

# Emancipation National Historic Trail Feasibility Study

Virtual Public Meeting

**WELCOME!**

The meeting will begin shortly.

Please note:

All participants are muted.

The meeting is being recorded.

National Trails - National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# Emancipation National Historic Trail Feasibility Study

National Trails - National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



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Dr. Angelica Sanchez-Clark  
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Historian  
Independent Consultant

# Meeting Objectives

**Introduce** the national historic trail feasibility study

- What is a National Historic Trail?
- What is a National Historic Trail Feasibility Study?

**Explore** the study process

- What are the criteria for eligibility for a potential National Historic Trail?
- How are these applied in the study process?

**Listen** to feedback from you and answer any questions.




# We want to hear from you

- There are several ways to comment.
- Your thoughts and comments are important to us.
- Virtual meetings present challenges and opportunities.
- Add your name to the project mailing list to receive study updates.



# Emancipation study - webpage

[parkplanning.nps.gov/emancipation](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/emancipation)

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## Links

[National Trails System](#) » [Emancipation National Historic Trail Feasibility Study](#)

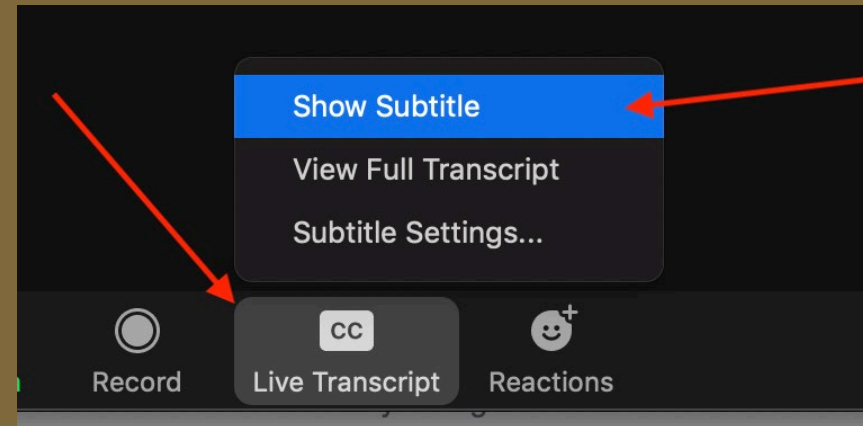
Click on the links below for additional park/project information.

- [Emancipation Study - Sign-up Form](#)

**Note:** Some of the files may be in PDF format and can be viewed using the Adobe Acrobat Reader software. You may download a free copy of [Acrobat Reader](#) from Adobe Systems.

# Zoom Notes

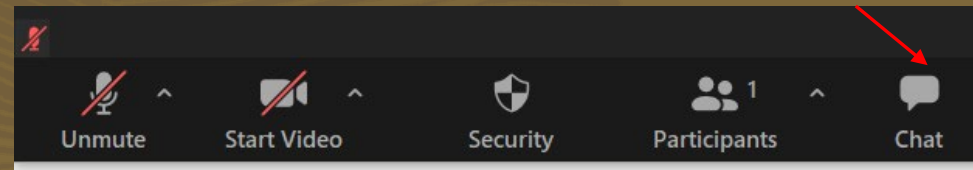
- **Closed Captioning**
  - To turn on captions, click on the “CC” button and select “Show Subtitle.”



