

St. Catherines Museum

**Lock 3 Complex
Box 3012
1932 Government Road
St. Catharines, Ontario L2B 7C2**

August 16, 1993

Mr. John Paige
Underground Railroad Study Project
National Park Service
Denver Service Center – Eastern Time
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado
USA 80225

Dear Mr. Paige:

Re: Study of the Underground Railroad

Through the Harriet Tubman Historical Society and the City of St. Catharines, the St. Catharines Museum has been made aware of the study being undertaken by the National Park Service for the commemoration and interpretation of the route of the Underground Railroad. We are pleased to enclose several of your questionnaires which document the sites important to Black history in the St. Catharines area. We hope this will be of assistance in your examination of the legacy of the Underground Railroad in this part of Canada.

St. Catharines was one of the main terminals in Canada for the network which assisted Blacks in their efforts to escape a life of slavery. As you are aware one of the most renowned Conductors on this "railroad" was Harriet Tubman. She lived in St. Catharines during the period when many of her trips were made into the U.S.A. to assist those who were enslaved. Later, many of these Blacks stayed in St. Catharines and elsewhere, their descendants now forming part of the rich ethnic heritage special to Canada. For your information the St. Catharines Museum was pleased earlier this year to co-host a Provincial historical plaque unveiling recognizing Harriet Ross Tubman.

We would like to add our support to the initiative of the National Park Service to commemorate the Underground Railroad and the people who participated in this route to freedom. We would also like to encourage that it be extended into Canada, and in so doing, involve all levels of both governments in what should be a co-operative efforts to preserve this important aspect of American-Canadian history.

We thank you for seeking input on your study and would be pleased to assist further should additional information be desired.

Sincerely yours,

Virginia-Hatch Stewart
Chief Museum Complex Officer

cc: Mayor Joseph L. McCafferty, City of St. Catharines
Vivian Abdur-Rahim, Harriet Tubman Historical Society

Enclosures