

Dr. Nathan Thomas House

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One of the most important sites of African American history is the Dr. Nathan Thomas House. This location is so important because it played a big part in freeing slaves and tells a story of hope for the enslaved people who bravely pursued freedom, and taught us one of life's most important lessons.

Dr. Nathan Thomas was taught slavery was wrong at an early age. He grew up in Pleasant, Ohio, a Quaker town which was famous for the anti-slavery acts of its residents. He built the Dr. Nathan Thomas House in 1835 in Schoolcraft, Michigan and expanded it when he married Pamela Brown. The Thomas House is known for being one of Michigan's most active Underground Railroad participants by helping fugitives pass through a secret system dedicated to helping to free slaves. In the mid 1840s, an abolitionist group formed an organized transportation system for runaway slaves which included the Thomas House as a crucial "station". The House operated in darkness to prevent pursuing slave owners from becoming suspicious and consisted of a path ranging from 14-16 miles long. When the fugitives made their way to the Thomas House, they would be given a meal, have their clothing mended and would receive medical treatment if they were injured or sick. Then when they were well to depart, they were shuttled to another Quaker in Battle Creek. This work was very risky. Due to the court system during that time, had they been caught, their property would have been confiscated. From the years 1840 to 1860, Pamela estimated that she and her husband helped 1,000 to 1,500 fugitive slaves escape to their freedom.

The memories of this location hold a great importance to America. The stories and the sites at the building remain as a witness to how a community banded together to help those who have faced the injustice of slavery become free again. It helps us remember what slavery was, how badly it impacted our country and what it did to innocent people. Lastly, the Thomas House serves as a symbol of perseverance and a tribute to the people who worked so hard to regain their freedom and to those who risked everything they had to help them. All of these are so important because it helped mold America into the country it is today. It taught us that we can all make a difference, we can fight to change to what's wrong, and that being free is what America is all about. Most importantly, it taught us to remember, cherish, and accept the diversity and heritage of other people.

In conclusion, the Dr. Nathan Thomas House is very important to America because it showcases the site of where a community would work together to help the slaves who needed assistance on their journey to freedom, while at the same time, teaching us to love each other. The Dr. Nathan Thomas house is still standing today and offers tours to educate tourists of this history.

Works Cited

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