# Zoom Notes cont.

- **Chat**

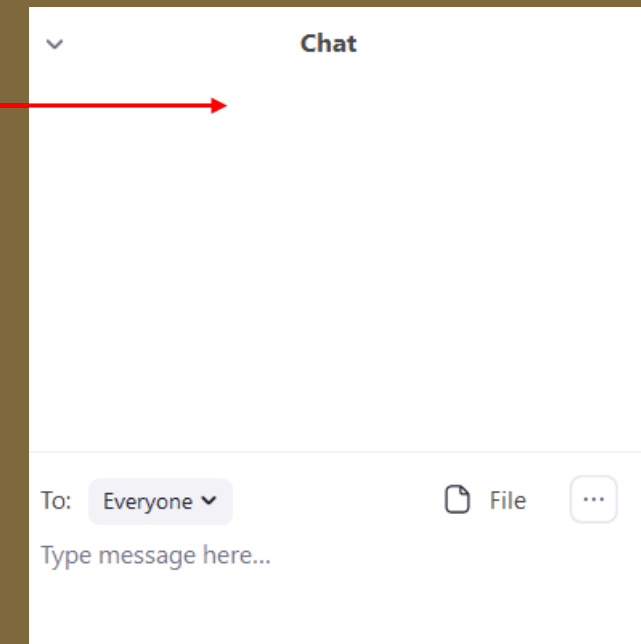
- Submit Questions and Comments via Chat:



- Click on Chat to activate the chat box. Submit questions and comment any time. We will answer questions at the end of the presentation.

- **Issues?**

- Send a Chat message directly to the meeting host. In the chat box, in the drop-down menu at the bottom, instead of “Everyone”, select “Jennifer Gawlowski (Host)”

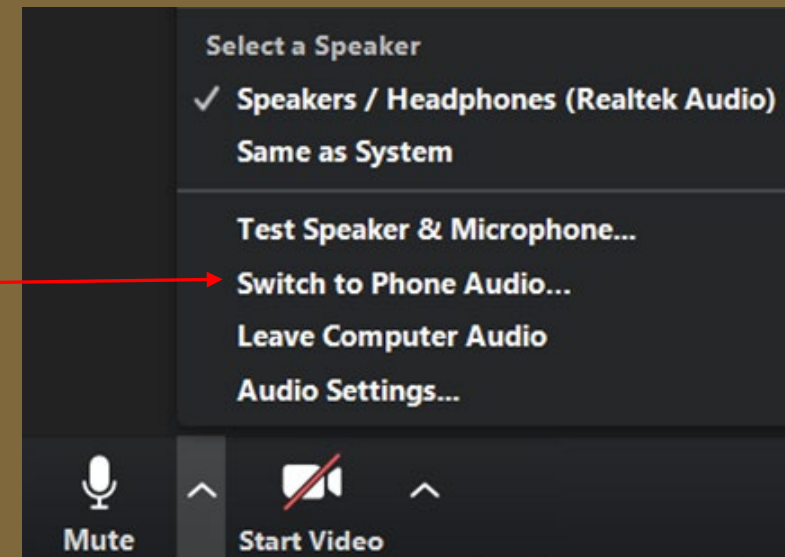




# Zoom Notes content

- **Audio**

- You are muted and will not be able to unmute yourself.
- If you are experiencing an audio echo, please ensure you do not have two devices connected to the meeting.
- If you cannot hear the meeting via your computer/device, you can call in via phone but still use the video on your device. Click on the microphone and select “Switch to Phone Audio.” You will be provided a phone number to call.



- **Video**

- To turn on/off your camera, click on this button.

# Why we're here: The Emancipation National Historic Trail Study Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-111)

- Amended the National Trails System Act
- The Secretary of the Interior designee—in this case the National Park Service--will evaluate the route described in the legislation for potential addition to the National Trails System.
- The route extends approximately 51 miles from the Osterman Building and Reedy Chapel in Galveston, to Freedmen's Town in Houston's 4<sup>th</sup> Ward (all in Texas).
- Defined significance and historic use as the migration route followed by newly freed slaves and other persons of African American descent travelling from Galveston to Houston.

