

## Council Agenda Report

**Date:** January 25, 2021

**Prepared by:** Pat Escher, A.I.C.P., Division Manager

**SUBJECT:** Historic Marker on High Street

**Recommendation:** That Council approve the installation of a historic marker on High Street in front to the Bayly House at 207 High Street.

**Discussion:** This marker has been reviewed and approved by the State and the local Historic Preservation Commission. Their review included the design, size and content. The proposed location of the marker will be located within the City's Right-of-Way on High Street and therefore needs Council approval. Please see attached email and associated documentation.

**Fiscal Impact:** NA

**Approved by:** *Patrick C. Comiskey, City Manager*

## Pat Escher

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**From:** Julie Gilberto-Brady <julie@visitdorchester.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 1:13 PM  
**To:** Pat Escher  
**Subject:** Request to Place Historic Marker on High Street  
**Attachments:** 4\_LongWharfGreenGrass\_June2016\_JAJ-196\_72dpi.jpg; StanleyInstit\_TubmanSign\_4798\_crop.jpg; bayly house2.jpg; 4\_HTUGRRByway\_HighSt+Bayly-55x16.5\_draft4.pdf

Hi Pat,

Thank you for all of your assistance with our project. We would like to seek the City Council's permission to place a historical marker in front of the Bayly House at 207 High Street and are hoping that it can be placed on the agenda of their next meeting later this month. The Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area and Dorchester Tourism Department have developed enhanced virtual reality/augmented reality content for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway Audio Guide. One of the VR segments is a re-creation of an enslaved woman, Lizzie Amby, who escaped from Alexander Bayly. The Bayly house originally was not on the audio guide, and we have added that site and story to the guide and the cell phone app.

We have the design for the proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad marker at the Bayly House, which I am attaching to this email. The sign and the text have been reviewed and approved by Kate Larson, a nationally recognized historian, author and consultant for Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad projects; Julie Schablistky, chief archaeologist for the Maryland State Highway Administration, who led the archaeology project at the Bayly house in 2018-19; and Ennis Barbery Smith, Assistant Administrator for the Maryland Heritage Areas Program of the Maryland Historical Trust. I can share those email exchanges with you if you like. We also have shared our request with Cambridge's Historic Preservation Commission, and they responded that the marker meets the HPC overall criteria but that the approval needs to come from the City Council because it is on city property.

The proposed historical marker will be three sided: two sides are 16.5" x 55" and one side is 8.375" x 55". This is the same style as other site markers on the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway. I will attach pictures of the markers at Long Wharf and at the Stanley Institute as examples. Because the marker is three-sided and needs to be visible from all sides, we are asking that it be placed on the grassy area between the sidewalk and street in front of the Bayly House, 207 High Street. We have been working closely with the homeowner, Catherine Morrison, and she is fine with this placement. I will attach a photo showing where we would like to have it placed. The person in the photo is standing on the spot.

I am happy to provide any other information or answer any questions you may have. Could you please let me know what our next steps should be to get approval to install the historical marker at 207 High Street.

Thank you.  
Julie

Julie Gilberto-Brady, Manager  
Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area  
2 Rose Hill Place  
Cambridge MD 21613  
410-228-1000, Ext. 1202  
[visitdorchester.org](http://visitdorchester.org)

## Historic Marker at Ling Wharf



## Historic Marker at the Stanley Institute



Proposed location for the High Street Marker in front to the Bayly House







Bayly Cabin and Main House

## THROUGH BLOOD AND TEARS

One of the oldest buildings in Cambridge, the Calle-Bayly house was built sometime in the mid-18th century. Based on archaeology and analysis by architectural historians, the one-room cabin behind the house appears to have initially functioned as an office or kitchen. In the mid-19th century, it was moved to its current location. Late 19th century artifacts suggest the cabin served as a home for at least some period of time. Due to multiple functions of out buildings with enslaved workers, use of the cabin as seasonal and/or temporary sleeping quarters during the mid-19th century should not be ruled out.

On October 17, 1857, Lizzie Amby, a woman enslaved by Dr. Alexander Bayly, left the Bayly House with her husband, Nat, and ran off with 13 others from Cambridge. They used safe houses, temporarily stopping to rest and gather supplies and money as they made their way north along the Underground Railroad. At one stop, an abolitionist asked Nat if Lizzie would fight for her freedom; he replied, "I have heard her say she would wade through blood and tears for her freedom." We know that they arrived safely in New York because Nat wrote a letter, dated June 10, 1858, to his mother in Baltimore letting her know they were doing well.

Travel back in time on our Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality app, and witness Lizzie Amby share her fears and dreams as she prepares to make her escape to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Download the free app from the Apple or Google Play stores.

**RIGHT:** When enslaved people ran away, their owners would publish advertisements in the local newspapers. Often large rewards would be offered to make it harder for the fugitive to escape capture. Alexander Bayly placed this ad for the return of Lizzie Amby in the local Democrat newspaper on Oct. 19, 1857.

