

The Community Leaders



**WILLIAM
STILL**

*Lived at
244 S. 12th Street*

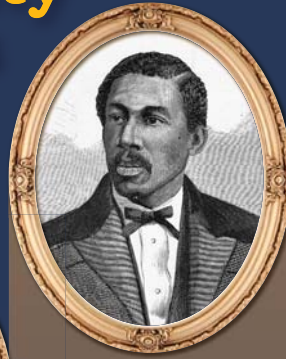
Owner of a
successful coal
business.
Founded the first
black YMCA.
Worked to
desegregate city's
transit system.
Wrote one of the
most important
accounts of the
Underground
Railroad.



**JAMES
FORTEN, SR.**

*Lived at
336 Lombard Street*

Served during
the Revolutionary
War.
Established
a very successful
sail-making
company.
First African
American to be
granted a patent.
Active in politics
and abolitionist
activities.



**OCTAVIOUS
V. CATTO**

*Lived at
814 South Street*

Graduate of,
and teacher at,
the Institute for
Colored Youth.
Recruited
volunteers for
the Union Army.
Registered
thousands of
African Americans
to vote.
Assassinated in an
election day riot.

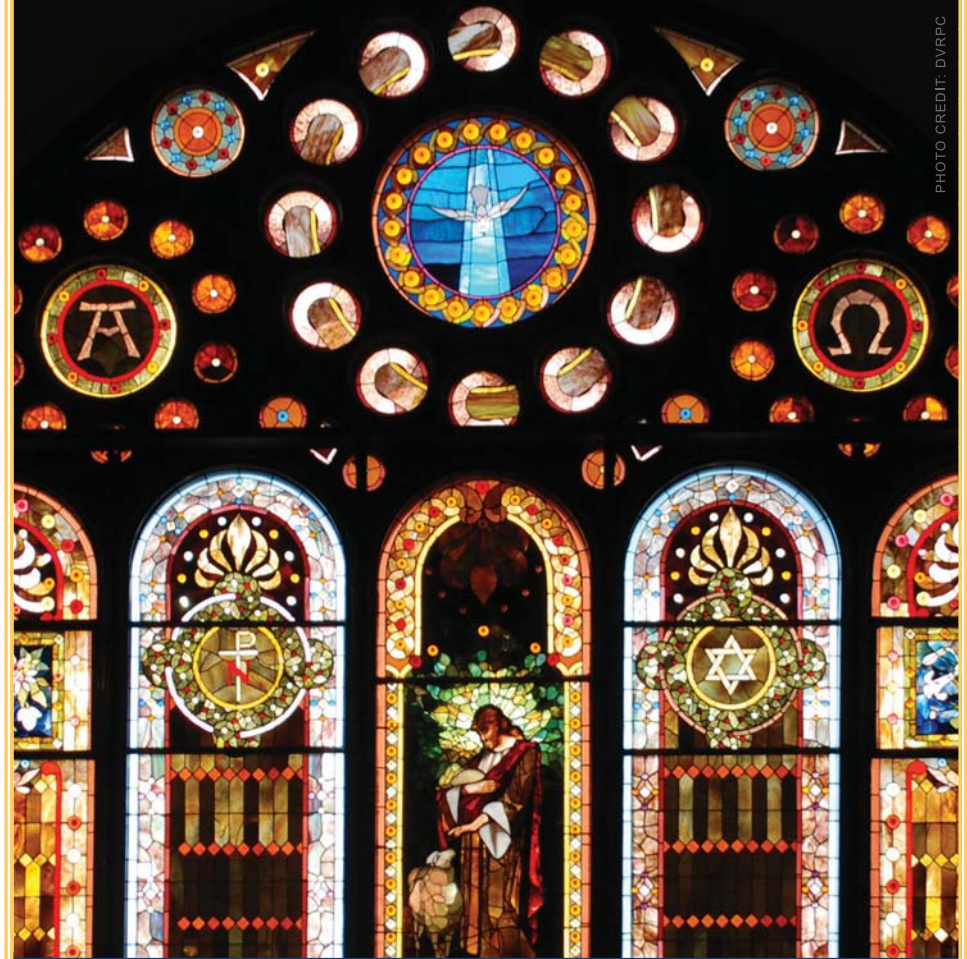


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African American Heritage Tour

Philadelphia's 7th Ward & Mother Bethel A.M.E.



In the 19th century, Philadelphia was home to America's largest free-black community and played a major role in the fight against slavery, and for the rights of citizenship and opportunity. Philadelphia was integral in the Abolitionist movement and Underground Railroad, with the majority of activity located around Lombard Street. This area, also known as the 7th Ward, was an ideal location for W.E.B. DuBois' landmark work, *The Philadelphia Negro*, which set out to document African American urban life in this period. This tour provides an idea of what it was like to be an African American living in this community during that time. It features many of the people and places DuBois wrote about.

African American Heritage Tour



1.75 MILES = APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR

1 Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church

(419 S. 6th Street) Begin the tour with a visit to the Richard Allen Museum of Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church. The church, a pillar of the African American community from its founding onward, contributed to the neighborhood through a number of related organizations, including the Free African Society, Bethel Home for Fallen Women, and the A.M.E. Book Concern.

Museum Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 3pm

2 Lombard Riot

(6th & Lombard Street)
See historic marker.

3 Starr Park

(6th & Lombard Street) Listed in the Philadelphia Colored Business Directory, this complex was a garden and playground but also a hub for educational opportunity

and social assistance, including housing the St. Mary's Street Library.



Mural: Mapping Courage

(6th & South Street) This mural depicts DuBois holding a census in his hand. A detailed census of the 7th Ward was a major component of The Philadelphia Negro.

4 College Settlement and W.E.B. DuBois

(617 Rodman Street) Formed in 1890 and opened in 1892, the settlement house offered a variety of social services and opportunities for the poor, immigrants, and African Americans. An African American sociologist, W.E.B. DuBois lived at the house from 1896-97 while he conducted research for his groundbreaking study, The Philadelphia Negro.

5 Octavia Hill Association

(619 South Street) Founded in 1896 to improve housing conditions for the poor and working classes in the city, the association bought, renovated, and then rented dilapidated row houses at reduced rates to "deserving" immigrants and black tenants.

6 Church of Crucifixion

(620 S. 8th Street) Founded in 1847, the church was established as a mission for the poor, especially African Americans. DuBois referred to the church as being "the most effective church organization in the city for doing benevolent and rescue work." A large component of this was running the Home for the Homeless on Lombard Street.

7 Institute for Colored Youth

(915 Bainbridge Street)
See historic marker.

8 Engine 11 Fire Station

(1016 South Street) Continuing a tradition that began in this city with Benjamin Franklin, fire companies often restricted their membership to one ethnic group. Engine 11 was the home of Philadelphia's first black firefighters.

9 St. Peter Claver Roman Catholic Church

(1200 Lombard Street)
See historic marker.

10 Benjamin Banneker Institute

(409 S. 11th Street)
See historic marker.

11 Grand United Order of Odd Fellows

(1201 Spruce Street) Established in 1844 as Unity Lodge No. 711, this was the first African American Odd Fellows Lodge in the state and the third in the country. The group's national, weekly publication, The Journal, was published here.

12 Washington Square

(6th & Walnut Street) End at Washington Square, also previously known as Congo Square because of its importance to the city's African Americans. Blacks gathered here for funerals and celebrations in the section they were permitted to use.