

# Connecticut Freedom Trail Strategic Plan



Prepared by the Long-Term Planning Study Committee  
of the Amistad Committee, Inc.

Robert P. Forbes, Chair  
Robert Egleston  
Roslyn Hamilton  
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**December 30, 2008**

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# *Mission Statement of the Connecticut Freedom Trail*

The Connecticut Freedom Trail shall research, document, and mark sites in this state that are connected with the history and movement towards freedom of its African-American citizens and the contributions of their white allies; the Underground Railroad, and the abolition of slavery. The mission of the Connecticut Freedom Trail shall be to commemorate and preserve this heritage and to coordinate and organize "September Freedom Trail Month," in order to educate, inspire, and build community among Connecticut's citizens, and to increase awareness of and tourism to the state.

# *Vision: Weave the Freedom Trail into the fabric of the cultural life of Connecticut and beyond.*

In the thirteen years of its existence, the Connecticut Freedom Trail has accomplished great things. From an initial base of 36 sites, the Freedom Trail has come to embrace 100 sites in 42 Connecticut cities and towns. Projects and events such as the Connecticut Freedom Trail Bicycle Tour and Quilting Bee of 1998, which produced the four magnificent Freedom Trail Quilts on display at the Museum of Connecticut History; the ground-breaking research of Hartford middle school students on Connecticut's Black Governors; and this year's dedication of the 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Colored Regiment C.V. Infantry Monument, have left enduring imprints on our state. The Freedom Trail has been cited frequently in the national and regional press, and it forms an important component of long-range planning in state reports on historic preservation and community building. In many ways, it is a well-established institution.

In other ways, however, the Freedom Trail has yet to achieve its full potential. The whole is not currently greater than the sum of its parts. For visitors, the Freedom Trail can be confusing, frustrating, and sometimes disappointing.

The fault does not lie with the vision of the Trail, nor, we would argue, with the sites that comprise it. In its current form, the Freedom Trail comprises an astonishing range of historical institutions, experiences, and compelling stories, touching virtually every part of the state, and connecting to themes of courage, creativity, and perseverance in the struggle for liberty that have never been more relevant or important to the nation and the world.

What has been missing from this picture is twofold: first, an effective administrative structure to organize the great variety of sites within the compass of the Freedom Trail, and second, an overarching interpretive framework to knit all types of sites into a clear, coherent, and compelling network. With these key components in place, the potential of the Freedom Trail to inspire, educate, excite, and empower will be unshackled. It is the purpose of this document to outline the goals, objectives, and strategies that we believe will enable the Connecticut Freedom Trail to play a decisive role—its destined role—in the culture, education, community building, and tourism and economic development of our state.

# *Initial step: inventory and classify Freedom Trail sites*

To gain a comprehensive grasp of the nature of the varied sites making up the Connecticut Freedom Trail, a set of organizing principles is in order. For the purposes of this Strategic Plan, we have established a set of categories and a vocabulary to distinguish them. The classification scheme and terminology presented here will be employed throughout the report.

## CLASSIFICATIONS:

1. All Freedom Trail sites may be classified into four types, organized by degree of public accessibility (not historical significance):
  - a. **Public History Sites**, such as museums and historic houses, which may be subclassified in three categories:
    - i. **Primary Tourist Attractions**, including Mystic Seaport Museum, Wadsworth Athenaeum, and Yale University. For purposes of this study, a “primary tourist attraction” is one that attracts visitors from a radius of 50 miles or more and engages them for three or more hours.
    - ii. **Major Public History Venues** with professional staffs and full hours of opening, such as Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Old State House, and New Haven Museum and Historical Society.
    - iii. **Small Public History Venues** such as historical societies and museums with all-volunteer or single paid staff person, limited hours of opening, such as the Stone Museum in Barkhamsted and Marian Anderson Studio/Danbury Historical Society.
  - b. **“Current-use” sites**, open to the public for uses other than history, such as churches, social service organizations, and restaurants or business establishments (People’s Center, James Pharmacy, Roger Sherman Baldwin Law Office).
  - c. **“Freestanding” sites** such as gravestones and monuments (James Mars Grave, Amistad Memorial).
  - d. **Non-public sites**, such as private residences.

Out of 100 Freedom Trail sites, fifteen are Public History Sites (three Primary Tourist Attractions and twelve Public History Venues). Twenty-one are “Current-use” sites. The remaining sixty-four are either “Freestanding” (32) or Non-public sites (32)—that is, places where on-site personal interpretation is not currently available nor likely in the foreseeable future. The implications of this distribution, and a proposed set of criteria for adding (or removing) sites from the Trail appears in Section II. A complete listing of Freedom Trail sites by town is given in Appendix B and by type in Appendix C.

# *Proposed Criteria for Listing Freedom Trail Sites*

Existing sites on the Freedom Trail include birthplaces, home sites, or graves of individuals; sites of significant historical events; structures associated with notable persons, either in their original locations or relocated; buildings documented or reputed to have connections to the Underground Railroad; successor sites to no-longer-extant structures, such as religious congregations or academic buildings; and museums hosting important collections or exhibits central to the mission of the Freedom Trail. This range of sites, somewhat broader and more flexible than provided for under the guidelines of the State and National Registers of Historic places, is appropriate to the nature of the Freedom Trail.

While the site selection process of the State Register of Historic Places has been suggested as a model for the Freedom Trail, a closer model, both thematically and programmatically, is the National Park Service's Network to Freedom Program, which identifies and coordinates historical sites, museums, and interpretive programs connected with the Underground Railroad. In its application for designation as a Network to Freedom site, the NPS stipulates that "[f]acilities...in the Network can have an educational, research, or interpretive scope, as long as they are directly related to, and verifiably associated with, the Underground Railroad. Facilities can include, but not be limited to, archives and libraries, research centers, museums and museum collections, and cultural or commemorative centers." In addition,

there are a multitude of Underground Railroad-related sites around the United States that have suffered the impacts of prolonged negligence or developments inconsistent with the historical character of the site. For whatever reasons, these past activities may have left the site ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Nonetheless, these sites are often integral parts of the Underground Railroad story. Their significance should not be lost, so the Network to Freedom is designed to include these impacted sites, with the provision that they must be associated with some type of documentation and interpretation.<sup>1</sup>

The Strategic Plan Committee recommends the formal adoption of similar principles, which are implicit in the array of sites already designated. Consequently, it is proposed that museums, historical societies, interpreted historic houses and other public history venues with a demonstrated and continuing commitment to the themes and ideals of the Freedom Trail be eligible for designation as Freedom Trail sites.

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<sup>1</sup> "National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Application Instructions (Part I)," National Park Service, [http://www.nps.gov/history/ugrr/App\\_Instructions.doc](http://www.nps.gov/history/ugrr/App_Instructions.doc) (included as Appendix F to this report).

We propose that the following criteria should be weighed (in descending order) in determining eligibility of a Freedom Trail site:

- Historical importance of the person, institution, or event being commemorated to the mission of the Freedom Trail
- Degree of significance of the site to the person, institution, or event being commemorated
- Historical integrity of the site (i.e. the original structure in its original location)
- Interpretive, research and educational facilities and tourist infrastructure; accessibility to public use
- Value of Freedom Trail designation to the preservation of important buildings and other structures or sites

Criteria that are of lesser significance to the purposes of the Freedom Trail include: the architectural excellence or distinctiveness of a structure, its age, or its association with well-known events or generally recognized individuals. The historical *importance* of an event or individual is not directly related to its present-day *renown*. Indeed, a vital function of the Freedom Trail is to bring increased visibility to marginalized but profoundly significant people and events in Connecticut's past—of which the most celebrated example is the Amistad story itself.

The ideal site, according to the criteria listed above, would be an intact historic structure with a direct connection to an important person or event, in its original location, with interpretation, educational facilities, a research collection, and ready accessibility to the public; an example would be the Custom House Maritime Museum in New London, which fulfills all these criteria.

The majority of sites, however, will require the balancing of criteria. Historical significance comes first: some events, individuals, or themes merit inclusion in the Freedom Trail even if other factors, such as the existence of an original structure in its original location, are not present.

The process of applying for Freedom Trail designation, like the Freedom Trail itself, should be an opportunity for education and community building. Whether a site is approved for inclusion or not, the entire experience should result in additional knowledge concerning the mission of the Freedom Trail and a strengthening of its ideals.

The foregoing principles and guidelines are intended to suggest goals and intended outcomes regarding the process of admitting new Freedom Trail sites. It is anticipated that further discussions among the Freedom Trail Sites Committee, the Amistad Committee, and the staff of the CCT will result in effective and consistent regulations and procedures.

# *Goal I: Create a supportive administrative infrastructure to empower the Freedom Trail to maximize its potential.*

As a volunteer-driven institution, the Connecticut Freedom Trail has accomplished extraordinary things since its creation in 1995. However, there is general agreement among organizers and friends of the Freedom Trail that it has outgrown its initial ad-hoc structure and requires a more robust administrative framework to fulfill its mission successfully.

For this reason, the most important single recommendation of this Strategic Plan is the hiring of a professional public historian to coordinate and energize the activities of the Freedom Trail and to facilitate the implementation of the objectives outlined below.

## **Objective 1: Provide administrative and financial support to empower the Connecticut Freedom Trail Planning Committee and local Freedom Trail organizations.**

### STRATEGIES

1. Appoint a full-time staff person to provide assistance and support to the Freedom Trail Planning Committee and Amistad Committee. This person should have historical knowledge, executive ability, energy, technical (especially web-related) skills, and ideally, marketing ability.
2. Enlarge the Freedom Trail Planning Committee to include representatives from as many Trail sites as possible, particularly Public History Venues (museums and historical societies). This step is intended both to broaden the representativeness of the body and to provide participation from institutional partners that can serve as anchors for the infrastructure of the Trail, as discussed under Goal II below.
3. Actively recruit new volunteers and support existing ones from local institutions close to the site such as schools, churches, civic organizations, and.
4. Establish a presence on statewide history organizational boards including the Association for the Study of Connecticut History (ASCH), the Connecticut League of History Organizations (CLHO), the Connecticut Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (CCCPC) and others as appropriate.
5. Implement new site selection procedures drawing upon these strengthened connections with external Connecticut history organizations.

