

# THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD BICYCLE ROUTE



PITTSBURGH SPUR: Pittsburgh, PA to Erie, PA

The Underground Railroad Bicycle Route honors the bravery of those that fled bondage and those that provided shelter. The route passes points of interest and historic sites along the 2,028 mile corridor. Beginning in Mobile, Alabama – a busy port for slavery during the pre-civil war era – the route goes north following rivers through Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and Indiana. Waterways, as well as the North Star, were often used by freedom seekers as a guide in their journeys to freedom. Upon crossing into Ohio, the route leaves the river to head inland toward Lake Erie and enters Canada at the Peace Bridge near Buffalo. In Ontario, the route circumvents the shores of Lake Ontario and ends on Lake Huron's Georgian Bay at Owen Sound, founded by freedom seekers as early as 1843.

BE-1004-10

152.5 Miles

## Adventure Cycling Association

Adventure Cycling Association is a national, member-supported, non-profit bicycling organization. Our mission is to inspire people of all ages to travel by bicycle. We help cyclists explore the landscapes and history of America for fitness, fun, and self-discovery.



Our National Bicycle Route Network encompasses over 40,000 miles of mapped bicycle routes. These easy-to-read maps have information on riding conditions, services, weather, and local history. For a full listing of all the routes available, visit our website: [www.adventurecycling.org](http://www.adventurecycling.org)

An Adventure Cycling membership is \$40.00 a year. Member benefits include:

- 9 issues of *Adventure Cyclist* magazine
- Organized tours
- Discounts on bicycle maps

For a more information call 1-800-755-2453, e-mail: [info@adventurecycling.org](mailto:info@adventurecycling.org), or write to us with your name and address at: 150 E. Pine St., Missoula, MT, 59802

Discover America's Legendary Route to Freedom

See Field Notes on this map and [www.adventurecycling.org/ugrr/highlights](http://www.adventurecycling.org/ugrr/highlights) for additional site information.

- 1 Pittsburgh is home to the **Senator John Heinz History Center** 412-454-6000 [www.pghhistory.org](http://www.pghhistory.org) 1212 Smallman St. It has an African American collection and an Underground Railroad exhibit. **Martin Delany Plaque** Third Ave. and Market St. Martin Delany founded Pittsburgh's first African American newspaper, *The Mystery* (1843-1847). He was the first black Major in the U.S. Army and among the first African Americans admitted to Harvard Medical School. **Market Square** between Forbes Ave. and 5th Ave., was home to **John B Vashon's** Barbershop and City Baths and **John Peck's** Oyster House. In its day, Vashon's shop served as a hub for the latest news relating to the many issues of abolition and slavery. John Peck was a central character in Pittsburgh's Underground Railroad movement. **Monongahela House** once located at the corner of Blvd. of the Allies and Smithfield St., is now the Allegheny County Dept. of Human Services. This hotel operated for 300 blacks who aided slaves visiting with their masters. **Avery College** [www.clpgh.org/exhibit/neighborhoods/northside/nor\\_n110.html](http://www.clpgh.org/exhibit/neighborhoods/northside/nor_n110.html) Nash and Avery Sts. Visit the plaque recognizing the college one block north on E. Ohio St. Also known as Allegheny Institute and Mission Church, it was founded by Charles Avery as a vocational school open to blacks in the mid-19th century. The Church was reported to have a tunnel which led to a canal on the Allegheny River to help escaping slaves. **Thomas Bingham House** on Mt. Washington and Olympia Rd. was a safe house for freedom seekers and was part of one of America's oldest planned communities called Chatham Village. **Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum** 412-621-4253 [www.soldiersandsailorshall.org](http://www.soldiersandsailorshall.org) 4141 5th Ave. Exhibit opening Feb. 2008 that focuses on 19th-century Africans escaping enslavement and finding sanctuary in Pittsburgh. **Bethel AME Church** 412-683-2160, 2720 Webster Ave. This church was the first African American church west of the Allegheny Mountains and the first Pastor was Rev. Lewis Woodson, a well known abolitionist. **Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church** 412-681-0229, 1000 Bryn Mawr Rd. This church was ministered by Henry Highland Garnet, [www.africanwithin.com/bios/henry\\_garnet.htm](http://www.africanwithin.com/bios/henry_garnet.htm) a well known abolitionist who spoke in New York after the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- 2 **Freedom's Call Standing Exhibit** 724-658-4022 [www.lawrencechs.com](http://www.lawrencechs.com) Lawrence County Historical Society 408 N. Jefferson St., New Castle. Exhibit features history of the Underground Railroad in Lawrence Co. Also includes a civil war display.
- 3 Visit **Mercer County Historical Society** 724-662-3490 [www.mchspa.org](http://www.mchspa.org) 119 S. Pitt St. and pick up the **Follow the Drinking Gourd Walking Tour of Mercer's Historic Underground Railroad and Abolitionist Era Sites** or download the **Underground Railroad Driving Tour** [www.discovermercercountypa.org/urr.asp](http://www.discovermercercountypa.org/urr.asp) Highlights include: **Hanna and Small Houses** NE corner of Pitt and Beaver Sts. A passageway was uncovered under the Hanna house that is believed to have hidden freedom seekers. The Hanna and Small families were ardent abolitionists and close friends. **Magoffin House** 129 S. Pitt St. Site of Underground Railroad activity and during the Civil War, Magoffin was considered a "copperhead" or peace democrat; **Old Mercer Graveyard** is on the corner of N. Erie and E. North Sts. where James Kilgore and other Underground Railroad conductors are buried.
- 4 **Freedom Road Cemetery Historic Marker** located across from the main gate at the Stoneboro Fairgrounds on U.S. 62 is all that remains of Liberia, a fugitive slave town established by the Travis family, free African Americans.
- 5 **Bethel AME Church** 814-333-2248, 961 Liberty St., Meadville. This church was organized in 1849 and many of its members and trustees were active in the Underground Railroad.
- 6 **John Brown Farm and Tannery Museum** 814-967-2099 [explorepa.history.com/attraction.php?id=3999](http://explorepa.history.com/attraction.php?id=3999) 13 miles NE of Meadville at 17620 John Brown Rd./SR 77, New Richmond. Brown aided an estimated 2,500 slaves and his farm was a major stop, marking its place in history from 1825 to 1835. Interpretive displays tell the story of his role in the national events leading up to the Civil War.

If you find additions or corrections, please photocopy the map involved, mark the correction, and send it to: **Routes and Mapping Department, Adventure Cycling Association, P.O. Box 8308, Missoula, MT 59807** or fill out a correction card online at: [www.adventurecycling.org/routes/corrections](http://www.adventurecycling.org/routes/corrections). For a free catalog detailing our entire route network, call the Sales Department at 800-721-8719, 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday, Mountain Time. Part of the proceeds from the sale of this map goes into updating the map information and to expand the National Bicycle Route Network. To keep the maps current, addenda are available from the Sales Department, or on our web page: [www.adventurecycling.org/routes](http://www.adventurecycling.org/routes). Not all map sections require addenda.



