



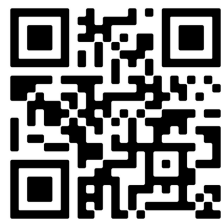
# CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL

## Freedom, A Work in Progress

*Motorcoach Edition*

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*Scan the QR code to view the full version of the Fredericksburg  
Civil Rights Trail "Freedom, a Work in Progress"*





# CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL

## **Freedom, A Work in Progress**

The City of Fredericksburg, Virginia,  
Civil Rights Trail

The timeline for this tour begins at the end of the Civil War in 1865. Fredericksburg's location halfway between Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, and Washington, DC, made it the site of intense fighting as Union and Confederate armies advanced and retreated. Enslaved Black people took advantage of the shifting lines to emancipate themselves. During the summer of 1862, over 10,000 enslaved people escaped bondage by crossing the Rappahannock River in and around Fredericksburg. At a national level, in 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified by the states to abolish chattel slavery "within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." In order to regain federal representation, the former Confederate states, of which Virginia was one, had to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment.

This tour includes sites where Black people created educational, housing, and business opportunities in the midst of Jim Crow era segregation, as well as buildings where people protested racial segregation in the 1950s and 1960s. As in the rest of the United States, Fredericksburg's Civil Rights history continues into the present and this tour includes sites associated with Black political leaders in the mid to late 20th century and the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020.

**Directions:** Start from the Permanent Bus Parking on Charlotte, proceed left on to Sophia Street.



**Stop 1** – Shiloh Baptist Church (Old Site) – (801 Sophia Street) – Learn about this church that has served the Black Community since 1815 and was instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement.



**Directions:** Proceed down Sophia Street.



**Stop 2** – Johnny Johnson Mural – (Corner of William and Sophia Street) – A prolific artist who taught and inspired many students, before and after desegregation.





**Directions:** Proceed on Sophia and make left onto Amelia. Make a right onto Charles Street. Make a left on Canal Street.



**Stop 3 – Walker Grant Protest (408 Canal Street)** – A protest for equal rights to enter a civic building after being denied entry by the City of Fredericksburg.




**Directions:** Make a right on Prince Edward and left on Pitt, make a right onto Washington Ave. Right onto William Street. Right onto Sunken Road and take Campus Drive to UMW.



**Stop 4– UMW Campus–(this section of the tour requires walking)**  
Stories of desegregation by the Big Five at Mary Washington College.  
Learn about Dr. James Famer, founder of CORE, architect of the Freedom Rides, and a professor at Mary Washington College.




**Directions:** Proceed back to Sunken Road, make a left on William Street. Make a right onto Kenmore Ave. Make a left onto Hanover and slight left onto George Street.

 **Stop 5/6/7 – Libertytown** (*Corner of Liberty and George Streets*), *Colored Cemetery at Potters Field (George and Barton Streets), Racial Convents (600 Block of George Street)* – Hear about racial convents, Henry Dean, Jim Crow and the compelling oral history of Robert Christian, who at 12 years old desegregated the middle school.



**Directions:** Proceed down George Street, make a left on Prince Edward Street and then a right onto William.

 **Stop 8– Original Auction Block** (*Corner of William and Charles Street*) – See the auction site of goods and property including enslaved people. (*Auction Block now located at the Fredericksburg Area Museum.*)





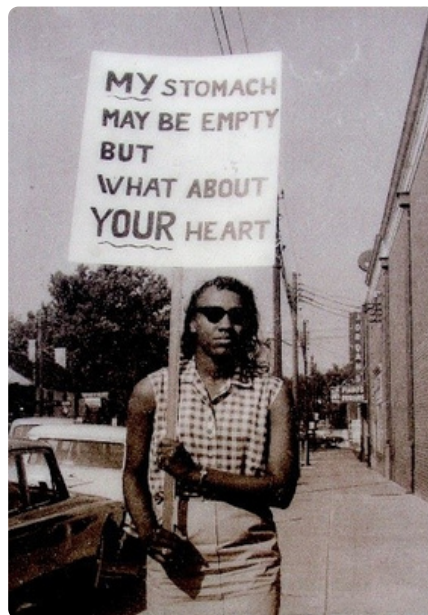
**Stop 9- Fredericksburg Area Museum (907 Princess Anne Street) –**

Visit the Museum where the auction block is now housed and reflect on what it would have been like to have been sold away from your family.



**Stop 10- Sit-Ins (Corner of Caroline and William Street) –**

Hear the story about the desegregation of lunch counters, movie theaters, and drug stores in Fredericksburg.



**Directions:** Proceed to Caroline Street and make a left on Caroline, followed by a left on Amelia and make a left onto Princess Anne Street.





**Stop 11** – National Bank Building (900 Princess Anne Street) – Hear the story of John Washington who was enslaved as a child in Fredericksburg and gained his freedom by crossing the Rappahannock River to the Union Army.



**Stop 12** – Fredericksburg Jail (701 Princess Anne Street) – Charles Blandford's story in 1904 of nearly getting lynched at the jail and Paul Key's 1889 trial and hanging in Fredericksburg.



**Stop 13** – Former Greyhound/Trailways Bus Station (601 Princess Anne Street, current Fire Dept.) – Site of the first stop of the Freedom Rides from Washington DC, where 13 Freedom Riders challenged the segregation of interstate travel, to include buses and bus stations.





**Stop 14 – Shiloh Baptist Church (New Site)** (*Corner of Princess Anne and Wolfe Streets*) and the 500 Block of Princess Anne Street. – A Black church, that focused on education for the community that honors Urbane Bass a World War I soldier. Discussion of the Green Book, as two hotels for Black travelers were located here, along with the patrol area of the City's first Black Police officer, Charles Dyson.



**Directions:** Make a right onto Lafayette Boulevard.



**Stop 15 – Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park (1013 Lafayette Boulevard)** – Final resting place for Urbane Bass, mortally wounded in France October 7, 1918.