**Objective 2: Create or strengthen collaborations among Freedom Trail sites and partner organizations to facilitate visibility, awareness, and education.**

**STRATEGIES**

1. Strengthen local Freedom Trail volunteer groups with technical and financial assistance.
2. Facilitate establishment of regional Freedom Trail committees based on the state's five tourist districts encompassing (but not limited to) local volunteer groups, Public History Sites, regional arts councils and convention and visitors bureaus, national heritage corridors, and other appropriate partners.
3. Encourage active participation of Public History Sites in Freedom Trail planning and programming by encouraging CCT to consider establishing a targeted grant program appropriate for partnerships between local or regional Freedom Trail associations and public history organizations, as well as by encouraging these organizations to use the existing grant programs of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, the Connecticut Humanities Council, and the many local community foundations. This will marry the knowledge and enthusiasm of grass-roots groups with the infrastructure and grant-writing expertise of established public history institutions.<sup>2</sup>
4. Link Freedom Trail administrators, volunteers, visitors and supporters through a sophisticated, robust, interactive web presence, including password-protected discussion boards.
5. Initiate actions to list key Underground Railroad and related sites on the Freedom Trail with the Network to Freedom Program of the National Park Service and draw upon the resources available through that connection.

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<sup>2</sup> A model example of partnership between a museum and a community group is the Mattatauck Museum's work with a community advisory panel, the African American History Project, most notably on the permanent exhibit, "Fortune's Story."

## ***Goal II: Develop an integrated interpretive framework for the Freedom Trail that incorporates all types of Freedom Trail sites into a logically-structured and imaginatively-implemented network.***

The Connecticut Freedom Trail possesses the great advantages of a coherent theme that is at once broad and well defined, an attractive and instantly recognizable logo, and a statewide network of sites, some of which are vital cultural institutions in their own right, and many of which are embraced enthusiastically and creatively by dedicated local groups. The range and variety of Freedom Trail sites, however, combines to create a patchwork that can be confusing and confounding even to the dedicated public history buff.

The process of designating new Freedom Trail sites beyond the original set has been largely made on a case-by-case basis, for example, showcasing--and fostering--important preservation initiatives (Marian Anderson Studio, Trowbridge Square), commemorating important anniversaries (Theodore Dwight Weld birthplace), and marking dedications of important cultural assets (Freedom Schooner *Amistad*, Connecticut 29<sup>th</sup> Monument). Appropriately, the selection process has been site-driven, identifying places that are well known either nationally, statewide, or locally, or that have been identified through research into a specific area. Cora Murray, Minority and Women's History Coordinator of the CCT, states that an the original goal of the Freedom Trail was to identify and designate at least one site related to African American history in each of Connecticut's 169 towns. The principle of incorporating as many communities as possible into the Freedom Trail has been continuously maintained, and has provided the underpinnings of a large and broadly representative network of sites in a state not known for its cohesive cultural identity.

While the quality of sites has not and should not be compromised in order to extend the Freedom Trail to new communities, this geographical principle of selection should be encouraged and extended. At the same time, however, it is appropriate to step back and consider what larger themes the current sites on the Freedom Trail reveal to us; how existing sites can be reconceptualized and interpreted to tell the stories of the Freedom Trail more effectively; and how the selection of new sites can sustain and enhance those lessons.

Because the African American movement towards freedom is so closely intertwined with the broader history of Connecticut, a substantial percentage of sites central to the traditional “mainstream” narrative of Connecticut history may merit inclusion on the Freedom Trail—a designation that could bring them new relevance and visibility. One example is the Windsor home of Constitutional Convention delegate Oliver Ellsworth, who helped to negotiate the crucial compromises that kept the slave states in the Union, and whose son William later argued for the full citizenship of African Americans as the attorney for Prudence Crandall. Another is the Samuel Huntington Homestead in Scotland, home of a president of the Continental Congress, which takes on new significance when it is known that it was also the home of Samuel Huntington, one of Connecticut’s most celebrated and best-documented black governors. It is no shame to this second Huntington that he was also enslaved to the first.

In some cases, research sparked by the Freedom Trail has itself pointed to new sites. For example, research on the captivity of the *Amistad* captives in the New Haven jail led to the discovery of the resting place of six of the Africans who died during their sojourn and were buried in Grove Street Cemetery, leading to the dedication of a newly-created commemorative headstone at a ceremony attended by the president of Sierra Leone. In other cases, new research points to important additional sites that should be designated to extend a theme or personality currently marked on the Trail, such as the recently-identified dwelling sites of Venture Smith at Haddam Neck, Stonington, and Pawcatuck.

**Objective 1: Develop new ways of conceptualizing and classifying Freedom Trail sites to appeal to varied audiences, teach distinct lessons, and inspire new insights. Redirect the emphasis of the Freedom Trail to focus on *stories* as well as *sites*.**

**STRATEGIES:**

1. Extend the principle of the Amistad, “Concept of Freedom,” and Underground Railroad themes to other Freedom Trail sites, linking appropriate venues. The “Movement Towards Freedom” idea is broad and can include any number of themes. Examples might include:
  - a. *Overcoming Obstacles to Equality*: Venture Smith, Marian Anderson, Jackie Robinson, Paul Robeson, Edward Bouchet, Marietta Canty.
  - b. *Building Liberating Institutions*: Shaker Village, Faith Congregational Church, Hannah Grey Homes, Prince Hall Masonic Temple, Prudence Crandall House.

- c. *Fighting for Change*: Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park, Freedom Schooner *Amistad*, Connecticut 29<sup>th</sup> Memorial, Prudence Crandall House, John Brown Birthplace, Benjamin Trumbull House.<sup>3</sup>
- d. *Artists, Actors, and Athletes of Distinction*: Marian Anderson, Jackie Robinson, Paul Robeson, Marietta Canty.

(Note that some Freedom Trail sites may appropriately be listed in more than one theme.)

2. Establish a comprehensive timeline of Freedom Trail sites, documenting events, individuals, and buildings. (A preliminary timeline is included below as Appendix A.)
3. Develop travel itineraries for Freedom Trail sites organized by theme, region, and historical era.
4. Encourage establishment of auxiliary “partner trails” in relation to Freedom Trail sites, connecting related sites that might not be appropriate for separate Freedom Trail designation. Some of these may be actively marketed and promoted for a limited time in conjunction with major exhibits or for specific anniversaries.
  - a. An example (an urgent one, since the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Harpers Ferry raid is in 2009) would be a John Brown Trail, incorporating the John Brown birthplace, the Works Project Administration John Brown murals in the Torrington Post Office, the Whiting House in Torrington (home of a family friend whom Brown frequently visited), the site of the Morris Academy in Litchfield, which Brown attended as a teenager, the Captain John Brown House in Canton (home of John Brown’s grandfather), and the Collins Company in Collinsville, which manufactured the pikes to be used in Brown’s planned slave revolution.<sup>4</sup> The “trailhead” for the John Brown Trail would be the Torrington Historical Society, which administers the John Brown Birthplace.
  - b. Other types of “partner trails” could include a Beman Family Trail, encompassing sites connected to Caesar, Jehiel, Amos, and Lemuel Beman in East Hampton, Colchester, Hartford, New Haven, and Middletown; or a Civil Rights Trail incorporating sites related to native Nutmegger activists and prominent national figures such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.

**Objective 2: Develop strategies for maximizing the visibility and educational effectiveness of all types of current Freedom Trail sites as defined above.**

**STRATEGIES:**

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<sup>3</sup>We recommend that this site be identified as “Benjamin Trumbull House /Lyman Trumbull Birthplace” for Freedom Trail purposes.

<sup>4</sup> At least one of these sites, the Collinsville location, probably merits inclusion on the Freedom Trail in its own right.

- A. Primary Tourist Attractions should:
1. Encourage greater participation of these institutions with Freedom Trail commensurate with their stature and resources, for example:
    - a. Host permanent Freedom Trail informational and educational facilities
    - b. Mounting permanent or changing Freedom Trail exhibits
    - c. Work with local Freedom Trail committees and field representative(s) to engage in primary research on existing and potential Freedom Trail sites
    - d. Publicize Freedom Trail affiliation on site, at important points of visitor contact, and on websites and other informational material. (See Goal V below.)
    - e. Where appropriate, collaborate with Freedom Trail groups in fundraising for specific long-term projects.
- B. Major Public History Venues should:
1. Publicize Freedom Trail affiliation on site, at important points of visitor contact, and on websites and other informational material.
  2. Offer to the public the reports (described in II.1.1 above) on the applicable Freedom Trail site(s) or figure(s), as well as primary source material or other documentation.
  3. Serve as resource centers or “trailheads” to “free-standing” and non-public sites, making available interpretive material, maps, postcards, etc.
  4. Where possible, mount permanent or temporary exhibits or installing multimedia kiosks on the applicable Freedom Trail site(s).
  5. Host lectures and special events in relation to the Freedom Trail, especially “freestanding” and non-public sites.
  6. Host meetings of local Freedom Trail Committees.
  7. Where appropriate, collaborate with local Freedom Trail groups in fundraising for specific projects.
- C. “Current-Use” Freedom Trail sites (churches, inns, businesses, etc.) should be encouraged to:
1. Publicize Freedom Trail affiliation on site, at important points of visitor contact, and on websites and other informational material.
  2. Authorize and underwrite the creation of instructional and marketing material such as postcards, posters, etc.
  3. Host lectures and special events in relation to the Freedom Trail
  4. Host meetings of local Freedom Trail Committees.
- D. “Freestanding” public sites (battlefields, gravestones, monuments, etc.)
1. Where possible, erect attractive weatherproof exhibition boards or kiosks telling the site’s story, and locating it on the Freedom Trail timeline. In addition, each sign will direct the visitor to the local Public History Site “trailhead” and to the Freedom Trail website for more information.
  2. Where extensive signage is not possible, install smaller sign displaying site’s icon, a brief inscription identifying the site and its significance, directions to the local Public History Site “trailhead,” the Freedom Trail website address, and the telephone number for the site’s cell phone guided tour.

3. The parties responsible for these sites should be encouraged to authorize, and where possible, underwrite, the creation of instructional and marketing material such as postcards, posters, etc.
- E. Non-public sites (private residences, etc.) should be encouraged to:
1. Authorize the installation of informative exhibition boards or kiosks as per above.
  2. If this is not feasible, permit the installation of a small pedestal displaying a brief inscription identifying the site and its significance, the Freedom Trail website address, and the telephone number for the site's cell phone guided tour.
  3. Authorize the creation of instructional and marketing material such as postcards, posters, etc.
  4. Consider opening the site to the public on special occasions, such as anniversaries of relevant historical events, as part of special tours, or in conjunction with Freedom Trail Month activities in September.
  5. Owners of particularly significant Freedom Trail sites should be encouraged to work with the Freedom Trail field representative and staffers from preservation organizations to consider historic preservation easements to protect the integrity of the sites.
  6. In rare instances, for the most valuable privately-held Freedom Trail sites, municipalities, state agencies, and/or private sector organizations should be encouraged to request right of first refusal to purchase the sites for public use, if necessary to prevent their demolition or irreversible reconstruction. The Austin Williams Carriage House in Farmington, built in 1841 as a dormitory for the Africans of the *Amistad* and identified by the National Park Service as an Underground Railroad site of exceptional importance, is an example of this type of site.<sup>5</sup>
    - i. As almost one-third of Freedom Trail sites fall into this non-public category, special attention must be paid to their role. It should be the clearly-articulated policy of the Freedom Trail not to interfere with or abridge the rights of any current property owner in any way. However, the Freedom Trail has an educational function, and if it is impossible for owners of Freedom Trail sites to permit unobtrusive on-site interpretive material such as a small pedestal with minimal essential information, such sites should be considered for removal from the Freedom Trail, as per site selection criteria to be established.