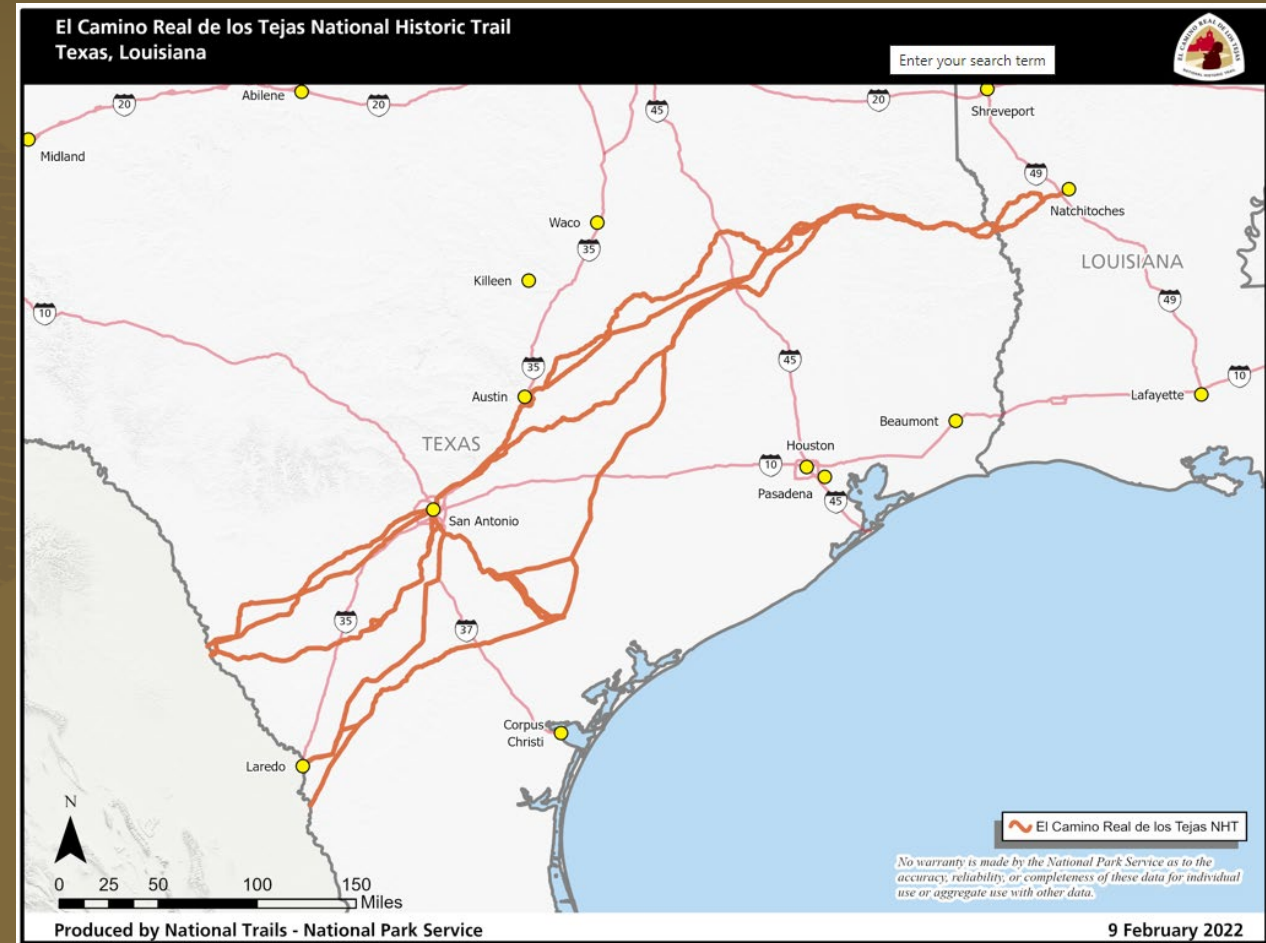
# What is a National Historic Trail?

- Part of the National Trails System created by the National Trails System Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-543). The system is comprised primarily of National Scenic and Historic Trails.
- National Historic Trails are long distance corridors that commemorate past routes of travel that are deemed to be historically significant for the United States.
- Very specific type of historic resource that commemorates movement or transportation over large landscapes: what was the historic use that made the route a historic resource and nationally significant?
- can be developed for its recreational and educational value.
- To date since 1968, congress has established 19 National Historic Trails. Look at some examples:



