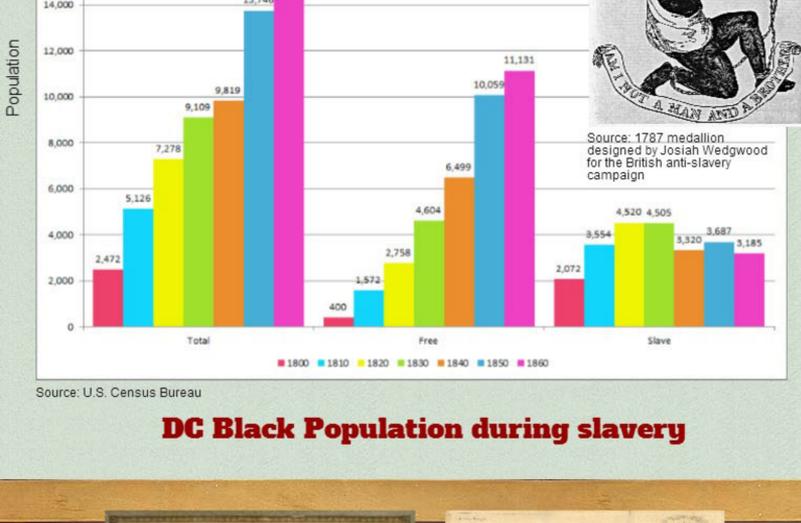
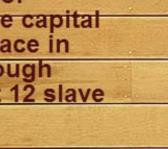


# DC: Slavery to Emancipation

## HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



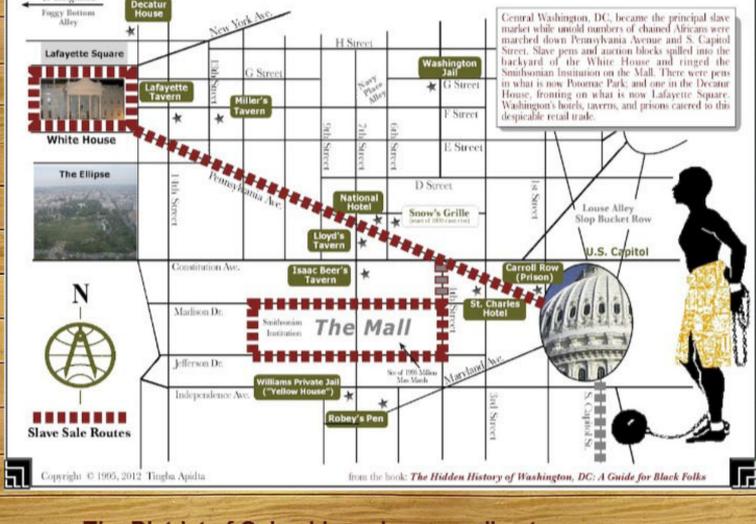
Source: 1787 medallion designed by Josiah Wedgwood for the British anti-slavery campaign



## Until 1846

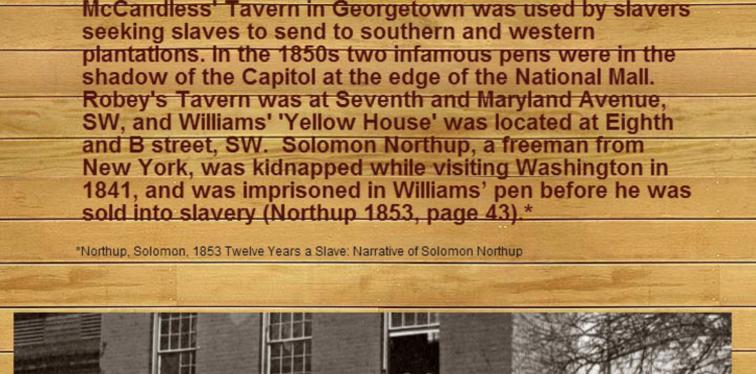
The 1846 retrocession of Virginia's portion of the capital altered the District's place in slave dealing, even though there remained at least 12 slave jails in Washington.

## 12 Washington Slave Pens



The District of Columbia and surrounding towns were important ports for the interstate slave trade. Slave pens were present in Georgetown and Alexandria before the District was even established. The Alexandria firm of Armfield and Franklin was one of the largest antebellum slave traders in the country, and provided over a thousand slaves a year to markets in New Orleans and Mississippi. The firm changed hands and by 1858 was known as Price, Birch, and Co. It was taken over by Union troops during the Civil War and used as a prison. McCandless' Tavern in Georgetown was used by slavers seeking slaves to send to southern and western plantations. In the 1850s two infamous pens were in the shadow of the Capitol at the edge of the National Mall. Robey's Tavern was at Seventh and Maryland Avenue, SW, and Williams' 'Yellow House' was located at Eighth and B Street, SW. Solomon Northup, a freeman from New York, was kidnapped while visiting Washington in 1841, and was imprisoned in Williams' pen before he was sold into slavery (Northup 1853, page 43).

\*Northup, Solomon, 1853 Twelve Years a Slave: Narrative of Solomon Northup



Union Army guard at Price, Birch & Co. slave pen at Alexandria, Virginia, circa 1865. Detail of albumen print. Photograph by Andrew J. Russell.

**CASH FOR FOUR HUNDRED NEGROES.**  
 The highest cash price will be given by the subscriber for Negroes of both sexes, from the age of 12 to 28. Those who wish to sell will do well to give me a call, at my place on 7th street, a yellow rough-cast house; the first on the right hand going from the market house to the steamboat wharf; or at A. Lee's Lottery office, five doors east of Gadsby's Hotel. Those who wish to board their servants can be accommodated on moderate terms.  
 July 16—d  
 W. M. H. WILLIAMS.