### **Objective 3: Identify new Freedom Trail sites to fill thematic, chronological, and geographical gaps.**

#### **STRATEGIES:**

1. Inventory candidates for nomination to Freedom Trail through exhaustive review of State Historic Resource Inventory (SHRI), paying close attention to towns that

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<sup>5</sup> See "Austin F. Williams House and Carriagehouse," *Aboard the Underground Railroad: A National Register Travel Itinerary*, National Parks Service website, <http://www.nps.gov/history/NR/travel/underground/ct1.htm>, accessed December 17, 2008.

currently do not have designated sites. Encourage towns that have not undertaken surveys to do so, with an eye to connections to the African American struggle for freedom.

2. Research existing historic houses and historical venues for their potential significance as Freedom Trail sites—particularly those that have both demonstrated commitment to Freedom Trail ideals and significant public history facilities. Some examples might include:
  - a. The Mattatuck Museum, host of the permanent “Fortune Project” exhibit (discussed in n. 1 on p. 6 above).
  - b. The Webb-Deane-Stevens Houses in Wethersfield, which has for many years imaginatively interpreted the lives of an enslaved African American family who resided there.
  - c. Windsor’s Connecticut Valley Tobacco Historical Society, which documents the youthful experiences of Martin Luther King, Jr., and numerous West Indian leaders and statesmen as laborers in the Connecticut tobacco fields.
3. Review comprehensive timeline of Freedom Trail events to uncover gaps in the historical record that point to new sites, and to reveal connections that suggest new designations or interpretations.
4. Investigate town histories and related works for accounts of people and events appropriate for Freedom Trail recognition.
5. Participate in conferences on Connecticut history (such as those organized by the Association for the Study of Connecticut History) to learn about stories connected with potential sites and to further encourage research into Freedom Trail topics.
6. Consult with historians including the Connecticut State Historian to investigate potential new sites, new sources, and new modes of interpretation.

**Objective 4: Apply innovative interpretive strategies and cutting-edge, cost-effective technological solutions to engage diverse audiences at their own level of aptitude and interest.**

**STRATEGIES:**

1. Develop a modern, intuitive, user-friendly and highly interactive website. The site should be a comprehensive clearing house for information about the Freedom Trail and the stories that comprise it, including links to relevant primary sources, personal narratives (e.g. Venture Smith, J.W.C. Pennington, James Mars), and other kinds of documentation.
2. Develop a sophisticated and accurate map of Freedom Trail sites statewide, employing GIS technology, as well as stand-alone regional maps. These maps should be thoroughly revised every three to five years.
3. Research and publish (in pamphlets and on the Web) detailed, accessible reports on each Freedom Trail site, situating it in relation to its theme, region, and historical era. These could also be recorded in podcast form.
4. Through websites, brochures, signage, and other media, publicize the timeline and themes.

5. In lieu of an updated version of the Freedom Trail self-guided audio driving tour, create cell phone tours (recorded messages with each property tied to its own telephone number) and MP3 podcast tours and reports downloadable from the Freedom Trail website.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> A sample from the Philadelphia guided MP3 walking tour is available at <http://www.theconstitutional.com/phillymp3/sample.html>. Examples of cell phone tours are available at <http://www.museum411.com/projects.html>.

## *Goal III: Incorporate Freedom Trail sites and stories into Connecticut education at all levels.*

The presidential election of 2008 has forever confirmed the truth of James O. Horton's dictum, "African American history is American history made in America by Americans." The themes of the Connecticut Freedom Trail have a new excitement, relevance, and urgency. The Trail is positioned to be a principal source of knowledge about the long journey toward achieving freedom and equality for all citizens.

Education at the K-12 level is one of the most vital elements of the Freedom Trail's mission. The Freedom Trail dovetails closely with virtually every content guideline of the recently-published draft Connecticut Social Studies Framework, in particular mandates on United States history (Strand 1.1), local and Connecticut history (Strand 1.2), and understanding of geographical space and place (Strand 1.4).<sup>7</sup> It will be vital to tailor educational materials created for Connecticut teachers to these guidelines, and useful for Freedom Trail advocates to play a role in the adoption of the final standards. Educators connected with the Freedom Trail should be encouraged to fill out and submit the Feedback Form for Connecticut Draft Social Studies Framework and Curriculum Standards made available by the state's Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction (see Appendix G). The Connecticut Council for the Social Studies (CCSS) and the Connecticut Humanities Council (CHC) are engaged in efforts to implement a Connecticut state history curriculum in the schools; it is important that the Freedom Trail be present at those discussions.

Dedicated and inspired individual teachers have been the most powerful force for introducing the knowledge and values of the Freedom Trail to students. The practical experience of successful teachers is an invaluable resource that should be identified and shared. These extraordinary educators, many of whom already play important roles with local and statewide Freedom Trail groups, should be mobilized to mentor other teachers and to advise the Freedom Trail on the development of educational materials targeted to schoolchildren.

Public history organizations have a vital role to play in the future of K-12 education in Connecticut and the nation. Field trips to museums and historical societies connected with the Freedom Trail would, if institutionalized and routinized with state Department of Education support, offer a vital synergy that would benefit both the schools and the organizations. A state mandate for students to visit and learn about sites representing the concept of the movement

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<sup>7</sup>Connecticut State Department of Education, "Introduction to Connecticut's Social Studies Framework," [http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/curriculum/socialstudies/ssfrmwkchrt\\_11\\_25\\_08.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/curriculum/socialstudies/ssfrmwkchrt_11_25_08.pdf), November 25, 2008.

toward freedom , backed up with financial and logistical support, would put invaluable hands-on educational experiences within the reach of even the poorest schools, and would provide a dependable revenue stream—and a greatly expanded audience—to public history institutions that are currently struggling under the onslaught of new electronic entertainment options and changing public interest..

Organizations such as the New Haven Museum and Historical Society and New London's Hempstead Houses are irreplaceable national treasures and are vital sites on the Freedom Trail, yet their connection to the Trail's central concept of freedom is not well known. A closer organizational link to a reinvigorated Freedom Trail will offer these and similar organizations valuable opportunities to solicit grants and expertise to develop and expand their programming and interpretation related to the African American struggle for freedom.

### **Objective 1: Incorporate Freedom Trail themes in Connecticut K-12 school curricula through partnerships with key educational organizations.**

#### **STRATEGIES:**

1. Engage in current final-stage discussions of adoption of the Connecticut Draft Social Studies Framework and Curriculum Standards to ensure awareness of the relevance of the Freedom Trail to proposed core competencies. (See Appendix G)
2. Participate with Connecticut Humanities Council and other entities in efforts to implement state history curricula and ensure that Freedom Trail topics and resources are part of these discussions.
3. Work with key state teaching institutions—the Connecticut State University schools, UConn's Neag School of Education—to train future teachers in the Freedom Trail's mission.
4. Engage with the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute; develop new teaching plans and make its Freedom Trail-related curricula on Freedom Trail website.
5. Partner with Connecticut's Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs) to create educational programming and interdistrict partnerships.
6. Identify and enlist key teachers throughout the state who are already imparting the knowledge and values of the Freedom Trail to become involved in Freedom Trail activities and to mentor others.
7. Engage with UConn's Early College Experience program to encourage incorporation of Freedom Trail visits and research into UConn-approved American history courses taught by high school teachers certified as UConn adjunct faculty.
8. Expand Freedom Trail involvement with state National History Day competitions coordinated by the Connecticut Historical Society.
9. Establish voice in state government through relationships with politically active educational organizations such as the Connecticut Education Association and the Connecticut Federation of Teachers.

## **Objective 2: Engage Connecticut higher education institutions in Freedom Trail-related activities and research.**

### **STRATEGIES:**

1. Communicate with chairs of history and African American studies departments to inform them of the purpose and nature of the Freedom Trail to alert Trail coordinators concerning ongoing or new research projects connected with Freedom Trail sites or themes, and to encourage faculty and graduate students to undertake such projects.
2. Coordinate with colleges and universities in sponsorship of Freedom Trail-related lectures, conferences, exhibitions, and special events.
3. Encourage and develop guidelines for student internships at Freedom Trail member institutions.
4. Collaborate with institutions of higher education in federally-funded educational programs such as three-year Teaching American History grants and National Endowment for the Humanities “Landmarks of American History” teacher-training workshops.

## ***Goal IV: Strengthen and build community through the Freedom Trail.***

Historic sites exist in the present. Freedom Trail sites can and should do more than memorialize the past; they should serve as inspirations to future activism. Since its inception, the Freedom Trail has been more than a set of locations; it has been a network of dedicated individuals and community groups. The community leaders of the Freedom Trail are one of its greatest assets. These organizations should be fostered, empowered, and enabled to grow. On a shoestring--or less—they have built institutions, spread historical knowledge, and created enduring traditions. The application of administration and financial assistance to these organizations, along with incentives to partnership with Public History Venues, is highly likely to result in very substantial returns.

### **Objective 1: Use enthusiasm about the past to generate collaboration and celebration in the present, and vice-versa.**

#### **STRATEGIES:**

1. Identify and involve existing community groups and associations involved in historic interpretation and preservation. Draw on their knowledge and assist them to learn more about the sites, stories and personalities they champion.
2. Encourage organizations to take advantage of existing grant programs for special events organized by Freedom Trail groups, ideally either in September (Freedom Trail Month) or a date connected with the site in question.
3. Foster closer relations between community groups and local Public History Sites and provide administrative and logistical support for collaborative projects and events.
4. Encourage the creation of new quilt squares for sites added to the Freedom Trail.
5. Ensure Freedom Trail presence at local and regional events, such as country fairs and festivals.

### **Objective 2: Empower local and statewide Freedom Trail committees to develop and expand programming and activities.**

#### **STRATEGIES:**

1. Establish “microlending” grant program (\$500 or below) to local Freedom Trail committees, with minimal paperwork, to facilitate community Freedom Trail events (can require cash or in-kind match and approval of civic authorities).

