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Slavery in Rhode Island: Awakening a Forgotten Past (poster)

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Slavery in Rhode Island: Awakening a Forgotten Past

Providence

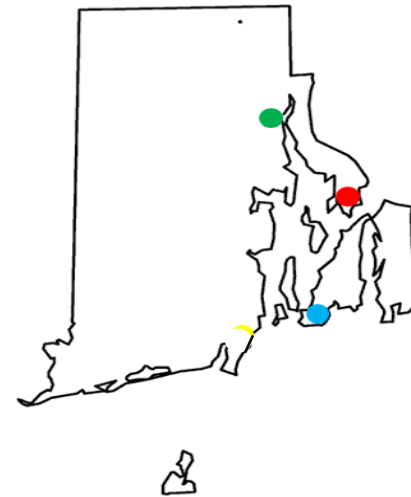
Brown University:

The fortune used to fund Brown University on the East Side of Providence was acquired by the trafficking of slaves throughout New England. The Browns family controlled slave trade in Rhode Island.



The Cathedral of St. John:

The Cathedral of St. John has begun to create a museum to educate on the Church's involvement during the 1700s-- which is where a majority of Rhode Island's shipbuilders worshiped.



Bristol

Linden Place:

This was the home of George DeWolf, who was also the nephew of James DeWolf, another famous slave trader and the second-wealthiest man in the United States. Despite its involvement in the slave trade, it is still hailed as being the "architectural crown jewel" of Bristol's waterfront district.



DeWolf Tavern:

DeWolf Tavern is situated in the historic building once known as DeWolf Rum Distillery. The restaurant's website lightly notes them as "maritime merchants." However, James DeWolf was actually one of the most famous slave traders in the United States.



Newport

Newport Rhode Island Museum of History:

This building was used as a slave market. The Newport slave traders would turn the sugar cane from Caribbean plantations into rum in Newport. Newport then exported rum to the west coast of Africa in exchange for more slaves.



Touro Synagogue:

This is the oldest synagogue in the America dating back to the colonial times. One of the leading contributors toward its construction was Aaron Lopez, who was a Jewish merchant and one of the wealthiest man in Newport. Lopez was heavily involved in the slave trade and controlled close to 30 slaves ships by the start of the American revolution.



Project Statement: This map serves to raise awareness about the history of slavery in Rhode Island. Despite having played an active role in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, Rhode Island's involvement is often overlooked or omitted from what we are traditionally taught in historically influenced classes at Providence College. Instead of integrating local history and knowledge into our own curriculum, we learn about slavery through a Eurocentric, Westernized lens. We aim to challenge our narrow teachings about slavery and widen our perspectives by constructing alternative narratives that go against the metanarrative. This map displaces the untold narratives of four areas in Rhode Island: Providence, Bristol, Narragansett and Newport.

Through these stories, we seek to highlight and draw attention to the set of skills, the culture, and the sense of humanity that Black individuals retained throughout their enslavement. By presenting Rhode Island's involvement in the slave trade, we aim to remind our community that slavery not only existed thousands of miles away from us but also occurred in many familiar places we visit every day. We would not only like to shed light on the hidden history of slavery, but to also raise consciousness about how this history should play a vital part in our education at Providence College.

