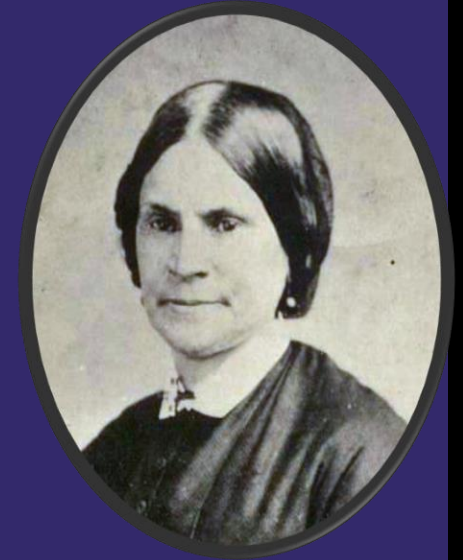
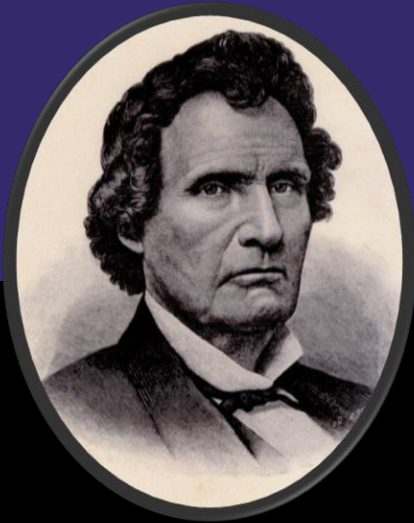


Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith

June 2, 2023



Center for History & Democracy



Thomas R. Ryan, Ph.D., President & CEO

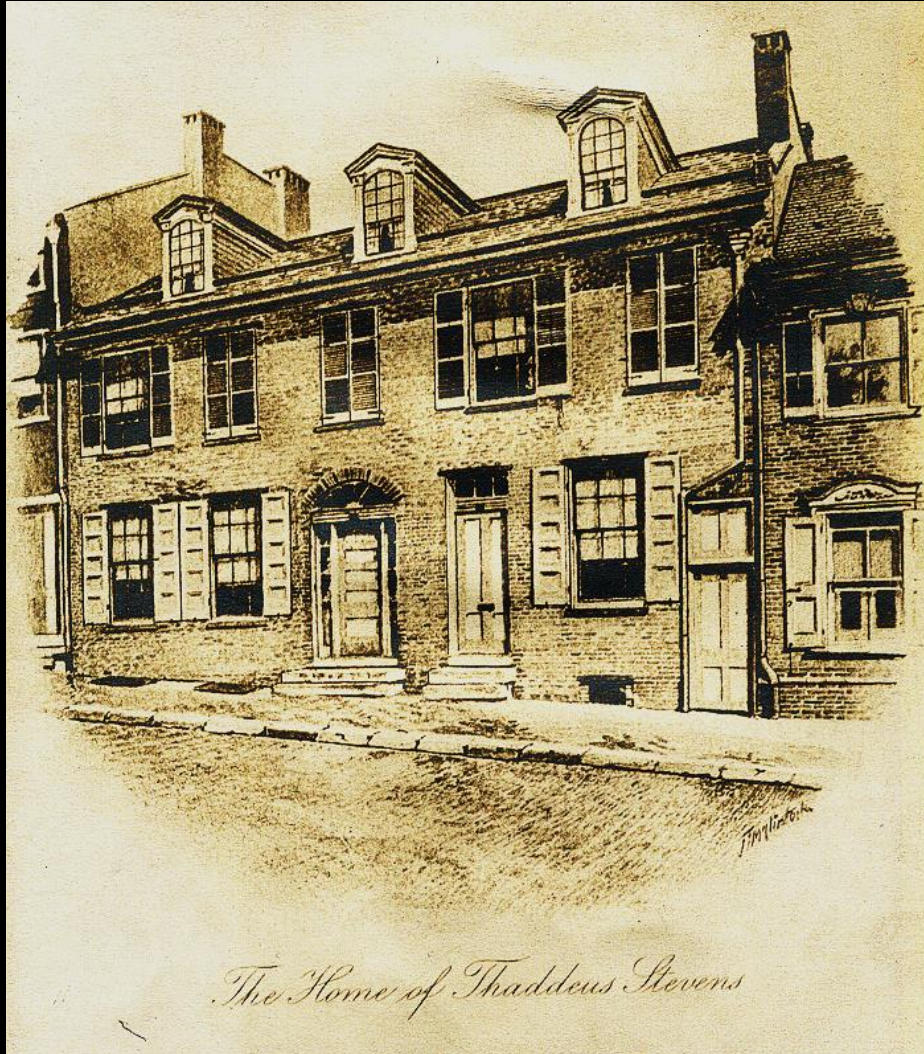
Robin Sarratt, Vice President

 **LancasterHistory**

The Place



Photo courtesy of
Larry Lefever Photography

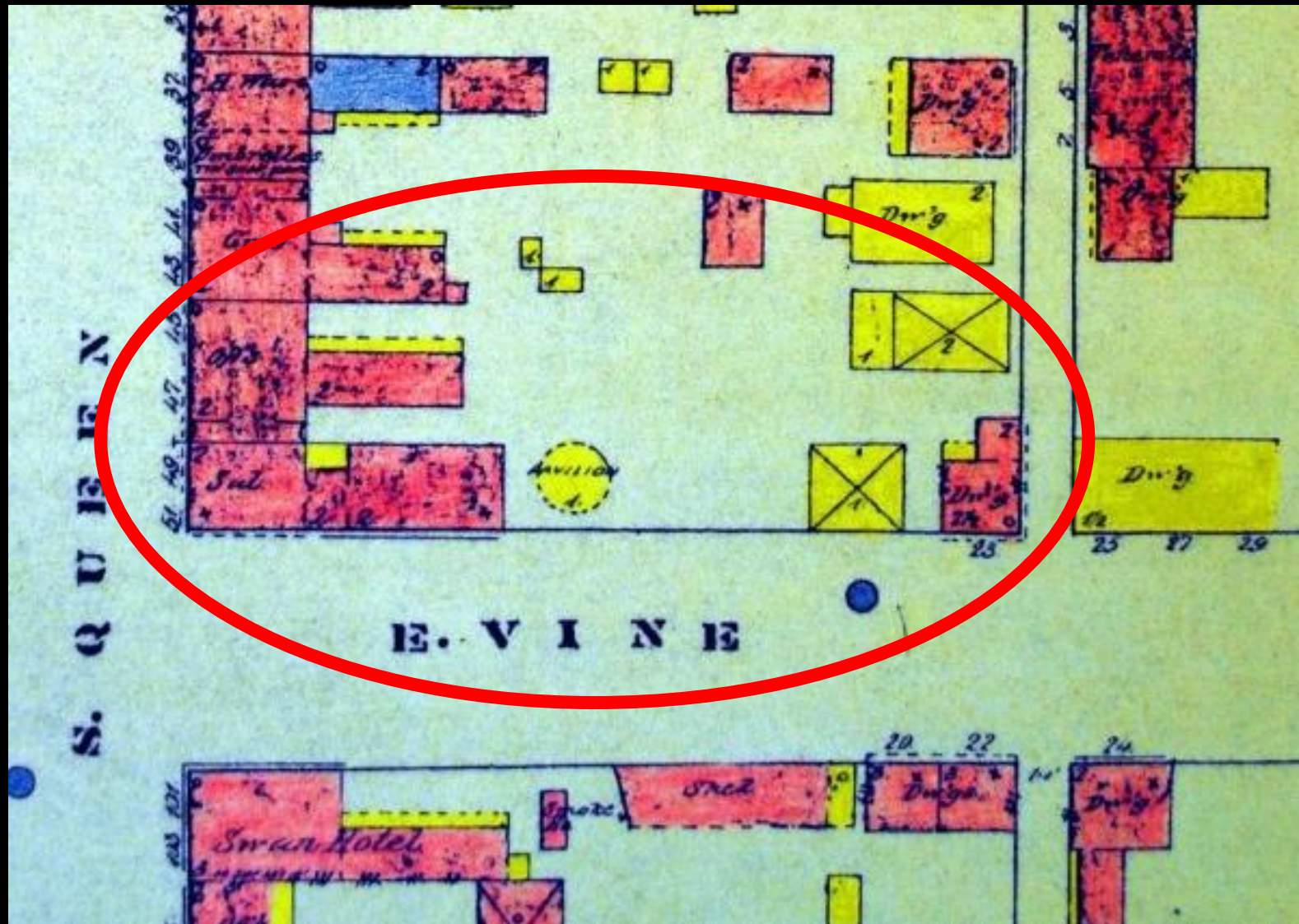


Thaddeus Stevens Home & Office 45 & 47 S. Queen St.

Built circa 1750
Originally 1.5-story home
Lot 134 Hamilton Plan

*Thomas F. Woodley's Stevens
biography, 1934*

Stevens & Smith properties, 1873



Penn Square Partners Create plan for Lancaster County Convention Center.

1999



Stevens' Buildings
and Kleiss Tavern
excluded from
original plan.

2001




Archaeological excavation of
cisterns



Possible emergency
hiding place to protect
freedom seekers from
bounty hunters in the
1850s?



Wanted! O.C. Kelly

 **\$500 REWARD** will be given for the delivery in Baltimore or Howard District Jail, or \$200 for either, of the following described **NEGRO BOYS**, who left the Camp Meeting at Hobbs' School House, Howard District, on Sunday evening, 20th instant:

HEN, a tall Black Boy, about 20 years of age.
SAM, a tall Mulatto; impediment in speech; brother of Hen.

→ **OLIVER KELLY**, a stout, thick set Black, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches high. Address Clarksville, Howard District.

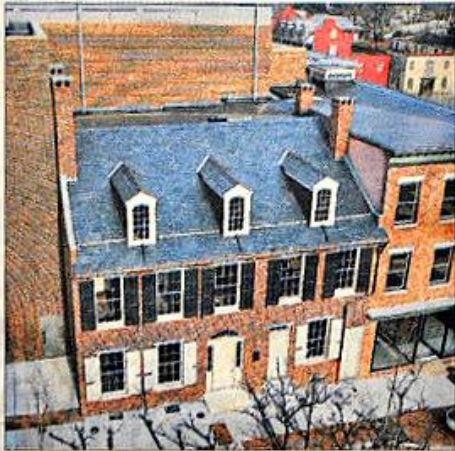
WM. CLARK, or
DR. WM. W. WATKINS.



The Baltimore Sun, August 23, 1848

Historical ties proven

Stevens home was on Underground Railroad



Suzette Wenger / Staff

The former home of Thaddeus Stevens, at 45 S. Queen St., is shown with Stevens' law office on South Queen Street. Stevens' home and office were recognized this week by the National Park Service as official sites on the Underground Railroad.

4-8-11

BY BERNARD HARRIS
Staff Writer

Oliver Cromwell Kelly and his companions didn't have a lot of information to work with when they reached Lancaster County in 1848.

Kelly, who was later known as O.C. Gilbert, and his companions dropped to their knees after crossing the Susquehanna River, thinking they had reached Canada.

The slaves, who had run away from a revival camp



The home of Thaddeus Stevens, circa 1870.

was a friend to the slaves." Bernard Harris / Lancaster

Stevens Home & Office becomes National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Site