2. Encourage Freedom Trail institutions to consider applying for larger grants from CCT, CHC, etc. for collaborative proposals with local Public History Sites to encourage partnerships.
3. Ensure that meetings with state officials are arranged at times that are convenient for as many active Freedom Trail members as possible, and consider varying locations of meetings throughout the state.

**Objective 3: Preserve and expand Freedom Trail sites for future generations.**

**STRATEGIES:**

1. Mobilize statewide Freedom Trail community to support preservation of threatened sites. (A current case in point is the Freeman Homes in Bridgeport.)
2. Pursue registration of further Freedom Trail sites on National Register of Historic Places.
3. Where applicable, encourage eligible property owners to take advantage of federal and state rehabilitation tax credits.
4. Encourage communities to complete town and archeological surveys with an aim to identifying, preserving, and interpreting new Freedom Trail sites.
5. Promote designation of State Archaeological Preserves in conjunction with current or future Freedom Trail sites.

## ***Goal V: Promote tourism and economic development through the Freedom Trail.***

The Freedom Trail offers excellent opportunities for expanding cultural heritage tourism in Connecticut. The key ingredients are already in place: an inspiring concept, legislative authorization, a distinctive and appealing logo, and regular citation in state culture and tourism publications and websites as one of the top attractions in Connecticut.

However, promotion of the Freedom Trail as a Primary Tourist Attraction, which it clearly has the potential to be, must not outstrip the development of improvements in infrastructure and interpretation. It is important that visitors' trips to Freedom Trail sites meet or exceed their expectations. In that way, the most effective form of marketing—word of mouth—will be enabled to flourish.

Thus marketing of the Freedom Trail should initially focus promotion of those sites that are destinations in themselves, and that offer a high-quality visitor experience. Through effective promotion, the Freedom Trail connection can become a valuable "brand" for designated Public History Sites, drawing new audiences and "cross-pollinating" among them, directing visitors to venues otherwise unfamiliar to them.

Every interpreted Freedom Trail site should present itself clearly as such, both through visible connections (logo, maps, publications) and institutional culture. Staff, docents, and volunteers should be aware of their site's listing on the Freedom Trail and the historical events or personalities commemorated by it, and conversant with the Trail's larger purpose and vision.

"Current-use" sites—churches, restaurants, inns, etc.—should be offered as much marketing assistance as they can use; but all publicity material should indicate clearly what type of institution the site is, and how the visiting public is able to engage with it. Churches should be encouraged to educate their congregations about their own Freedom Trail stories, of course; but should also emphasize their ties to the Trail as a whole, and the Freedom Trail administrators should provide them with material to do so. In particular, the Freedom Trail maps should be readily available and prominently displayed. Commercial establishments should be welcomed into the Freedom Trail marketing program, but those that choose to participate must reciprocate by displaying the Freedom Trail logo and making maps and brochures—and historical information about their specific site—available to their customers.

Less-accessible, uninterpreted sites may be folded into the marketing mix on a case-by-case basis. Primary Tourist Attractions and Major Public History Venues should be the base on which the wider promotion of "freestanding" and private sites may be built. For example, the

New Haven Museum and Historical Society or the Old State House could serve as “trailheads” for uninterpreted sites in their areas, providing interpretive material, directions, and merchandise such as postcards.

Of necessity, non-public sites such as private residences have only marginal potential for tourism. However, owners should be aware of their home’s role in the African American movement towards freedom, and encouraged to participate in Freedom Trail proceedings. Interested and engaged property owners may be one of the Freedom Trail’s most valuable underutilized resources.<sup>8</sup>

**Objective 1: Work with Public History Sites to cross-promote with Freedom Trail to the benefit of each.**

**STRATEGIES**

1. The Freedom Trail field representative, members of the Freedom Trail Planning Committee should meet with key administrators, educators, and public relations directors of Primary Tourist Attractions and officials of Regional Tourist Districts and Convention and Visitors Bureaus to develop long-term marketing strategies for cross-promotion of Freedom Trail in national and regional advertising.
2. The Freedom Trail field representative and members of local and regional Freedom Trail groups should meet with directors, educators, and publicity personnel of Major Public History Venues and officials of Regional Tourist Districts and Convention and Visitors Bureaus to develop strategies for cross-promotion of Freedom Trail-related exhibits, programming, and special events.
3. Strong lines of communication should be established between Public History Sites of all sizes and the Freedom Trail administration to cross-publicize all activities related to the Freedom Trail and its vision through all available marketing vehicles and media outlets.

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<sup>8</sup>“ Underground Railroad Inspires New Interest,” *New York Times*, July 8, 1990, at <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9C0CE6D9103CF93BA35754C0A966958260>, accessed December 29, 2008.

**Objective 2: Coordinate all state and regional marketing efforts to showcase Freedom Trail connections of designated sites.**

**STRATEGIES**

1. Ensure that Freedom Trail website showcases Public History Venues with links to each, featured sites, and tourist packages, on the model of the Connecticut Arts Trail.<sup>9</sup>
2. Ensure that acknowledgement of Freedom Trail membership is clearly indicated on marketing and promotional materials, with Freedom Trail logo (including hyperlink on all websites) prominently displayed.
3. Review marketing materials produced by Tourism Division of the CCT to ensure that references to Public History Venues that are part of the Freedom Trail are indicated as such.
4. The Freedom Trail field representative and Historic Preservation and Museum Division leaders should work with the Tourism Division and the directors of the five regional tourist districts to engage them in participation in this marketing plan and to develop region-specific strategies in collaboration with local Freedom Trail leaders and Public History venues.
5. Work with Department of Transportation to ensure that all Freedom Trail sites are appropriately marked with Freedom Trail road signs, clearly visible to traffic in both directions.

**Objective 3: Establish a permanent center, designed to be a Primary Tourist Attraction, to serve as a home and exhibition center for the Freedom Schooner *Amistad* and as a tourist and educational hub for the Freedom Trail.**

STRATEGY: The Freedom Trail's connection with the Freedom Schooner *Amistad* suggests a key collaboration that will provide both of them with the physical space they require to fully achieve their enormous educational—and tourist—potential. The voyages of the *Amistad* beyond New Haven and Connecticut provide at once a challenge and an opportunity. The great advantage of the ship is that it makes the story real: it is concrete, able to be touched and felt. While New Haven is the ship's homeport, it will be at anchor here for only three months of the year. During that period, moreover, the ship's primary responsibility will be to Connecticut schoolchildren, and public access—to what is, after all, a small vessel with limited deck space--will be somewhat constrained. Yet tourists and visitors will be attracted to Connecticut by the *Amistad twelve months a year*, and will expect a rich, rewarding and educational travel experience. As well, Connecticut residents, teachers and students will rightly expect that Freedom Trail and *Amistad* resources and information will be available year-round.

For all of these reasons, a *permanent home and exhibition facility* has always been part of the overall plan for the *Amistad*.<sup>10</sup> Discussions of the scale of such a center have varied widely. At a minimum, it must provide a well-balanced and engaging introduction to the shipboard

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<sup>9</sup> The well-designed Connecticut Art Trail website is at <http://www.arttrail.org/>.

<sup>10</sup> See, for example, City of New Haven, *Annual Report of the City Plan Department, 2004*, 22, at <http://www.cityofnewhaven.com/CityPlan/pdfs/AnnualReports/2004AnnualReport.pdf>, accessed Nov. 29, 2007.

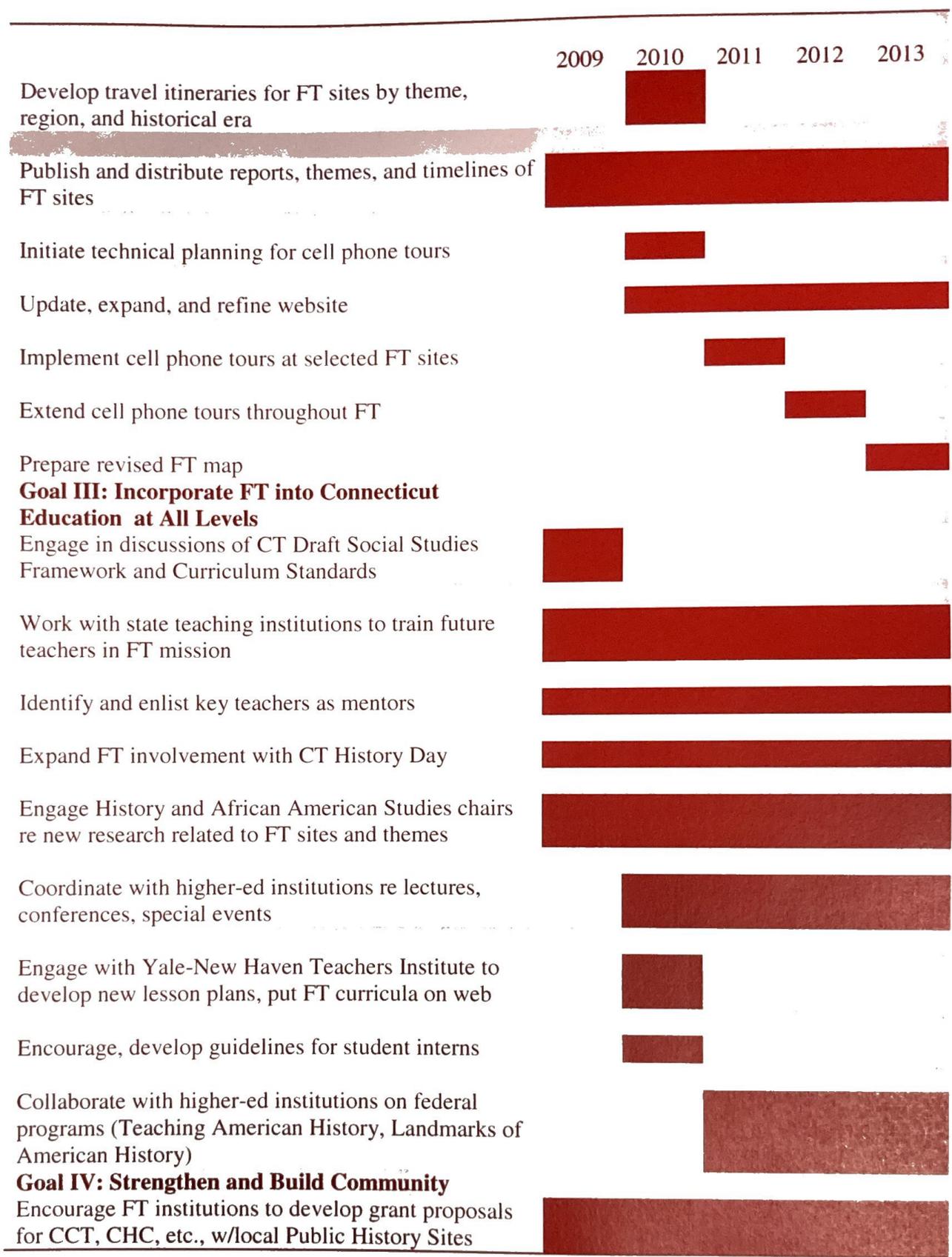
experience when the schooner is in port, as well as a satisfying and meaningful visitor experience when it is at sea. For many reasons, however, it seems a mistake to consider constructing a minimal facility, rather than planning for a center that takes full advantage of the Long Wharf site and effectively serves the cultural and educational needs of the state.