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Thank you for your support





**Road Information**

**Map Legend**

Pop. 14,376 = Population    ○ City Center  
 ● Mileage between points

Land Use: Parks, Urban Area, Creeks, Streams, Rivers, Lakes

Matchline:

COUNTY LINES:    STATE LINES:

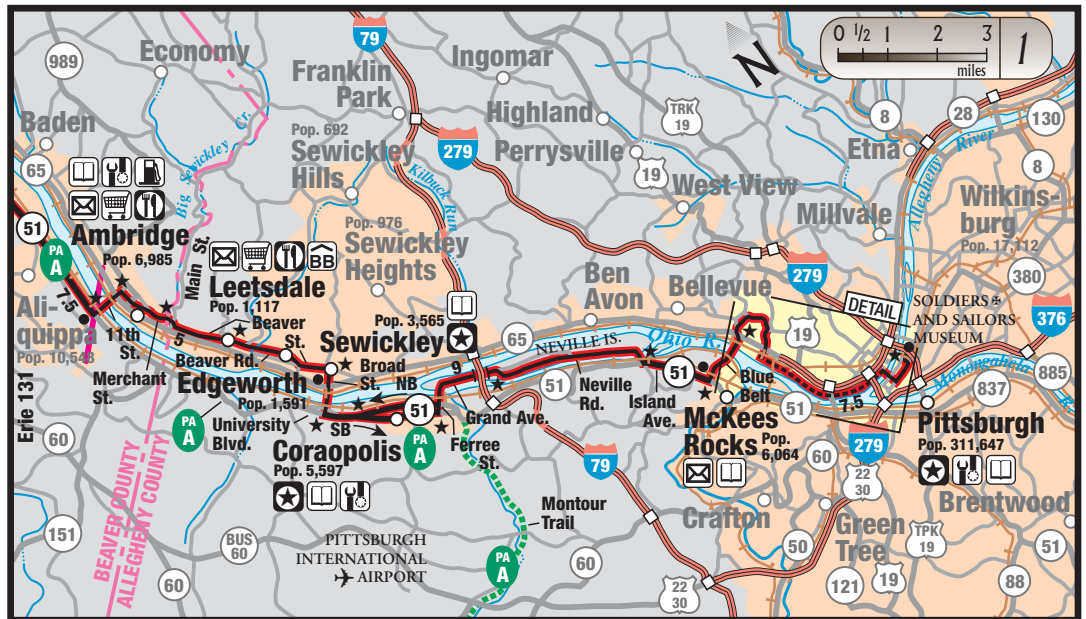
Scale=1:250,000 (1 inch = approx. 4 miles)

**Service Symbols**



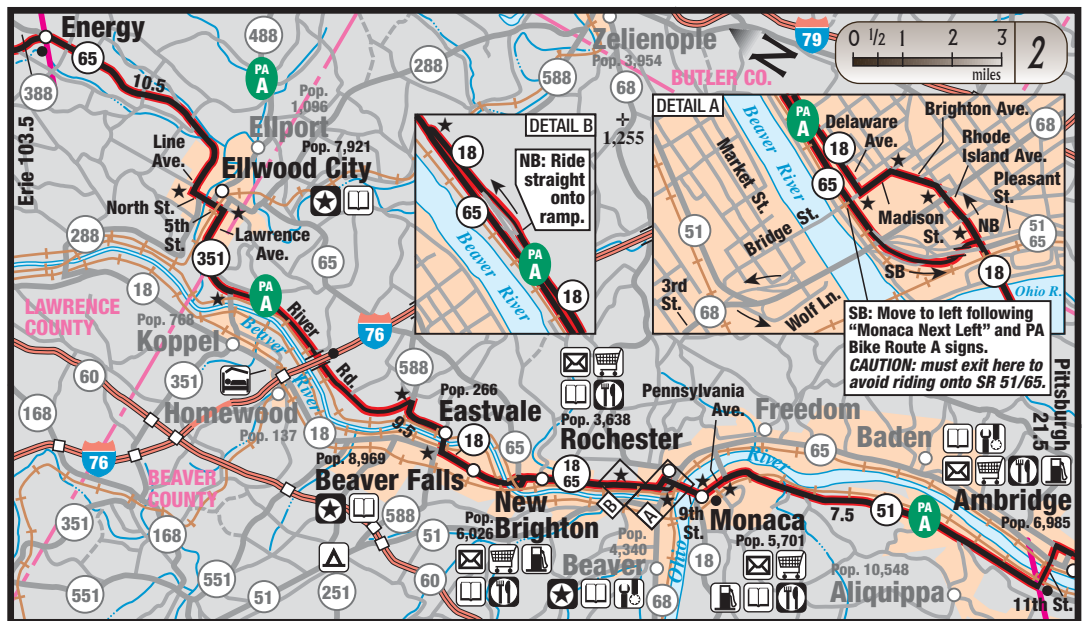

**NB:** 0(0 km)Pittsburgh Spur begins at the Heinz History Center on the corner of Smallman St. and 12th St. Ride west on Smallman St. See Pittsburgh Detail. 7(11)Cross Ohio River on McKees Rock Bridge/Blue Belt. ★ 7.5(12) Bear right onto Island Ave./SR 51. ★ 9(14)Turn right onto Neville Rd. ★ 12(19)Turn left onto Grand Ave. which becomes Ferree St. ★ 13.5(22)Turn right onto 4th Ave./SR 51. Join PA Bike Route A. Coraopolis. ★ 15(24)Continue straight. Route becomes University Blvd./SR 51. ★ 15.5(25)Bear left to approach bridge to Sewickley. In 0.1 mi., turn right onto Sewickley Bridge. Leave PA Bike Route A. Cross Ohio River. 16(26) Cross SR 65. Route becomes Broad St. Sewickley. ★ 16.5(27)Turn left onto Beaver St. ★ 17(27)Edgeworth. Route becomes Beaver Rd. In 0.2 mi., bear right following Beaver Rd. ★ 18(29)Leetsdale. Route becomes Beaver St. ★ 20(32)Cross Main St./Cross St. following Beaver St. which becomes Merchant St. ★ 21(34) Ambridge. Turn left onto 11th St. Cross Ohio River. ★ 21.5(35)Turn right onto SR 51. Join PA Bike Route A. Matchline.

**SB:** 0(0 km)Continue on 11th St. Cross Ohio River. ★ 0.5(0.8)Ambridge. Turn right onto Merchant St. ★ 1.5(2) Cross Main St./Cross St. onto Beaver St. ★ 3.5(6)Leetsdale. Route becomes Beaver Rd. ★ 4.5(7)Edgeworth. Route becomes Beaver St. ★ 5(8)Sewickley. Turn right onto Broad St. 5.5(9)Cross SR 65 and Ohio River. ★ 6(10)Turn left onto University Blvd./SR 51. Join PA Bike Route A. ★ 6.5(11)Coraopolis. Bear right onto 5th Ave./SR 51. ★ 8(13)Turn left onto Ferree St. which becomes Grand Ave. Leave PA Bike Route A. ★ 9.5(15) Turn right onto Neville Rd. ★ 12.5(20)Turn left onto Island Ave./SR 51. ★ 14(23)Turn left onto Blue Belt. See Pittsburgh Detail. 21.5(35)Pittsburgh Spur ends at the Heinz History Center on the corner of Smallman St. and 12th St.



