

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

**July 17, 2002**

### **Buckhout-Jones Building is Listed on the National Register of Historic Places**



*During the 1850s, fugitive slaves Tudor Grant and Charles Smith operated barbershops in the Buckhout-Jones building in Oswego. The building is now owned by the city of Oswego.*

OSWEGO—Its distinct architecture makes it a landmark in the city of Oswego, but the Buckhout-Jones Building on the northeast corner of West First and Bridge Streets is also significant for its ties to the Underground Railroad.

Fugitive slaves Tudor E. Grant and Charles Smith operated barbershops in the basement of the building in the 1850s. Abram Buckhout, a well-known abolitionist, and Erastus Jones were the first owners. Buckhout sold hats and furs in the building, and assisted fugitive slaves at his farm on the southern edge of the city.

The Buckhout-Jones Building was built in two stages between 1852 and 1854. Hamilton Littlefield was the building contractor. He was also involved in providing assistance to fugitive slaves in Oswego.

“Its mansard roof, Queen Anne turret and Gothic-style entrance make it unique in Oswego,” said Barbara Dix, Oswego County Historian and chairperson of the Oswego County Freedom Trail Commission. “In 1876, the building’s roofline was changed as a result of a fire. However, due to its unique architecture, I believe that Smith, Grant, Buckhout, and Littlefield would recognize the building as it stands today.”

The building is currently owned by the City of Oswego, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in December 2001.

“I’m proud of Oswego’s involvement in the Underground Railroad. Local abolitionists believed in equality, and allowing people to be free to accomplish things that benefited the entire nation. For example, Tudor Grant’s son went on to invent the golf tee. Recently, this chapter of Oswego’s history has been of great interest to tourists,” said Fred Crisafulli, City of Oswego Tourism Director.

The Oswego County Freedom Trail Commission, which was formed by the Oswego County Legislature, is researching Underground Railroad sites in Oswego County and nominated several sites to the National Register of Historic Places. For more information on the Underground Railroad in Oswego County, contact Dix at the Oswego County Records Center, weekdays, 349-8460 or 1-800-596-3200, ext. 8460.