

# PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

In the 400 years that African-Americans have lived in Philadelphia, their lives have taken on a dual character. On the one hand, forced exclusion from the mainstream brought about the creation of separate institutions and lifestyles. On the other hand, African-Americans never ceased their efforts to change the dominant white society. Blacks started their own schools, insurance companies, newspapers, and societies, but they also demonstrated, withheld tax money, and spoke out against segregation.

Philadelphia was a key city in the activities of the Underground Railroad, a loosely organized system of escape routes for fugitive slaves. Many homes here served as "stations," or places of hiding, where fugitives were sheltered for a short time before being taken to the next stop.

## HISTORIC SITES

### •All Wars Memorial to Black Soldiers

West Lansdowne Drive  
215 635-0001

Fairmount Park's only statue dedicated to Blacks. The monument features 12 military figures and commemorates the Black Pennsylvania soldiers who fought in America's wars. It was erected in 1934. Fairmount Park is the largest urban park in the nation.

### •Johnson House in Germantown

Germantown Avenue & Washington Lane  
215 843-0943

The house was an underground railroad station operated by Quaker, Samuel Johnson. Runaway slaves were hidden in the basement and the attic. The house was also a meeting place for such important underground operators as William Still and Harriet Tubman.

### •Kunder House

5109 Germantown Avenue  
The site of the first formal protest against slavery in North America in 1688, it is used today as a commercial laboratory.

### •Washington Square

6th & 7th Streets and Walnut to Locust Streets  
The Square was once known as "Congo Square," because it was a meeting place for free Blacks. The Square is the burial place for hundreds of Revolutionary War Black soldiers. The Tomb of the Unknown

Soldier of the Revolutionary War is in the Square along with an eternal flame.

### •Freedom Theater

1346 N. Broad Street  
215 765-2793

Founded in 1966, the theater is Pennsylvania's oldest Black theatrical institution, and is considered one of the top six theaters in the nation. It has trained thousands and has presented over 275 plays, bringing the affirmation of Black culture to more than 400,000 theater patrons. The building occupied by Freedom Theater was called Heritage House, and was founded in 1949 by Dr. Eugene Waymon Jones. The Heritage House was the oldest Black cultural center in the United States. The building is the former home of Edwin Forrest, a great American, 19th century actor.

### •Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum

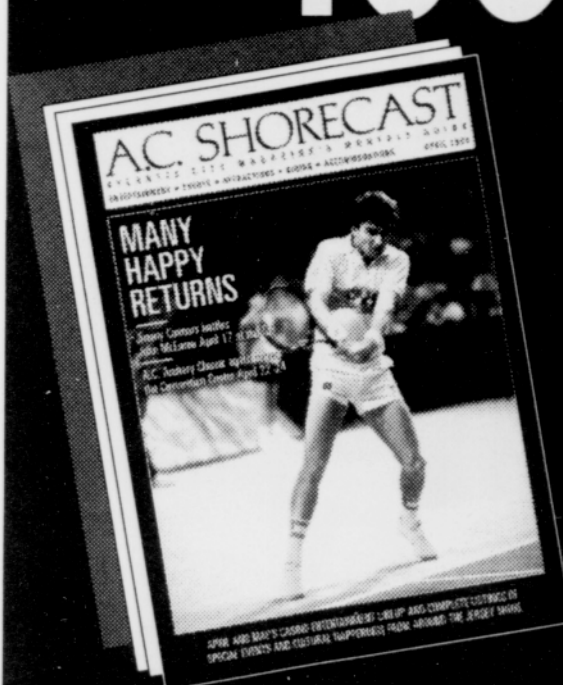
7th and Arch Streets  
215 574-0380  
Built in 1976 by the City of Philadelphia, the museum is dedicated to researching, documenting and exhibiting African-American culture. During its first decade it attracted over one million visitors. The museum also houses a gift shop.

### •The John W. Coltrane Society

1511 N. 33rd Street  
215 763-1118  
Established in 1984, the organization's purpose is to preserve the

*continued on page 10*

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