



Murphy Orchards

2402 McClew Road
Burt, New York 14028
29th Congressional District

Farmstead in the town of Newfane, New York, owned by Charles and Libby McClew in 1850. Extensive, long-standing local folklore identifies the McClews as "station masters" of the Underground Railroad. The farmstead remains virtually unchanged, and is still a privately-owned working farm enterprise. All grounds and facilities are open year round to the public. Guided Underground Railroad tours and presentations have been developed and conducted for over ten years. Tours include walking trails through a 30-acre wilderness area on the farm which has been dedicated to this purpose. Hopkins Creek, which flows through the property, is believed to have been an important geographic feature used to navigate towards other safe havens and ultimately to Canada. All interpretive displays are accessible for viewing to all visitors. Underground Railroad reenactments have been conducted and filmed on site, and segments have been shown throughout New York State by PBS Television. An archeological study of the site is in progress, concentrating on the significance of cultural material uncovered, which parallels with the period of the Underground Railroad. The study also focuses on collected folklore and oral history from the local community indicating the use of the farm as an Underground Railroad "station." Public displays have been developed, are continually expanded, and will incorporate exhibits of archeological method and artifacts. Displays will also link the significance of cultural anthropological studies and oral traditions to historical research of the Underground Railroad.



Network to Freedom-NPS Photo

\$15,394 NTF Grant—

Burt, New York: Building a Niagara County UGRR Education Resources Center/Murphy Orchards

- Grant provided partial funding for: research and compilation of UGRR information in Niagara County; design of displays and exhibits interpreting this UGRR history; writing and production of a half-hour video summarizing the history of slaves in the American Colonies and the history of the UGRR in Western New York focusing on the importance of farms, farming, and farmers to both slavery and the UGRR.
- Production of a *PowerPoint* presentation for off-site school and social group use; development of a site master plan, along with a detailed plan for the Educational Resource Center.

City: Burt; County: Niagara; State: New York
Project Name: Building a Niagara County Underground Railroad
Education Resource Center at Murphy Orchards
Carol L. Murphy, Property Owner and Director of Educational Programs
Murphy Orchards
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UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
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