Besides telling the story of the Amistad incident, the facility would serve as a hub for Freedom Trail tourism and information and a resource center for the Trail sites themselves to maximize their educational and tourism potential. In addition, the Long Wharf Center will serve as a clearinghouse for information about museums and other cultural and recreational sites (including other trails such as the Connecticut Arts Trail, the Farmington Canal Trail, and the Connecticut Women's Heritage Trail) in all quadrants of the state. Thus it will create a multiplier effect for state tourism and more efficiently publicize and mobilize all of Connecticut's cultural resources. It is vital that any new center be designed to promote and contribute to the missions of existing historical organizations and museums, rather than compete with them. The planning for an Amistad Center must be undertaken in close coordination with such institutions.

If the state is serious about realizing a meaningful dividend from the enormous investment its taxpayers have already made in the Freedom Schooner Amistad, it must demonstrate the vision to create for the Amistad story, and the Freedom Trail, a world-class, four-season cultural attraction.

# Key Recommendations and Timetable for Implementation

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Goal I: Supportive Infrastructure</b>					
Appoint FT field representative	█				
Develop interactive web capacity for FT members and partners	█				
Enlarge FT committee to include most sites, esp. Public History Venues	█	█	█	█	█
Recruit new FT volunteers	█	█	█	█	█
Establish presence on history organization boards	█	█			
Establish and implement new site selection rules	█				
Establish regional FT committees	█				
Strengthen local FT volunteer groups w/ technical and financial assistance		█	█	█	█
Establish CCT grant program to foster partnerships between FT organizations and public history organizations		█			
<b>Goal II: Integrated Interpretive Framework</b>					
Develop expanded website	█				
Establish and implement new FT themes	█				
Research and develop timeline of FT sites	█				
Encourage development of "partner trails"	█	█	█	█	█
Implement educational strategies for different types of FT sites as per Objective 2	█	█	█	█	█
Identify new FT sites as per Objective 3	█	█	█	█	█
Initiate research on FT site reports	█				
Develop revised FT map using GIS technology		█			█



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Mobilize FT community to support preservation of threatened sites	[Redacted]				
Pursue registration of additional FT sites on National Registry of Historic Places	[Redacted]				
Encourage property owners to pursue rehabilitation tax credits	[Redacted]				
Encourage completion of town and archeological surveys with eye to FT sites	[Redacted]				
Promote designation of State Archeological Preserves for FT sites	[Redacted]				
<b>Goal V: Promote Tourism and Economic Development</b>					
Develop cross-promotion in advertising among FT, Public History Venues, and state and regional tourism officials	[Redacted]				
Ensure cross-promotion of FT, Public History Venues on marketing & promotional materials and websites	[Redacted]				
Review Tourism Division marketing materials to ensure FT identification of all partners & sites	[Redacted]				
Work with Department of Transportation to ensure visibility of FT signage	[Redacted]				
Coordinate FT field rep, Public History Venues, Historic Preservation and Museum Division staff, Tourism Division and regional tourist districts to develop biannual state & regional marketing plans		[Redacted]		[Redacted]	
Initiate discussions on permanent home and exhibition facility for Amistad and center for FT		[Redacted]			
Develop formal plans for Amistad center			[Redacted]		
Groundbreaking and commencement of construction of Amistad center					[Redacted]

## APPENDIX A

### Connecticut Freedom Trail Authorizing Legislation and Legislative History

General Statutes of Connecticut, Chapter 184b, Sec. 10-412 (b) The Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, established under section 10-392, in consultation with the Amistad Committee, Inc., New Haven, shall establish a Freedom Trail and a program to recognize, document and mark sites in this state that are associated with the history and movement towards freedom of its African-American citizens, the Underground Railroad and the abolition of slavery. The commission and the Amistad Committee, Incorporated, of New Haven shall designate and mark the sites of the Freedom Trail. The Amistad Committee, Inc., of New Haven shall be responsible for the coordination and organization of the "September Freedom Trail Month". The commission shall establish a program to publicize the existence of the Freedom Trail and shall publish a brochure which indicates the location and history of the sites.

(1967, P.A. 521, S. 5; P.A. 75-371, S. 4, 10; P.A. 84-256, S. 4, 17; P.A. 95-250, S. 1; 95-334, S. 1, 13; P.A. 96-211, S. 1, 5, 6; June 30 Sp. Sess. P.A. 03-6, S. 228; P.A. 04-25, S. 1; 04-205, S. 5, 9; May Sp. Sess. P.A. 04-2, S. 30.)

History: P.A. 75-371 substituted "state register of historic places" for "its inventory" and made specific reference to official designation as "Connecticut historical landmark"; P.A. 84-256 amended section to permit charge for providing plaques or markers; P.A. 95-250 and P.A. 96-211 replaced Commissioner and Department of Economic Development with Commissioner and Department of Economic and Community Development; (Revisor's note: In 1997 existing provisions were designated by the Revisors as Subsec. (a) and Sec. 1 of P.A. 95-334, effective July 1, 1995, requiring commission to establish Freedom Trail, was added editorially and designated Subsec. (b)); Sec. 10-321c transferred to Sec. 10-320e in 2001; June 30 Sp. Sess. P.A. 03-6 amended Subsec. (b) to substitute Connecticut Commission on Arts, Tourism, Culture, History and Film for Connecticut Historical Commission, to change "underground railroad and related sites" to "related to minority history" and to change "Department of Economic and Community Development" to "Commission", effective August 20, 2003; P.A. 04-25 amended Subsec. (b) to replace "conjunction" with "consultation", change description of the Freedom Trail from sites relating to minority history to sites associated with the history and movement towards freedom of African-American citizens, the Underground Railroad and the abolition of slavery and to add provisions re the designation and marking of Freedom Trail Sites and re the coordination and organization of "September Freedom Trail Month", effective April 28, 2004; P.A. 04-205 amended Subsec. (b) to replace provision re marking sites related to minority history with provision re program to recognize, document and mark sites re history of African-American citizens, the Underground Railroad and the abolition of slavery, and to add provision re the designation and marking of Freedom Trail sites, effective June 3, 2004, and, effective on that date, with May Sp. Sess. P.A. 04-2, effective May 12, 2004, also replaced Connecticut Commission on Arts, Tourism, Culture, History and Film with Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism; Sec. 10-320e transferred to Sec. 10-412 in 2005.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Connecticut Freedom Trail Sites by Town**

#### **Barkhamsted**

Barkhamsted Lighthouse Archaeological Site

#### **Bloomfield**

Francis Gillette House

#### **Bridgeport**

Freeman Houses

Walters Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church

#### **Canterbury**

Prudence Crandall House

#### **Colchester**

Town Green (Old District School House for Colored Children)

Benjamin Trumbull House

#### **Danbury**

Marian Anderson Studio

#### **Deep River**

Bill Winters House & Neighborhood

#### **East Haddam**

Venture Smith Grave

#### **Enfield**

Paul Robeson House

Shaker Village

#### **Farmington**

Farmington Historical Society  
First Church of Christ Congregational  
Austin Williams Carriage House  
Union Hall  
Riverside Cemetery  
Canal House and Pitkin Basin  
Samuel Deming Store  
Barney House  
Elijah Lewis House  
Samuel Deming House  
Smith-Cowles House  
Timothy Wadsworth House

### **Glastonbury**

Kimberly Mansion

### **Griswold**

Glasgo (Mill Village)

### **Groton**

Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park

### **Guilford**

Sachem Country House

### **Hampton**

Theodore Dwight Weld House

### **Hartford**

African American Memorial in Ancient Burying Ground  
Marietta Canty House  
Faith Congregational Church  
Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church  
Old North Cemetery  
Old State House (Amistad)  
Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch  
Frank T. Simpson House  
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center  
Union Baptist Church  
Wadsworth Atheneum

## **Manchester**

Walter Bunce House  
Hart/Porter House

## **Meriden**

George Jeffreys House

## **Middletown**

Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church  
Benjamin Douglas House  
West Burying Ground  
Vine Street Neighborhood

## **Milford**

Milford Cemetery  
First Baptist Church

## **New Haven**

29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Colored Volunteers Infantry Memorial  
Amistad Memorial  
Battell Chapel at Yale University  
Center Church on the Green  
Edward Bouchet Memorial  
Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church  
East Rock Civil War Monument  
Freedom Schooner Amistad  
Grove Street Cemetery  
Hannah Gray House  
Long Wharf  
New Haven Museum and Historical Society  
The People's Center  
Prince Hall Masonic Temple (Goffe Street School)  
Roger Sherman Baldwin Law Office  
Trowbridge Square Historic District  
United Church on the Green  
Varick A.M.E. Zion Church  
Westville Cemetery

## **Newington**

Brace/Stephen House

**New London**

Flora, Wife of Hercules, Gravesite  
Hempstead Historic District  
Joshua Hempstead House  
U.S. Custom House

**Norfolk**

James Mars Grave

**North Canaan**

Milo Freeland Grave

**North Stonington**

Randall's Ordinary

**Norwich**

Jail Hill National Register District  
Boston Trowtrow Gravesite (Old Norwich Burial Ground)

**Old Lyme**

Stephen Peck House

**Old Saybrook**

James Pharmacy

**Oxford**

Washburn Tavern

**Plainville**

Redeemers A.M.E. Zion Church  
West Cemetery

**Putnam**

Thomas Taylor Grave

**Stamford**

**Stonington (Mystic)**

Charles W. Morgan, Mystic Seaport

Asa Seymour Curtis House

**Stratford**

Asa Seymour Curtis House

**Torrington**

John Brown Birthplace

Isaiah Tuttle House

Uriah Tuttle House

**Trumbull**

Nero Hawley Grave

**Waterbury**

Hopkins Street Center

**West Hartford**

Old Center Burying Ground

**Wethersfield**

Ancient Burying Ground

**Wilton**

The Ovals

**Windsor**

Archer Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church

Palisado Cemetery

Riverside Cemetery

## APPENDIX C

### Connecticut Freedom Trail Sites by Type

#### **Primary Tourist Attractions (3):**

Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford  
Charles W. Morgan, Mystic Seaport, Stonington (Mystic)  
Battell Chapel, Yale University, New Haven<sup>11</sup>