Research & documentation supported by LancasterHistory, LCCCA,

Discover Lancaster

Application written by Randy Harris

April, 2011



Phase one completed in 2009



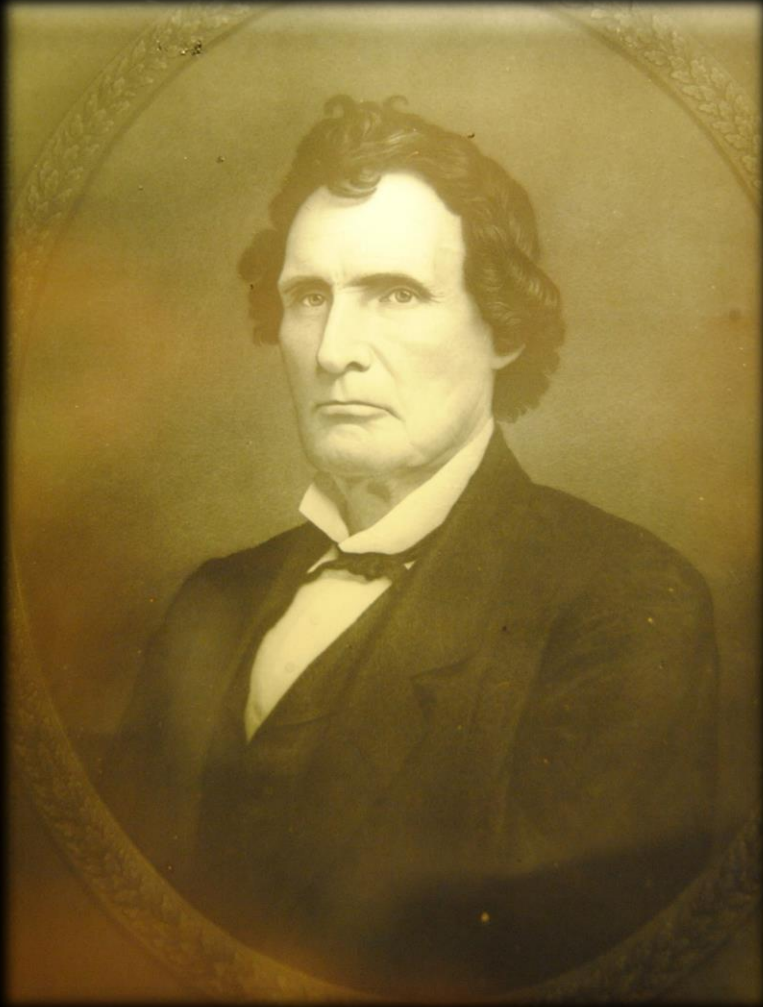
by

Historic Preservation Trust
of Lancaster County



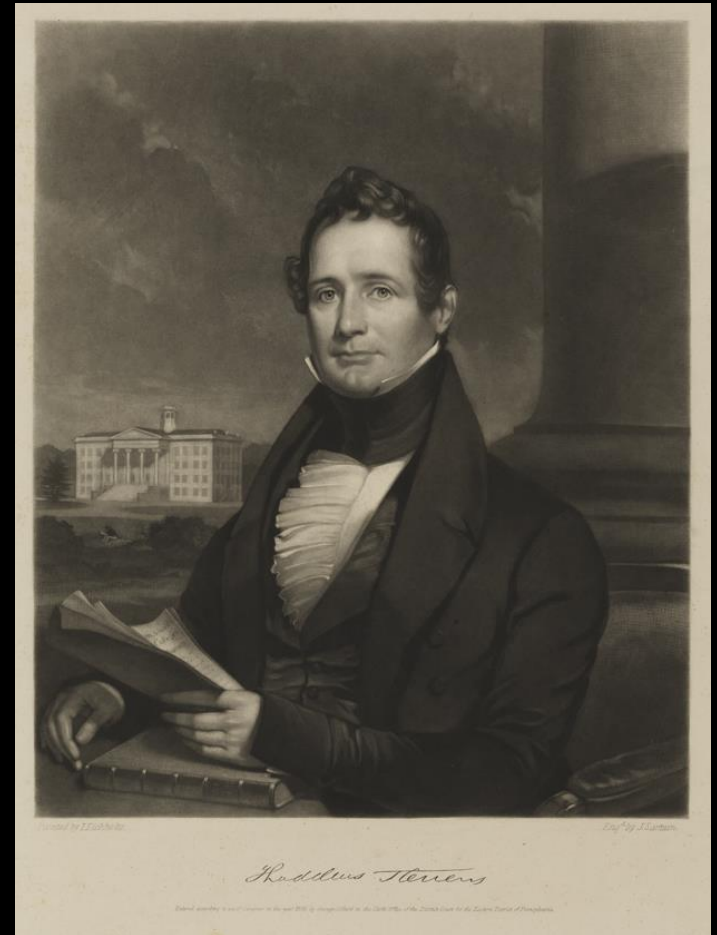
Photo courtesy of
Larry Lefever Photography

The People



Thaddeus Stevens

- Born into poverty in Vermont, April 4, 1792
- Educated at Peacham Academy, University of Vermont, Dartmouth College
- Moved to York, PA to teach and to read law
- Established law practice in Gettysburg, 1816



- 1833, Elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives
- 1835, defends and preserves free public education
- 1837, advocates against Pennsylvania Constitutional Amendments that eliminate voting rights for Black men. Refuses to sign the Constitution when it disenfranchises them.
- 1848, elected to United States Congress.

When I reflect how apt hereditary wealth, hereditary influence, and, perhaps, as a consequence, hereditary pride are to close the avenues and steel the heart against the wants and the rights of the poor, I am induced to thank my Creator for having, from early life, bestowed upon me the blessing of poverty.

--Thaddeus Stevens, April 11, 1835

Lydia Hamilton Smith

- Born in 1815 at Russell's Tavern outside Gettysburg
- Marries Jacob Smith around 1835; two sons: William and Isaac.
- Moves to Lancaster in 1844 to work for Thaddeus Stevens, bringing her two sons.
- Works with Stevens as his house manager, close confidante, and caretaker until his death in 1868



An “uncommon woman”

- Bought and sold property in Lancaster and DC
- Utilized the court system to her legal advantage, successfully bringing criminal cases on four occasions, twice against white defendants.
- Amassed significant wealth independently.
- Acted as a gatekeeper for Stevens, allowing or denying access to him, especially when ill.
- Was considered a social equal by Stevens, his family, and associates.

Pathways to Freedom



As the leader of the Radical Republicans in the House of Representatives, Thaddeus Stevens played an instrumental role in drafting and passing the 13th, 14th Amendments and setting stage for 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

XIII

Ending Slavery

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude ... shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

XIV

Extending Citizenship

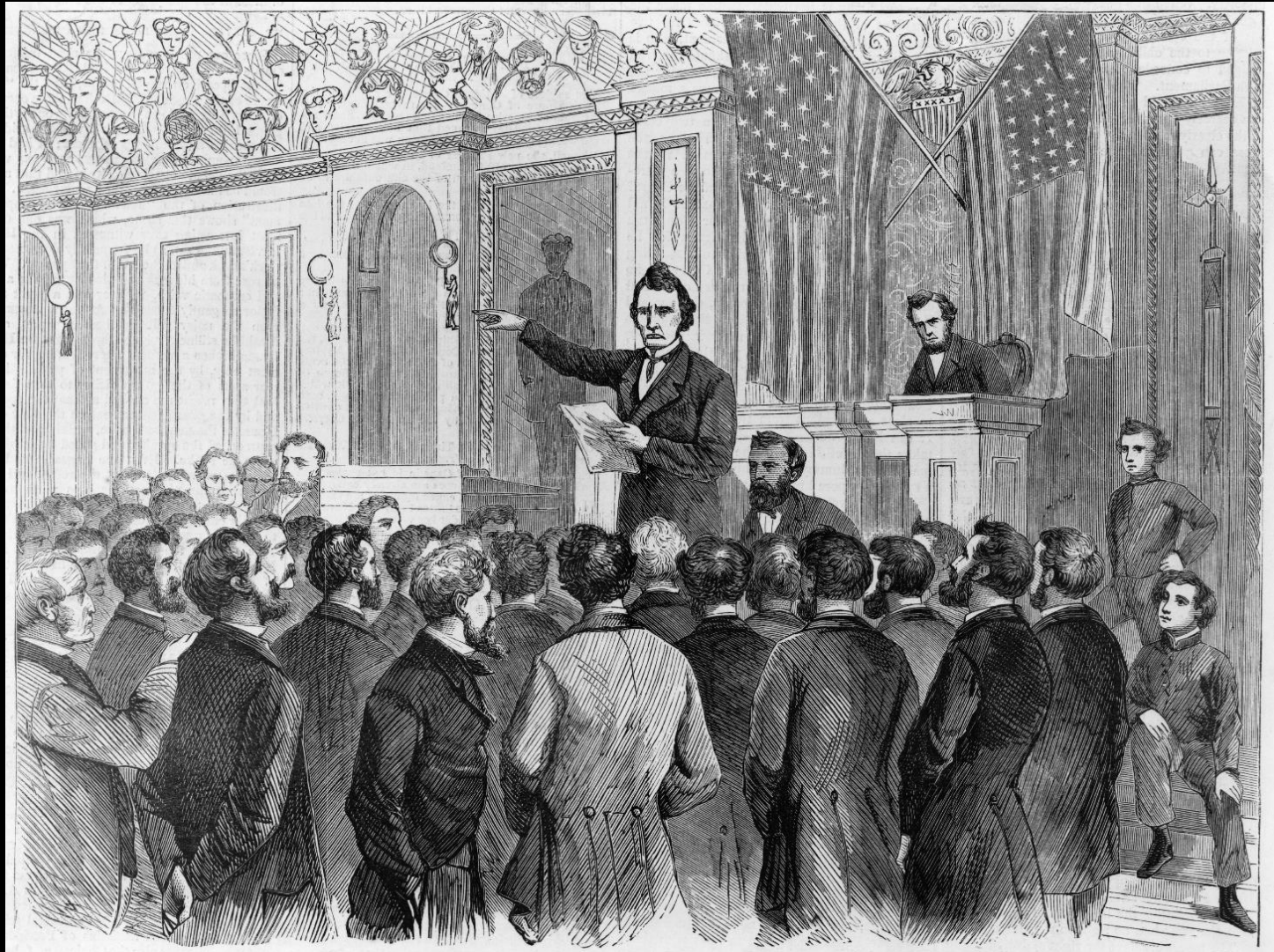
All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of law.