**NB:** 0(0 km)Continue on SR 51 and PA Bike Route A. ★ 7(11)Ride straight onto Pennsylvania Ave. Monaca. ★ 7.5(12)Turn right onto 9th St./SR 18. Cross Ohio River. Rochester. Route becomes Rhode Island Ave. See details A and B. ★ 9(14)Ride straight onto SR 18/65. Follow PA Bike Route A signs. 11(18)New Brighton. ★ 11.5(19)Turn right onto 5th St. In 2 blocks, turn left onto 5th Ave. SR 65 leaves route. Continue straight on SR 18. Cross Beaver River. 12.5(20)Beaver Falls. ★ 13.5(22)Turn right onto SR 588. Cross Beaver River. In 0.2 mi., turn left following SR 588. Eastvale. ★ 14.5(24)Turn left onto River Rd. ★ 19.5(31)Ride straight onto SR 351. ★ 21.5(34)Ellwood City. Turn left onto 5th St./SR 65. Leave PA Bike Route A. ★ 22(33)Turn right onto Line Ave./SR 65. 27.5(44)Energy. SR 388. Matchline.

**SB:** 0(0 km)Continue on SR 65. ★ 5.5(8)Turn left onto North St./SR 65 which becomes 5th St./SR 65. Ellwood City. ★ 6(10)Turn right onto Lawrence Ave./SR 351. Join PA Bike Route A. ★ 8(13)Ride straight onto River Rd. ★ 13(21)Turn right onto SR 588. Cross Beaver River. Turn right following SR 588. Cross Beaver River. In 0.1 mi., follow road left as it becomes 7th Ave./SR 18. 15(24)Beaver Falls. ★ 16(26)Cross Beaver River. Bear right onto 3rd Ave./SR 18. SR 65 joins route. 16.5(27)New Brighton. ★ 19(30)Exit left following SR 18. See detail A. ★ 19.5(31)Turn right onto SR 18. Cross Ohio River. ★ 20(32)Monaca. Turn left onto Pennsylvania Ave. ★ 20.5(33)Ride straight onto SR 51. ★ 27.5(44)Turn left onto unsigned 11th St. bridge to Ambridge. Leave PA Bike Route A. Matchline.

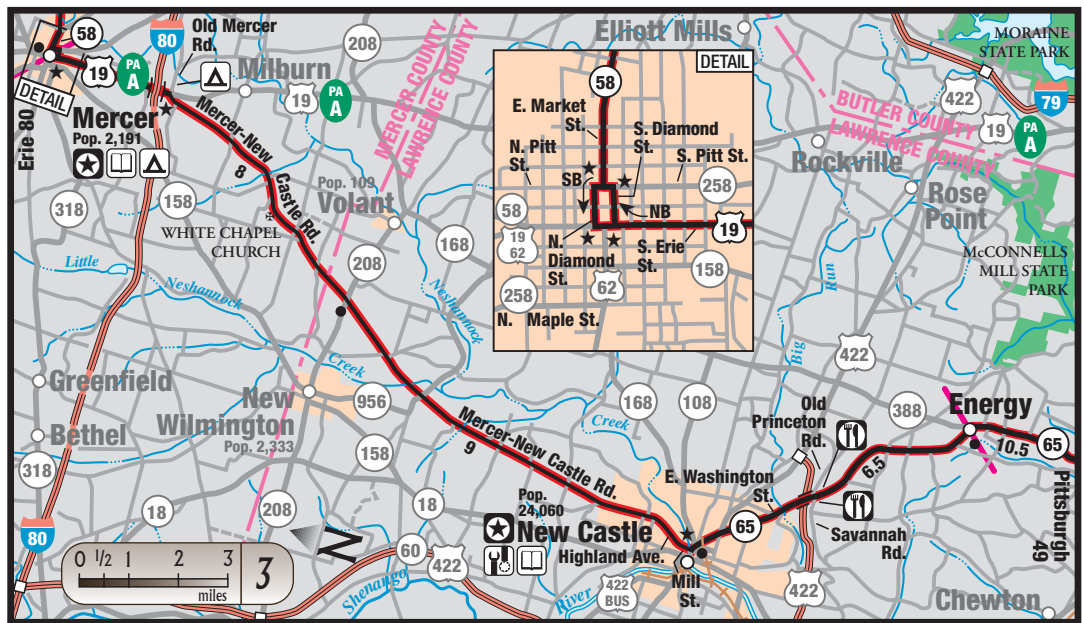




**NB:** 0(0 km)Continue on SR 65. 4(6)Ride over US 422. SR 65 becomes E. Washington St./SR 65. ★ 6.5(11)New Castle. Turn right onto Mill St. which becomes Highland Ave. then unsigned Mercer-New Castle Rd. 13(21) SR 956. 15.5(25)SR 208. ★ 21(34)Turn left onto US 19. Join PA Bike Route A. In 0.3 mi., ride under I-80. ★ 23.5(38)Mercer. See detail. Turn right onto E. Market St./SR 58. Matchline.

**SB:** 0(0 km)Continue on S. Erie St./US 19. 2.5(4)Ride under I-80. In 0.3 mi., bear right onto Mercer-New Castle Rd. Leave PA Bike Route A. 8(13)SR 208. 10.5(17)SR 956. 15(24)Route becomes Highland Ave. then Mill St. ★ 17(27)New Castle. Turn left onto E. Washington St./SR 65. 19.5(32)Ride over US 422. 23.5(38)Energy. SR 388. Matchline.

❖ **NEW CASTLE** *Balloon Quest* Hot air balloon rally with amusement rides and entertainment. Scotland Meadows Park. Third week in July.  
 ❖ **NEW CASTLE** *Lawrence County Fair* Rides, food, animals, crafts, fireworks, and a working sawmill. Lawrence County Fairgrounds. Three weeks before Labor Day. Since 1953.



**NB:** 0(0 km)Continue on E. Market St./SR 58. ★ 0.5(0.8)Ride straight following E. Market St. which becomes State Road 2014/unsigned Scrubgrass Rd. ★ 6(10)Turn left onto State Road 2007/unsigned Springfield Church Rd. ★ 9.5(15)Ride straight onto Mercer Rd./US 62. 14.5(24)Stoneboro. ★ 15.5(25)Turn left onto S. Main St./SR 173/US 62. In 0.1 mi., US 62 leaves route. Sandy Lake. 20(32)New Lebanon. 24(39)Milledgeville. ★ 28(45)Cochranton. Turn left onto Franklin St./Bus. US 322. Matchline.

