



## **How Do I List a Property on the Connecticut Freedom Trail?**

The Connecticut Freedom Trail consists of sites that “embody the struggle toward freedom and human dignity, celebrate the accomplishments of the state’s African American community and promote heritage tourism.” Many different types of sites can be listed on the Freedom Trail, under four categories:

- **Amistad**
- **Civil Rights**
- **Underground Railroad**
- **Concept of Freedom**

A site can be eligible for listing under more than one category, but must be eligible for one. Listing a property can be undertaken by individuals such as interested owners, municipal historians, local historians, or organizations such as historical societies. An applicant does not need to be the owner of a nominated property, but should obtain their permission to apply. SHPO staff is available to provide guidance to applicants. In more complex cases, however, it may be necessary to seek the help of a qualified consultant.

To initiate the process of evaluating a property’s eligibility, please submit the following materials to [CTFreedomTrail@ct.gov](mailto:CTFreedomTrail@ct.gov), or hard copy to the address below:

- **A Letter of Intent** briefly summarizing the proposed site, and under which category it would be eligible for listing. The letter should be no longer than three pages, and demonstrate why this site should be added onto the Connecticut Freedom Trail.
- **Current Photographs** of the property. Please make sure get permission from the property owner before submitting photographs.

Both of these items should be combined into a single pdf if sent digitally.

If a property is found to be eligible after review by the Connecticut Freedom Trail Selection Committee, the applicant will be asked to fill out and return a **Full Application with citations.**



The criteria used in evaluating sites for inclusion include but are not limited to:

1. How the site represents one or more of the eligible categories;
2. If the site is the location of a "First," or provided opportunities for others that followed;
3. If the site is centered around Connecticut history/events; and
4. If sufficient time has passed to be able to evaluate the site within the context of history (ideally at least 50 years, but there may be some sites of importance that are less than 50 years old).

Applications that meet the criteria and voted on favorably by the Connecticut Freedom Trail Selection Committee will be added to the Trail, with the applicant invited to join the Committee as a Site Ambassador.

All new sites receive a bronze plaque to commemorate their addition to the Connecticut Freedom Trail. The Committee encourages applicants to organize a public event for the award of the plaque, with members of the Committee attending. For ideas on what types of events sites host, view some **recent dedications**.

Paper copies of Letters of Inquiry and Full Applications should be sent to:

Connecticut Freedom Trail Selection Committee  
c/o Todd Levine, Connecticut Freedom Trail Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office/ DECD  
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5  
Hartford, CT 06103

**Still have questions? Reach out to us at [CTFreedomTrail@ct.gov](mailto:CTFreedomTrail@ct.gov)**