

# TOUR OF THE HAINES HOUSE

## UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MUSEUM

The story of our Freedom Seekers, Trailblazers & Abolitionists  
186 W. Market St. Alliance, Ohio



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Board of Directors of the Alliance Area Preservation Society and the Haines House Underground Railroad Museum recognize that the Haines House occupies part of what was the traditional homeland of Iroquois and Delaware Nations. They lived here hundreds of years before John and Nancy Grant built the Haines House in 1828. We acknowledge the people who were stewards of this land and express our gratitude to them, and to their elders, past, present, and future.

We welcome dialogue and information about this statement and seek interaction with indigenous peoples in our area.

# FOR YOUR SAFETY

Welcome to the Haines House Underground Railroad Museum. We are committed to providing a safe and enjoyable experience for all our visitors. Please read and acknowledge the following important information regarding your visit:

## Notice of Potential Hazards

The Haines House is a historic structure with features that may pose certain risks, including but not limited to: Steep stairs, Unlevel floors, Tripping hazards, Low ceilings

## Assumption of Risk

By entering the Haines House Underground Railroad Museum, visitors acknowledge and understand that there are inherent risks associated with the historic nature of the building. Visitors agree to assume responsibility for any injuries or damages that may occur during their visit.

## Hold Harmless Agreement

In consideration of being permitted to visit the Haines House Underground Railroad Museum, visitors agree to hold harmless and indemnify the Haines House, its owners, staff, volunteers, and affiliates from any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of action, including attorney's fees and court costs, arising out of or relating to any injury, loss, or damage that may occur during their visit, whether caused by negligence or otherwise.

## Acknowledgment

By entering the Haines House Underground Railroad Museum, visitors acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to the terms of this Hold Harmless Agreement Notice. Visitors further acknowledge that they are aware of the potential hazards present and assume all risks associated with their visit.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation



# ABOUT

John and Nancy Grant were trailblazers and Quakers who brought their family from New Jersey to the thick forests of Frontier Ohio. Their beliefs, and those of their youngest daughter and son-in-law, would bind them to the cause of enslaved Freedom Seekers. As Abolitionists, the Grant-Haines Family joined America's first genuinely interracial coalition in the struggle for social justice



In 2004, the Haines House was recognized by the U. S. National Park Service as an Underground Railroad site in its [Network to Freedom](#) program after a review by a team of scholars and park officials—One of only two in Stark County.

In 2023, [TourismOhio](#) selected the Haines House as one of fifteen sites in the State on its official Ohio Historic Underground Railroad Trail, commemorating Ohio's rich heritage as the Main Line of the UGRR.

