

SITES AND HISTORY

Voices of Freedom Park

1 Corner of Regent and Johnson St
Voices of Freedom Park is an experiential art installation designed to engage and educate visitors about Black history. The paths and artwork tell the story of the journeys people took to freedom. Explore the park and the walking tour to learn how Black Canadians shaped our Town and Nation.

Lewis Ross Barber Shop

2 No longer exists.
Corner of Queen and Regent St
This is the general location of the first Ross Barbershop. Lewis Ross was a Black businessman, who owned the Town's only barbershop on Queen Street. In 1866 Lewis managed to survive a large fire on Queen Street that destroyed his barbershop and house.

Fanny Rowley House

3 177 King St
Fanny Rowley was the biracial descendant of freedom seeker William Riley and stepdaughter of Lewis Ross. She married Salmon Rowley, a white businessman from Philadelphia, who built her this Victorian home in 1886. Together they owned many properties in Town, with Fanny's name directly on the documents.

Masonic Lodge

4 153 King St
The Masonic Lodge is one location believed to be the site for the meeting of the First Parliament of Upper Canada. It was during the second session of Parliament that the Act to Limit Slavery was introduced. On July 9, 1793, Lieutenant Governor Simcoe gave the Act royal assent.

St. Mark's Church

5 41 Byron St
St. Mark's Church kept records of both the enslaved and free Black people living in the Town. A number of Black families are buried here, including the Waters family. The Waters family included land and business owners, members of the Coloured Corps, and the first Black Town Councillor.

Fort George

6 51 Queens Parade
Richard Pierpoint was an enslaved man in the thirteen colonies who enlisted with the British during the American Revolution. He fought for Butler's Rangers and was granted land and freedom in Niagara for his service. During the War of 1812 he successfully petitioned for the creation of the Coloured Corps.

Queens Royal Park

7 At the end of King St
Chloe Cooley was a Black woman enslaved in Queenston by Adam Vrooman. Vrooman violently bound Chloe in a boat and took her across the Niagara River to be sold. Chloe screamed, drawing attention to the affair. The story of Chloe sparked the passage of the Act to Limit Slavery.

Fort Mississauga

8 223 Queen St
On the Golf Course
Fort Mississauga was in part built by the Coloured Corps during the War of 1812. While the Coloured Corps fought in several battles they were soon assigned to construction duties. Many members of the Coloured Corps had become skilled tradesmen during their years of bondage, prior to gaining their freedom.

Daniel Waters Slave Cottage

9 243 Gate St
Daniel Waters owned a livery stable on Regent Street, one of two livery stables in Town. His home became known as "Slave Cottage;" however, Daniel was never a slave as he was born free in Upper Canada in 1813. The term is likely a reference to his racial background.

Winnifred Wesley House

10 309 Victoria St
This house is located on what was lot 153, which was owned by Winnifred Wesley. Winnifred was the granddaughter of freedom seeker George Wesley and came from a family of Black women who owned land throughout Niagara-on-the-Lake. The ownership of property alleviated economic hardship due to their gender and race.

St. Andrew's School House

11 323 Simcoe St
At one time part of St. Andrew's Church schoolhouse, used for the schooling of Black children. The school in connection with the church, was continued until 1843. The school was run by Herbert Holmes, who was killed during the Solomon Moseby riot.

Negro Burial Ground

12 On Mississauga St
Next to the Subway plaza
A Baptist Church with a large Black congregation once stood on this land. All that is left today is the remains of the Church graveyard. Three headstones are visible; two for the Wesley family and one for the daughter of Reverend John Oakley, a white minister who ran the church.

William and Susannah Steward House

13 507 Butler St
The Steward House is part of what was known as the "Coloured Village," which was a community of Black Loyalists and freedom seekers. In 1837, the Stewards were some of the residents who petitioned for the release of Solomon Moseby. Their home symbolizes the cohesive Black community of Niagara.

Rye Park

14 Off of Rye St.
Access by lane between Flynn St and Niagara St.
Solomon Moseby was a freedom seeker who sought refuge in Niagara. When his enslaver charged him with horse theft he was arrested and

held in the courthouse, which once stood here. During his extradition to the US, a riot occurred leading to his escape and the death of two others.

