

"It's Time"

Capital Campaign to complete the restoration
of the Bonine House and the Carriage House by 2017

FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$350,000



The Underground Railroad in Cass County

Between 1840 and 1860 over 1500 fugitive slaves (now called freedom seekers) came through Vandalia, MI on the Illinois and Quaker lines of the Underground Railroad (UGRR). They were aided on their journey to freedom in Canada by Quakers and free blacks in the area; sheltered in 'stations' and taken to the next stop by 'conductors.' The stories of the UGRR in Cass County and the people involved have been extensively researched by URSCC, and disseminated through our website, a 14-site driving tour, and local events throughout the year. The Bonine House and Carriage House will serve as focal points to continue and expand these educational efforts.



The Bonine House—Penn Rd and M-60 Vandalia, MI

Built by abolitionists James E. Bonine and Sarah Bogue Bonine around 1845, the Bonine House was home to the Bonine Family, including MI State Senator G. Elwood Bonine, for over 100 years. Originally built as a Greek Revival, it was remodeled and enlarged in the Second Empire style, adding its signature mansard roof and tower, around 1870. The Bonine House is architecturally important, as well as being the home of stationmasters on the Underground Railroad (UGRR). The Bonine House is being restored to be used as a community events center downstairs, and a center for education on the UGRR in Cass County upstairs, including a library/research room and display rooms.



The Carriage House—Calvin Center Rd and M-60 Vandalia, MI

Situated across the street from the Bonine House, the Carriage House was built by James E. Bonine around 1850 in the Gothic Revival style. There is a large body of evidence that the Carriage House was a station on the Underground Railroad, and freedom seekers were sheltered there by James E. and Sarah Bonine. The Carriage House is being restored as a period museum and Underground Railroad station.

URSCC PURCHASED THE BONINE HOUSE AND CARRIAGE HOUSE IN DECEMBER 2010.

Through grants, gifts, and our membership of over 300, the following repairs have been completed:

BONINE HOUSE

- rebuilding of sw corner
- restoration of tower roof
- re-roof entire house
- ceiling and plaster repair
- masonry repair/replacement
- soffit, fascia & eavestroughs
- basement window wells & windows
- tuck point foundation inside/out
- upstairs painted & floors refinished
- front porches restored

CARRIAGE HOUSE

- sw corner beam replaced
- sw corner foundation restored

It's time to finish the job!

“It’s Time”

Capital Campaign to Complete the Restoration of the
Bonine House and Carriage House by 2017

We’ve come far. URSCC and our community have saved both of these structures for future generations. We have a solid base of members. We attract thousands to our annual events.

NOW IT’S TIME TO FINISH THE JOB!

IT’S TIME for weddings and family reunions at the Bonine House. **IT’S TIME** for descendants of UGRR families to read their history in the Bonine House Library, and for researchers of all ages to learn the story of the UGRR in Cass County in the Research and Display Rooms.

IT’S TIME to experience the Carriage House as a UGRR station; to feel what freedom seekers felt when they reached its safe harbor.

The Bonine House and Carriage House will be huge assets to the region, bringing visitors and UGRR enthusiasts from all over the world.

Whether you’re a history buff, love historic houses, are compelled by the story of the Underground Railroad, or perhaps a descendant of the families involved, please help us accomplish our goal by contributing to the following projects.

BONINE HOUSE -- \$150,000



- masonry repair, north wall
- attic furnace, duct work
- side porch and summer kitchen
- gardens and landscaping
- kitchen
- bathroom
- downstairs rooms stripping trim, painting, and floors
- chairlift for back staircase

CARRIAGE HOUSE -- \$200,000



- complete the replacement of beams and foundation
- move buildings and concrete in front of Carriage House
- repair/replace siding, windows roof

Gifts to URSCC are tax deductible, and pledges can be taken over two years. Gifts in-kind are welcome and appreciated.

Thank you!