

Press Release October 4, 2022: The National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom accepted the Eusebius Barnard House, owned by Pocopson Township and managed through collaboration with Friends of Barnard Station, as one of 17 new listings from the 44th round of applications, representing sites and programs in 13 states across the U.S. These new listings, alongside more than 700 sites, facilities, and programs already in the Network, provide insight into the diverse experiences of freedom seekers who bravely escaped slavery and allies who assisted them.



The Barnard family actively assisted freedom seekers from their Chester County, Pennsylvania farmhouse, including a woman named Harriet Shephard. Harriet bravely escaped enslavement in Maryland alongside her five children and five other adults. When they made it to Delaware, they were quickly directed to the home of Thomas Garrett – a lifelong Underground Railroad operative. With Garrett's guidance, they fled north, eventually crossing paths with the Barnard family and their Longwood Progressive congregation. At 15 years old, Eusebius Barnard Jr. guided the

group of freedom seekers to another safe house about 10 miles away. In part because of the Barnard family's allyship, the Shephards eventually safely crossed the Canadian border.

The new prestigious designation by the National Park Service will, among other things, open opportunities for networking, provide access to technical assistance, and make available Network to Freedom Grant opportunities for Barnard Station.

The Eusebius Barnard House is currently not open to the public, but Friends of Barnard Station, a 501 (c)(3) organization, is actively leading a project to create a Preservation Plan for its eventual interior restoration. The project is being professionally directed by preservation architect Daniel T. Campbell AIA, financed through a planning grant awarded by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Phyllis Recca Foundation, and by private contributions from the community.

To learn more, visit barnardstation.org or email barnardstation@gmail.com.