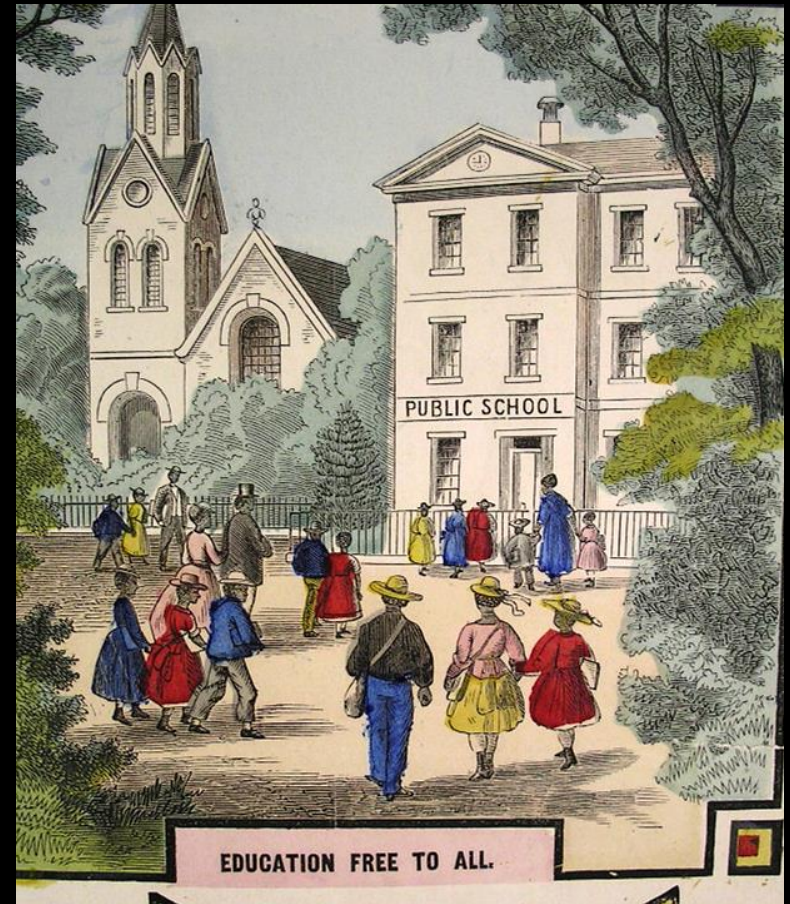
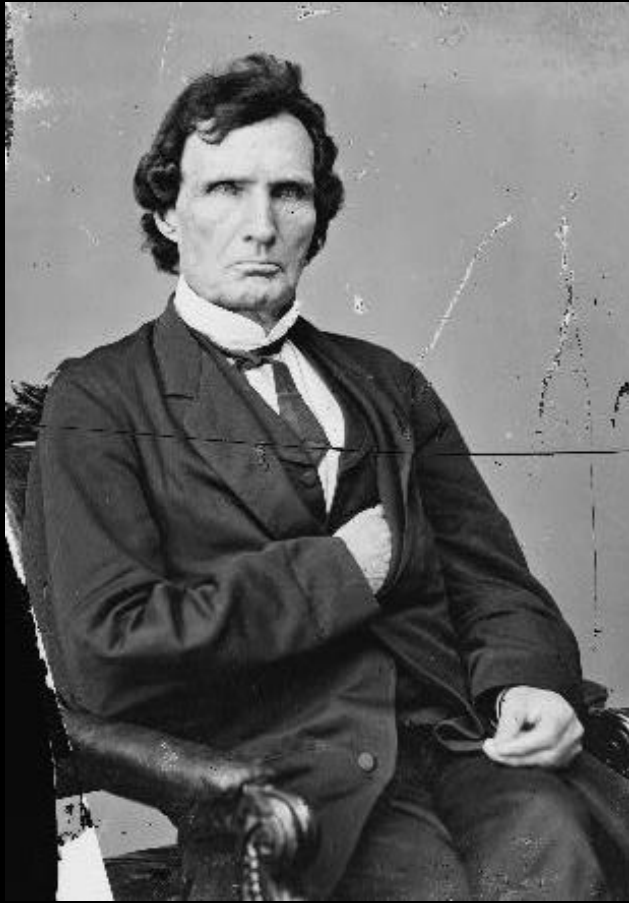
XV

Expanding Voting Rights

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Stevens Brilliant Congressional Leadership





Thaddeus Stevens died August 11, 1868. On his death bed, he claimed his efforts to maintain free public education in Pennsylvania as his greatest accomplishment

Lydia Hamilton Smith's Washington, D.C. Boarding House



A NOTED WOMAN GONE.

SUDDEN DEATH OF MRS. LYDIA SMITH.

The Faithful Housekeeper of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens Stricken With Apoplexy.

A private dispatch received in this city, on Thursday, announced the death of Mrs. Lydia Smith, at her home in Washington, D. C., in the 69th year of her age. She was stricken with apoplexy, a few days ago, and the stroke resulted fatally Thursday morning. Owing to her long and faithful service as housekeeper for the Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, Mrs. Smith had a national reputation. She was born in Gettysburg and her maiden name was O'Neill. When quite young, she was married to a barber and musician named Smith, in Harrisburg, a full-blooded negro, who turned out to be a worthless fellow and who ill-treated her. Unable to live with him she came to Lancas-

Lydia Hamilton
Smith died on
her birthday
February 14,
1884

The Project



Photo courtesy of
Larry Lefever Photography

Now is the appropriate
time to **solve the greatest
problem** ever submitted
to civilized man.

Thaddeus Stevens, 1862

Planning Support and Community Engagement efforts, 2019-2022

Support from National Endowment for the Humanities,
the High Foundation, and
the Lancaster County Community Foundation



Scholars Advisory Committee: 2019-present

- Michael J. Birkner, Ph.D. (Gettysburg College)
- Richard Blackett, Ph.D. (Vanderbilt University)
- Fergus M. Bordewich (Historian and Author)
- Spencer Crew, Ph.D. (NMAAC)
- Randolph Harris (Independent Historian)
- Bernard L. Herman, Ph.D. (UNC Chapel Hill)
- Ross Hetrick (Thaddeus Stevens Society)
- Leroy Hopkins, Ph.D. (Millersville University)
- Mark Kelley (Biographer of Lydia Hamilton Smith)
- Bruce Levine, Ph.D., (University of Illinois)
- Matthew Pinsker, Ph.D. (Dickinson College)
- Louise L. Stevenson, Ph. D. (Franklin & Marshall College)
- Page Talbott, Ph. D., (Drexel University, Independent Consultant)
- Stephanie Townrow, M.A. (University of Delaware; LancasterHistory)
- Max van Balgooy (GWU Corcoran School of the Arts, Consultant)
- Kip Van Blarcom, (Lancaster County Planning Department)
- Philip D. Zimmerman, Ph. D. (Independent Consultant)

