Station #1: You Are Here
The cemetery is divided into 6 sections (A-F) separated by wide avenues. The tour begins in Section A, immediately to your left at Station #2

Station #2: Database
In 2010, 87 men were confirmed as employed in the trotting and thoroughbred industries. As of 2020, that number is 159. This updated archival panel was installed in 2020.

Station #3: Oliver Lewis
Lewis, mounted on Aristides, won the 1st Kentucky Derby in 1875. He was later instrumental in developing what we know as the racing form. The Lewis monument was reset in 2013.

Station #4: Trainers
Walker Hughes, Frank Perkins, Jackson Brown, and Oliver Chambers are a few of the trotting horse and thoroughbred trainers who have markers in the cemetery.

Station #5: Daniel Hart
Hart was among the 40 men who worked as hostlers, the name given to those who cared for horses prior to and after races.

Station #6: James ‘Soup’ Perkins
Born into a family of horsemen, Perkins won the Kentucky Derby when he was 15-years-old. His brother, Frank, was a thoroughbred trainer.

Station #7: Cassius Clay Tankersly
Tankersly died at age 20 at the Latonia track following a racing accident. Ten jockeys buried on site died between the ages of 13 and 21 years.

Station #8: Octie Keys
Keys was a groom who worked at the Kentucky Association race track near the cemetery. Twelve other grooms were employed with private stables.

Station #9: A Brief Cemetery History
Because of its rich heritage, African Cemetery No. 2 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 31, 2004.

Station #10: John Bell
Bell served in the 9th Cavalry. African Americans serving in the 24th and 25th Infantry and 9th and 10th Cavalry were known as ‘Buffalo Soldiers.’ Many early enlistees had fought in the Civil War. Others later fought in the Spanish American War.

Station #11: Farrier
Farriers formed and fit the shoes to each horse as required by training and racing events. This marker might be an indication of the person’s profession.

Station #12: Abraham Perry
Joe Cotton, a horse Perry conditioned, won the 1885 Kentucky, Coney Island, and Tennessee Derbies and five other stakes and handicaps races. This archival panel is next to the marker of Clara Perry, his wife.
Station #13: Isaac Murphy
Originally buried in African Cemetery No. 2, his remains were moved to the Man O’ War Memorial on Huffman Mill Road in 1967, and subsequently to the Kentucky Horse Park. In 2017, with support from the International Museum of the Horse, this Borden Formation siltstone bench and archival panel were installed at the family’s burial site.

Contributions for ongoing maintenance and continued restoration are welcome and appreciated. African Cemetery No. 2, Inc. is a tax-exempt non profit 501 (c)(13) corporation

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Station #14: Tommie Britton
Britton was another well-known jockey at the end of the 19th Century. He began as a stable boy with J.T. Williams, the same stable in which Isaac Murphy began his career.

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Station #15: Joseph Scott
Scott’s marker is unique because it is the only one on site that specifically identifies an individual as a ‘jockey.’ He was 16-years-old at his death.

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