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By Mindy Pantiel | Photographs by Costas Picadas



After taking up residence in her recently completed Farmington home, [Lisa Nkonoki](#) proudly dubbed her domicile the “Purple Palace at Poplar Hill on the Freedom Trail,” the latter referencing the town’s prominent role on the Underground Railroad. “The fact that slaves went through here makes this place sacred ground for me,” notes Nkonoki, herself a descendent of slaves. “I think my ancestors would be proud of what I have done here.”

From the street, it might appear Nkonoki has done little more