



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling
National Historical Park

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New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park News Release

For Immediate Release
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New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park To Host Frederick Douglass Birthday Celebration

New Bedford, MA— On February 12, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park will celebrate the 193rd birthday of New Bedford's most famous orator and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. Join us for movie showings featuring Douglass, storytelling with Derek Burrows, kid's activities with the park's 19th century ladies (Ruth and Abbey), readings by professor Everett Hoagland, videos by the park's Youth Ambassador Program, and a live broadcast from the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in Washington, D.C. All of the day's activities are free and take place at the Corson Maritime Learning Center located at 33 William Street in New Bedford, Massachusetts. For a complete schedule of activities, stop by the National Park Visitor Center or visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/nebe.

Frederick Douglass escaped slavery and made his first home in freedom in New Bedford. He was one of 300-700 escaped slaves who called New Bedford home between 1840 and 1860. To learn more about New Bedford's Underground Railroad history visit www.nps.gov/nebe or www.nbhistoricalsociety.org.

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was established by Congress in 1996 to help preserve and interpret America's nineteenth century whaling industry. The park, which encompasses a 13-block National Historic Landmark District, is the only National Park Service area addressing the history of the whaling industry and its influence on the economic, social, and environmental history of the United States. The National Park visitor center is located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. It is open seven days a week, from 9 AM-5 PM, and offers information, exhibits, and a free orientation movie on the hour from 10 AM-3 PM. Admission is free.

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