



Bristol Hill Church

NYS Route 3

Fulton, New York 13069

23rd Congressional District

From the 1820s on, Bristol Hill Congregational Church had African American as well as European American members. Hanna Masson apparently became a member shortly after she migrated to Oswego County in 1825. Two daughters of Amos and Hanna Mason were baptized in the church in 1827. Amos Mason and James Watkins Seward joined in 1831. Isaac and Sally Lawson joined in 1832. Venus Slater, Silas Slater, two of Silas's sons and Andrew B. Slater were also African American members. Several of these African Americans gave money to build and support the church.

Many church members were active abolitionists, and their involvement with the Underground Railroad occurred in the context of concerted abolitionist organizing. This church's history illustrates the importance of religious values in sustaining abolitionists' action, as well as the impact of abolitionism on church structure and doctrine. Church members signed at least one anti-slavery petition (1837), passed an anti-slavery resolution (1843), voted for the Liberty Party (1844), and worked to free William Chaplin arrested in 1850 for trying to free enslaved people in Washington, D.C.



Network to Freedom-NPS Photo

\$25,000 NTF Grant—

Fulton, New York: Structural Repairs

- Grant will be used for historic preservation to complete structural repairs to the bell tower (including jacking the tower, rebuilding the foundations, and repairing deteriorated framing), making structural repairs to the main building, funding archeological investigations per the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines, and rebuilding the cupola.
- Grant will also be used to provide adequate ADA access to the church.

City: Fulton; County: Oswego; State: New York
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