National Museum of African American History and Culture



Canadian Museum for Human Rights



National Constitution Center



Holocaust Memorial Museum Washington, DC



Ralph Appelbaum Associates



RAA

Inclusive Design Standards

Institute of Museum and Library Services \$250,000 Grant

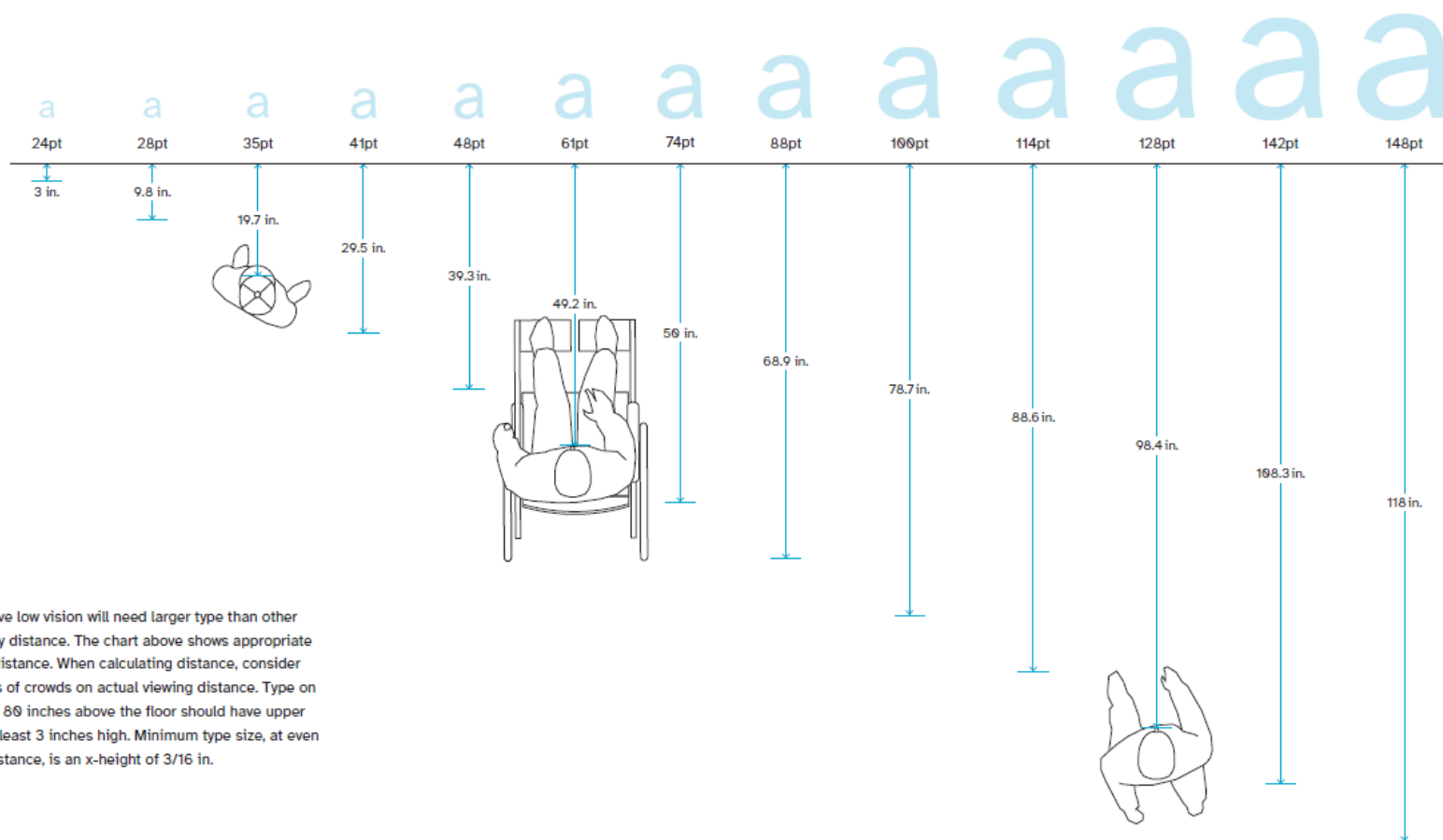


Inclusive and Accessible Design

Accessible reading zones throughout



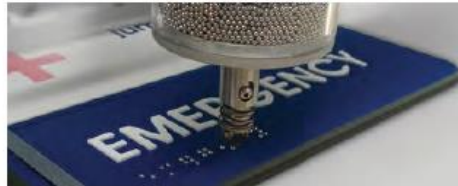
Text by Probable Viewing Distance



People who have low vision will need larger type than other visitors at every distance. The chart above shows appropriate ratios type to distance. When calculating distance, consider also the effects of crowds on actual viewing distance. Type on signs mounted 80 inches above the floor should have upper case letters at least 3 inches high. Minimum type size, at even the shortest distance, is an x-height of 3/16 in.

- Tactile Warning Strips
- Center-wide Braille
- Tactile QR codes
- Refreshable Braille on the website

