

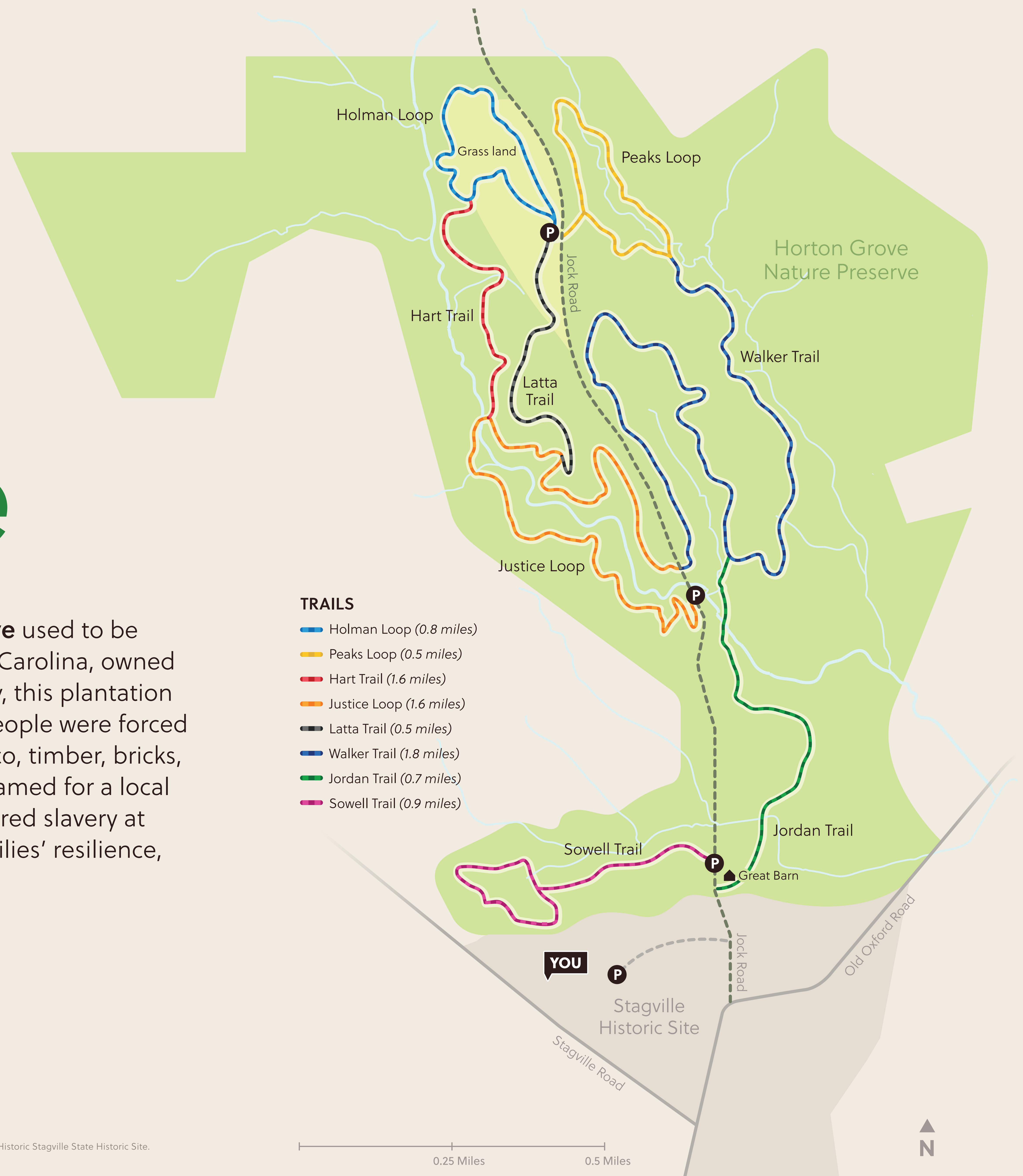
Horton Grove Nature Preserve

The land of the Horton Grove Nature Preserve used to be part of one of the largest plantations in North Carolina, owned by the Bennehan and Cameron families. Today, this plantation is known as Stagville. Hundreds of enslaved people were forced to work here to produce grains, textiles, tobacco, timber, bricks, and more. Each of the Horton Grove trails is named for a local African American family whose ancestors endured slavery at Stagville. Their stories illuminate enslaved families' resilience, and their persistent struggle for freedom.



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Text courtesy of Historic Stagville State Historic Site.



Horton Grove Nature Preserve Holman Loop

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This property contains streams that drain into the Flat and Little Rivers. If you trace your tap water from Durham or Raleigh, it may have come from one of Triangle Land Conservancy's many conservation easements in northern Orange and Durham Counties, which protect headwater streams. These streams look small, but ensure that your water gets a good clean start.

Conserving the land that filters our water is one of the most cost-efficient strategies to protect drinking water; it lowers drinking water treatment costs, minimizes vulnerability and damage from natural disasters, sustains recreational and tourism opportunities, protects biodiversity, reduces the need for expensive restoration work, and supports job growth. The next time you turn on your tap or drink a refreshing beverage bottled in the Triangle, think about the journey it took to your glass.



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Photograph courtesy of Navin Mahabir. Interpretive historical text courtesy of Historic Stagville State Historic Site.



