

(**Note:** This is the third in a series featuring the 11 Underground Railroad sites in Oswego County that have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.)

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Asa Wing House is Listed on National Register of Historic Places



Abolitionist Asa Wing sheltered slaves at his home on State Route 69 on Christmas Eve, 1851. The home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places 150 years later, in December 2001.

MEXICO—Asa Wing was a noted lecturer who promoted equal rights based on a biblical belief in equality. His house in the hamlet of Colosse was used to assist African-American slaves escaping from bondage in the southern states during the 1850s.

“Many of the houses that provided refuge for escaped slaves are still standing today,” said Oswego County Historian Barbara Dix, chairwoman of the Oswego County Freedom Trail Commission. “People are often surprised that buildings and structures in their community or homes in their neighborhood were part of the Underground Railroad.”

The former Asa and Caroline Wing house, located at 3392 State Route 69 in the town of Mexico, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in December of 2001.

“On Christmas Eve 1851, Asa and Caroline Wing took a fugitive named Mr. Thompson, his wife and five daughters into their home to save them from kidnappers,” Dix said.

Asa Wing died in 1854. At the time of his death, abolitionists erected a monument to him in the Mexico Cemetery. Frederick Douglass, a former slave and well-known abolitionist, delivered the eulogy.

“Being listed on the National Register recognizes the importance of the Asa and Caroline Wing home to the history of our country,” Dix said.

Surveys of Underground Railroad sites in the county were coordinated by the Oswego County Freedom Trail Commission. The committee nominated several sites in Oswego County for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information, contact Dix at the County Historian’s Office, phone 349-8460 or 1-800-596-3200, ext. 8460.