African American Heritage Trail
1840 - 1860, Florence, Massachusetts

The Florence Congregational Church, across from the Sojourner Truth Memorial Statue, was founded in 1860 by J.P. Willcox and others from First Church in Northampton. UGRR agent Moses Ruggles was the builder behind the Congregational Nursery School in the “Pine Grove” where members of the NAEI and visitors like Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and Wendell Phillips spoke beneath an old growth pine, 150 feet tall.

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