

## The North American Black Historical Museum

is located at Amherstburg, Ontario, the chief entry point into Canada for escaped slaves seeking freedom. The museum preserves the Black Heritage of this region, from African origins to present day. There is a focus on the Underground Railroad, Canadian Black settlement, and the accomplishments of the people of African origin who helped shape this great nation.

The museum, owned and operated by the North American Black Historical Museum and Cultural Centre, Inc., collects, preserves, interprets, researches, and exhibits a collection of objects and specimens of historical and cultural value.



The Main Exhibit takes the visitor on a journey through time, beginning with African culture before the slave trade and continues through the rigors of the ocean passage to the New World, the horrors of slavery in a foreign land; the escapes via the underground railroad to the British haven of Canada West; the building of a new life in freedom; and highlights Canadian Black achievements and contributions. Many of the artifacts were donated by descendants of refugee slaves.

The Cultural Centre, used for work-

shops, presentations, and temporary exhibits related to Black heritage, is located on the second floor. Access is by stairway or elevator.



The Taylor Log Cabin is an example of the early log construction, which existed in the Amherstburg area prior to 1865. It may have once been located on Fort Malden property.

When the building was first moved here it did not have a livable second storey, only a small loft. Nasa McCurdy, who was instrumental in building the Nazrey A.M.E. Church in 1848, raised the roof of the home to make a livable second floor.

Mr. George Taylor, an escaped slave from Kentucky who served in the Union Army, lived in the cabin with his daughter, Emma, and son-in-law, Thomas Thompson, followed by the Wilson family.



## The Nazrey A. M. E. Church (National Historic Site)

is architecturally distinctive, a remarkable vernacular fieldstone chapel and an excellent early example of the many small Underground Railroad refugee churches found throughout Ontario.

Built in 1848, Nazrey was a terminus on the Underground Railroad. Many refugee slaves and oppressed free Blacks first felt true freedom within her walls. After crossing the Detroit River to Amherstburg, Ontario, one of the narrowest points of entry, these individuals found that Nazrey played a significant role in their new found life, initially, by offering itself as an interim-resting place until permanent housing could be found. Later it served as both a school, to educate those who had been denied that privilege, and as a centre of socialization where numerous everyday skills (second nature to Europeans by right of birth) were taught.

The threat of crumbling walls, a sagging roof or a bad storm that could have brought

this beacon of freedom to the ground, was ended in a total restoration. This humble house of worship is now a treasured National Historic site.



Restored use of the Nazrey A.M.E. church enables the museum to hold heritage services, weddings, showcase exhibits, and Black cultural events, while providing another venue to host community gatherings.



## Hours - Open Year 'Round

Tuesday - Friday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Saturday & Sunday: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Closed Mondays

Nominal admission fee.

Group tours by pre-arrangement  
\$5.00 per person; 20 person minimum

### ADMISSION

\$5.50 Adult  
4.50 senior or student  
or child under 15  
20.00 family of five

### ADMISSION with GUIDED TOUR

\$7.50 Adult  
6.50 senior or student  
or child under 15  
30.00 family of five

*Keeping Black History Alive!*

**Your Membership**, entitles you to free admission and ensures that you are kept informed of museum programs and activities, significant acquisitions, and new exhibits.

**Membership Fees:**

- Adult ..... \$35.00
- Senior ..... 30.00
- Student ..... 20.00
- Family (5) ..... 75.00
- Non-Profit Org. .... 75.00
- Business ..... 85.00

Donation: .....

Total .....

Make cheque payable to: **N.A.B.H.M.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

You may publish my name in a list of members.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**A Dream Come True**



In 1964, Melvin Simpson believed that social, economic and educational problems could be addressed more effectively by a Black people with a greater self awareness and pride. He took great pride in knowing the history of his ancestors. Helping future generations claim and preserve their dignity, strength, and purpose of being, by embracing their history was his goal.

From Melvin's deep concern developed the concept of a Black Museum to uncover and preserve the rich heritage of Black people, for their development and for the education of the community at large.

In 1966, the pastor and members of the Nazrey A.M.E. Church raised money to build a museum hall, attached to the church. In 1971, five members of the church purchased the adjacent property, a log house. The North American Black Historical Museum became incorporated October 20, 1975. Funding from municipal, provincial and federal governments, individuals and local businesses allowed the construction of the current building which opened on September 20, 1981.

Mac Simpson praised God for allowing him to see his dream realized. He died January 7, 1982 having added to the legacy of his people.

Dedicated members of the museum and community are still working to preserve and promote Black Heritage.

The museum is primarily supported by

- memberships,
- donations, and
- admission fees

*Keeping Black History Alive!*

North American  
**BLACK HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
&  
Cultural Centre



and



**Nazrey African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
1st Black National Historic Site of Canada

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www.blackhistoricalmuseum.org

The North American  
**BLACK HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

& Cultural Centre, Inc.

is a

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