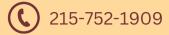## 4 The Continental Tavern

Frank Lyons and his family purchased their restaurant in 2007, and while renovating it, a contractor working under the kitchen found a stone tunnel that went deep into the earth. Local Underground Railroad historians concluded it was connected to a series of tunnels which came up from the Delaware Canal and connected the tavern with 2 other Yardley buildings. These structures were all way stations of the Underground Railroad, in operation from the early 1800s through the Civil War.

History of The African Methodist Episcopal Church A.M.E. Church

Bishop Richard Allen was a minister, educator, author, and an influential Black American leader of his time. Born a slave, Allen taught himself to read and write. In 1794, he founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first and oldest independent Black denomination in the United States. He opened his first AME Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania that same year, later named Mother Bethel. In 1816, Richard Allen was elected the first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Allen is credited with planting African American congregations throughout Philadelphia, and Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Salem, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland.

Get in Touch

📞 215-752-1909

✉️ aambcmuseum@gmail.com

🌐 infoaambc.org

Scan Here to Donate!

Boone Farm is the future home of the African American Museum of Bucks County. The property sits along Langhorne–Newtown Road (Route 413) near the intersection with Bridgetown Pike in Middletown Township abutting Core Creek Park.

VISIT BUCKS COUNTY *Pennsylvania*

AFRICAN AMERICAN
MUSEUM OF BUCKS COUNTY

The Lower Bucks County

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Bus Tour

Tour Stops:

Bensalem AME Church
Bethlehem AME Church
Harriet Tubman Memorial Statue
Continental Tavern

① Bensalem AME Church

The oldest African American Church in Bensalem, founded in 1820, served as an Underground Railroad Safe station. Robert Purvis, an abolitionist and one of the founders of the American Anti-Slavery Society, rowed slaves up the Delaware River from Philadelphia to take refuge at the church and their farm in Bensalem. He aided approximately 9,000 fugitives in escaping, making him one of the single most important individuals in Bucks County associated with abolitionism. Purvis enabled the fugitive slave Basil Dorsey to win his freedom in a court trial in Doylestown in the 1830s. A runaway slave from Roanoke, Virginia, Leroy Allen, found sanctuary here before joining the Union Army to fight for his freedom. He later settled in Bensalem and is buried at Bensalem AME church.

② Bethlehem AME Church

During the Civil War, Langhorne, then known as the village of Attleboro, served as an Underground Railroad Station connecting Princeton, New Jersey, and New York. Attleboro was home to one of the earliest free black communities in Bucks County, and the American Methodist Episcopal Church, (AME). Formed in 1809, Bethlehem AME is the earliest congregation to be organized in Bucks County. African American veterans of the Union Army are buried in many of Bucks County's various graveyards, including in Langhorne. Bishop Richard Allen, founder of the AME Church visited the Bethlehem AME Church. What began as a humble log cabin, grew into a thriving religious and civic center for people of color throughout Pennsylvania.

③ Harriet Tubman Memorial Statue

The waterfront memorial is dedicated to Harriet Tubman's fight for freedom, guided by the North Star. She is one of the most well-known conductors on the Underground Railroad. She risked her life conducting more than 13 missions before the Civil War. Louise Davis, a local Bristol resident is a descendant of Harriet Tubman and was important in getting this statue erected in her memory. During the Civil War, Tubman worked for the Union Army as a cook and nurse, and then as an armed scout and spy. The first woman to lead an armed expedition in the war, she is credited with helping to liberate more than 300 enslaved people. In 1849, a bounty was issued for the return of Harriet and her brothers, Ben and Harry, for $100 each (about $3.850 today.)