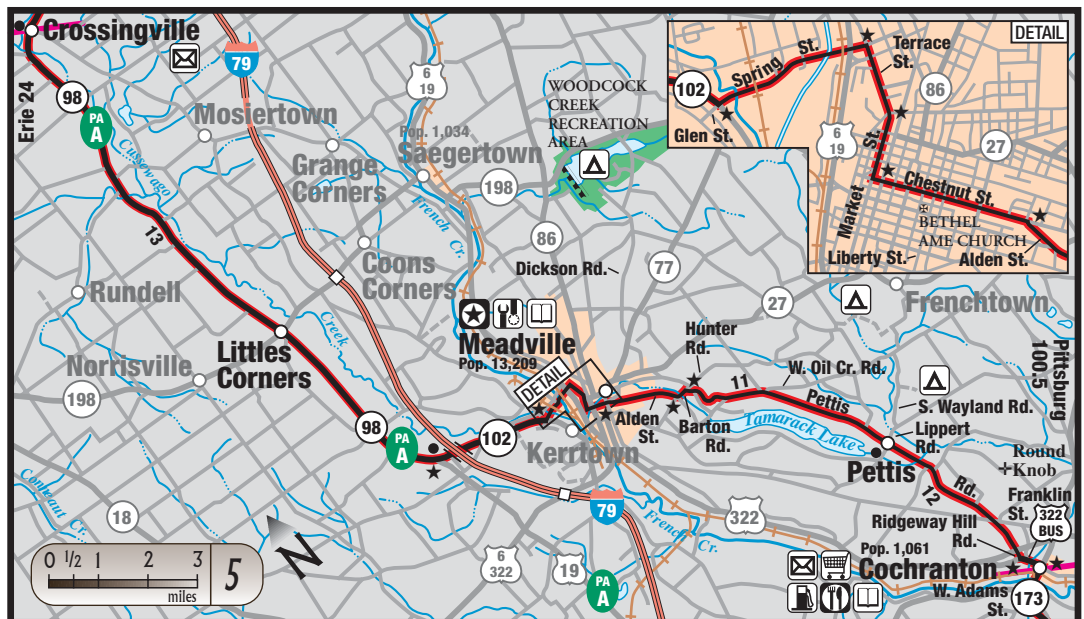
**SB:** 0(0 km)Continue on W. Adams St./SR 173. 4(6)Milledgeville. 8(13)New Lebanon. ★ 12.5(20)Sandy Lake. Bear right onto Mercer Rd./US 62. 13.5(22)Stoneboro. ★ 18.5(30)Continue straight onto State Road 2007/unsigned Springfield Church Rd. ★ 22(35)Turn right onto State Road 2014/unsigned Scrubgrass Rd. ★ 27.5(44)Ride straight onto E. Market St./SR 58. ★ 28(45)Mercer. See detail on map 3. Turn left onto S. Erie St./US 19. Join PA Bike Route A. Matchline.



**NB:** 0(0 km)Continue on Franklin St./Bus. US 322. ★ 0.5(0.8)Turn right onto Ridgeway Hill Rd. which becomes unsigned Pettis Rd. 4(6)Pettis. ★ 9(14)Turn left onto unsigned Barton Rd. In 0.2 mi., bend right onto unsigned Alden St. Meadville. ★ 10(16)Turn left onto Chestnut St. See detail. ★ 12.5(20)Turn right onto SR 102. ★ 15(24)Ride straight onto SR 98. Join PA Bike Route A. 19.5(32)Littles Corners. SR 198. 28(45)Crossingville. Matchline.

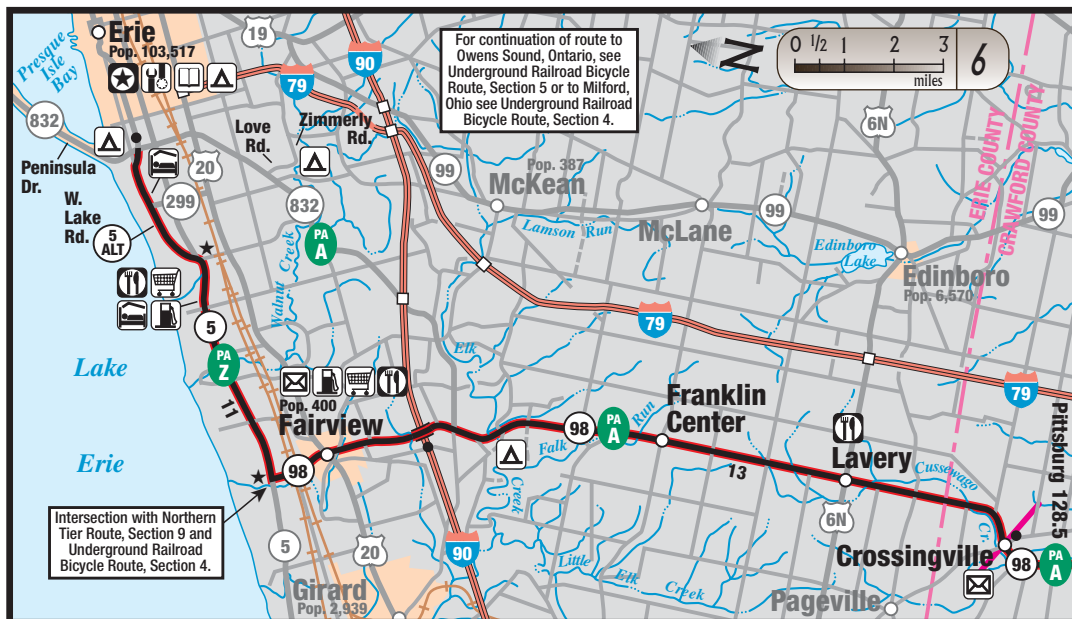
**SB:** 0(0 km)Continue on SR 98. ★ 8.5(14)Littles Corners. SR 198. ★ 13(21)Bear left onto SR 102. Leave PA Bike Route A. ★ 15.5(25)Turn left onto Spring St. Meadville. See detail. ★ 18(29)Turn right onto Alden St. ★ 19(31)Bend left onto Barton Rd. In 0.2 mi., turn right onto Pettis Rd. 24.5(39)Pettis. ★ 27.5(44)Turn left onto Franklin St./Bus US 322. ★ 28(45)Cochranton. Turn right onto W. Adams St./SR 173. Matchline.

❖ **MEADVILLE** *John Brown Spirit of Freedom Weekend* Civil War re-enactments, music, arts and crafts, food, demonstrations. John Brown Tannery and Museum, 13 mi. NE of Meadville on State St./SR 77. First weekend in May. Since 2001.



**NB:** 0(0 km)Continue on SR 98. 4(6) Lavery. 8(13)Franklin Center. 12.5(20) SR 832. Leave PA Bike Route A. Continue on SR 98. 15(24)Fairview. ★ 16.5(27)Turn right onto SR 5. ★ 21.5(35)Bear left onto West Lake Rd./SR 5 Alt. ★ 24(39)Erie. Pittsburgh Spur ends at the junction of SR 5 Alt. and SR 832.

**SB:** 0(0 km)0(0 km)Pittsburgh Spur begins at junction of SR 5 Alt. and SR 832. Ride west on SR 5 Alt. ★ 2.5(4) Bear right onto SR 5. ★ 7.5(12)Turn left onto SR 98. 9(14)Fairview. 11.5(19) SR 832. Join PA Bike Route. Continue on SR 98. 16(26)Franklin Center. 20(32) Lavery. 24(39)Crossingville. Matchline.