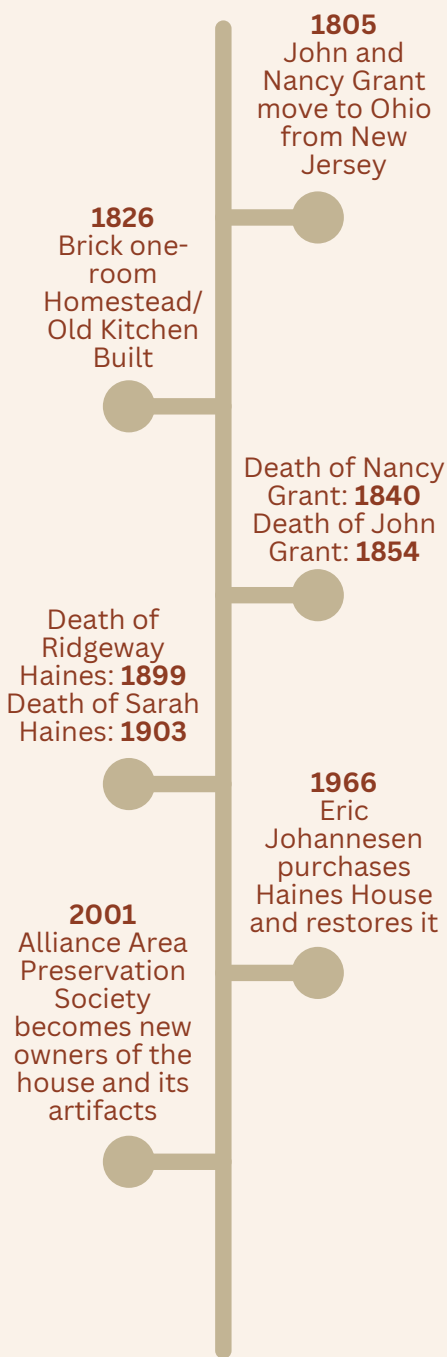


NATIONAL  
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  
NETWORK TO FREEDOM



The Haines House, built between 1827 and 1842 by John and Nancy Grant, early Stark County settlers, hosted an Underground Railroad station before the Civil War, operated by their daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Ridgeway Haines. Their son, John Columbus Haines, a Civil War veteran, and his brothers were pivotal in Alliance's growth, founding the Alliance City Band in 1859. Today, the Haines House serves as the Haines House Underground Railroad Museum, showcasing restored rooms like the mid-Victorian parlor, early 19th-century kitchen, child's room, Grant bedroom, attic hideaway for Freedom Seekers, and herb garden. It features rotating exhibits, a 'Timeline of Slavery and Abolitionism in the US,' and offers diverse programs like Christmas Lamplight Tours, and hands-on history activities. Recognized by the National Park Service's Network to Freedom and the Ohio Underground Railroad Association, it honors and educates about this crucial chapter in American history.

## TIMELINE



# 01 COMMUNITY ROOM

## EVAN & SUZANNE MORRIS COMMUNITY ROOM

Historically known as the East Parlor. This room was used as a gathering and entertaining space by the Grant & Haines Family and their guests. Being a musical family, the Haines likely sang, played music, and read together in this room. The chimneys were designed to accommodate wood-burning stoves, which were a much more efficient heating method. You can see an example of one of these stoves in the parlor across the hall.

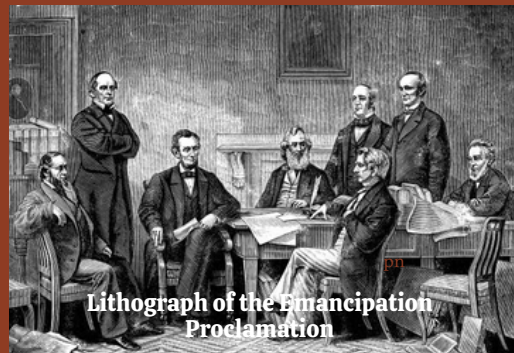
Originally, the woodwork in this parlor was gilded, suggesting that this room may have been a very ornate High Victorian parlor. It is now a meeting and educational space.



Harriet Tubman - Conductor on the Underground Railroad



Alliance City Band - Founded by the Hiane's Family 1859



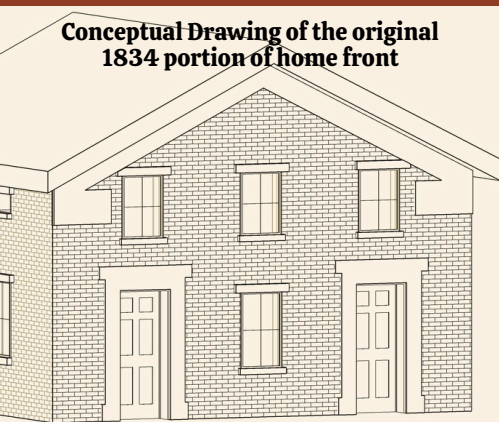
Lithograph of the Emancipation Proclamation

## 02 DINING ROOM



You are now in the Dining Room, located in the middle section of the house built in 1834. This room was built along with the adjacent Gallery and two upstairs bedrooms. When it was constructed, this room contained the front doors, which now leads to the community room. Observe the altered door leading to the front hallway, featuring a frame for a transom window above it—one of several architectural clues about the house's historical changes. Notice the original “faux finish” from the 1800s on the door leading upstairs, known as turkey feather graining, which inspired the renovation of the wood trim and doors in the Haines Parlor. The house has many doors and windows, which were crucial for air circulation before the invention of electric fans and air conditioning.