Source: Ad from the Daily National Intelligencer, August 1, 1836, p. 1.

**SALE OF NEGROES,**  
**Mills, Mules, Hogs,**  
**FARMING & MINING TOOLS,**  
**WAGONS AND CARTS.**

Will be sold in Columbia County, at the Columbia Mines, 14 miles North of Thomson, on

**TUESDAY, August 14th,**  
 the following valuable property of the Columbia Mining Company.

The **GRIST, FLOUR, and SAW Mills**, on Little River, known as the Little River Mills, with four run of Burr Stones. There are 5 3-4 acres of Land, with a Store House, Dwelling House, and all necessary out-buildings on the premises.

Also,—a large lot of Stock Hogs. The Mill has a good run of custom, was established in 1812, and is centrally located.

TERMS:—One-fourth Cash; the balance at twelve months, with interest and approved security.

Also,—Eight first rate Mules, Wagons, Carts, Carry Log, all with iron axles; two sets Blacksmith's Tools, Chains, Ropes, Picks, Shovels, Drills, Axes, and all varieties of Mining Tools; a large quantity of Iron and Steel, and a variety of articles useful to Planters.

**On THURSDAY, August 16th,**  
 At THOMSON, on the Georgia Railroad, 40 miles above Augusta, will be sold, the following valuable Negroes, belonging to the same concern.

**LITTLE JOE and SIMON**, Blacksmiths; **WILSON**, a Miller; **ANTHONY, LITTLE PETER, GEORGE, RANDAL, WILLIAM, and MARCH**, Field Hands; **CUPID**, a Sawyer; **MONES, WATT, and MORRIS**, Miners and Blasters; **ALFRED and FRANK**, Engineers; **PETER MUNTZ**, a Wagoner; **LONG JOE, MAJOR**, a Carpenter.

At the same time and place, will be sold a variety of articles useful to Mechanics, Miners and Planters.

TERMS For usual and extending terms, Cash; more than one, four months credit, with interest, and approved security.

**B. H. BROOMHEAD, Agent.**  
 COLUMBIA CO. N.Y., 6A. JULY 28th, 1840.

Source: Dr. Robert T. Vinson, private collection

## 1862

# Slaves Emancipated

The municipality of Washington, D.C., celebrates April 16th as Emancipation Day. On that day in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Compensated Emancipation Act for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia. The Act freed about 3,100 enslaved persons in the District of Columbia nine months before President Lincoln issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation. The District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act represents the only example of compensation by the federal government to former owners of emancipated slaves.

**To JOSEPH GOSNAY, Esq.**  
 CONSTABLE OF WAKEFIELD.

WE, the undersigned, request that you would call on early Morning of this Year and Wednesday next, for the purpose of receiving the property of advertising the Negroes, and publishing letters for the abolition of slavery.

**ABOLITION OF COLONIAL SLAVERY.**

Wm. Latham, John Collins, John Schley,  
 Thomas Kelly, John Graham, George Halket,  
 E. Johnson, William French, Wm. Archer, G. F. Halket,  
 Thomas Berk, Richard Vaper, M. D. J. B. Lorrain,  
 J. Berney, Edward Marlow, G. W. Lorrain,  
 W. C. Ellis, M. D. Isaac Stone, David Hines.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ABOVE REQUIREMENT, I HEREBY APPOINT A

**MEETING**  
 TO BE HELD AT THE COURT-HOUSE,  
 ON WEDNESDAY next, the 10th Instant,  
 AT TWELVE O'CLOCK AT NOON,  
**JOSEPH GOSNAY, Constable.**

W Wakefield, November 8, 1840.  
 HURST, PRINTER, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND.

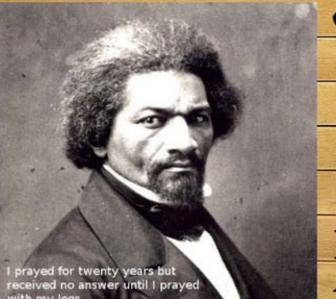
Source: Letterpress poster advertising a meeting for the Abolition of Colonial Slavery by Hurst of Wakefield

## Camp Barker, Washington, DC.



Source: Camp Brightwood, National Archives

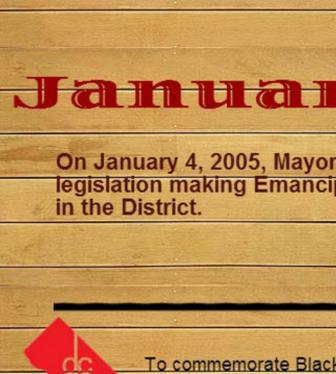
En route from his summer home in the fall of 1862, President Abraham Lincoln visited Camp Barker, where the Garrison School is today. Camp Barker was a "contraband camp" - a place where former slaves that escaped to safety behind Union lines lived, went to school, and worked. During the Civil War, contraband camps were erected to house escaped slaves or persons of color affiliated with Union forces after the military (and the United States Congress) determined that the U.S. would not return escaped slaves to Confederate owners. Camp Barker was home to more than 4,000 freed men and women.



Source: Matthew Brady, National Archives

## January 8, 1867

Congress grants black males the right to vote in local elections



## January 4, 2005

On January 4, 2005, Mayor Anthony A. Williams signed legislation making Emancipation Day an official public holiday in the District.