

## RIPLEY LOOP

*About the bicycling:*

Distance: 8.9 mi. Recommended for beginner cyclists. Slight uphill grade both leaving and entering Ripley. Schwallie Rd. is essentially one lane with residential-only traffic and the last mile all downhill to Ripley Rd.

*To do & see:*

- ▲ Rankin House, 6152 Rankin Hill Rd., Ripley, 937-392-1627 (from 2nd St., located 0.25 mi. east on Rankin Hill Rd.).
- ▲ Parker House, 330 Front St., Ripley, 937-392-4188.
- ▲ Ripley Presbyterian Church (Rev. Rankin's church), 114 Mulberry St.,

## RED OAK LOOP

*About the bicycling:*

Distance: 12.8 mi. Recommended for intermediate cyclists. Slight uphill grade both leaving and entering Ripley. U.S. Highway 62/68 is a four-lane highway with shoulders that carry heavy traffic. Use caution.

*To do & see:*

- ▲ Red Oak Presbyterian Church, 5754 Cemetery Rd., Red Oak (from U.S. Highway 62/68, located 0.2 mi. east on Cemetery Rd.).

See Ripley Loop for additional listings.

*Where to eat:*

See Ripley Loop for listings.

*Where to stay:*

Call the Brown County Tourism Office for lodging options in the area, 937-378-1970.

## GEORGETOWN LOOP

*About the bicycling:*

Distance: 26.5 mi. Recommended for intermediate to advanced cyclists. Slight uphill grade leaving Ripley resulting in a nice downhill back into town. Free Soil Rd. is a long, slow climb north toward Georgetown. Use caution descending Old U.S. Highway 68 through the hairpin curve known locally as "Horseshoe Bend" to the intersection with Centerpoint Rd. Deer are frequently sighted at this location.

*To do & see:*

- ▲ Ulysses S. Grant Boyhood Home, 219 E. Grant Ave., Georgetown, 937-378-4222 (from Main St., located 0.2 mi. east on Grant Ave.).
- ▲ Grant Schoolhouse, 508 S. Water St., Georgetown, 937-378-4222 (from Main St., located 2 blocks east on E. 3rd St.).
- ▲ John A. Ruthven's Art Gallery, 203 E. Grant Ave., Georgetown, 937-378-4222 (from Main St., located 0.2 mi. east on Grant Ave.).

Ripley (from Front St., located 2 blocks east on Mulberry St.).

- ▲ Ripley Museum, 219 N. 2nd St., Ripley, 937-392-4660.

*Where to eat:*

- ▲ Coheart's Riverhouse Restaurant, 18 N. Front St., Ripley, 937-392-4819.
- ▲ Rockin' Robin's Soda Shoppe, 8 N. Front St., Ripley, 937-392-1300.

*Where to stay:*

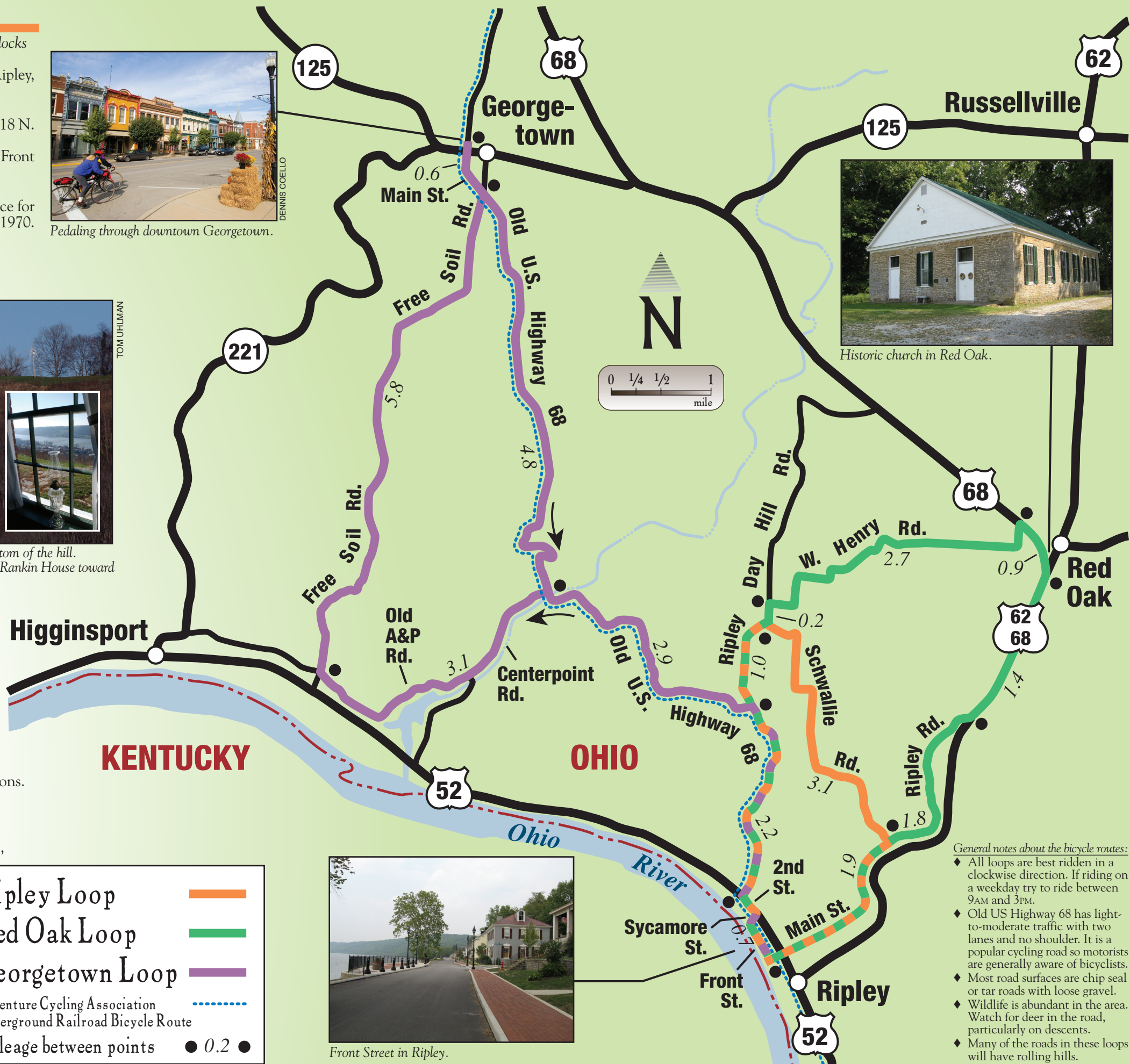
Call the Brown County Tourism Office for lodging options in the area, 937-378-1970.



