
2020

Ardent Activist: Anne E. Amos

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Recommended Citation

Strange, Anna and Magners, Michaela, "Ardent Activist: Anne E. Amos" (2020). *Women of the Eighth Ward*. 5.

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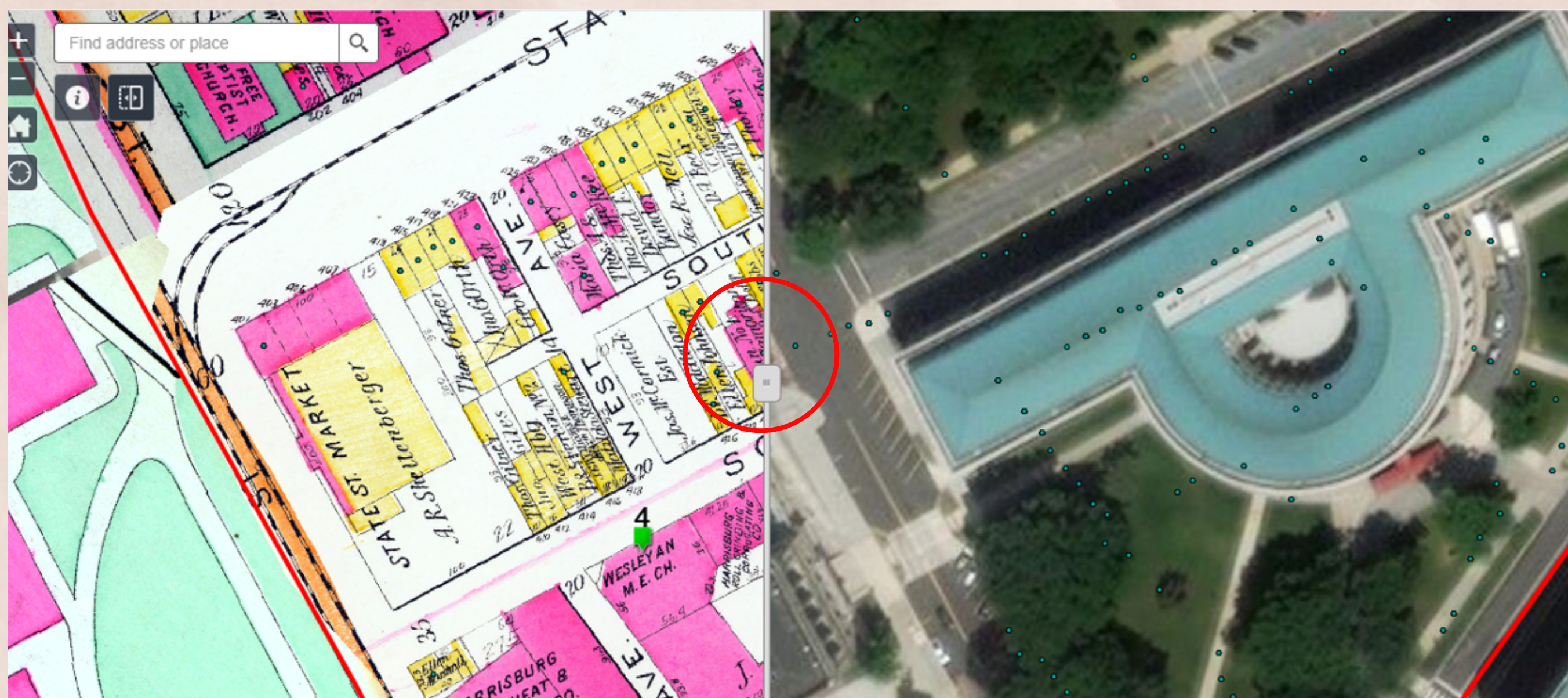
ARDENT ACTIVIST

Anne E. Amos

1824-1811

EARLY LIFE & ABOLITIONIST WORK

Anne E. Amos was born around the year 1824. She ultimately settled in Harrisburg, where she married Aquila Amos and resided at 432 South Avenue in the Old Eighth. An active abolitionist, she was known for her work helping freedom-seekers, including opening her home as a stop on the Underground Railroad.



The red circle surrounding the pink building represents 432 South Avenue, Harrisburg.
Left: A 1901 map of Amos residence and the center of Good Samaritan Council, no. 1.
Right: The site of 432 South Avenue today, on the edge of the Capitol complex.

TEMPERANCE & SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

Amos was involved in the temperance movement in Harrisburg. As a founding member of the Independent Order of Daughters of Temperance, she served as the Grand Recording Scribe and District Grand Deputy of the Good Samaritan Council, no. 1. The Council listed under her address on South Avenue functioned as a political hub in the Eighth Ward.

Serving different roles in various social organizations, Amos was committed to what she viewed as the intertwined causes of temperance, women's suffrage, and the betterment of the African-American community in Harrisburg. At the 1902 Colored Ministers Conference in Harrisburg, Amos was the sole female speaker, joining other politicians and influential citizens such as Governor William Stone, Mayor Vance McCormick, Professor John P. Scott, and Mr. Dennee Bibb.

LEGACY

Amos passed away in Harrisburg in 1911, leaving a legacy of social and civic influence through her connections within the community. She exercised her agency through political, social, and religious engagement. In her obituary, Amos was remembered by John P. Scott for her commitment to the advancement of African-American citizens in Harrisburg, leadership in the temperance and suffrage movements, and dedication to her church.

CHURCH

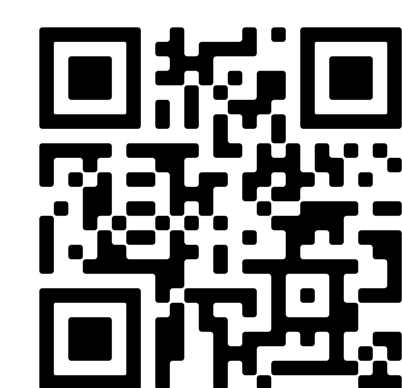
Anne Amos helped to found Wesley Union A.M.E. Zion Church, originally located in the Old Eighth Ward of Harrisburg. At Wesley, Amos established a kindergarten for African-American children. Wesley was an important hub of activism during the years of the Underground Railroad, the road to the fifteenth amendment, and the fight for the nineteenth amendment. Amos remained active in the church during all of these seasons. She led prayers and read scripture at Wesley Union A.M.E. Zion Church, Elder Street Presbyterian Church, Second Baptist Church, and Bethel A.M.E. Union Church.



Photo of Wesley Union A.M.E. Zion Church, courtesy of the Dauphin County Historical Society.

"Through the blazing sun or drifting snows, through the rains or heated drought, when men were lax or mourners wept she was always at her church and of her widow's mite, she always gave God's cause to foster and advance."

--J. P. Scott, 1911 Obituary for Anne Amos



Scan for more information on the Temperance Movement.