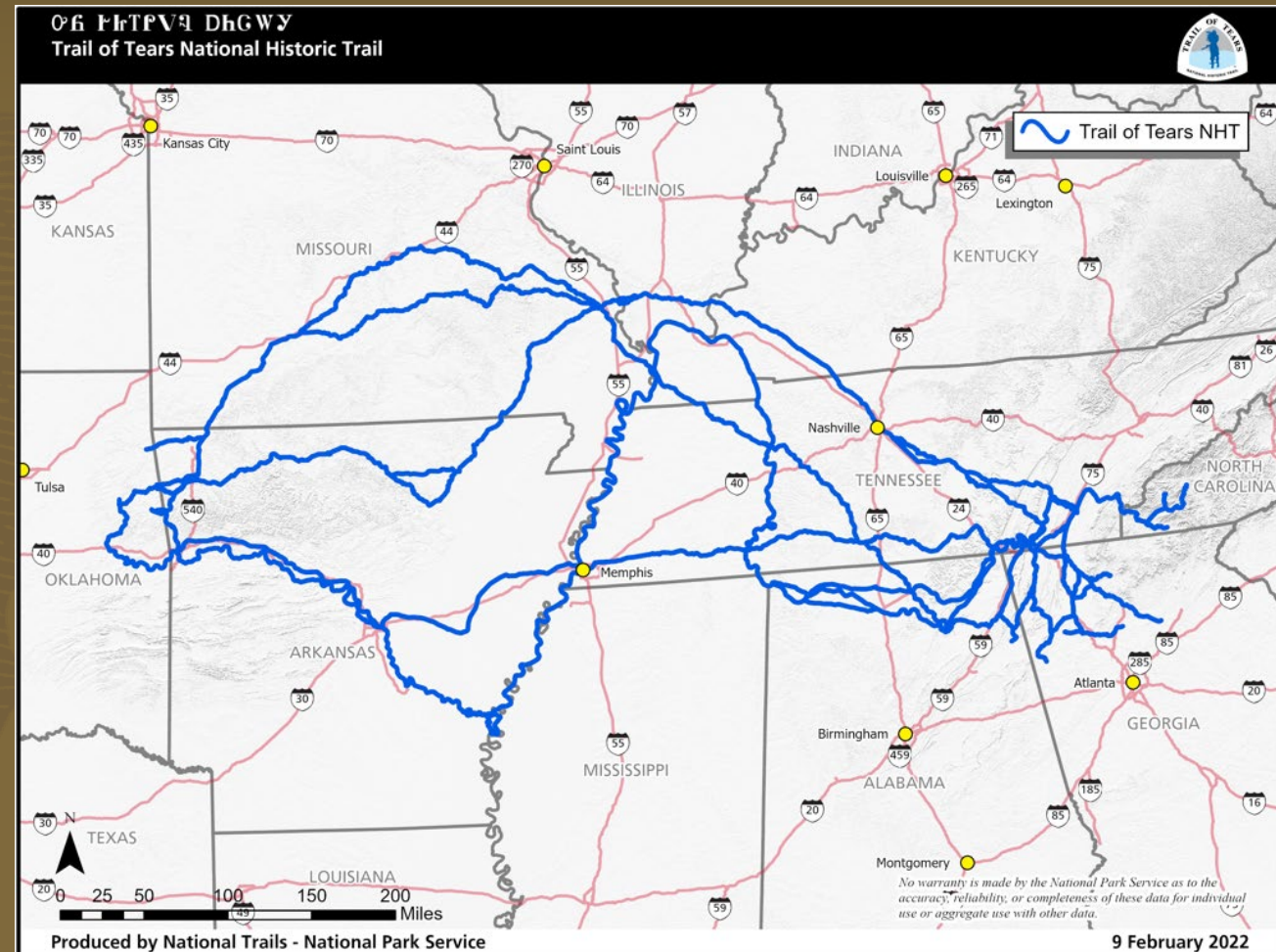
# El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail

- Established by Congress in 2004
- Includes 2,500 miles of routes (many of them aboriginal), followed by Spaniards in the settlement of colonial Texas, and also used by American settlers, adventurers, and enslaved Freedom Seekers coming from the US to, and through, Spanish and Republican Texas before 1846.



# Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

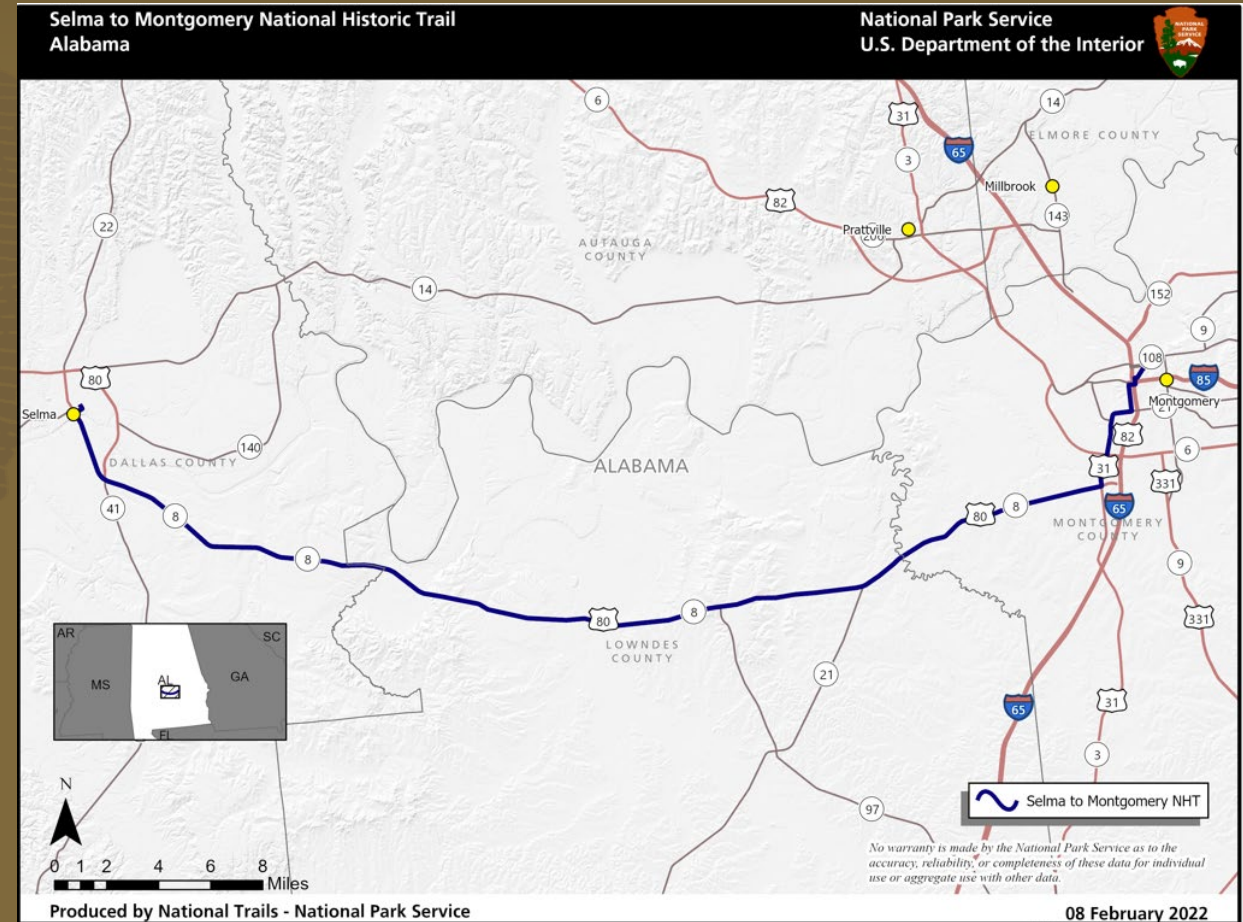
- Established by Congress in 1987
- Includes over 5,000 miles of trails that protect and develop the routes followed by the Cherokee Nation during the forced removal in 1838-1839 from the round-up camps and forts in the tribe's old homelands to its newly-assigned lands in Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Physical manifestation of impact of the Indian Removal Act.





# Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

- Established by Congress in 1996
- Commemorates and preserves the 54-mile route followed by participants in the 1965 Voting Rights March, who sought to assert voting rights in Alabama. Their actions on the trail ultimately led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965—significant Civil Rights legislation.





# What is a National Historic Trail?

- Designation is continuous from end to end, crossing property and jurisdictional boundaries.
- However, participation in trail protection and development activities for the public's benefit is entirely voluntary.
- Designation legislation limits land acquisition to only willing-seller actions. Land acquisition very rare.
- Trail experience usually characterized by travel on public rights-of-way through the designated corridor to publicly-accessible sites and segments that may be protected for their historic authenticity and may have educational media.
- Federal government's role is to apply best-practices standards and to provide limited technical and financial assistance to participating public and private entities.

# What is a Trail Feasibility Study?

## National Historic Trail Feasibility Studies:

- Evaluate the eligibility, feasibility, suitability, and desirability of designating a route as a new national historic trail.
- Eligibility is based on Congressionally-established criteria found in the National Trails System Act.
- The National Park Service submits the study's findings to Congress.
- The study does not establish a new National Historic Trail.
- Only Congress through legislated action has the authority to establish a National Historic Trail.
- The study will identify only eligibility and feasibility. It will not make designation recommendations.



# Historical Context: African Americans Before Emancipation

Where did Texas African Americans live just before the Civil War?

How did the Civil War change the lives of Texas African Americans?



Lincoln's Emancipation – What did it do?

After Appomattox, how did emancipation spread across the South?





# Emancipation Reaches Texas – June 19, 1865 (Juneteenth)

- What was Galveston like in June 1865?
- General Granger's famous order – what are the details?
- What was the reaction from local African Americans?
- How did the Emancipation news spread from Galveston?

CHAP. LX.]

CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.—UNION.

929

GENERAL ORDERS, }  
No. 3.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF TEXAS,  
*Galveston, Tex., June 19, 1865.*

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.

By order of Major-General Granger:

F. W. EMERY,  
*Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.*

# Texas Towns (population over 1,000) in 1860





# How did African Americans in Texas React to Emancipation?

Free at last! But what's the next step?

Did most leave their homes? If so, who stayed, and who left?