View of Rankin House from the bottom of the hill. Inset: Looking out the window of the Rankin House toward the Ohio River.



Pedaling through downtown Georgetown.



Ripley Loop	
Red Oak Loop	
Georgetown Loop	
Adventure Cycling Association	
Underground Railroad Bicycle Route	
Mileage between points	● 0.2 ●



Front Street in Ripley.



Historic church in Red Oak.

*General notes about the bicycle routes:*

- ◆ All loops are best ridden in a clockwise direction. If riding on a weekday try to ride between 9AM and 3PM.
- ◆ Old US Highway 68 has light-to-moderate traffic with two lanes and no shoulder. It is a popular cycling road so motorists are generally aware of bicyclists.
- ◆ Most road surfaces are chip seal or tar roads with loose gravel.
- ◆ Wildlife is abundant in the area. Watch for deer in the road, particularly on descents.
- ◆ Many of the roads in these loops will have rolling hills.



DENNIS COELLO

Cyclists enjoy the view from the Rankin House in Ripley.

in motion and had the courage to say no to slavery.

known as *Freedom's Landing*.  
 your ride through the area  
 provided shelter. Please enjoy  
 your freedom and those who  
 braved of those who sought  
 Bicycle Route honors the  
 The Underground Railroad  
 form of civil disobedience.  
 participated in this widespread



Ripley Presbyterian Church, Reverend Rankin's church, in Ripley.

Ohio soaking up the history and hospitality of this lovely southern Ohio town.

The community of Georgetown is quaint and slow paced. Enjoy

pecker he created.

John was part of the recovery team that searched for the ivory-billed woodpecker. In 2005, the U. S. Secretary of the Interior in Washington D. C. unveiled a painting of the ivory-billed woodpecker he created.

is a resident of Georgetown and has a studio open to the public.

John A. Ruthven, an internationally acclaimed wildlife artist,

time Grant spent in one residence. Be sure to visit the **Grant**

**Home and Grant Schoolhouse** on your ride through town.

The village of Georgetown is proud of its connection to the

Civil War. This community was the boyhood home of Union

General Ulysses S. Grant from 1823-1839, the longest period of

War and the other is still in use.



DENNIS COELLO

There are two cemeteries on the property, one dates from before the Civil War and the other is still in use.

There are two cemeteries on the

property, one dates from before the Civil

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

War and the other is still in use.

## Discover America's Legendary Route to Freedom



Welcome to the first in a series of day trip maps created for people to actively experience history. This brochure is the product of a collaborative effort between Brown County Tourism and Adventure Cycling Association and features three loop routes that will transport you into the rich Underground Railroad history of the area while providing you with a beautiful bike ride fit for people of all ages and abilities. A portion of these mapped loops are part of a much larger route which was created in 2007 by Adventure Cycling Association. Running from Mobile, Alabama, to Owen Sound, Ontario, Adventure Cycling's 2,028 mile route passes points of interest and historic sites while providing turn-by-turn instructions; illustrated map panels; cycling, elevation, and weather conditions; as well as important service information. Historic details and stories, also featured on the maps, help bring the route to life. Broken down into five map sections of approximately 400 miles each, cyclists can choose to travel this route in a variety of ways. Some "load" their bikes with tents, sleeping bags, and cooking gear and ride self-contained on all or portions of the route. Others employ family or friends to SAG (support and gear) their gear in vehicles, while others choose not to camp but stay instead in hotels.