Three Hundred Dollars  
 Courtesy of the Essex Press  
 Four Liberty Museum's State  
 Library Resource Center

### Three Hundred Dollars REWARD.

Summary from the advertisement on Liberty right left, 17th line, my name was LIZZIE, about 28 years old. She is a native of this country, and her husband, Nat, is a free man. She is a fugitive, and her husband, Nat, is a fugitive. She was well dressed and carried with her a quantity of clothing. She was off in company with her husband, Nat, and a party of others, (names not given) who is about 28 in height, with slight complexion in his mouth, dark colored eyes, and a large nose on the side of his nose.

I will give the above reward if taken at any County or one half of what the value for if taken out of the County or State. In other cases to be held in Cambridge Jail.

ALEXANDER B. BAYLY.

Cambridge, Oct. 19, 1857.  
 P. S. For the convenience of the above named negro man NAT, and delivery in Cambridge, July 1 will give \$100 reward.



Access the FREE Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Story App with Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality content at the Bayly site. Scan the QR code with your smartphone to download the app.





# HARRIET TUBMAN

## UNDERGROUND RAILROAD BYWAY



### JOIN THE JOURNEY

The 125-mile Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway preserves the very landscapes where Harriet Tubman was born, lived, and labored. Journey along the byway and discover stories of family, community, faith, and freedom. Trace Harriet Tubman's pursuit of equality, justice, and self-determination for all.

- 1 Dorchester County Visitor Center  
N 30 57.0053, W 76 08.4365
- 2 Harriet Tubman Memorial Garden  
N 30 33 36.52, W 76 3 51.82
- 3 Dorchester County Courthouse  
N 30 57.1992, W 76 07.6499
- ★ High Street District/Bagby House  
N 30 57.2037, W 76 07.5649
- 4 Long Wharf, Cambridge  
N 30 57.8186, W 76 07.2647
- 5 Harriet Tubman Museum & Educational Center  
N 30 06.9279, W 76 07.6925
- 6 Stanley Institute  
N 30 54.9046, W 76 10.2725
- 7 Church Creek / Whitehaven Area  
N 30 50.1276, W 76 15.2396
- 8 Malone's Church  
N 30 49 .1436, W 76 21 .6670
- 9 Madelon  
N 30 50.7306, W 76 22.2721
- 10 Stewart's Canal / Parson's Creek  
N 30 40.8349, W 76 76.3760
- 11 New Revival United Methodist Church  
N 30 47.3371, W 76 27.4383
- 12 Bottoms Creek  
N 30 42.9257, W 76 14.51
- 13 Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Ctr  
N 30 44.8304, W 76 13.8687
- 14 Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge  
N 30 44.4029, W 76 11.9234
- 15 Little Blackwater River Bridge  
N 30 44.4029, W 76 11.9234
- 16 Broadas Farm  
N 30 45.9031, W 76 04.8522
- 17 Ducktown General Store  
N 30 45.9167, W 76 03.1305
- 18 Beallich Ferry Bridge  
W 30 41.7229, W 75 99.2767
- 19 Scott's Chapel / Beckman United Methodist Church  
N 30 27.904, W 676 01.649
- 20 Pritchett Marsh/In Farm / Dover Eight Escape  
N 30 05.3608, W 76 03.8033
- 21 Polish Community United Methodist Church  
N 30 09.6374, W 75 03.0011
- 22 Jacob and Hannah Leavitt House  
N 30 70.5025, W 75 09.0904
- 23 Lincolnton Mill  
N 30 70.3374, W 75 09.7250
- 24 Village of Choptank / Choptank Landing  
N 30 60.3019, W 75 05.1023
- 25 Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Cemetery  
N 30 72.8533, W 75 09.6176
- 26 Jonestown  
W 30 73.8077 W 75 09.1173
- 27 Webb Cabin  
N 30 70.5600, W 75 09.2793
- 28 High Point  
N 30 08.9594, W 75 09.5003
- 29 William Still Family Interpretive Center  
N 30 03.2305, W 75 03.3302
- 30 Caroline Court/Stone  
N 30 08.6442, W 75 03.2752
- 31 Mount View/Daniel Crover Memorial Park  
N 30 08.8370, W 75 03.9297
- 32 Caroline County Visitor Center  
N 30 08.0476 W 75 03.6491
- 33 Turkeyneck Neck Meeting House  
N 30 06.3444, W 75 04.2966
- 34 Adkins Arboretum  
N 30 07.201, W 675 05.071
- 35 Greensboro  
N 30 07.0610, W 675 08.4296
- 36 Red Bridges  
N 30 05.830, W 675 47.170

★ = you are here      ■ = site has no public access





**HIGH STREET DISTRICT  
& BAYLY HOUSE**