**Conceptual Drawing of the original 1834 portion of home front**





# 03

## OLD KITCHEN

You are now in Alliance's oldest standing brick house, built in 1828. John and Nancy Grant and two children left their home in New Jersey in 1806 to come to this area, part of the Northwest Territory obtained by the United States after the Revolutionary War. They came for the land, purchasing 160 acres for \$2 an acre, and they came to live in a place where slavery was illegal. (Slavery still existed in New Jersey at this time). They cleared the forest and built the log cabin that they lived in for 22 years before building this house with one room, a porch and a loft. John likely made the bricks himself. They moved here with 5 of their 8 children that were still living at home. Like all early settlers John and Nancy had to do everything by hand, felling trees, growing and preserving food, churning cream into butter, spinning wool and flax into yarn to weave fabric, making soap and candles.



Although goods and services soon became available (the railroads came to Alliance by 1854) most area homes didn't have indoor plumbing or electricity until the early 1900s or later. Please note:

Photo of the original log cabin

Corner cupboard, only original piece of furniture in the house

Cast Iron Cooking Stove Manufactured in Marietta, Ohio in 1891





## 04 GALLERY

In 1834 the Grant farm and enterprises were doing well and they built an addition to their one room house (four daughters still lived at home). It consisted of two rooms downstairs, two bedrooms upstairs and a dirt cellar. We do not know how the downstairs rooms were used but this smaller room may have been a utilitarian space and the larger room may have been a parlor. We use this space for special exhibits.



Portrait of Abby Kelley Foster



# 05

## HAINES PARLOR

In 1842 the Grants built the front part of the house which consisted of a foyer and staircase, two parlors downstairs, and two bedrooms upstairs. Nancy Grant died before the addition was finished. In 1852 their youngest daughter, Sarah and her husband, Jonathan Ridgeway Haines bought the house and the land from John Grant. Sarah and Ridgeway raised six children here. When the railroads came to Alliance in 1854, the Haines' sold land along Main Street and next to the railroad. The family lived on the shrinking plot of land until Ridgeway died in 1899. Sarah lived here with a daughter until her death in 1903.

Ridgeway and Sarah were active in the abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad. A number of important abolitionist meetings were held in the pine grove near the house which was sometimes referred to as the "Evergreen House."



This room is furnished as a formal parlor which would be reserved for guests and Sunday use. The room would have been heated with a wood burning stove like this one. Much more efficient than a fireplace! Also notice the large exterior "coffin" door on the west wall. The "laying out" of loved ones took place in the home.





06

## CENTER FOYER



The Foyer represents a shift in wealth and lifestyle made possible by a thriving community and farm. Now in a more populated community with a successful farm. This final addition speaks to the social gatherings and beautiful furnishings held by the Grant and Haines Families.

Around 1911 the house was divided into two apartments, one on the east side and one on the west side. And so it remained until it was purchased by Mount Union professor, Eric Johannesen in 1966 who restored it as a single family dwelling and rebuilt the front portico which had been removed. He collected many of the period furnishings that are on display. Johannesen sold the house in the 1970s and it had various owners until it was purchased by the Alliance Preservation Society in 2001 with the goal of opening it to the public as an Underground Railroad site. Numerous grants and gifts have funded the many projects to restore and maintain the house and volunteers have spent countless hours doing repairs, painting, cleaning, and serving as tour guides.