The guiding principal for mapping this long distance 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. The slave spiritual "Follow the Drinking Gourd" guided our route north along the rivers and byways to the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio rivers. From there, we let the history carry the route all the way to Canada, incorporating as many sites and communities as feasible for bicycle travelers.

Adventure Cycling Association partnered with the Center for Minority Health (CMH) at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania ([www.cmh.upitt.edu](http://www.cmh.upitt.edu)) to create the route. CMH advocates for innovative ways to encourage people to live healthy lifestyles. Both organizations share a twofold goal in creating the 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.


Additional partners in developing and promoting this 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.

Please enjoy your adventure on the Underground Railroad Bicycle Route. We encourage you to say hello to any bike travelers you might encounter — they'll be sure to have stories to tell! To learn more about this route and all its attributes, visit [www.adventurecycling.org/ugrr](http://www.adventurecycling.org/ugrr).



**For more information about the Underground Railroad in Brown County, contact the Brown County Tourism office.**  
 Phone: 937-378-1970, cell 513-304-1523  
 Website: [www.county.brown.oh.us](http://www.county.brown.oh.us)  
 Email: [browncountytourism@county.brown.oh.us](mailto:browncountytourism@county.brown.oh.us)

**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 36,180 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 \$35.00 a year. Member benefits include:  
 ■ 9 issues of *Adventure Cyclist* magazine  
 ■ *The Cyclists' Yellow Pages*, an annual resource directory  
 ■ Organized tours  
 ■ Discounts on bicycle maps  
 For a more information call 1-800-755-2463, 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



**DISCLAIMER:** Adventure Cycling Association has produced this map solely as an aid for cyclists. By producing it, neither Adventure Cycling Association, the Brown County Tourism Office, the listed sponsors, nor the Ohio Department of Transportation warrants the safety of those who bicycle on the roads used. The user assumes the risks encountered, and is advised to use good judgement and obey all traffic laws.

Thanks to our generous sponsors

**Governor's Office of Appalachia**

**Brown County Tourism**

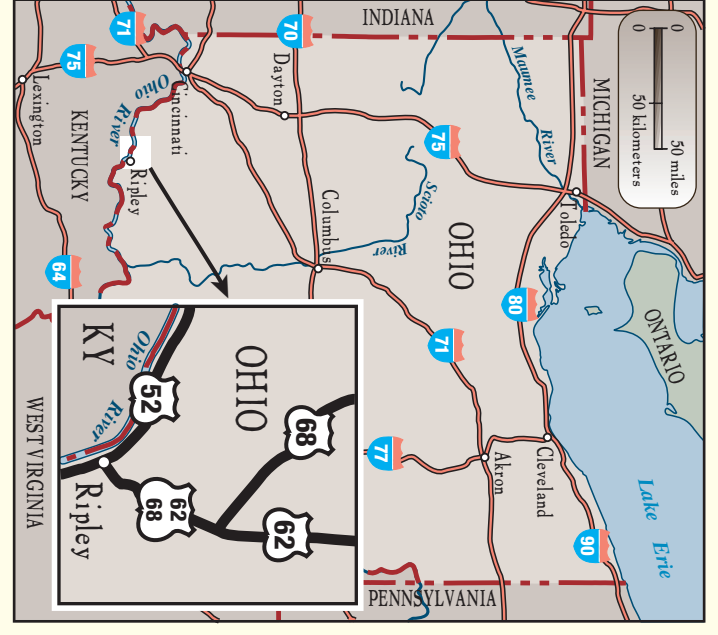
**Adventure Cycling Association**



OHIO ARTS COUNCIL  
 A STATE AGENCY  
 THAT SUPPORTS PUBLIC PROGRAMS IN THE ARTS



THE FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIA



## THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Now you can experience one of the most storied treks to freedom in American history – by bicycle. A clandestine network of routes and safe houses that helped enslaved Americans find freedom, the exact origin of the name is not known, however, by the 1820s both those who aided freedom seekers and those who were angered by the loss of their human "property" began to refer to an **Underground Railroad**. In its most developed form, the Underground Railroad offered local aid to runaways, assisting them from one point to another. "Conductors" would guide the freedom seekers to a safe

"station" on the route north.

After the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, the Underground Railroad evolved from its

loosely organized beginnings to something more deliberate

and organized. Despite the illegality of their actions, and

with little regard for their own personal safety, people of all

races, classes, and genders participated in this widespread

form of civil disobedience.

The Underground Railroad

Bicycle Route honors the

bravery of those who sought

their freedom and those who

provided shelter. Please enjoy

your ride through the area

known as *Freedom's Landing*.

your ride through the area

known as *Freedom's Landing*.