#### **Major Public History Venues (6):**

Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford  
Freedom Schooner Amistad, Long Wharf, New Haven<sup>12</sup>  
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford  
Old State House, Hartford  
New Haven Museum and Historical Society, New Haven  
Custom House Maritime Museum, New London

#### **Small Public History Venues (6):**

Barkhamsted Lighthouse Archaeological Site, Barkhamsted  
Prudence Crandall House, Canterbury  
Marian Anderson Studio, Danbury  
Farmington Historical Society  
Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park, Groton  
Hempstead Houses, New London (UR)

#### **“Current-use” sites (21):**

Walters Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, Bridgeport  
First Church of Christ Congregational, Farmington  
Samuel Deming Store, Farmington  
Faith Congregational Church, Hartford  
Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, Hartford  
Union Baptist Church, Hartford  
Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church, Middletown  
First Baptist Church, Milford  
Battell Chapel, Yale University, New Haven<sup>13</sup>  
Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church, New Haven  
Hannah Gray Home, New Haven  
People’s Center, New Haven  
Prince Hall Masonic Temple, New Haven  
Roger Sherman Baldwin Law Office, New Haven

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<sup>11</sup> Battell Chapel is a “current use” site that is owned and administered by Yale University, a Primary Tourist Attraction and a key current and potential partner institution.

<sup>12</sup> The Freedom Schooner Amistad functions as a Major Public History Venue when it is in port at Long Wharf; when it is at sea, its home, Long Wharf, serves as a “freestanding” site.

<sup>13</sup> See note 11 above.

Varick A.M.E. Zion Church, New Haven  
Center Church (First Congregational), New Haven  
United Church on the Green, New Haven  
James Pharmacy, Old Saybrook  
Redeemers A.M.E. Zion Church, Plainville  
Hopkins Street Center, Waterbury  
Archer Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, Windsor

**“Freestanding” sites (32):**

Town Green (Old District School House for Colored Children), Colchester  
Venture Smith Grave, East Haddam  
Riverside Cemetery, Farmington  
Canal House and Pitkin Basin, Farmington  
Glasgo (Mill Village), Griswold  
African American Memorial in Ancient Burying Ground, Hartford  
Old North Cemetery, Hartford  
Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch, Hartford  
West Burying Ground, Middletown  
Milford Cemetery, Milford  
29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Colored Volunteers Monument, New Haven  
Amistad Memorial, New Haven  
Edward Bouchet Monument, New Haven  
Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven  
Trowbridge Square Historic District, New Haven  
Westville Cemetery, New Haven  
East Rock Soldiers and Sailors Monument, New Haven  
Freedom Schooner Amistad, Long Wharf, New Haven<sup>14</sup>  
Flora Hercules Gravesite, Antientest Burial Place, New London  
James Mars Grave, Center Cemetery, Norfolk  
Milo Freeland Grave, North Canaan  
Jail Hill National Register District, Norwich  
Boston Trowtrow Gravesite, Old Norwich Burial Ground, Norwich  
West Cemetery, Plainville  
Thomas Taylor Grave, Putnam  
Jackie Robinson Park, Stamford  
John Brown Birthplace, Torrington  
Nero Hawley Grave, Trumbull  
Old Center Burying Ground, West Hartford  
Ancient Burying Ground, Wethersfield  
Palisado Cemetery, Windsor  
Riverside Cemetery, Windsor

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<sup>14</sup> The Freedom Schooner Amistad functions as a Major Public History Venue when it is in port at Long Wharf; when it is at sea, its home, Long Wharf, serves as a “freestanding” site.

**Non-Public Sites (32):**

Francis Gillette House, Bloomfield  
Freeman Houses, Bridgeport  
Benjamin Trumbull House, Colchester  
Bill Winters House & Neighborhood, Deep River  
Paul Robeson House, Enfield  
Shaker Village, Enfield  
Austin Williams Carriage House, Farmington  
Union Hall, Farmington  
Noah Porter House, Farmington  
Barney House, Farmington  
Elijah Lewis House, Farmington  
Samuel Deming House, Farmington  
Smith-Cowles House, Farmington  
Timothy Wadsworth House, Farmington  
Kimberly Mansion, Glastonbury  
Sachem Country House, Guilford  
Theodore Dwight Weld House, Hampton  
Marietta Canty House, Hartford  
Frank T. Simpson House, Harford  
Walter Bunce House, Manchester  
Hart/Porter House, Manchester  
George Jeffries House, Meriden  
Benjamin Douglas House, Middletown  
Vine Street Neighborhood, Middletown  
Brace/Stephen House, Newington  
Randall's Ordinary, North Stonington  
Steven Peck House, Old Lyme  
Washburn Tavern, Oxford  
Asa Seymour Curtis House, Stratford  
Isaiah Tuttle House, Torrington  
Uriel Tuttle House, Torrington  
Joseph Rainey House, Windsor

## APPENDIX D

### Timeline of Connecticut African American Freedom Trail (preliminary)

Freedom Trail sites and related individuals are underlined.

- 1712 Boston Trowtrow, future Black Governor, born.
- c. 1728 Broteer Furro (later Venture Smith) born in Dukandarra, West Africa.
- 1740 Venture Smith arrives in America as slave.
- c. 1740 Molly Barber of Wethersfield elopes with James Chaugham, Narragansett Indian; they settle near New Hartford and found Barkhamsted Lighthouse (Barkhamsted)
- 1742 Nero Hawley born in North Stratford (now Trumbull).
- 1754 Venture Smith sold to Thomas Stanton of Stonington.
- 1765 Venture Smith purchases his freedom from Col. Oliver Smith
- 1772 Boston Trowtrow, Black Governor, dies, Norwich; buried in Old Norwichtown Burial Ground.
- 1774 Alpheus Quincy born; builder of Walter Bunce House
- 1775 Venture Smith purchases farmland on Haddam Neck
- 1777 Nero Hawley enlists in 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut Regiment, earning his freedom.
- 1781 Battle of Fort Griswold, Groton; defenders, including African Americans, killed after surrendering.
- 1781 Cesar, father of Jehiel Beman, emancipated; enlists in Continental Army.
- 1789 Jehiel Beman born, Chatham.
- 1790 James Mars born into slavery in Canaan.
- 1793 Shaker Village founded, Enfield.
- 1796 Old State House completed (Hartford)
- 1798 James Mars and family escape to Norfolk from master who wants to sell them south (Canaan).

- 1800      John Brown born, Torrington
- 1803      Birth of Theodore Dwight Weld, Hampton.
- c. 1803-04 "Old District School House for Colored Children" established, Colchester
- 1805      Venture Smith dies; interred in churchyard of First Congregational Church of East Haddam
- 1806      Isaac C. Glasko purchases land in Griswold and establishes blacksmith shop; neighborhood becomes known as Glasko.
- 1807      Old North Cemetery founded, Hartford.
- 1810      David Ruggles born, Jail Hill neighborhood, Norwich
- 1812      Amos Gerry Beman born, Colchester—future pastor of Temple Street Colored Congregational Church.
- 1813      Lyman Trumbull, Republican Party founder, born in Benjamin Trumbull House, Colchester
- 1819      A group of African Americans in Hartford withdraw from segregated churches and begin worshipping separately; genesis of Faith Congregational Church.
- c. 1820      The African Religious Society of Hartford (later Faith Congregational Church) founded.
- 1820      African Americans in New Haven form new congregation (later Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church); request Simeon Jocelyn to lead it.
- 1826      African American Religious Society of Hartford purchases land on Talcott Street to construct church (later Faith Congregational Church)
- 1828      Daniel Fisher, escaped slave, settles in Deep River; changes name to William Winters.
- 1830      Jehiel Beman moves to Middletown to become pastor of newly-built Cross Street African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- 1832      Joseph Rainey, first African American elected to U.S. congress, born in Georgetown, South Carolina.

- c. 1833 Schism in African Religious Society (Harford); one part of congregation becomes Congregational (future Faith Congregational Church), the other Methodist (future Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church).
- 1833 Prudence Crandall's school opens to African American young women. (Canterbury)
- 1834 Prudence Crandall's school closed due to mob violence. (Canterbury)
- 1834 Francis Gillette House built; reputed Underground Railroad station. (Bloomfield)
- 1835 Walters Memorial AME Zion Church founded. (Bridgeport)
- 1838 Theodore Dwight Weld visits Connecticut; author of "Black Law" criminalizing education of out-of-state African Americans tells him he "could weep tears of blood for the part I took in that matter--I now regard that law as utterly abominable."
- 1839 African American Religious Society of Hartford (later Faith Congregational Church) changes name to First Hartford Colored Congregational Church
- 1839 Amistad sails from Havana, Cuba; seized by kidnapped Africans led by Sengbe Pieh. Taken by U.S. naval forces to U.S. Custom House in New London.
- 1839 Amistad Africans' trial begins, Old State House (Hartford).
- c. 1840 Freeman Houses built in "Little Liberia," Bridgeport (Bridgeport)
- 1851 37 Howe Street, New Haven, built (future People's Center).
- 1851 Rev. James W.C. Pennington, former pastor of First Hartford Colored Church, receives freedom when John Hooker purchases him for \$150.
- 1852 Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe published
- 1852 Birth of Edward Bouchet, New Haven
- 1857 Nancy Toney dies, Winsor; buried in Palisado Cemetery.
- 1860 First Hartford Colored Church changes its name to Talcott Street Congregational Church (future Faith Congregational Church).
- 1861 Hannah Gray dies, New Haven; bequeaths house as home "for the use of indigent elderly women of color in perpetuity."
- 1862 Thomas Taylor of Putnam fights in battle of Monitor versus Merrimac (Virginia), Hampton Roads, Virginia .