Tanbark Road

15 Tanbark Road St
David's. The south end of the road. There is no direct building.
Between 1800 and 1820, a Black community consisting of small farms formed at the south end of Tanbark Road. These farms were bought out by the Hanniwell Farm. One Black family that continued living on Tanbark Road from at least 1840, well into the 20th century, was the Graham Family.

Credits:

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Natasha Henry

With a Special Thank You to
Nancy Butler for her research and guidance on this project.

This tour was generously funded by
The Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Niagara Community Foundation.

A special thank you to the
Niagara Historical Society & Museum and The Voices of Freedom Education Committee.

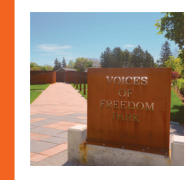
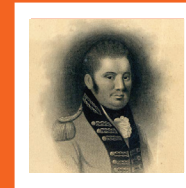
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Generously supported by



For more detailed information visit vofpark.org
Niagara Historical Society & Museum
www.niagarahistorical.museum

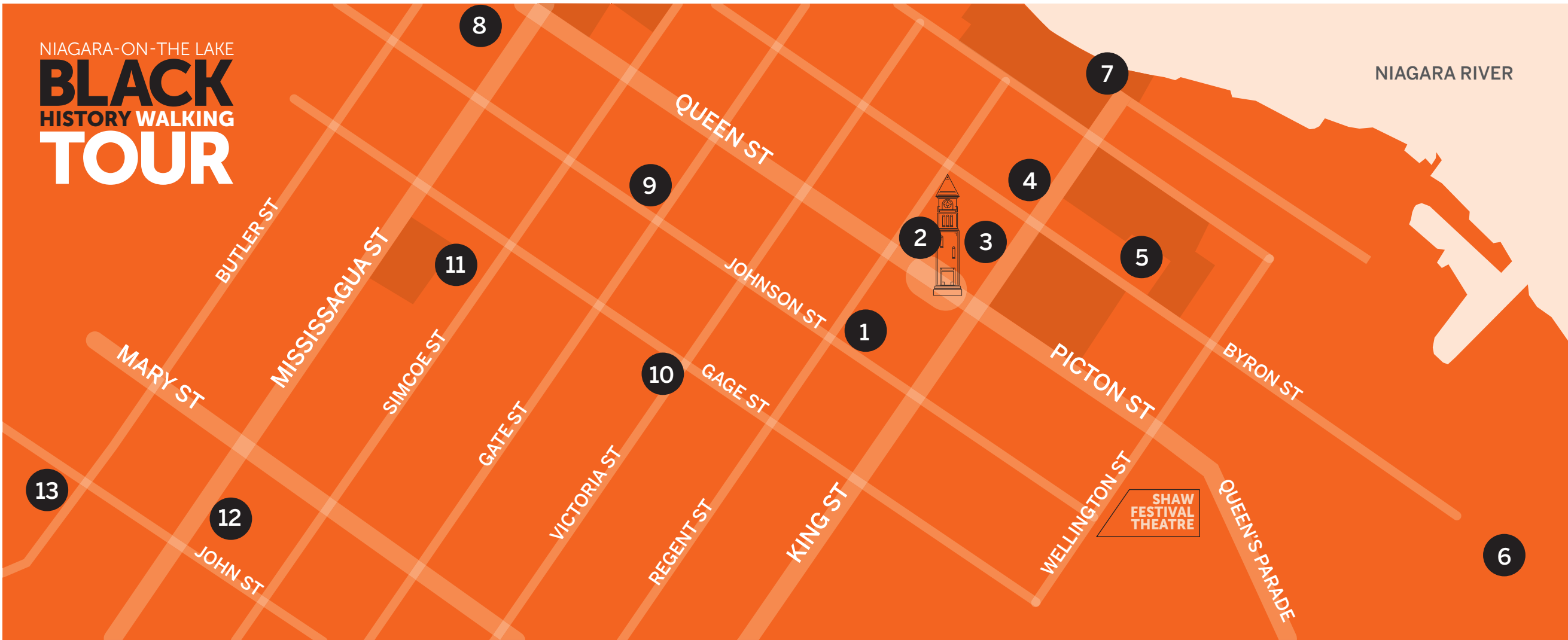
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BLACK
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NIAGARA RIVER



LEGEND

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INSET MAPS

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