

# JOSIAH HENSON MUSEUM

ZIGERISNEAD ARCHITECTS

The Josiah Henson Museum and Park is home to a portion of an original plantation where Rev. Josiah Henson lived and worked as a slave from 1795 to 1830. Henson's 1849 autobiography is said to have inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

The project transforms the former plantation site to tell the story of Henson's life, with a new visitor center and the only remaining historic structure rehabilitated as an interpretive exhibit. This museum plays an important role in educating the public on the unfolded story of enslavement and escape through an immersive and emotional journey to the past.

The new visitor center is the starting point for the visitor experience, with a media-rich orientation spoken from Henson's point of view. The historic structure of the Riley/Bolten House, with an attached log kitchen, is preserved and restored to serve as an exhibit, representing the experiences of the past.

While the scale of the new building remains responsive to that of the historic house and the broader suburban context, the deliberate material choices produce a counterpart to the painted plantation house, challenging present-day audiences with a symbolic dialogue to face the past and engage in building a path forward.



## JURY COMMENTS

**The new Josiah Henson Museum is a well designed addition to the park. It's a contemporary take on residential forms that is respectful to the existing structures. The jury appreciates the patience it took to create this project, which is the culmination of 15 years of the Parks Department working with the community. The new visitors center transforms the guest experience, and serves as a model to the importance of providing access to cultural resources associated with enslavement and the enslaved experience.**

**OWNER:** Montgomery Parks, Maryland-National Capital Parks & Planning Commission | **ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN TEAM:** Ziger|Snead Architects – Steve Ziger, FAIA; Will Rhode, AIA; Miharuru Morimoto, AIA; Darragh Brady, AIA; Conor Brady; Travis Akiwowo; Katie Zaeh, AIA; Christopher Brown, AIA | **GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** CFI Construction Corp. | **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:** Floura Teeter Landscape Architects | **CIVIL ENGINEER:** A. Morton Thomas | **STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:** Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger | **MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEER:** Mueller Associates | **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Karl Connolly | **CONSULTANTS:** Forella Group, FLUX Studios, Jensen Hughes, Watson & Henry, Wendy Jessup & Associates, Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates