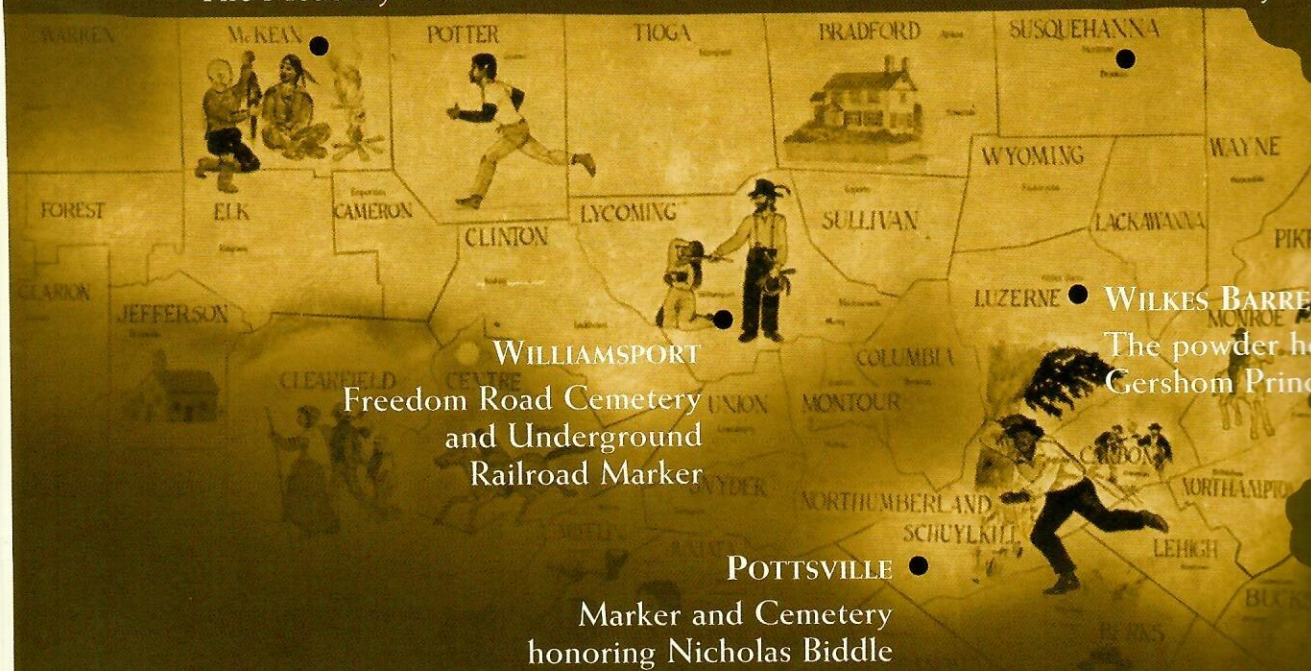


# NORTHERN TIER

**BROOKLYN**  
The Perkins-Dennis  
Farm and Cemetery

The Medbury House



NORTHERN TIER – LYCOMING, LUZERNE, SCHUYLKILL, SUSQUEHANNA, MONROE, WAYNE, LACKAWANNA, WYOMING, PIKE, BRADFORD, POTTER, FOREST, ELK, CLINTON, CAMERON, VENANGO

### **Lycoming County – Pennsdale – The House of Many Stairs**

Probably no house in the Quaker village of Pennsdale has been the subject of more fantastic tales than the House of Many Stairs. Built of limestone and fossil, with a red tin roof, the house was known for years as Bull's Head Tavern. Although it is only two stories high, it is an imposing place that once served as a stagecoach stop.

Edward Morris, the owner of Bull's Head Tavern, offered many sleeping rooms, food, and drink to his customers. Because people were always coming and going to and from the tavern, it helped Morris, who was a stationmaster on the Underground Railroad, to shield escapees. If any customers were slave hunters, the escapees could be found resting and eating. When danger was present, they could exit into various stairways until it was safe for them to be smuggled to the next Underground Station.

There are a total of seven staircases in the home, with five steps leading into and out of each room. Passage to a secret hideaway is through a small attic door at the top of a stairway. There is also a window that could serve as a lookout. The ceilings in each room are seven feet high; the house's complexity often caused confusion for pursuing slave hunters. A stone's throw beyond the House of Many Stairs is a small 200-year-old Quaker cemetery, where Native Americans and African-Americans are buried among the dead in unmarked graves.

The House of Many Stairs is now a private residence.

Location: Pa. Rte. 220, near junction with Pa. Rte. 147

**African Americans in Pennsylvania**

*The House of Many Stairs*



**Northern Tier**



sylvania