- 1864 Harriet Beecher Stowe moves to Hartford permanently.
- 1864 Goffe Street School constructed (106 Goffe Street, New Haven) for African American children; later serves as Prince Hall Masonic Temple.
- 1870 Edward Bouchet graduates as valedictorian from Hopkins School.
- 1870 Joseph Rainey elected to U.S. House of Representatives (first African American to serve in House).
- 1871 Union Baptist Church founded by African Americans from Essex, Virginia (Hartford).
- 1873 Sisters Julia and Abby Smith, former abolitionists, refuse to pay taxes without representation on Kimberly Farm and Mansion, Glastonbury.
- 1873 Harriet Beecher Stowe moves to 73 Forest Street, Hartford (now Harriet Beecher Stowe Center).
- 1874 Edward Bouchet graduates from Yale College.
- 1874 Joseph Rainey, first African American elected to Congress, purchases house in Windsor as summer residence.
- 1876 Edward Bouchet earns Ph.D. in physics from Yale University (first African American Ph.D.).
- c. 1878 Hannah Gray House built (New Haven).
- 1879 Francis Gillette dies; interred in Riverside Cemetery, Farmington
- 1880 James Mars dies; buried in Center Cemetery, Norfolk.
- 1886 Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch dedicated (Hartford)
- 1887 Joseph Rainey dies.
- 1889 Union Baptist Church splits; seceders form Shiloh Baptist Church.
- 1903 Redeemer's African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion Church founded, Plainville.
- 1904 Women's Twentieth Century Club rescues Hannah Gray Home from foreclosure.
- 1905 Birth of Marietta Canty, Hartford.
- 1907 Dr. Frank T. Simpson born in Alabama.

- 1908 Anna Louise James becomes first licensed African American female pharmacist in U.S.
- 1911 Anna Louise James joins brother-in-law Peter Lane's pharmacy in Old Saybrook.
- 1911 Current Hannah Gray House (235 Dixwell Ave., New Haven) acquired for Hannah Gray Home
- 1913 Frank T. Simpson House built, Hartford.
- 1916 Rev. Dr. James A. Wright becomes pastor of Talcott Street Congregational Church (later Faith Congregational Church); serves for 46 years.
- 1917 Anna Louise James assumes ownership of Lane Pharmacy, renames it James Pharmacy.
- 1918 Edward Bouchet dies; interred in Evergreen Cemetery
- 1919 Jackie Robinson born, Cairo, Georgia.
- 1923 Shaker Village at Enfield closed; sold to convent
- 1929 Goffe Street School building purchased by the Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons of Connecticut.
- 1932 Death of Thomas Taylor, last survivor of battle of Monitor and Merrimac; buried in Grove Street Cemetery, Putnam.
- 1938 People's Center founded by Jewish immigrant workers, New Haven.
- 1940 Marian Anderson purchases home in Danbury, known as "Marianna Farms"; uses outbuilding as rehearsal studio.
- 1940 Paul Robeson purchases home at 1221 Enfield Street, Enfield.
- 1944 Frank T. Simpson becomes first paid employee of Connecticut Inter-Racial Commission (later Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities).
- 1953 Talcott Street Church merges with Mother Bethel Methodist Church; merged congregation becomes known as Faith Congregational Church (Hartford)
- 1955 Jackie Robinson moves to Stamford.
- 1972 Jackie Robinson dies, Stamford.

- 1986 Marietta Canty dies
- 1992 Amistad Memorial dedicated, New Haven.
- 1998 African American Memorial dedicated in Ancient Burying Ground, Hartford
- 1998 Edward Bouchet Monument dedicated in Evergreen Cemetery, New Haven.
- 1999 Jackie Robinson Statue dedicated, Stamford.
- 2001 Amistad headstone dedicated, Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven
- 2005 Marian Anderson Studio dedicated, Danbury
- 2008 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Colored Regiment C.V. Infantry Monument dedicated, New Haven

## APPENDIX E

### Recent and Upcoming Freedom Trail Milestone Events

The following dates and anniversaries are vitally important events in relation to the mission of the Connecticut Freedom Trail. Planning for their commemoration is already proceeding. These events are important in their own right, while also offering ideal examples of the kinds of historic episodes the Freedom Trail was created to highlight:

*Dedication of the Memorial to the Connecticut 29th Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment, September 29, 2008. Criscuolo Park, New Haven.*

The 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut was mustered in in March, 1864, a year after the famed 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts. Its descendants group is one of the most active of United States Colored Troops (USCT) organizations in the nation. The construction of the memorial to the 29<sup>th</sup>, designed by sculptor Ed Hamilton (who also designed the Cinque memorial in front of New Haven's City Hall), has been long delayed due to bonding issues, but will finally be dedicated this September, as the capstone of Freedom Trail Month activities.

*350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Norwich (2009) and Bicentennial of Birth of Norwich's Underground Railroad Conductor, David Ruggles (2010)*

The 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Norwich, one of Connecticut's oldest cities, serendipitously coincides with the bicentennial of the birth of David Ruggles, one of the most important figures of the Underground Railroad and the struggle against slavery. This is an ideal opportunity to link the African American freedom struggle with the main narrative of Connecticut history, as discussed above; and Norwich's town historian, Dale Plummer, a strong supporter of the Freedom Trail, is the ideal individual to forge these links.

*Sesquicentennial of John Brown's Raid (2009)*

October 2009 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the raid on the arsenal at Harpers Ferry led by Torrington-born John Brown, Connecticut's most famous and militant abolitionist. This event was the spark that ignited the Civil War; it also marks the commencement of the formal celebration of the sesquicentennial of that momentous era. Planning should begin now, in conjunction with the Torrington Historical Society, on the commemoration of John Brown's famous attack.

*Sesquicentennials of Sectional Crisis and Civil War (2010-2015)*

More than 5,300 men from Connecticut died in the Civil War—a number far out of proportion to the state’s population.<sup>15</sup> The war that ended slavery is centrally important to the mission of the Freedom Trail, and the organization should take a leading role in planning the events commemorating it.

*350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Norwich (2009) and Bicentennial of Birth of Norwich’s Underground Railroad Conductor, David Ruggles (2010)*

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<sup>15</sup> Frederick H. Dyer, “(Union) Summary of Losses by State,” *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*, 1908, at <http://web.archive.org/web/20040604075354/http://www.civil-war.net/Dyers/dyerlosses.htm>.

## **APPENDIX F**

### Network to Freedom Application Instructions (Part I)



## **NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**

## **NETWORK TO FREEDOM**

**APPLICATION (OMB #1024-0232)**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

## **I. National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom**

### **What is the Underground Railroad?**

The Underground Railroad refers to efforts of enslaved African Americans to gain their freedom by escaping bondage. Wherever slavery existed, there were efforts to escape, at first to maroon communities in remote or rugged terrain on the edge of settled areas. Their acts of self-emancipation made them “fugitives” according to the laws of the times, though in retrospect “freedom seeker” seems a more accurate description. While most freedom seekers began their journey unaided and many completed their self-emancipation without assistance, each decade in which slavery was legal in the United States saw an increase in active efforts to assist escape. In many cases the decision to assist a freedom seeker may have been a spontaneous reaction as the opportunity presented itself. However, in some places, particularly after the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, the Underground Railroad was deliberate and organized.

### **What is the National Park Service’s National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program?**

Public Law 105-203 the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 directs the National Park Service (NPS), to establish a program that tells the story of resistance against the institution of slavery in the United States through escape and flight. This story is illustrative of a basic founding principle of this Nation, that all human beings embrace the right to self-determination and freedom from oppression. Through this National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, NPS is demonstrating the significance of the Underground Railroad not only in the eradication of slavery, but as a cornerstone of our national civil rights movement.

The Program is coordinating preservation and education efforts nationwide, and is working to integrate local historical sites, museums, and interpretive programs associated with the Underground Railroad into a mosaic of community, regional, and national stories. There are three main components to the Program:

- Educating the public about the historical significance of the Underground Railroad;
- Providing technical assistance to organizations that are identifying, documenting, preserving and interpreting sites, approximate travel routes and landscapes related to the Underground Railroad, or that are developing or operating interpretive or educational programs or facilities; and
- Develop a Network of sites, programs, and facilities with verifiable associations to the Underground Railroad, referred to as the “Network to Freedom” or the “Network”.

One of the principal objectives of the program is to validate the efforts of local and regional organizations, and make it easier for them to share expertise and communicate with the NPS and each other.

### **What is the Network to Freedom?**

The Network to Freedom is a significant but distinct part of the NPS' National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. It is a diverse collection of elements comprised of historic sites, facilities and programs that have a verifiable association to the Underground Railroad. Individuals and organizations themselves are not eligible for the Network, but rather they can nominate the sites, programs and facilities that they work with. The Network incorporates a broad range of listings that have been nominated and evaluated for their association to the Underground Railroad and have met certain established criteria.

Inclusion in the Network does not guarantee that a threatened site will be protected or that preservation will occur. Nor does it guarantee that a program or facility will receive financial assistance for planning or development. However, by including an element in the Network, the NPS acknowledges its verifiable association to the Underground Railroad. This recognition may be used by advocates to draw support for their preservation and commemorative efforts.

Each listing in the Network is authorized to display the Network logo, which will tell the public and all interested entities that the NPS has evaluated the site, program, or facility and acknowledges its significant contribution to the Underground Railroad story.

### **What types of elements are listed in the Network to Freedom?**

In addition to preserving historic sites associated with the Underground Railroad, the NPS, through the Network to Freedom, attempts to tell a comprehensive story of the people and events associated with the struggle for freedom from enslavement. Much of the historic physical evidence of places—the buildings and landscapes—important to the Underground Railroad have been altered or destroyed. To convey the magnitude of this history, it is necessary to recognize commemorative and interpretive efforts, in addition to identifying and preserving the sites that remain. Consequently, the Network was designed to include not only sites, but facilities and programs.

By law, the Network includes the following categories or “elements”:

- All units and programs of the National Park Service determined by the Secretary of Interior to pertain to the Underground Railroad;
- Other Federal, State, local, and privately owned properties pertaining to the Underground Railroad that have a verifiable connection to the Underground Railroad and that are included on, or determined by the Secretary to be eligible for inclusion on, the National Register of Historic Places; and
- Other governmental and non-governmental facilities and programs of an educational, research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to the Underground Railroad.

The last category, “governmental and non-governmental facilities and programs” is much more flexible and invites the inclusion of a variety of different categories of listings. Facilities and

programs in the Network can have an educational, research, or interpretive scope, as long as they are directly related to, and verifiably associated with, the Underground Railroad. Facilities can include, but not be limited to, archives and libraries, research centers, museums and museum collections, and cultural or commemorative centers. Programs can be even more diverse in nature. They can include, but not be limited to, tours, interpretive talks, travelling exhibits, theater productions, living history presentations, and educational programs.

Finally, there are a multitude of Underground Railroad-related sites around the United States that have suffered the impacts of prolonged negligence or developments inconsistent with the historical character of the site. For whatever reasons, these past activities may have left the site ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Nonetheless, these sites are often integral parts of the Underground Railroad story. Their significance should not be lost, so the Network to Freedom is designed to include these impacted sites, with the provision that they must be associated with some type of documentation and interpretation.

