|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A yellow and black sign  Description automatically generated with low confidence | **The Connecticut Freedom Trail** documents and designates sites that celebrate the struggle for justice and equality that continues in the 21st century. Sites depict the efforts, in all their forms, of the state’s African American community and all the communities that championed the goals of universal freedom and human dignity.  |

**CONNECTICUT FREEDOM TRAIL APPLICATION PROCESS**

Listing on the Connecticut Freedom Trail (CFT) is a two-part process. Please read the entirety of the instructions below before you begin.

**STEP #1: Submitting “The Letter of Intent”**

Before filling out the application form, it is required that a one to two page “Letter of Intent,” along with an illustrative photograph of your site(s) be submitted.

This letter informs the Connecticut Freedom Trail Committee why you think your site should be listed on the Connecticut Freedom Trail as it pertains to one of four major categories:

*1. A site associated with the Amistad Case of 1839-1842.*

*2. Buildings or structures reported to have been used as part of the Underground Railroad.*

*3. Spaces that were the location of events or associated with individuals significant to the Civil Rights movement.*

*4. Gravesites, monuments, homes, and/or buildings associated with the heritage and movement towards freedom of Connecticut’s African American communities.*

The Committee meets monthly (generally the 4th Wednesday of the month) to review potential sites, which can only be accomplished through the participation of members of the public, such as yourself, to help identify and document these important places.

Once the letter of intent is accepted and approved, filling out the application form is the next step.

**STEP #2: Submitting “The Connecticut Freedom Trail Application”**

A successfully completed application elaborates on the Letter of Intent information and provides documentation of why you think your site should be listed on the Connecticut Freedom Trail (CFT). Documentation is demonstrated through primary and secondary sources. For instance, a primary source could be a letter written by a formerly enslaved person to their family describing how they traveled the Underground Railroad. A secondary source could be a book written about the Underground Railroad that includes analysis of said letter.

**Page 1: Contact Information** Using the form contained in the box, please provide contact information for the person who will be the site ambassador. If your site is added to the CFT, the site ambassador will represent the site at CFT monthly meeting, have a voice a the table for CFT discussions and be a voting member for new potential sites to be added.

**Page 2: Site Information** Put a check mark next to the Freedom Trail category pertaining to the site. Fill in information about the name of the Site, the current Property Owner, and General Information. Also include the longitude and latitude of the site.

**Page 3 Historic Designation(s):** *(Ideally a site should be at least 50 years old, but exceptions can be made for younger sites of importance.)* Use check marks to indicate which type of historic designation pertains to your site. Use the website conncris.ct.gov to assist you with this information. Your town’s historic district department/commission may also be helpful in this regard. Use the box to enter any additional historic information that the Committee should be aware of that is not covered under “Historic Designations”.

**Page 4:** Once you have checked the boxes concerning which type(s) of historic designation is/are pertinent, write a description of how your site fits into that historic designation. Sign and date your application on this page. Please add additional sheets of information if necessary.

**Page 5:** Use this page to provide a bibliography and/or other citation/reference information pertinent to your site.

**Pages 6-7:** Detailed color photographs and site map information should be included here.

**If you have any questions, please reach out to Tammy Denease or Todd Levine for assistance, we re here to help!**