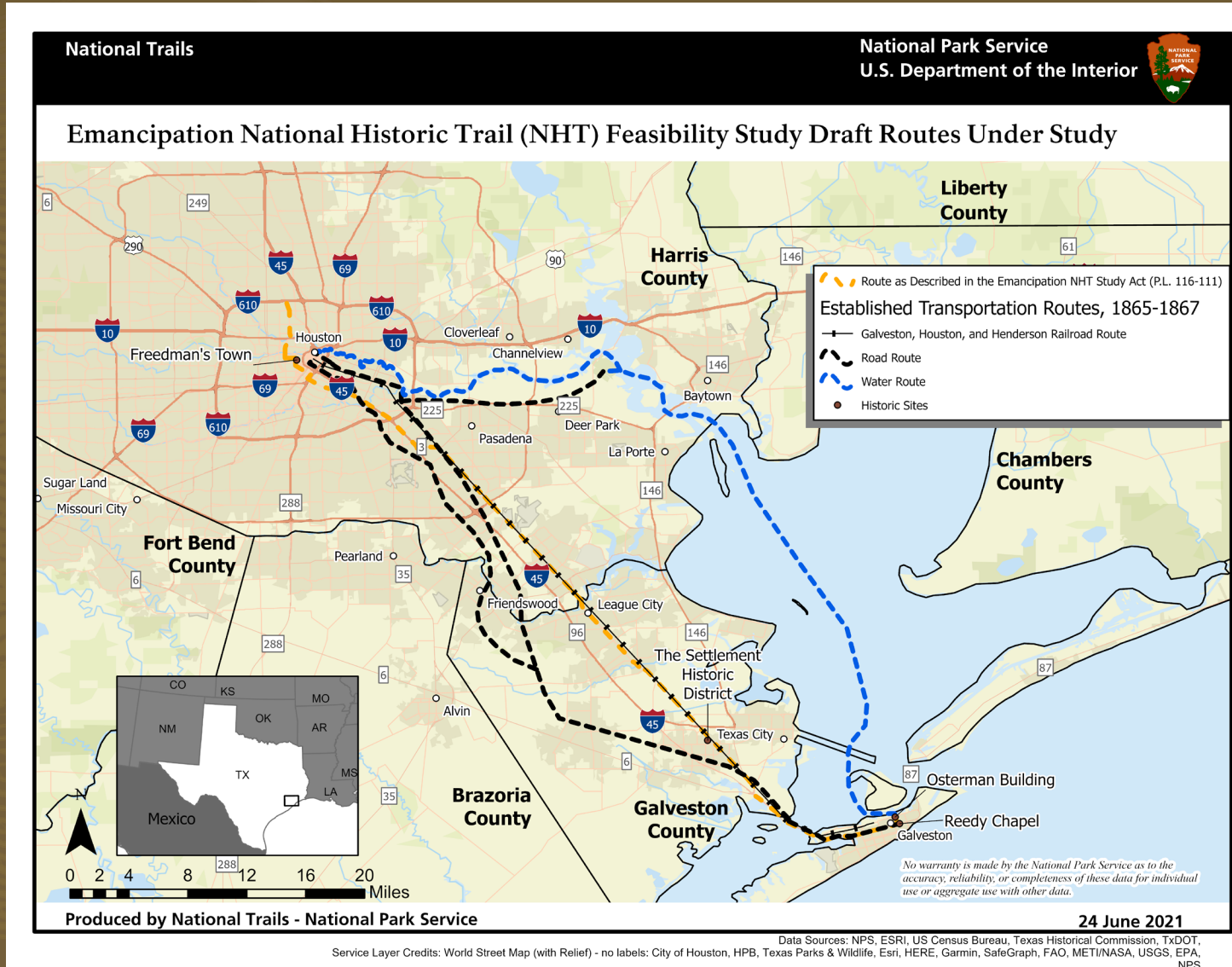
For those that left, why did they go?

- How far did they travel?
- What were their destinations?
- Did they leave right away, or did they wait for a while?





# The route from Galveston to Houston





# Freedmen's Town



Where did Houston's Black population live in 1865?

What was Freedmen's Town like in 1866?

Who were Freedmen's Town's earliest residents?

Why were African Americans attracted to Freedmen's Town?

# Trail Feasibility Study Process Overview

- How does the National Park Service carry out the study? How is the route assessed?
- Who decides if the Emancipation trail gets designated as a national historic trail?
- What would designation mean for the public and for landowners?

# Eligibility Criteria

## National Trails System Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-543)

To qualify for designation as a national historic trail, a route must meet all three (3) Criteria:

1. Must be established by **historic use & be historically significant** as a result of that use.
2. Must be of **national significance** in American history.
3. Must have **significant potential for public recreational use, historic interest & appreciation.**



## **Criterion 1: Must be established by historic use & be historically significant as a result of that use.**

- Must be a trail or route established by historic use and;
- Must be historically significant as a result of that use;
- Location must be sufficiently known.

## **Criterion 2: National Significance in American History**

- Must be of national significance with respect to any of several broad facets of American history, such as trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, or military campaigns.
- To qualify as nationally significant, historic use of the trail must have had a far reaching effect on broad patterns of American culture.
- Trails significant in the history of Native Americans may be included.

## Criteria 3: Potential for Public Recreational Access, Historic Interest & Appreciation

- Must have significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation.
- Presence of recreation potential not related to historic appreciation is not sufficient justification for designation under this category.



The background of the slide features a stylized, textured illustration of a mountain landscape. A winding trail leads up a hillside towards a mountain peak. In the foreground, there is a river or stream. The entire illustration is rendered in a monochromatic, earthy brown color scheme with a fine, cross-hatched texture.

# Emancipation National Historic Trail Feasibility Study

- We want to hear from you!
- Submit your comments through March 31, 2022.