# 07

## CHILDREN'S BEDROOM

One of the two rooms that were part of the second floor 1834 Greek Revival Style addition is set up as a child's bedroom. It features a mid-19th century rope bed with straw mattress. Rope beds periodically needed to be tightened and straw and feather mattresses often attracted bugs – hence the adage “Good Night Sleep Tight, don't let the bed bugs bite” There are miscellaneous toys from the 19th and early 20th century located throughout the room. When the Grants built this addition in 1834, four of their children were still at home. Note the small “frieze band windows.” a prominent feature of Greek Revival Architecture. Items on the dresser help to tell the story of Abolitionism and the Freedom Seekers.



The lantern is the symbol of the Haines House as an Underground Railroad Museum; the reproduction manacles remind us that some who were enslaved were forced to wear similar ones as punishment by their owners if they disobeyed; the map documents Underground Railroad activity in Ohio, which was strategically located between the southern state of Kentucky and the free nation of Canada.



08

## HIDEOUT HOMESTEAD LOFT

The attic, located above the original one-room 1828 house, was accessed by a ladder before the home's expansion. Visitors can peek in from the Child's Bedroom. The Haines House served as a station on the Underground Railroad from about 1830 through the Civil War. This secret network provided hiding places, food, clothing, and transportation to Freedom Seekers. The Haines family, active in the Western Anti-Slavery Society, often held meetings at their home. Their youngest son recalled hiding Freedom Seekers in the attic, though the 160-acre farm likely had many other hiding places. Using railroad jargon as code, the network helped many reach Lake Erie and secure passage to Canada. The family helped Freedom Seekers to get to the next station, probably in Marlboro, Randolph, Limaville or Atwater.



09

## GRANT BEDROOM

One of two second floor rooms added to the House in 1842, this room is set up as an adult, or parents' bedroom and is named for the original builders of the House, John and Nancy Grant. The mantelpiece is a modern reconstruction and is like the (also missing) one from the parlor below. The wallpaper is from the 1960's, chosen for its similarity to the original. A scrap of the original is displayed on the mantle. The tall ceilings and windows are quite a contrast to the original house and indicate how much "progress" and wealth has been made by the Grants in just 14 years. Rumor has it that the mahogany high post bed, 1840-65, was going to be turned into a tree house before Eric Johannesen rescued it!



The room displays items associated with grooming and hygiene before indoor plumbing, such as the bowl and pitcher for washing, the styling irons and the chamber pot. Clothes were stored in wardrobes before closets became popular. A flax spinning wheel reminds us that the original owners, the Grants, probably had to make many of their clothes, while their descendants, the Haines, could purchase ready made fabric and clothing in the bustling Alliance Main Street stores.



# A FIELD GUIDE TO AMERICAN HOUSES

THE GUIDE THAT ENABLES YOU TO IDENTIFY, AND PLACE IN THEIR  
HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXTS, THE HOUSES YOU SEE IN  
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD OR IN YOUR TRAVELS ACROSS AMERICA—HOUSES  
BUILT FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES (RICH, POOR, AND IN-BETWEEN),  
IN CITY AND COUNTRYSIDE, FROM THE 17TH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT



VIRGINIA & LEE MCALESTER

## 10 FOUNDERS ROOM RESEARCH LIBRARY

Originally one of the two bedrooms added to the house in 1842, behind the south wall is a closet added in the 20th century. Another bedroom is behind this room and now serves as an office for the Alliance Area Preservation Society (AAPS). The AAPS was founded in 1991. The AAPS purchased the Haines House in 2001. In addition to maintaining the Haines House as an Underground Railroad Museum, the AAPS works to encourage historic preservation in the Carnation City. The walls display local buildings that have been lost as well as some that have been preserved. The AAPS also maintains a small library, supports the work of the Alliance Preservation Commission and Alliance Main Street. The Founders Room honors some of Alliance's original preservationists; Eric Johannesen, Jesse Harry Jr., Gordon Harrison, Evelyn Brown, Robert Hunter Jr, & Robb Hyde.





**Haines House**  
*Underground Railroad Museum*  
Operated by the Alliance Area Preservation Society



THANK  
YOU

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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