

## **The 8th Slave Dwelling Project Conference The Illusion of Freedom: Slavery in the Northern States to take place October 3–5, 2024 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

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The **8th national Slave Dwelling Project (SDP) Conference will take place October 3-5, 2024 in Philadelphia, PA** in collaboration with University of Pennsylvania's McNeil Center for Early American Studies and Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites at the Stuart Weitzman School of Design. This year's theme, **The Illusion of Freedom: Slavery in the Northern States** seeks to explore American chattel slavery that was present in northern states before and after the American Revolution. While gradual emancipation began after the Revolution, the complicity of northern states allowed the institution of enslavement to persist nationally.

Current American ideology purports the North's role in the American Revolution, the Underground Railroad, and the Civil War as asylum for the enslaved. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Less is known about northern participation in chattel slavery that existed in the United States and the legacy of chattel slavery that continues to disenfranchise the African American population and contribute to systemic racism.

**The 8th conference of the Slave Dwelling Project, the first in a northern state, will examine those roles as the nation prepares for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026.**

The **8th SDP Conference will feature an engaging keynote address by Michael Harriot**, a columnist at theGrio and a staff writer on The Amber Ruffin Show and author of *Black AF History: The Unwhitewashed Story of America*. His work has appeared in the *Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, NBC, BET, and on his mother's refrigerator. He is a frequent political commentator on MSNBC and CNN and earned the National Association of Black Journalists Award for digital commentary as well as TV news writing.

**Participants will also have the opportunity to participate in 40 informative and enlightening sessions by many notable scholars and historians** in historic Philadelphia with many off-site experiences as well, including an **exclusive campfire conversation and overnight at historic Cliveden**. Also known as the Chew House, Cliveden is a historic site owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, located in the Germantown neighborhood of Northwest Philadelphia.

The conference will take place in the heart of the Philadelphia historic district just steps from such iconic landmarks as the Liberty Bell, National Constitution Center, and the Betsy Ross House. The sessions will take place at the **Museum of the American Revolution, The Philadelphia Marriott Old City, and the University of Pennsylvania**, with opportunities for off-site experiences. A limited-time special hotel rate of \$239+ is available for the conference and can be reserved by [clicking here](#) or calling (215) 238-6000.

Major funding for the conference has been generously provided by **the 1772 Foundation** with support from **the Americana Foundation**. We are also pleased to have the **University of Pennsylvania's McNeil Center for Early American Studies and Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites at the Stuart Weitzman School of Design** as partners and sponsors.

Visit [slavedwellingproject.org](http://slavedwellingproject.org) to register.

A media packet may be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Founded in 2010, the Slave Dwelling Project envisions a future in which the hearts and minds of Americans acknowledge a more truthful and inclusive narrative of the history of the nation that honors the contributions of all our people, is embedded and preserved in the buildings and artifacts of people of African heritage and inspires all Americans to honor their ancestors. Please visit [www.slavedwellingproject.org](http://www.slavedwellingproject.org) for more information.

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