## SERVICE DIRECTORY

The services and emergency numbers for towns and cities are listed by map. There are listings for a few of the larger cities near, but not on, the **Underground Railroad Pittsburgh Spur Bicycle Route**. Services between towns are also listed. Libraries are noted for internet usage; access will vary depending on the library.

Within a town or city, call the number listed in an emergency. Outside towns or in small communities with no police, call the listed sheriff's number. Law enforcement officers have proved repeatedly to be the cyclists' best allies on our routes.

Campgrounds and hostels vary from basic services to modern facilities; prices vary accordingly. The motels, hotels, and bed and breakfasts that are listed are only representative of what is available, especially in larger towns. They are often located off route, call for directions. For more options please check the local phone book and make your own choice.

## PENNSYLVANIA (Area Code 412)

Pennsylvania State Police: 717-783-5599

### (#1)

**Pittsburgh** (15233): pop. 311,647; all services.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 323-7800; Sheriff 350-4700; Hospital 232-8111.

*Bike Shops:* (1)REI, 412 S. 27th St., 488-9410; (2)Kraynick's Bicycles, 5003 Penn Ave., 621-6160; (3)Pro Bikes, 5876 Forbes Ave., 586-5497; (4)Trek Bicycle Shop, 5957 Penn Circle S., Ste. 202, 362-8735.

*Lodging:* (1)Doubletree Hotel, One Bigelow Sq., 281-5800; (2)The Priory Hotel, 614 Pressley St., 231-3338 or 866-377-4679; (3)Morning Glory Inn B&B, 2119 Sarah St., 431-1707; (4)The Westin Hotel,

1000 Penn Ave., 281-3700, reservations 800-937-8461.

*Library:* Downtown Pittsburgh, 612 Smithfield St., 281-7141.

**McKees Rocks** (15136): pop. 6,064.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 264-3001; Sheriff 350-4700.

*Library:* Sto-Rox, 500 Chartiers Ave., 771-1222.

**Coraopolis** (15108): pop. 5,597; all services.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 323-7800; Sheriff 350-4700.

*Bike Shop:* Coraopolis Bike Shop, 938 5th Ave., 264-0982

*Lodging:* (1)Neville Motel, 4905 Grand Ave., 264-6463. The following listings are near Pittsburgh International Airport rather than town: (2)Marriott Pittsburgh Airport, 777 Aten Rd., 788-8800 or 800-328-9297; (3)Comfort Suites, 750 Aten Rd., 494-5750.

*Library:* Coraopolis Memorial, 601 School St., 264-3502.

**Sewickley** (15143): pop. 3,565; all services.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 473-3056; Sheriff 350-4700; Hospital 741-6600 or 877-771-4847.

*Lodging:* Sewickley Hotel, 509 Beaver St., 741-9457.

*Library:* Sewickley Public, 500 Thorn St., 741-6920.

**Edgeworth:** pop. 1,591; no services.

*Emergency:* 911; Sheriff 350-4700.

## (Area Code 724)

**Leetsdale** (15056): pop. 1,117; G,R,B&B.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 266-1397; Sheriff 412-350-4700.

*Lodging:* The Whistlestop B&B, 195 Broad St., 251-0852.

**Ambridge** (15003): pop. 6,985; G,SS,R.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 266-3270; Sheriff 728-3934.

*Bike Shop:* Ambridge Bike & Sport Center, 518 Merchant St., 266-1111.

*Library:* Laughlin Memorial Free, 99 11th

St., 266-3857.

### (#2)

**Monaca** (15061): pop. 5,701; G,SS,R.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 733-3109; Sheriff 728-3934.

*Library:* Monaca Public, 609 Pennsylvania Ave., 775-9608.

**Rochester** (15074): pop. 3,638; G,R.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 775-1100; Sheriff 728-3934.

*Library:* Rochester Public, closed Fridays, 252 Adams St., 774-7783.

**Beaver** (15009): pop. 4,340; all services; **off route** 0.25 mi. W. across Beaver Rd. on Bridge St. then 1 block S. on Market St., then 0.7 mi. W. on 3rd St. to services.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 775-1550; Sheriff 728-3934; Hospital 728-7110.

*Bike Shop:* Snitgers Bicycle Store, 399 3rd St., 774-5905.

*Lodging:* (1)Felicity Farms B&B, 2075 Dutch Ridge Rd., 775-0735; (2)The Todd House B&B, 330 3rd St., 775-1424 or 888-396-1666.

*Library:* Beaver Area Memorial, 100 College Ave., 775-1132.

**New Brighton** (15066): pop. 6,026; G,R,SS.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 846-2270; Sheriff 728-3934.

*Library:* New Brighton Public, closed Fridays, 1021 3rd Ave., 846-7991.

**Beaver Falls** (15010): pop. 8,969; all services.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 846-7000; Sheriff 728-3934.

*Camping:* Hart's Content Campground (pvt.), from junction of River Rd. and SR 588, **off route** 2.25 mi. E. on SR 588 then 1.0 mi. SE on Concord Circle Rd. then 0.9 mi. E. at 496 Glendale Rd., 846-0005.

*Lodging:* The Inn on College Hill B&B, 3233 6th Ave., 843-6048.

*Library:* Carnegie Free, 1301 7th Ave., closed Fridays and Sundays, 846-4340.

**Eastvale:** pop 266; no services.

*Service Stop:* M, from junction of River Rd.



and SR 351, **off route** 1.25 mi. W. on SR 351 then 1.0 mi. S. on SR 18: (1)Holiday Inn, 7195 Eastwood Rd., 846-3700; (2)Alpine Inn, 7240 Big Beaver Rd./SR 18, 846-9820 or 846-0953; (3)Beaver Falls Motel, 7257 Big Beaver Rd./SR 18, 843-0630 or 800-400-8312.

**Ellwood City** (16117): pop. 7,921; all services.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 758-7564; Sheriff 656-2190; Hospital 752-0081.

*Lodging:* (1)Ber-Nita Acres B&B, 151 Bennett Dr., 752-1455 or 888-297-5396; (2)Chapel Valley Estate B&B, 297 Chapel Dr., 752-2202.

*Library:* Ellwood City Public, 415 Lawrence Ave., 758-6458.

**Energy:** no services.

### (#3)

*Service Stop:* several R, at junction of Old Princeton Rd. and SR 65.

**New Castle** (16208): pop. 24,060; all services.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 656-9300; Sheriff 656-2190; Hospital 658-9001.

*Bike Shop:* Bicycles & More, 1907 W. State St., 652-3434.

*Lodging:* (1)Super 8 Motel, 1699 New Butler Rd., 658-8849; (2)Comfort Inn, 1740 New Butler Rd., 658-7700.

## USING THIS MAP

This route was selected by experienced bicyclists. However, few of the roads chosen have special provisions for cyclists, and Adventure Cycling cannot guarantee your safety while riding on them. You must assume responsibility for your own safety. The route is designed to be ridden by adult bicyclists, defined as those 16 years of age or older, with a driver's license and several years of bicycling experience.

The maps are not meant to be used for traveling off the designated route. Each map panel covers approximately 30-40 miles. The mileage to both ends of the route section is printed at the border of each map panel.

