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**The Connecticut Freedom Trail Nomination Instructions**

The Connecticut Freedom Trail application form is available in Microsoft Word format or PDF. Please type application using either format, print it and MAIL one ORIGINAL COPY plus all required attachments to the Connecticut Freedom Trial Selection Committee (address below).

Please be sure to review the Methods of Listing Properties on the Connecticut Freedom Trail prior to completing and submitting the Application (available HERE.) If you need additional information or have questions, contact:

Connecticut Freedom Trial Selection Committee

c/o Todd Levine

Connecticut Freedom Trail Coordinator

State Historic Preservation Office

Department of Economic & Community Development

1 Constitution Plaza, 2nd floor

Hartford, CT 06103

E-mail: todd.levine@ct.gov

Fax: 860-256-2763

Phone: 860-256-2759

**The following is a list of CRITERIA that the Selection Committee has developed. Keep these points in mind as you answer the questions in the application.**

1. Related to the Amistad incident, the abolitionist movement and/or the Underground Railroad.
2. Documented to have contributed to the struggle for freedom.
3. First, if opened doors for others.
4. Connecticut based
5. At least fifty years old.

**One Sentence Summary:**  Located on the grounds of his former homestead, this park honors the legacy of Norwich native Ellis Walter Ruley (1882–1959), a self-taught African-American folk artist.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- |
| Site Information: |
| Name of site (if applicable): \_Ellis Walter Ruley Memorial Park \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Address:\_\_\_28 Hammond Ave\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| City: Norwich\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_CT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip: 06360\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |  |
| Property owner: |
| Name: The City of Norwich\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Address:\_100 Broadway\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| City: \_\_Norwich\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_CT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_06360\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Phone: \_\_\_\_(860) 823-3700\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  |
| E-Mail: \_\_\_\_cmoffice@cityofnorwich.org \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_General information:Present use of property: \_\_Memorial Park\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Age of property: \_\_\_1950s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Open to Public: Yes [x]  No [ ]  Visible from the Public Road: Yes [x]  No [ ]   |
| Type of site (check one):[ ] Freedom Trail [ ] Underground Railroad  [ ] Amistad [x] Concept of Freedom  Contact information of the individual or organization presenting application:Name: Regan Miner/Norwich Historical Society \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Address: \_69 East Town Street \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_City: \_Norwich\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_CT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_06360\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone: \_860-886-1776\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_minerregan@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Longitude and Latitude of building or site to be included on the Connecticut Freedom Trail for future GPS mapping: Latitude N 45°31’10.27” \_\_\_\_Longitude W 72°3’ 43.88” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Documentation for inclusion (include sources):**

Attached additional sheets if necessary.

Sources

•  Smith, Glenn Robert., Robert Kenner, Stacy C. Hollander, Lee Kogan, and Ellis Ruley. Discovering Ellis Ruley. New York: Crown Pub., 1993. Print.

• "UnRuley." *Dini Films International*. Dini Films International, n.d. Web. 20 Mar. 2017.

           Also, Articles from The Day and The Norwich Bulletin

Design and Drawing of the Ellis Walter Ruley Memorial Park by Robert Groner

Additional relevant information:

Located on the grounds of his former homestead, this park honors the legacy of Norwich native Ellis Walter Ruley (1882–1959), a self-taught African-American folk artist. Ruley’s paintings are evocative and often depict biblical or African folklore themes. In 1933 Ruley married Wilhelmina Fox, who was white. Along with extended family, the Ruleys lived in an old farmhouse, on this Hammond Avenue site. Sadly, Ruley died here under mysterious circumstances in 1959 and he is buried in Maplewood Cemetery in Norwich. Two years later, fire destroyed the homestead along with many of Ellis’s paintings. A Connecticut Superior Court decision in 1983 transferred the homestead’s access road to others. Following a foreclosure, the City of Norwich took possession of the property. Two original paintings of his work are housed in Norwich’s Slater Memorial Museum and many others are in private collections or museums across the country.

**Photographs:**

Color photographs(in the form of a CD) and map are a requirement. The photographs should include: a CONTEXT image (depicting the location of the site, such as, an aerial view, streetscape, neighborhood or city map); front, back, and side views, a ¾ view, pertinent interior views, and any other views or details that are important to explaining the nature of the nomination.

**Historic Designations:**

Is the project site recognized for its architectural/cultural/historical significance by any of the following designation program? (Check all that apply.)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| National Historic Landmark | [ ] | [X] |
| National Register of Historic Places | [ ] | [X] |
|  Individually listed | [ ] | [X] |
|  Contributing to a District District Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | [ ] | [ X] |
| State Register of Historic Places | [ ] | [X] |
|  Individually listed | [ ] | [X] |
|  Contributing to a District District Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | [ ] | [X] |
| Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) |  |  |
| Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) | [ ] | [X] |
| Other: (specify)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | [ ] | [X] |
|  | [ ] | [X] |
|  |  |  |

**Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date of Submission: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**