

## BEAVER COUNTY Pathway to Freedom



Darlington Reformed Presbyterian Church

Beaver County played a major role in the Underground Railroad thanks in part to the Ohio River. Since it bordered many slave states, the waterway served as a natural pathway for runaway slaves from the South on their way to freedom in Canada. Slaves would come up through Hookstown and then up the Ohio to the Beaver River, where they'd be led to safe houses in Bridgewater. The Quakers would then meet the runaways at this point and transport them up the river to various stations in New Brighton. Many of these slaves were then taken to Darlington, where they were cared for by the Free Presbyterians.

The people of Darlington were strong supporters of the abolitionist movement, as was demonstrated on Jan. 28, 1836, when town leaders passed an anti-slavery resolution during a meeting at Greensburg Academy. The primary abolitionist force in this area was the

Reverend Arthur Bullus Bradford, minister of the Darlington Reformed Presbyterian Church, whose home, Buttonwood, served as a stop for runaways on their way northward.

Many slaves passed through this area on their way to freedom. One route led from Darlington northward to Canada via Salem (Ohio) or by way of New Castle. Another route ran from Blackhawk in South Beaver Township, through Cannelton (near Darlington) to Achor (Ohio) and then northwest to Canada.

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White House



Morris House

### DARLINGTON UNDERGROUND RAILROAD Walking Tour

Little Beaver Historical Society



### DARLINGTON UNDERGROUND RAILROAD Walking Tour

Greensburg Academy

# KNOWN STOPS Along the UNDERGROUND RAILROAD in Darlington

## 1 Darlington Reformed Presbyterian Church 140 First Street

The Darlington Reformed Presbyterian Church, formerly known as the Free Presbyterian Church, was formed in 1845 by Arthur B. Bradford and others after strong disagreements with the Presbyterian Church over the issue of slavery. The church itself was built in 1847. Following the Civil War, in 1867 they merged with the Reformed Presbyterians, who still worship here.

## 2 White House 235 Second Street

This nondescript home was believed to have served as a safe house after a hidden cellar was discovered here.

## 3 Greensburg Academy 710 Market Street

Established by Reverend Thomas E. Hughes, Greensburg Academy was built in 1802 and chartered by the state legislature in 1806. The first academy west of the Alleghenies, it served as a forum for antislavery town meetings and provided young men with advanced classes in astronomy, mathematics, and philosophy. Notable alumni include abolitionist John Brown (1800-1859); future Pennsylvania governor and first mayor of San Francisco, John W. Geary (1819-1873); textbook pioneer William H. McGuffey (1800-1873); and Civil War soldier and physician Col. Daniel Leasure (1819-1886). The building, which is one of the oldest in Beaver County, houses a room dedicated to the Underground Railroad and is now preserved by the Little Beaver Historical Society.

## 4 Martin House 121 Rohrman Road

Built in 1805, this house served both as a stagecoach stop as well as a safe house where runaways would hide before being transported to the Bradfords or directly on to Salem.