The maps are designed to be used for travel in either direction. Adjacent to each map panel you'll find written narratives with directions for both northbound (NB) and southbound (SB) travel. Regardless of your direction of travel, the narrative leads you from matchline (solid pink line) to matchline. Once you "reach" the matchline, turn to the next panel and begin following its narrative, again proceeding from the matchline to the far matchline.

In the narrative, the number preceding each directive indicates the distance you've come since beginning at the matchline. (The number following in parentheses is the distance in kilometers.) Changes in road names and numbers are marked by stars both in the narrative and on the map panel.

You'll note that north is not necessarily "up" as it is on most maps, but rather it changes orientation from panel to panel. This allows as many miles of the route as possible to be depicted on each map panel.

For an overview of elevation changes on the route refer to the profile. This is a general guide; some hills will not appear.

*Library:* New Castle Public, 207 E. North St., 658-6659.

**Mercer** (16137): pop. 2,191; all services.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 662-3980; Sheriff 662-6135.

*Camping:* (1)Junction 19-80 Campground (pvt.), **off route** 0.7 mi. E. on Old Mercer Rd. at 1266 Old Mercer Rd., 748-4174; (2)RV Village Camping Resort (pvt.), **off route** 0.25 mi. W. on US 62, then 2.8 mi. N. on N. Maple St. which becomes S. Lake Rd./SR 258, then 1.0 mi. S. at 235 Skyline Dr., 662-4560.

*Lodging:* (1)Casa DaCosta B&B, 116 W. Market St., 662-5681; (2)Mercer Motel, 213 Franklin St., 662-4250.

*Library:* Mercer Area, 110 E. Venango St., 662-4233.

### (#4)

**Stoneboro** (16153): pop. 1,011; SS,R,G(limited).

*Emergency:* 911; Police 376-3696; Sheriff 662-6135.

**Sandy Lake** (16145): pop. 687; SS,R,G.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 376-2676; Sheriff 662-6135.

**New Lebanon:** pop. 196; no services.

*Emergency:* 911; Sheriff 662-6135.

*Camping:* Goddard Park VacationLand Campground (pvt.), **off route** 4 mi. W. on Georgetown Rd. at 867 Georgetown Rd., 253-4645.

**Milledgeville:** no services.

## (Area Code 814)

**Cochranon** (16314): pop. 1,061; SS,G,R.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 425-3039; Sheriff 333-7411.

*Library:* Cochranon Area Public, 107 E. Pine St., 425-3996.

### (#5)

**Pettis:** no services.

*Camping:* Playland Camping Park (pvt.), **off route** 0.4 mi. E. on Lippert Rd., then 0.9 mi. N. on S. Wayland Rd. then 0.4 mi. SE on dirt Playland Dr., 425-7313.

**Meadville** (16335): pop. 13,209; all services.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 724-6100; Sheriff 333-7411; Hospital 333-5000.

*Bike Shop:* Emig's Bicycle Shop, 596 State St., 333-1235.

*Camping:* (1)Brookdale Family Campground (pvt.), from junction of Market St. and SR 27, **off route** 6.4 mi. E. at 25164 SR 27, 789-3251; (2)Woodcock Creek Lake (COE), from junction of Market St. and SR 27, **off route** 0.8 mi. E. on SR 27, then 1.0 mi. NE on SR 77, then 2.7 mi. NE on Dickson Rd., then 0.8 mi. NE on Shultz Rd., 724-6879 or 763-4477, reservations 877-444-6777.

*Lodging:* (1)Mayor Lord's House B&B, 654 Park Ave., 336-2006 or 720-8907; (2)Bethaven Inn B&B, 386 Hamilton Ave., 336-

4223; (3)Wynken, Blynken & Nod B&B, 468 Chestnut St., 337-2018.

*Library:* Meadville Public, 848 N. Main St., 336-1773.

**Littles Corners:** no services.

**Crossingville** (16412): no services.

### (#6)

**Lavery:** R.

**Franklin Center:** no services.

*Camping:* Follys End Campground (pvt.), 8600 Avonia Rd./SR 98, 474-5730.

**Fairview** (16415): pop. 400; SS,R,G.

*Emergency:* 911; Sheriff 662-6135.

*Service Stops:* (1)G,R,SS,M (Maple Motel, 833-4834), at 5512 W. Lake Rd.; (2)M (Meads Motel, 833-7764), at 3651 W. Lake Rd.

*Camping:* (1)Sara Coyne Campground (pvt.), **off route** 0.6 mi. N. at 50 Peninsula Dr./SR 832, 833-4560; (2)Cassidy's Presque Isle Trailer and Campground (pvt.), **off route** 3.5 mi. S. on SR 832 then 0.5 mi. S. on Love St. to 3749 Zimmerly Rd., 833-6035.

**Erie** (16508): pop. 103,517; all services.

*Emergency:* 911; Police 870-1125; Sheriff 451-6254; Hospital 864-4031.

*Bike Shops:* (1)Frontier Bike Shop, 1712 W. 8th St., 456-9803; (2)John Adams Schwinn Cyclery, 2774 W. 12th St., 833-0430; (3)Competitive Gear, 3501 W. 12th St., 833-8274.

*Camping:* Lampe Marina Campground (Erie Port Authority), **off route** 0.1 mi. N. on Peninsula Dr./SR 832 then 2.1 mi. E. on W. 6th St. then 2.7 mi. NE on W. Bayfront Pkwy. to Port Access Rd. and entrance, May 1-Oct. 31 454-5830, Nov. 1-April 30, 454-5830.

*Lodging:* (1)Clarion Hotel Bel-Aire, 2800 W. 8th St., 833-1116 or 800-888-8781; (2)City Motel, 344 E. 6th St., 455-7594; (3)The Lighthouse Inn, 3704 E. Lake Rd., 899-9300.

*Library:* Erie County Public, 160 E. Front St., 451-6900.

## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

SS .....	Gas Station	G.....	Grocery
R .....	Restaurant/Cafe	M .....	Lodging
(59807).....	Zip Code/Post Office		
<i>"All services" includes the above services. "Service Stop" indicates services found between the towns.</i>			
US.....	Federal Road	SR.....	State Road
CR .....	County Road	pop .....	population
L.....	Library	B&B .....	Bed and Breakfast
pvt. ....	Private/Commercial		
USFS .....	U.S. Forest Service		
NPS .....	National Park Service		
COE.....	Corps of Engineers		
BLM .....	Bureau of Land Management		
HI.....	Hosteling International		

# FIELD NOTES

## House on the Monongahela

The first African Americans to arrive in the Pittsburgh area were those searching for a place to live in freedom, and the city rapidly grew into an important stronghold for the abolitionist movement. In later times, hundreds of additional blacks would come looking for economic betterment in Pittsburgh. The city played an important role in a range of cultural phenomena tied to African Americans, including the evolution of jazz; the expansion of Negro League Baseball in the 1920s, '30s and '40s; and the civil-rights movement of the 1950s and '60s.

As early as the mid-1700s, British and French settlers were housing freedom seekers in the Pittsburgh area, and one of America's first communities of free blacks sprouted here at the confluence of the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela rivers. This confluence area evolved into a natural goal and place of respite for many of those traveling the Underground Railroad.