CNC Raster Spheres



Rotary Engraved



Photopolymer Plate



Injection Molded Plastic



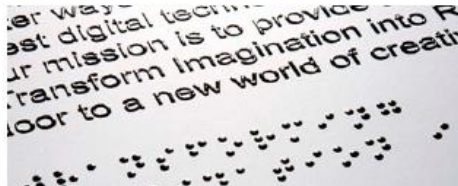
Digitally Printed UV



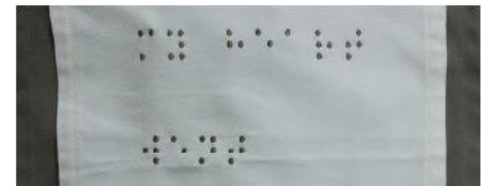
3D Printed Braille



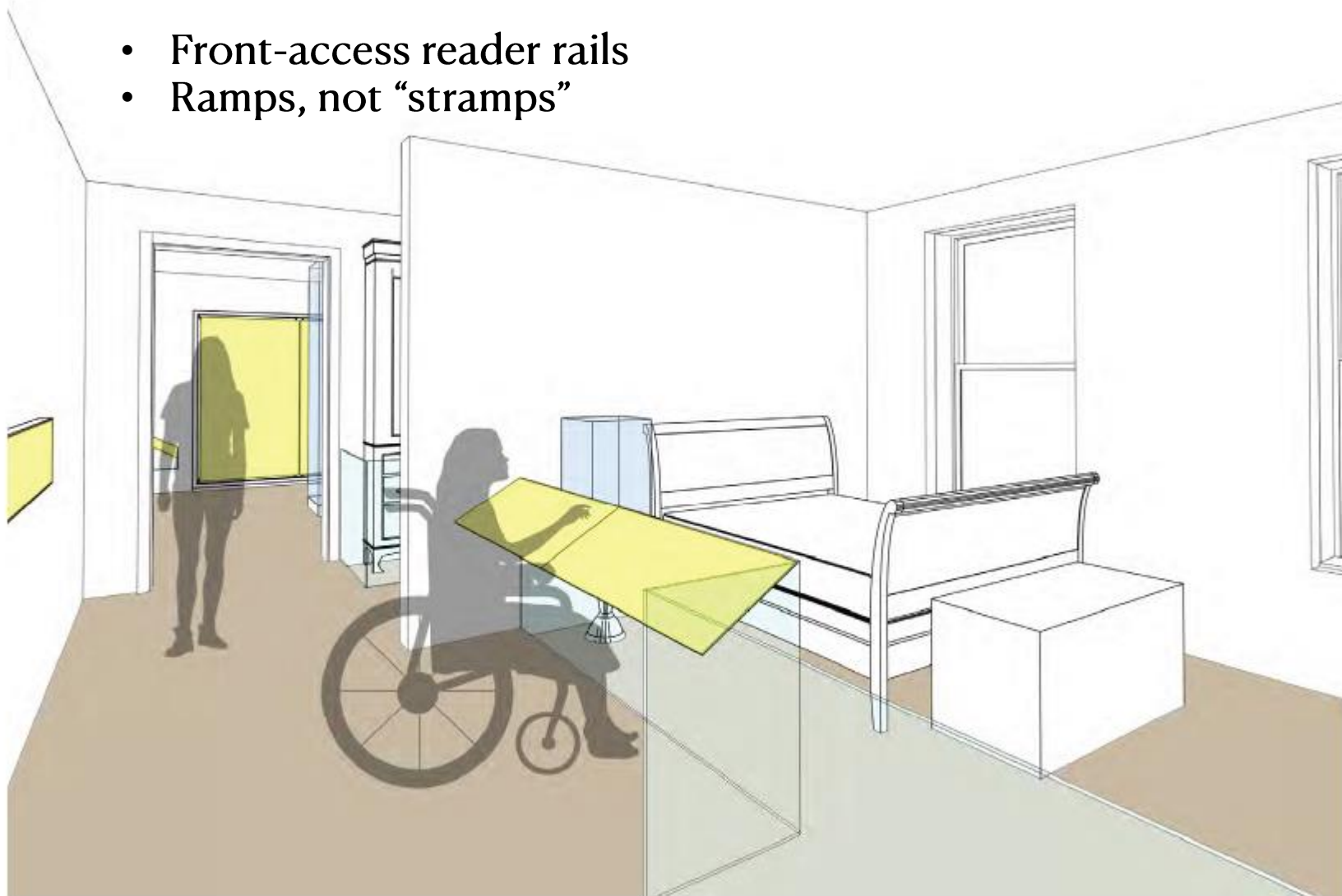
Thermographic Printing

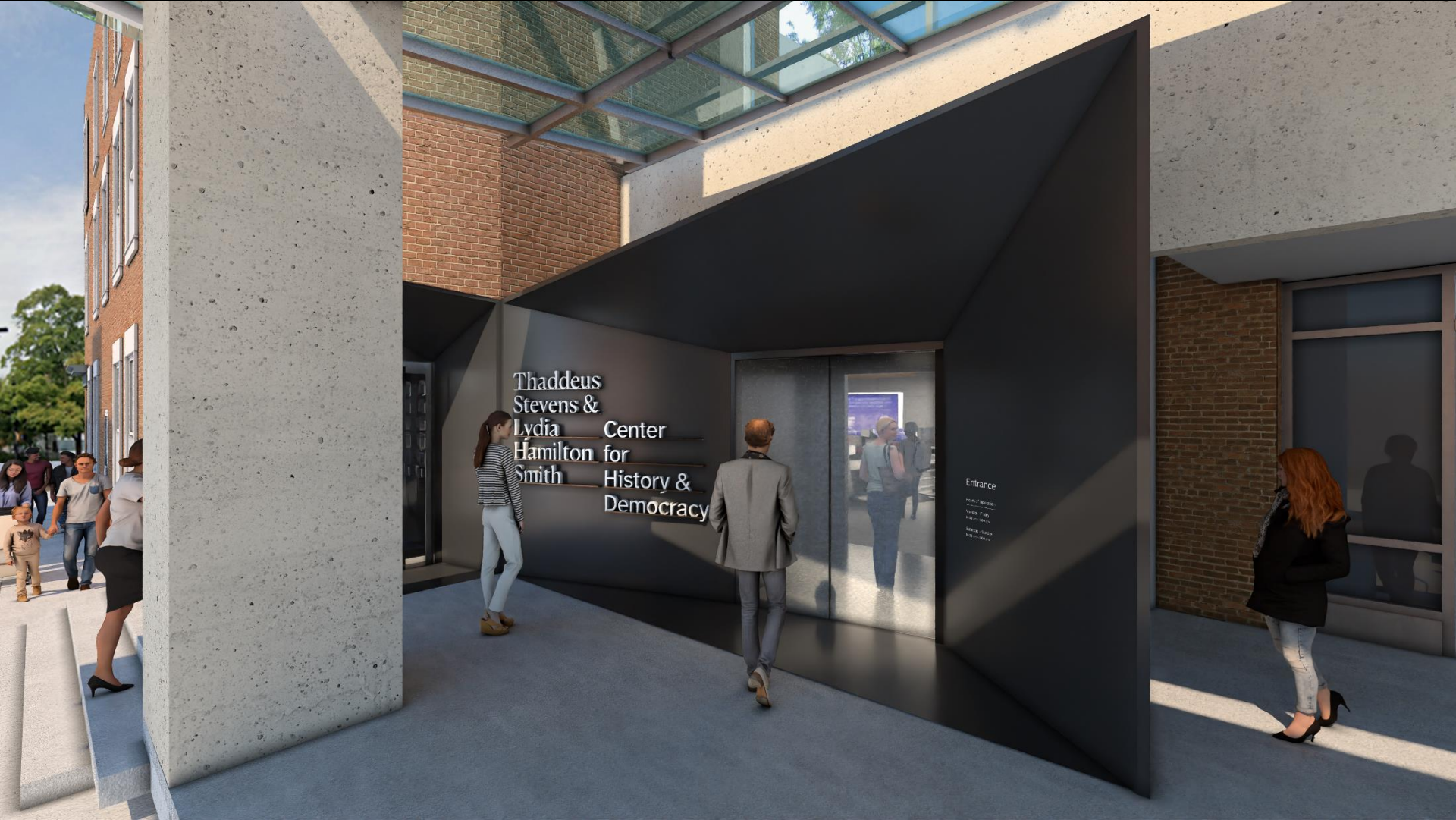


Embroidered Conductive Braille Tapestry



- Front-access reader rails
- Ramps, not “stramps”