## 5 Sprott Wallace House 115 Wallace Road

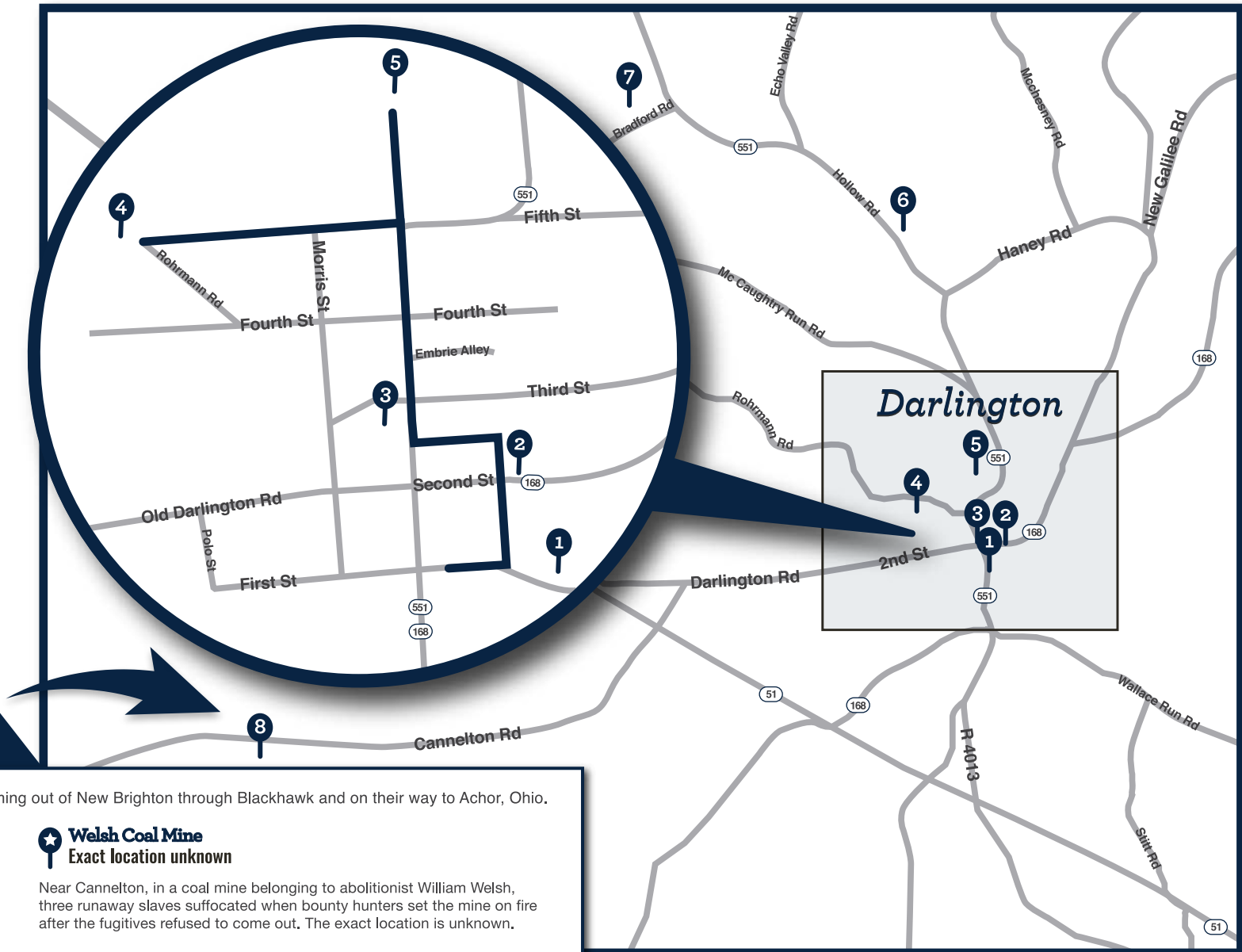
Built in 1804, this house served as a destination for fleeing slaves, who would hide in caves and mines in the hillside behind the house. The Wallaces, a prominent Darlington family, bought the house in 1839.

## 6 Douthit Tavern 321 Hollow Road

The Douthit family operated an inn on Hollow Road between Enon and Darlington. When Rev. Bradford heard of a plan to kill the Douthits, who were known "Copperheads" or Southern sympathizers, he grabbed an old gun off his study wall and raced to the inn, where he confronted the angry mob. It wasn't until after the men dispersed that Rev. Bradford discovered wasps had filled his gun's barrel with mud which rendered it useless.

## 7 Buttonwood 137 Bradford Road

Built in 1840 by Rev. Arthur B. Bradford (1810-1899), Buttonwood served as a station on the Underground Railroad and a meeting house for Abolitionists. Rev. Bradford was a founder and pastor of the Darlington Reformed Presbyterian Church in Darlington. He was also a dynamic speaker who lectured throughout the country for the anti-slavery cause. Bradford's wife and daughters provided clothes and disguises for slaves; his son transported runaways through Enon Valley and on to Salem (Ohio). In 1861, he was appointed Consul to China by President Lincoln.



## Cannelton

Just three miles west of Darlington, Cannelton sat along a route for fugitives coming out of New Brighton through Blackhawk and on their way to Achor, Ohio.

## 8 Morris House 463 Cannelton Road

Located just west of Darlington, Jonathan Morris's house, built in 1837, was used to hide fugitives. (photo on back of brochure)

## 9 Welsh Coal Mine Exact location unknown

Near Cannelton, in a coal mine belonging to abolitionist William Welsh, three runaway slaves suffocated when bounty hunters set the mine on fire after the fugitives refused to come out. The exact location is unknown.



Greensburg Academy



Martin House



Spout Wallace House



Douthit Tavern



Buttonwood