The Monongahela House, for many decades Pittsburgh's premier hotel, stood at the northwest corner of Smithfield Street and Fort Pitt Boulevard (formerly Water Street), along its namesake waterway—not incidentally, one of America's few large north-flowing rivers. The hotel, which opened in 1839, was rebuilt after a fire in 1845 but ultimately demolished in 1935. Boasting 210 rooms, the grand Monongahela House was among the finest hotels in the Northeast, hosting such luminaries as King Edward VII and no fewer than nine U.S. presidents, including John Quincy Adams, Ulysses S. Grant, and Theodore Roosevelt. It was also an active hub of anti-slavery activity. Here the hotel's staff of some three hundred free blacks regularly came in contact with businessmen from the South, who often traveled in the company of black servants.

"The story of one slave being spirited to freedom [from the hotel] has become the stuff of legend," wrote *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* staff writer Ervin Dyer in a 1999 feature. "A woman—disguised as a man—was whisked through the hotel's dining room. She was led right past her owners, who were clueless as to the escape." Dyer went on to relate that the woman had been "stolen away" by a cadre of black Pittsburgh abolitionists who were members of the city's Vigilance Committee, and who made a regular practice of "kidnapping" slaves at the Monongahela House and sending them on their way along the Underground Railroad.

Not far from the Monongahela House, African American John B. Vashon—reputedly the city's wealthiest black businessman in his day—ran a safe house at his barber shop and bathhouse. There escaped slaves would regroup after leaving their owners at the Monongahela House, but before beginning their trek north to Canada. Vashon was an important member of the Vigilance Committee, as were others in "Arthursville," a Pittsburgh Hill District neighborhood that in the early 1800s was home to a growing population of free blacks who were generally quite well organized and politically active.

Joining Vashon in the Vigilance Committee were the likes of barber and minister Lewis Woodson and businessman John Peck, whose downtown oyster restaurant likewise served as a safe house. Another key player was Charles Avery, whose interest in the abolition movement spurred the creation of Avery College. Originally the Allegheny Institute and Mission Church, the building was funded by Avery's vast fortune. He was also financially involved in Liberia, the West African nation developed by returned American slaves, and he fought against the establishment of the Fugitive Slave Laws.

Rounding out the "big four" was Martin R. Delany, who in 1843 established *The Mystery*, Pittsburgh's first African American newspaper. A Renaissance man of the first order, Delany was a writer, physician, and army officer; among the first blacks admitted to Harvard Medical School (albeit for only four months), he was also the first African American to attain the rank of major in the U.S. Army. In Pittsburgh he became best known for his heroic battle against the city's devastating 1854 cholera breakout. Today you can find an interpretive sign at Market Street and Third Avenue, close to where *The Mystery* was published. (Delany is buried in Massies Creek Cemetery outside Wilberforce, Ohio, located on Section 4 of the Underground Railroad Bicycle Route. You can learn more about him in the Field Notes for that map section.)

Records indicate that in 1837 Arthursville held more than one hundred black families, roughly a third of whom owned property, making it the largest African American neighborhood in pre-Civil War Pittsburgh. Living in one- and two-story homes, these families often dug cellars for the purpose of hiding runaway slaves. With the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, however, free blacks here, as elsewhere in the North, harbored fears of being dragged back into slavery and headed for Canada. European immigrants took their place in the district, and Arthursville, along with other distinct Pittsburgh neighborhoods, melded into the Hill District and faded into history.

Back to the Monongahela House, where records show that on February 14, 1861, the hotel hosted the president whose 1862–63 Emancipation Proclamation would begin the process of undoing slavery as an institution in the Land of the Free. In October 2006, Allegheny County workers checking the rafters of a maintenance building for a leak came across an old walnut bed, bureau, wardrobe, and other furniture. Experts concluded that they were the long-missing furnishings from the room in the Monongahela House where Abraham Lincoln stayed that night in 1861, having stopped in Pittsburgh en route from Illinois to Washington, D.C., for his inauguration ceremonies.

## North to Erie

It's believed that every county in Pennsylvania at one time or another had safe houses where freedom seekers could find temporary shelter and security. Most of the state's Underground Railroad activity took place in and around the larger cities like Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Erie. But smaller communities, too, contained the seeds of the anti-slavery movement, including Beaver and Mercer counties, which the Pittsburgh Spur passes through. Of the estimated 100,000-plus blacks who escaped the South between 1820 and 1860, it's estimated that approximately 10 percent utilized safe houses in western Pennsylvania. Many of these havens of safety, which were typically established by farmers, plantation owners, and other white sympathizers, have been documented.

## The Underground Railroad Bicycle Route

The Underground Railroad Bicycle Route, running from Mobile, Alabama, to Owen Sound, Ontario, is the third in a series of "heritage routes" Adventure Cycling Association is developing. To create this route, Adventure Cycling partnered with the Center for Minority Health at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. The Center for Minority Health, which advocates innovative ways to encourage people to exercise, found the idea of tying together bicycling and the Underground Railroad to be an appealing one.

Additional partners in developing and promoting this new heritage route included Seattle-based Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) and Bikes Belong, the national coalition of bicycle suppliers and retailers working together to put more people on bicycles more often. Both of these organizations contributed major financial support for the project.

Unlike our other routes—the Great Divide and Pacific Coast routes, for instance—the guiding principal for mapping this new route was more symbolic than geographical. That's because enslaved blacks striving to reach freedom in the North followed scores of different corridors, providing a countless number of routing options. Consider that known routes to freedom crossed the forty-first parallel as far west as the Missouri River in southwestern Iowa and as far east as the New York City area, and you can imagine the nearly endless options we faced when choosing the route. (Ultimately, we decided to "follow the Drinking Gourd" as far north as the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio rivers; see Field Notes, Section 1 for an explanation of what this means.)

Adventure Cycling and the Center for Minority Health share a twofold goal in creating and promoting the Underground Railroad Bicycle Route. First, we want to provide twenty-first century Americans with an opportunity to learn more about one of the most challenging cultural struggles in our nation's history. And second, we wish to promote the joys and health benefits of traveling by bicycle. By its very nature, bicycle touring is an activity that can be enjoyed by individuals of all ages, walks of life, and cultural backgrounds. We believe this new heritage route—whether enjoyed for a day trip, a week's adventure, or an even longer ride, will provide the spark to introduce ever more people to this wonderful mode of travel.

Note: Due to space constraints, the Field Notes on this map are not intended to be comprehensive. You can learn more about Underground Railroad sites along the route at Adventure Cycling's website: [www.adventurecycling.org/ugrr](http://www.adventurecycling.org/ugrr). We recommend reading *Bound for Canaan*, *The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America* by Fergus M. Bordewich.



## FIELD NOTES (cont.)

The route most frequently followed by freedom seekers in Mercer County was a dirt path following today's U.S. Route 19 corridor—that according to "The Underground Railroad in Mercer," one chapter of a twenty-eight-page guidebook to a walking tour of Underground Railroad-related sites in the town of Mercer. The many sites highlighted in the guide include the Magoffin House, located on South Pitt Street; the Small House and the Hanna House, sitting next door to one another on South Pitt Street and both of which served as Underground Railroad stations; and the former residence of blacksmith James Kilgore.