Thaddeus
Stevens &
Lydia Center
Hamilton for
Smith History &
Democracy

Entrance

Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday - Closed

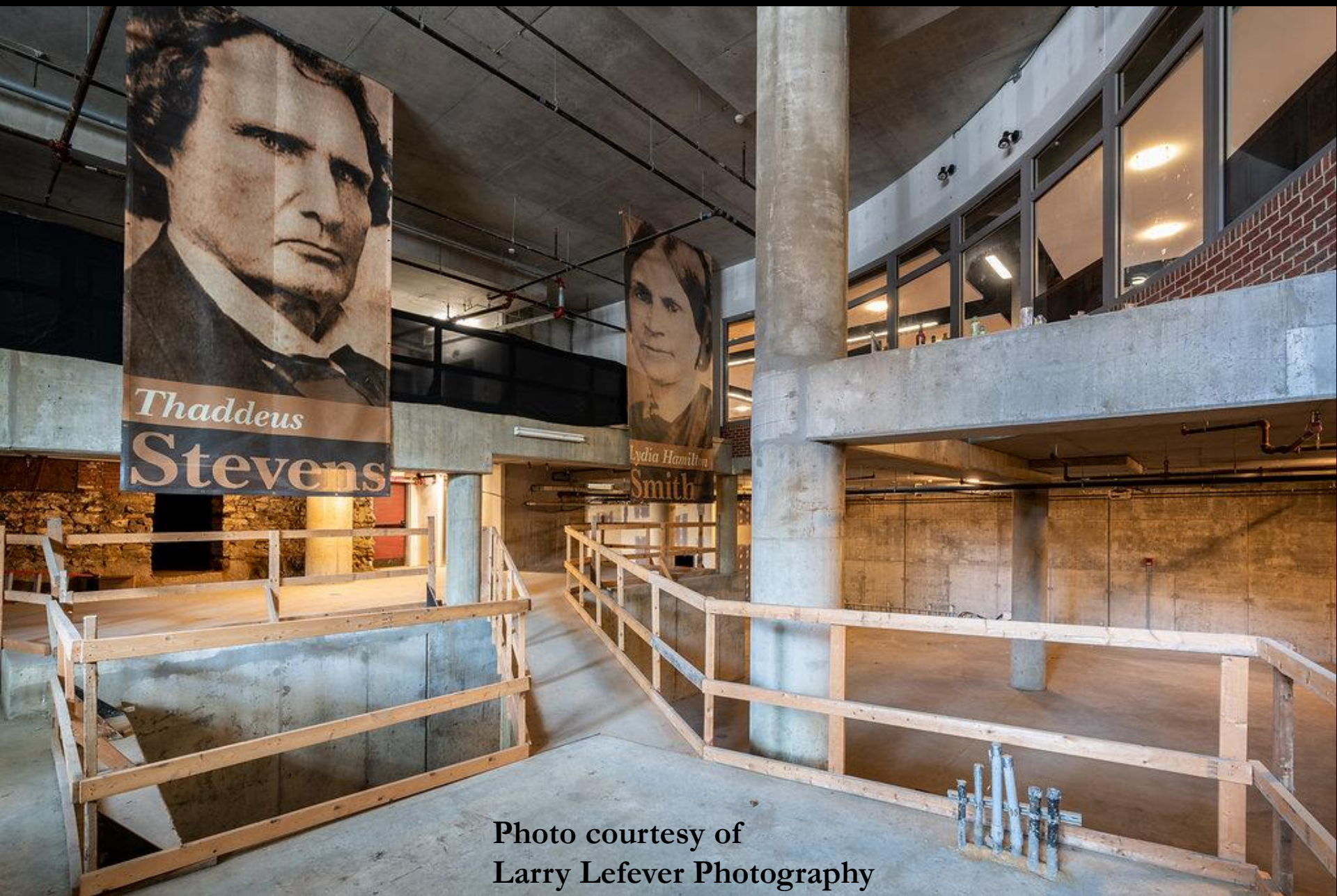


Photo courtesy of
Larry Lefever Photography





Photo courtesy of
Larry Lefever Photography



Kleiss Tavern: *Discovering Historic Lancaster*

- Panels, artifacts, and documents introduce visitors to Lancaster in the 1840s & 1850s.
- Will contextualize the neighborhood, City, and County.
- Interactive map station will invite exploration of the neighborhood in 1850--who lived here, and what were their lives like?

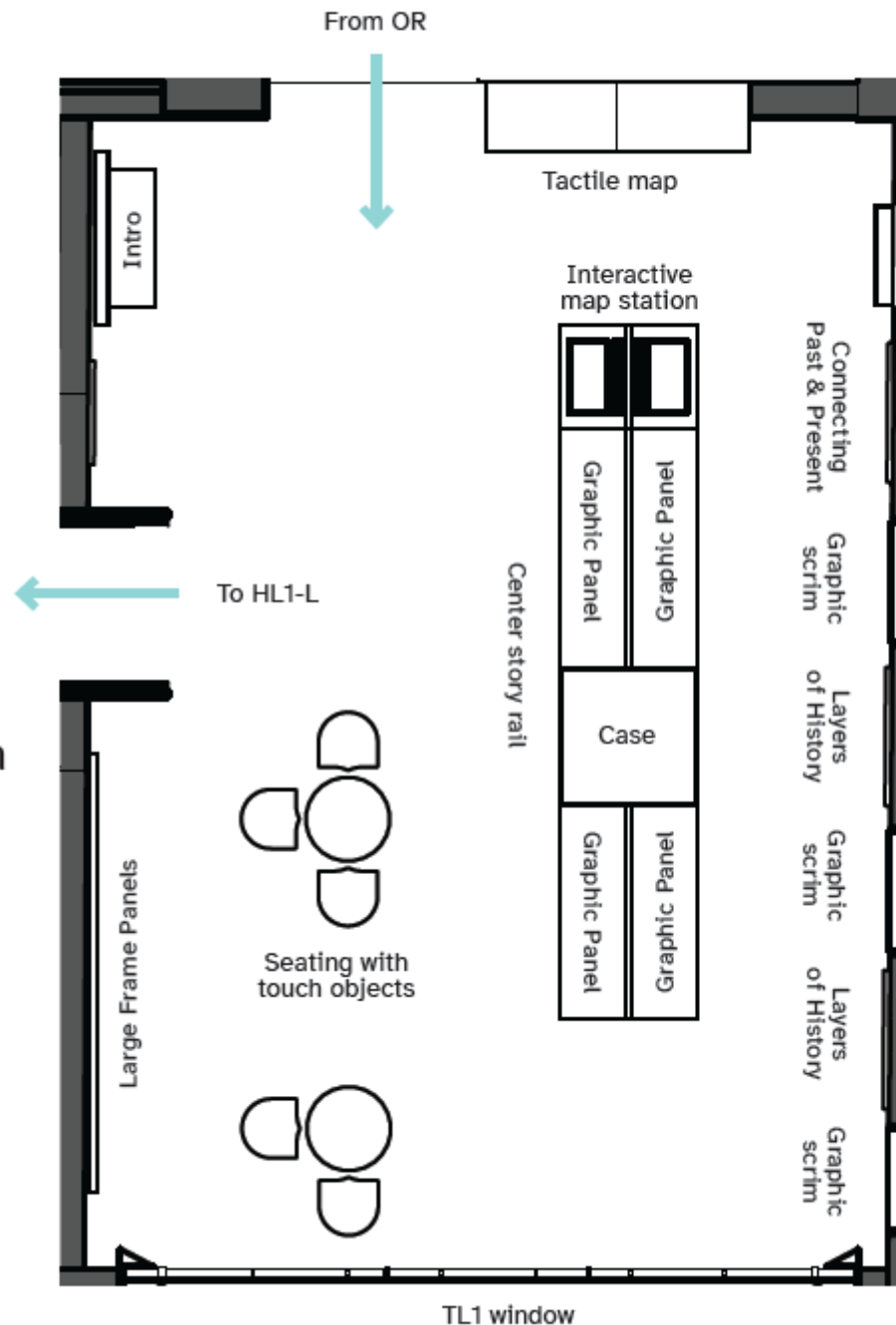






Photo courtesy of
Larry Lefever Photography



Steven's Law Office:

- Introduce Stevens' early life and move to Lancaster
- Share highlights from early legal and legislative career
- Explore changing views on abolition
- Champion of free public education
- Underground Railroad activist



