsed by them for her program about Caroline Quarrels, another fugitive slave who made her way through Southeastern Wisconsin to Canada.

Professional Women's Network for Service, Inc., Racine Heritage Museum, and Racine Chapter of The Links, Inc. (placed Monument Square UGRR Marker I) have partnered for over fifteen years. It is through the dedicated research of Ruby West Jackson, Walter McDonald, and the Racine Heritage Museum Staff, and the assistance of City of Racine Mayor and Racine Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services that City of Racine and Racine County have received these honors.

Together we have made the greatest impact to make our community aware of its rich legacy.



Underground Railroad Marker II Dedication
A Racine Maritime Connection

Commemorating Achas. Dutton, Warehouse Owner and Joshua Glover, Fugitive Slave
Sunday, February 25, 2007, Racine Harbor at Gaslight Point

Marker Text

"In the mid-1800s, fugitive slaves traveled to Racine, hid in local sanctuaries, and embarked on the maritime connection of the Underground Railroad. Ships of abolition-friendly Great Lakes Captains took them to Canadian ports and their freedom.

The best known fugitive was Joshua Glover, who found safety in the Racine harbor warehouse of Achas P. Dutton in early April 1854. Dutton himself conducted more than a hundred fugitives in over 20 years.

This marker commemorates those fugitive slaves, who are known, and those whose stories remain forever untold."



A Major Goal of Professional Women's Network for Service

To ensure that as many trail sites as possible meet the exacting standards required for designation as part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The Network is a National Park Service initiative identifying key Underground Railroad sites, programs, and facilities as "cornerstones of our national civil rights movement."