Horton Grove Nature Preserve Peaks Loop

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Meredith Peaks

The Peaks family traces their ancestry back to Henry, an enslaved man listed in the plantation records. The Peaks family name may be connected to "Peaksville," a southern section of the plantation close to modern Durham. In 2018, over 120 Peaks descendants from all over the United States reunited at Stagville for a family reunion.



Horton Grove Nature Preserve Justice Loop

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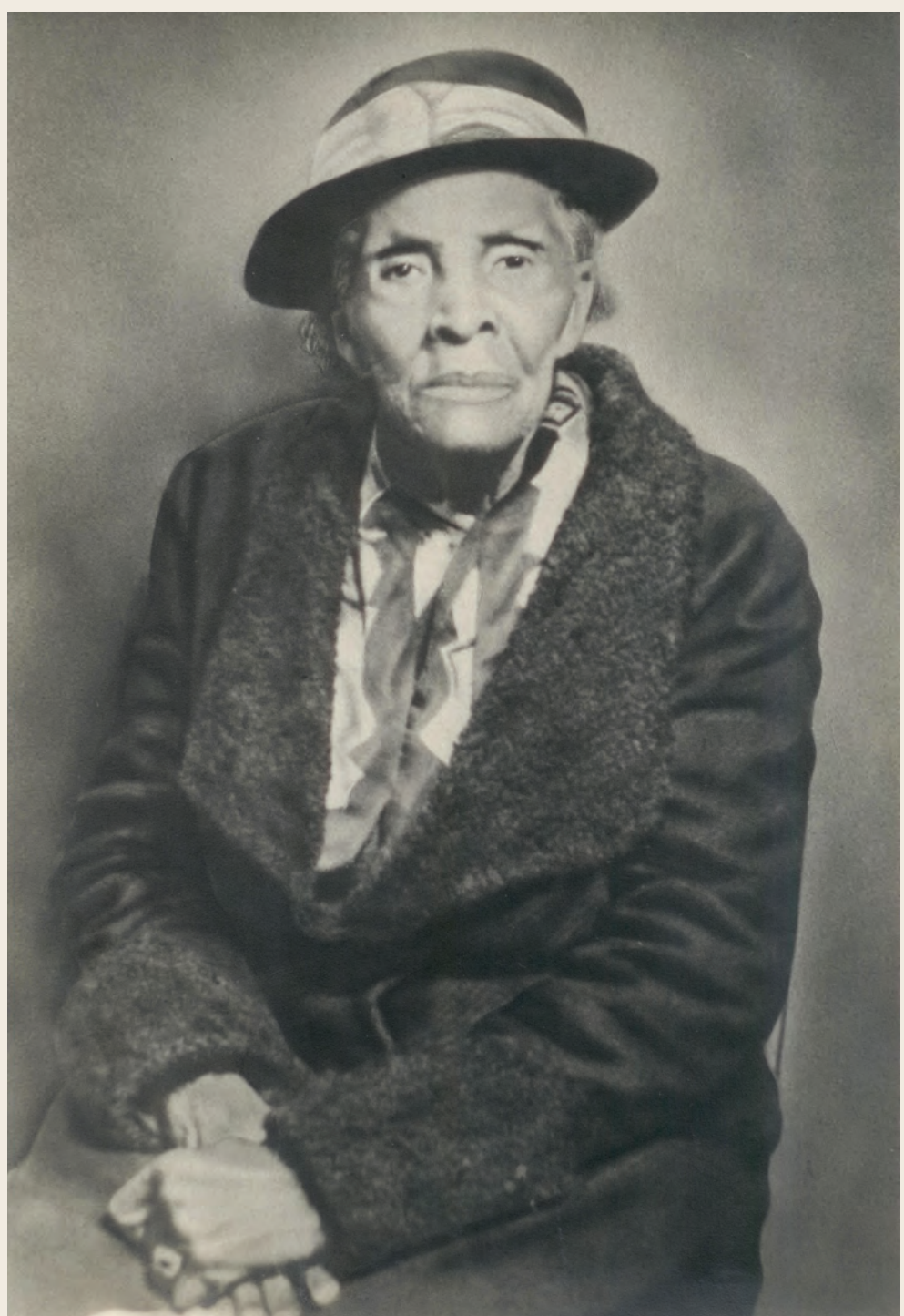
Mildred Justice Edwards and Family

The modern Justice family is descended from some of the first enslaved people ever recorded at Stagville: Ned, Esther, Betty, and Cato. Justice descendants have lived in Durham County from 1776 to the present day, through generations of enslavement and freedom. Throughout slavery, the Justices preserved family names like Solomon, John, Alvis, and McKenzie.



Horton Grove Nature Preserve Sowell Trail

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Amy Sowell Shaw

Amy Sowell was one of the key figures in the freed people's community at Stagville after 1865. Born in the 1850s, she served as a midwife and community leader for almost one hundred years, until her death in 1948. She likely taught her healing and midwifery skills to her descendants. Her descendants used those same skills to care for black women in the tobacco factories of Durham.



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Text and photograph courtesy of Historic Stagville State Historic Site.



Horton Grove Nature Preserve Jordan Trail

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Original 1851 slave dwellings at Horton Grove

Abner Jordan was one of three people interviewed at Stagville for the Works Progress Administration slave narrative program in 1938. In his interview, he reports that he was born enslaved at Stagville in 1832. His father was a blacksmith and foreman on the plantation. Abner's father blew a horn each day to signal to enslaved workers that they could leave the fields and return to their quarters. After emancipation, Abner Jordan moved to Hillsborough and Durham.