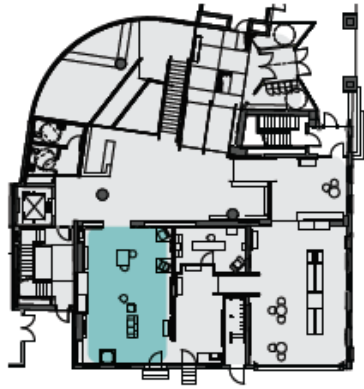


Photo courtesy of
Larry Lefever Photography



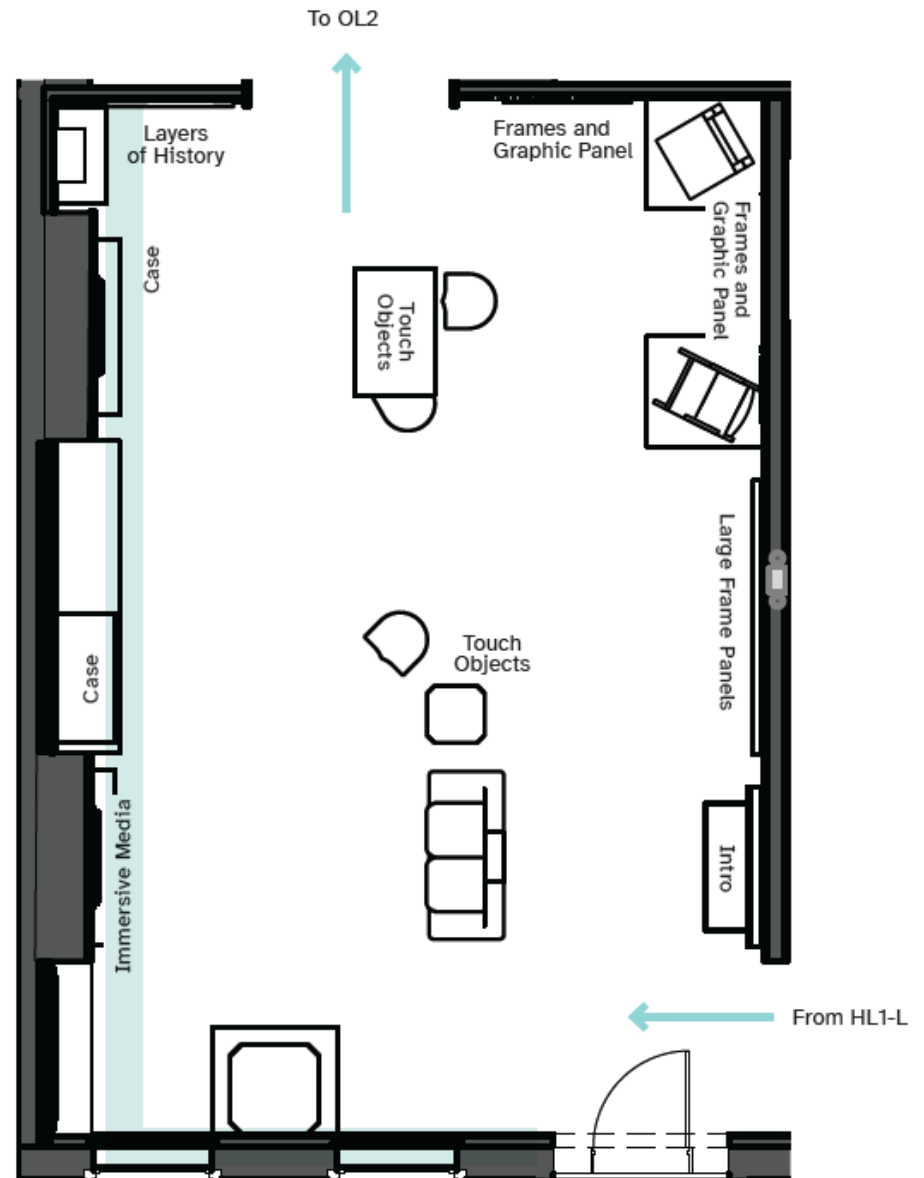
HL1-P

Key Plan



Parlors:

- Introduce Mrs. Smith, her early influences, and her move to Lancaster.
- Provide context about Stevens and Smith's shared household and how the home functioned.
- Contextualize public space vs. private space in the home.
- Connect Mrs. Smith and her activities with the neighborhood and her network.







Slave States and Free States

1846

- Slave States
- Free States
- Slave territories
- Free territories
- Other Countries

One morning when Oregon settlers were breaking through the forest to clear the land for a settlement, they found a small, dark, and cold cave. It was the same cave that had been used by the Indians for many years.

Expanding Divisions



Free States vs Slave States

Border Community



Opposition

Abolition in the North

Learn more about the people who fought for the abolition of slavery in the North. This section explores the role of women, the impact of the Underground Railroad, and the challenges faced by abolitionists in the North.



Slave Free Land



My master had power and law
on his side; I had a determined will.
There is might in even.

— Hamlet

Notman can tell the history
which is felt by the day when
on the point of making his
the air which he has now in
and the liberty which he

— John Brown





13
TH



14
TH

Second Founding

The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments

These amendments were passed in the Reconstruction era, following the Civil War. They are known as the Reconstruction Amendments because they were passed during the Reconstruction period. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, the 14th Amendment granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and the 15th Amendment prohibited discrimination on the basis of race in voting.

Connecting Past and Present

Tempor felix, et lobortis metus at mauris. Cras posuere consequat.



Exposition Hall, 18th and 19th Amendments. The 18th Amendment prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. The 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote.

Abolition of Slavery Thirteenth Amendment

Fifteenth Amendment

Equal Protection and Due Process



Connecting
Past and Present

Access to
Citizenship

Equality

Criminal Justice

Civil Rights

Women's Rights

Ongoing
Freedom
Struggles

1900s

The End of
Reconstruction
1870-1876

Reconstruction
1860s-1870s

Civil War
1861-1865

Prejudice m
minds start
tremble, but
adopt it...U
must be pro

Voting Rights

Fourteenth Amendment

Thirteenth Amendment



**Freedom
Democracy
Equality
Belonging**

I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and compass the figure by the force of sight, but I believe that it is by the way of the cross. And from the cross, I see that the only way to ensure it is justice.

Martin Luther King Jr., 1965

Economic Impact

- Overall annual visitation is estimated conservatively at 55,000.
- This is a market capture of *2.0% of the 2.8 million trade area population* and *.07% of the 8 million annual tourists Lancaster receives.*
- Student/school group visitation is estimated at 6,200 from a forty-mile radius of Downtown Lancaster.
- 14 schools within 1.5 miles of the Center.

Stevens and Smith Center
Business Operations Sustainability Report
Urban Partners, LLC
2022

Economic Impact

- An estimated 8.85 million visitors to Lancaster County directly spent \$2.24 billion in 2018, creating a total tourism impact of \$2.91 billion in the county (spending an average of \$328 per person).
- 50,000 annual visitors to the Site have the potential to add \$82 million in tourism revenue to the Lancaster economy over a five-year period.
- The Stevens and Smith Center will further create significant support for the Lancaster Convention Center, area hotels and restaurants, Southern Market Center, and downtown retail establishments

Capital and Endowment Campaign

Anticipated capital cost: **\$19 million**

LancasterHistory's capital campaign aims to meet these costs fully through grants, individual donations, state and federal support, and corporate gifts.

Target operating endowment: **\$5 million**

This will support the ongoing operations of the Stevens and Smith Center, and will be raised as part of LancasterHistory's multi-year capital campaign.

\$13.1 Million pledged, to date



**Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith
Center for History and Democracy**

For more information

<https://www.lancasterhistory.org/about-sschd/>