The author of the guidebook, Gail Habbyshaw, writes: "A tap on a window at night, or a wrap on a door of a house that served as a station, galvanized the Underground Railroad conductor and his or her family into action. This signaled that runaway slaves were being delivered. [The late local resident] Elizabeth Kilgore Breckinridge recalled that 'a certain number of knocks' in a specific pattern on the cellar door of her childhood home 'would let my father [know] that a runaway slave was there. He would take them in, and feed them, and let them rest until the next night, when they would travel on to the next station, giving them minute instructions.'" Breckinridge recalled an occasion when her mother's uncle brought in thirteen freedom seekers in a hay wagon, who off-loaded only after darkness fell.

Also included in the walking tour is the Old Mercer Graveyard, situated at the corner of North Erie and East North streets. Among the deceased buried there are individuals who were active in the Underground Railroad, including James Kilgore. About six miles outside of Mercer was the White Chapel Church, formed after the congregation in New Wilmington split over the issue of slavery. Led by John Young, the area became known for its abolition activities. And near White Chapel at Indian Run was a community known as Pandenarium. Dr. Charles Everett was a wealthy slave owner from Virginia, who, upon his death, freed his slaves and gave them a plot of land and money to settle here.

Across from the fairgrounds in Stoneboro, up the route a few miles from Mercer, is another graveyard of interest: the Freedom Road Cemetery. It's all that remains of Liberia, a town of runaway slaves established early on by a family of African Americans named Travis. Liberia residents regularly offered harbor to other freedom seekers headed north; and, reportedly, the community was often paid visits by those searching for "their" runaway slaves. Most Liberia residents left town for enduring freedom in Canada after the enactment of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. And that freedom was not far away—fewer than a hundred miles north, on the far shore of Lake Erie.

## Trail of Geology

The Pittsburgh Spur traverses two sub-sections of the Appalachians Plateau physiographic province known as the Northwestern Glaciated Plateau and the Pittsburgh Low Plateau. You'll pass through the Northwestern Glaciated Plateau in part of Beaver County, as well as in Lawrence, Mercer, Crawford, and Erie counties. As explained at the website of the Pennsylvania Geologic Survey, the plateau is composed of numerous broad, rounded uplands that are interrupted by extended linear valleys with flat floors ranging from narrow to quite wide. The valleys are separated from adjacent uplands by often steep-sided slopes. Wetlands are common on the valley floors, which typically lie less than six hundred feet below the adjacent uplands. Here, glacially deposited rocks and soils cover a bedrock of sandstones, shales, conglomerates, and coal. The elevations in this part of the state range from around 1,000 to more than 2,000 feet above sea level.

The Pittsburgh Low Plateau is made up of a gently undulating upland surface dissected by many narrow, shallow valleys. The uplands have built up atop rocks holding the majority of the bituminous coal occurring in Pennsylvania, as evidenced by the presence of both operational mines and old strip-mined areas, many of which have been reclaimed. Elevations here range from just under 700 feet to 1,700 feet above sea level, and landslides are known to be quite common in certain areas of the region. You'll pass through this section primarily in Allegheny, Butler, and Beaver counties.

You can visit a pair of parks located within the Pittsburgh Low Plateau that are in close proximity to one another and share a similar geological background, but are surprisingly different in character. McConnells Mill State Park can be seen on map panel 3, east of New Castle, while Moraine State Park lies on the opposite, east side of Interstate 79 from McConnells Mill. Each of the parks contains several "Trail of Geology" signs with numbers keyed to interpretive information found in an associated guidebook. McConnells Mill encompasses more than 2,500 acres of the very scenic Slippery Rock Creek Gorge, with its whitewater stream and numerous waterfalls. The gorge was fashioned by the erosive action of glacial lakes that drained hundreds of centuries ago. In contrast, Moraine State Park—where, actually, little morainal topography exists—dishes up the gentle hills and verdant forests more characteristic of the Pittsburgh Low Plateau. Despite their disparate appearances, the two parks share a bedrock formation going back some 300 million years, and the surfaces of both were sculpted by the advancing and retreating of glaciers over the span of the past two million years.



## RIDING CONDITIONS

This spur begins in downtown Pittsburgh and becomes progressively more rural as the miles pass until arriving in Erie.

If you are flying in or out of Pittsburgh International Airport, note that it is not currently accessible by bicycle. There is a group of taxi drivers that can arrange transportation to your hotel (or some other location) if you call in advance of your arrival, 412-855-4484. Also, the hotels listed in the Service Directory near the airport may have courtesy vans with the same service with prior notice.

After crossing the Ohio River in Pittsburgh, the route follows the North Shore Trail, an urban, sometimes busy path for cyclists and walkers that offers wide views of the city and it's industry — old and new.

In places, this spur coincides with stretches of Bicycle Pennsylvania Routes A and Z. Both are marked on the map. In addition, Route A is well signed on the road.

South of Ellwood City, River Rd. has some potholes and occasional errant golf balls from the nearby course. SR 65 from Ellwood City to New Castle has good shoulders, moderate hills and a 45 mph speed limit. North of New Castle, River Rd. has some potholes and little

to no shoulder in places.

When traveling southbound through Rochester toward Monaca and before crossing the Ohio River, be sure to study the ramp structure in detail A on map 2. If you miss the ramp onto SR 18, you will ride onto SR 51/65 without an opportunity to rejoin the route until east of the bridge.

Northwest of Meadville, SR 98 carries very little traffic and is rural in nature with few services. Between Meadville and Fairview, there are few services. Traffic volumes increase as you approach Erie, especially during commuting hours.

Road signage the entire length of the Pittsburgh Spur route is sporadic and at times inconsistent.

## CLIMATE

Though most of the state is influenced to some degree by the humid continental climate effect,

the western third of Pennsylvania where this route is located is a distinct geographical region and experiences this effect in a fairly typical fashion.

Precipitation is greatest in spring and summer with thunderstorms responsible for the numerous, oftentimes brief, summertime rain showers. Daily temperature ranges can be wide.

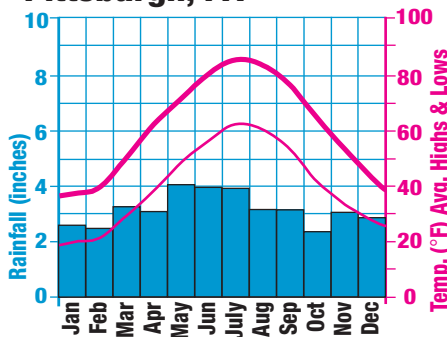
While tornadoes are only an occasional event, the state experiences 5-6 a year, they occur most frequently in the far northwest corner and most often in June.

The Lake Erie Plain near the end of the route is influenced by Lake Erie with slightly less rain and smaller daily temperature ranges.

Climate information from *Weather America, A Thirty Year Summary of Statistical Weather Data and Rankings*, 2001, 2nd edition, Grey House Publishing, Millerton, NY.

## WEATHER INFORMATION

### Pittsburgh, PA



### Erie, PA