# How to submit comments

1. Visit the study's webpage to share your thoughts with us

[parkplanning.nps.gov/emancipation](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/emancipation)

2. Or send your comments to:

Jill Jensen  
National Trails  
National Park Service  
50 W. Broadway, Suite 950  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
Email: [jill\\_jensen@nps.gov](mailto:jill_jensen@nps.gov)

3. Or comment now in the “chat” box.

# How to submit comments on the study's webpage

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**PROJECT LINKS**

- [Project Home](#)
- [Plan Process](#)
- [Meeting Notices](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Document List](#)
- [Open For Comment \(1\)](#)

A comment period for this project closes **Mar 31, 2022**:  
52 Days, 14 Hours, 16 Min.

## Emancipation National Historic Trail Feasibility Study

[National Trails System](#) » [Emancipation National Historic Trail Feasibility Study](#) » [Document List](#)

The National Park Service is pleased to announce the commencement of the Emancipation National Historic Trail (NHT) Feasibility Study to evaluate its eligibility and suitability for inclusion as a national historic trail.

To add your name to the Study Mailing list click on "Links" on the left hand side menu and click on "Emancipation Study- Sign-up Form".

The proposed Emancipation NHT extends approximately 51 miles from the Osterman Building and Reedy Chapel in Galveston, Texas, along Texas State Highway 3 and Interstate Highway 45 North, to Freedmen's Town, then to Independence Heights and Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas, following the migration route taken by newly freed slaves and other persons of African descent from the major 19th century seaport town of Galveston to the burgeoning community of Freedmen's Town, located in the 4th Ward of Houston.



# How to submit comments on the study's webpage

parkplanning.nps.gov/emancipation



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## Submit Comments

We welcome your comments on this document: [Outreach and Engagement Questions](#)

*Comment period closes **Mar 31, 2022** at 11:59 PM Mountain Time in:  
**52 Days, 14 Hours, 10 Min.***

Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personally identifiable information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personally identifiable information) may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comment Form		bold* indicates required fields
Country:	<input type="text" value="United States of America"/>	
City:*	<input type="text"/>	
State/Territory:*	<input type="text"/>	
Postal Code:*	<input type="text"/>	

# Topic Questions

[Comment Now »](#)

**Comment Period:** 02/01/2022 - 03/31/2022

*Comment period closes **Mar 31, 2022** at 11:59 PM Mountain Time in:  
**39 Days, 10 Hours, 26 Min.***

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## Topic Questions:

1. What can you tell us about emigration out of Galveston and into Houston after Emancipation? Do you have family or community stories that help to explain this historical activity?
  2. Are there historic sites or trail remnants associated with post-Emancipation migration along the Galveston to Houston corridor, or anywhere else, that might be protected and/or developed for public appreciation?
  3. Where can the public visit sites or areas associated with the post-Emancipation era for recreational opportunities or historic appreciation (e.g. historic sites, educational exhibits, museums, hiking or outdoor access)?
  4. How might recognition of post-Emancipation migration from Galveston to Houston, and recognition of post-Emancipation sites and events, affect you or your community?
  5. How would you like to see migration after Emancipation recognized and commemorated?
-

# Study Question 1

1. What can you tell us about emigration out of Galveston and into Houston after Emancipation? Do you have family or community stories that help to explain this historical activity?



## Study Question 2

2. Are there historic sites or trail remnants associated with post-Emancipation migration along the Galveston to Houston corridor, or anywhere else, that might be protected and/or developed for public appreciation?

## Study Question 3

3. Where can the public visit sites or areas associated with the post-Emancipation era for recreational opportunities or historic appreciation (e.g. historic sites, educational exhibits, museums, hiking or outdoor access)?

## Study Question 4

4. How might recognition of post-Emancipation migration from Galveston to Houston, and recognition of post-Emancipation sites and events, affect you or your community?



## Study Question 5

5. How would you like to see migration after Emancipation recognized and commemorated?



# Emancipation National Historic Trail Feasibility Study

- Questions and Comments -

National Trails - National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# Emancipation National Historic Trail Feasibility Study Contacts

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