

Name _____

Date _____

ROOM EXPLORATION GUIDE

Activity 1 - Slave Quarters

Click on the map that correlates with the slave quarters and view the space. The red dots will help you navigate the space.

1. Use adjectives to describe what you saw in the slave quarters.
2. During your visit of the slave quarters, what are some facts you learned that provided new information or contradicted what you previously learned about slavery?
3. What resonated with you from your visit of the slave quarters?

Activity 2 - Owens-Thomas House

Take the virtual tour of the main house, clicking on the pages, the red dots, and the green walking-man button. Turn to a partner and discuss the following questions. Respond in one to two well-written sentences.

1. The main house is characterized by a great deal of opulence and wealth. What is the true cost of this wealth? Think about this question carefully, and discuss your ideas with a partner.
2. Contrast the furnishings of the Owens-Thomas House with the furnishings of the slave quarters. Consider the beds, tables, decorations, and personal objects and think about how different they are between the two houses. What do these differences say about the lives of those enslaved?
3. The Lafayette Balcony is a famous historical site because the Marquis de Lafayette, a Revolutionary War hero, spoke from there decades after the American Revolution. What is the paradox you find between the significance of the Lafayette Balcony and the rest of the story told by the Owens-Thomas House?

ROOM EXPLORATION GUIDE

Activity 3 - Wall of Names

Click on the virtual tour (the green walking man) for the slave quarters, then click on “Wall of Names.” Look at the names of the many people who were enslaved.

Choose a name from the wall of names. You now know where enslaved people at the Owens-Thomas house ate and slept. In the space below, write a personal letter or a poem dedicated to that person, with the purpose of honoring his or her memory.

Activity 4 - Primary Source

Solomon Northup, a man who was enslaved for 12 years, and the author of a slave narrative, said the following:

Whoever visits some estates there, and witnesses the good-humored indulgence of some masters and mistresses, and the affectionate loyalty of some slaves, might be tempted to dream the oft-fabled poetic legend of a patriarchal institution, and all that; but over and above the scene there broods a portentous shadow—the shadow of law. So long as the law considers all these human beings, with beating hearts and living affections, only as so many things belonging to a master,—so long as the failure, or misfortune, or imprudence, or death of the kindest owner, may cause them any day to exchange a life of kind protection and indulgence for one of hopeless misery and toil,—so long it is impossible to make anything beautiful or desirable in the best regulated administration of slavery.

What do you think Northup meant? What evidence from the virtual tour supports his statement?

Exit Ticket

What was your greatest takeaway from the virtual reality tour? What stuck with you?