

**WILDWOOD**



## **HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS**

More than 8,000 enslaved men in Missouri joined the United States Colored Troops (USCT) during the Civil War (1861-1865) to fight for the Union, including many who had previously worked the large hemp plantations at present-day Madison Valley, just north of Babler State Park. Statewide, slave ownership remained legal after the Emancipation Proclamation because it did not apply to border states like Missouri, which did not join the Confederate States of America. However, in 1863, the War Department passed Order No. 135, thereby allowing enslaved men to emancipate through enlistment, even without owner consent. Locally, Corporal Elijah Madison, and Privates Stapleton Madison, Louis Rollins, Sr, Henry Hicks, Henry Anderson, Warren Hawkins, Reuben West, Norman Hawkins, Lewis Brown, Robert Brown, Clinton Gallaway, Richard Hughes, Thomas Randall, Alfred Smith, and James Green, all enlisted so they and others could be free. Slavery was officially abolished in Missouri on January 11, 1865. Many of these men returned to the area after the war as farmers and community leaders and are buried in Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Cemetery, not far from Madison Valley.

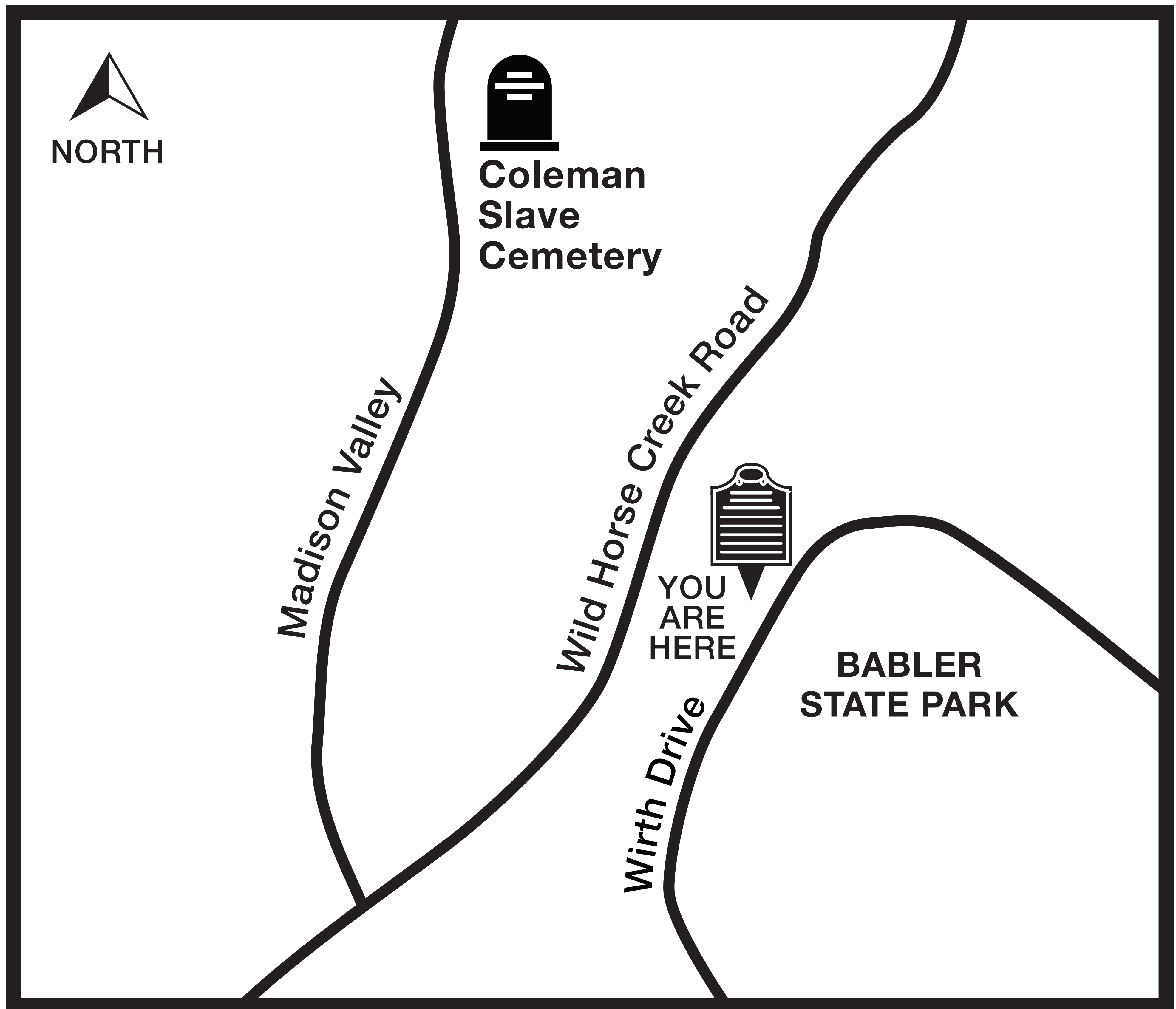
**BRONZE CASTING 23.5" X 30.5"**

**ALL BLACK IS RAISED SATIN BRONZE AND WHITE IS RECESSED DARK OXIDATION**

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