### **What types of Underground Railroad associations are recognized in the Network?**

**Through its definition of the Underground Railroad as resistance to enslavement through flight, the Network to Freedom Program seeks to focus more attention on the freedom seekers themselves. Associations or connections to the Underground Railroad can encompass various activities. Common Underground Railroad associations include places of enslavement from which escapes occurred, water or overland routes, natural areas such as swamps or caves that were used as hiding places, churches with congregations active in the Underground Railroad (even if they were not used as safe houses), the location of legal challenges to the Fugitive Slave Act, maroon communities, destination settlements, and even locations where the kidnapping of freedom seekers occurred. These are just some of the possible associations that define Underground Railroad activity. The definition is meant to be fluid to incorporate and encourage new and original investigations, interpretations, and commemorative activities around the country.**

While the Underground Railroad existed in the context of abolitionism and anti-slavery thought, those associations alone are not sufficient to include a site, facility, or program in the Network to Freedom. Participation in the Underground Railroad—escaping from enslavement or assisting the freedom seeker—was a violation of the federal fugitive slave acts and hence illegal. Through their acts of civil disobedience, these individuals demonstrated a higher level of commitment to the principles of freedom and self-determination. It is this level of commitment that is recognized in the Network to Freedom. The line between general abolitionism and specific support of the Underground Railroad can be difficult to discern. Underground Railroad activity would certainly include activities such as sheltering a freedom seeker on one's property or transporting them between safe havens. However, it might also include actions such as taking specific steps to assist freedom seekers or divert pursuers; raising or donating money, food, or clothing; facilitating communications among participants; or assisting in the establishment of destination communities.

## What are the criteria for Network to Freedom eligibility?

The criteria for inclusion in the Network to Freedom are meant to establish a certain level of legitimacy, accountability, and accuracy in telling the Underground Railroad story. They have been designed, however, to be inclusive and flexible to include as wide a range of elements as possible.

- Any element nominated to the Network must **have a verifiable association to the Underground Railroad**. These associations to the Underground Railroad must be verified using professional methods of historical research, documentation, and interpretation. Supporting evidence must be documented in the application through specific citations that would allow the reader to recreate the research.
- Any site, facility, or program that applies for inclusion in the Network must have **the consent of the owner, manager, or director**. Public-owned properties must [also] have consent from the site manager. A letter of consent from the property owner must accompany each application.

### Sites

- Places that are ineligible for the National Register or that do not have a determination yet, may be eligible for the Network if they have a demonstrated and verified association to the Underground Railroad, **and** some type of interpretation such as a commemorative or interpretive marker, educational program, brochure, or site bulletin. The purpose of this requirement is to provide the public with some sort of contextual reference for understanding the significance of the site. The site must be identified by name and a statement that identifies its Underground Railroad association. Interpretation at a site that lacks integrity for eligibility to the National Register can take many forms:
  - interpretation by skilled guides
  - interpretive wayside exhibits
  - plaques
  - brochures
- Sites on the National Register of Historic Places are **not** required to have an interpretive component to be eligible for inclusion in the Network. Because they physically look like historic places, they are able to convey a sense of the history better than a place where a completely modern building has been constructed on the site. Although not required, sites that are listed in the National Register are encouraged to develop interpretive signs or materials.

### Facilities and Programs

Facilities and programs nominated to the Network to Freedom must exceed a minimum level of

- **accuracy**

The NPS attempts to ensure that the history of the Underground Railroad is portrayed accurately by members of the Network to Freedom. Consequently the source materials on which interpretation and presentation of information are based, must be delineated in the application. Sources should include primary materials<sup>16</sup>—letters, diaries, autobiographies, official records—where possible and scholarly publications. The sources should be as specific to the story presented in the program or facility as possible. This is, perhaps, the most important aspect of the application for supporting inclusion of the facility or program in the Network to Freedom, and often is the aspect most overlooked.

- **professionalism**

The NPS recognizes that many facilities and programs around the country operate on a volunteer basis and rely on scarce resources. Therefore, rather than require professional qualifications for staff, the Network to Freedom focuses on a professional approach to activities such as interpretation, or curation that will indicate a high-quality presentation of the history of the Underground Railroad.

For example, basic professional standards that museums, archives, and libraries should meet are

- a **catalog system** for their collections such as a finding aid or index for collections, and
- an ability to demonstrate the **provenance**, or origin, source, authenticity, acquisition history, and ownership of their collections.

- **Operation**

All facilities and programs must be in operation and not solely in the planning stages. To this end, they must be able to demonstrate a past and ongoing commitment to interpreting or studying the Underground Railroad. Programs must have occurred at least once in the past, and have a schedule for future activities.

## Facilities

Due to their specialized nature, facilities must meet an additional requirement.

- **accessibility**

A goal of the Network to Freedom is to increase public knowledge and understanding of the Underground Railroad. Therefore, access to information, broadly defined, is a critical

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<sup>16</sup> A primary source is one that derives from participants, direct witnesses, or first recorders of events. Ideally, the source will have been created close to the time of the event it describes. Reminiscences that were recorded decades after an event took place are often less accurate than journals that were written contemporaneously.

component of facilities. Facilities such as libraries, archives, and museums, must demonstrate a willingness to share information with the general public and researchers. They must either have regular hours of operation or be open by appointment. To the extent that it is feasible, consideration of Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility issues should be addressed.

### *Facilities--Research centers*

Research centers must meet two additional criteria. They should be able to demonstrate that

- the center director or key staff members have an appropriate level of **training**, which is usually recognized as at least having earned a Masters degree in an associated field of study, and
- a record of operations through a measurable **output**, such as a past and ongoing production of a journal or reports.

### Programs

Due to their specialized nature, programs must meet two additional requirements.

- Applications must demonstrate that the program has a record of **consultation** with appropriate partners, and community or regional support. Consultation is a critical stage in the development of any interpretation program. It is beneficial to consult with local residents and discuss potential impacts of new tours or programs on the area. It is important to include the perspectives of various local groups on Underground Railroad history. "Ownership" and interpretation of history is often a matter at issue.
- A system must be established for the **evaluation** of the program's effectiveness. The goal of any interpretive or educational program is to increase knowledge and understanding of the audience. In order for program staff to ascertain whether the presentation of the information is accomplishing the educational objectives, a systematic method of feedback is essential. Insights gained from the evaluations should be used to refine the program in the future. Analyses of, and samples from, evaluations also assist NPS staff in reviewing program applications.

### **Is a separate application required for a site that is already listed in the national register to be included in the Network to Freedom?**

It is quite possible that an interested site, facility, or program has received some type of official recognition at the local, State, or federal level in the past. However, Network to Freedom listing is a distinct recognition bestowed by a separate and independent program of the NPS. It is necessary, therefore, to document the case for inclusion according to Network standards. As sites, programs, and facilities are added to the Network to Freedom, a unique database of the many stories and people of the Underground Railroad will be created. These applications will become part of a public record documenting the little known aspects of the Underground Railroad. Completed applications form part of the Network's larger collection of sites, programs, and facilities associated with the Underground Railroad. This information is available

to the public for research. As new information is added to the Network, scholarly interpretation of this important subject may be revised. The Network to Freedom also serves as a significant vehicle for presenting and publicizing the special stories associated with a site nationally and internationally.

The information presented in a completed Network to Freedom application should be self-contained and self-explanatory. The information should be clear and understandable to an individual who has no familiarity with, or has never seen the site, program, or facility described. While applications do not need to be lengthy, they should tell the full story of the Underground Railroad associations of the site, program, or facility.

### **What are the benefits of being listed in the Network to Freedom?**

Specific advantages of inclusion in the Network include:

- National recognition of the verifiable association of historic sites, programs, and facilities with the Underground Railroad.
- Inclusion in a Network database featured on the Program's web site, which will include standard information on every site, program, and facility that has been reviewed and accepted into the Network.
- Eligibility for Network to Freedom grants, when funds are appropriated, and assistance in locating project funding. The Network to Freedom Program is working with partners to identify funding sources and raise funds to support interpretation and commemoration efforts.
- The use and display of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom logo.
- Inclusion in a nationwide system of comparable sites, programs, and facilities that fosters networking and coordinating educational, preservation and commemorative activities.

## APPENDIX G

### Feedback Form for Connecticut Draft Social Studies Framework and Curriculum Standards

#### **Connecticut's Social Studies Framework and Curriculum Standards Including Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs)**

Input from Connecticut educators is a critical factor in the process of establishing and implementing any state-level document. Connecticut's new Social Studies Framework and Curriculum Standards are in draft form and will remain in draft form through January 30, 2009. We are inviting you to submit your feedback on the documents during this time.

Connecticut's Social Studies Framework and Curriculum Standards were developed by a statewide committee based on the prior framework, current research and practice and the expertise of outside social studies experts. Recommendations were made and are reflected in the documents now posted in draft form.

This Draft of Connecticut's Social Studies Framework is organized around three interrelated standards and within each standard, strands identify important understandings. Grade Level Expectations further guide what students should know and be able to do at the end of that grade in preparation for the next level.

During the development of these documents, educators representing districts across the state, the RESCs, professional organizations and higher education assisted in writing and reviewing the GLEs.

We welcome your comments and recommendations. Please complete the attached forms and submit them by e-mail, fax or postal mail no later than January 30, 2009, to:

Marlene Lovanio, Education Manager  
Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction  
165 Capitol Ave., Room 215  
Hartford, CT 06106  
E-mail: [marlene.lovanio@ct.gov](mailto:marlene.lovanio@ct.gov)  
Fax: 860-713-7018

## PK-12 Social Studies Curriculum Standards Review/Feedback Form

To submit this form:

1. Print a copy, complete in ink, and mail to Marlene Lovanio, Education Manager, Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction, 165 Capitol Avenue, Rm. 215, Hartford, CT 06106 or fax to 860-713-7018.

**OR**

2. "Save As" a Word document, complete the form electronically, and e-mail it as

**Name:**

**School:**

**District:**

**E-mail address (optional):**

**Check one of the following boxes to indicate your role in education:**

Elementary Teacher		Principal	
Middle School Science Teacher		Assistant Superintendent	
District Science Administrator		Other:	

<b>KEY: 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
1. The Social Studies Curriculum Standards document is clearly and concisely written.					
2. The social studies GLEs provide additional specificity for what a student is expected to know and be able to do.					
3. The content of the Social Studies Curriculum Standards document is appropriate to the grade indicated.					
4. The sequence of the GLEs reflects a developmentally appropriate progression from grade-to-grade and builds in complexity.					
5. The Social Studies Curriculum Standards will be useful as the district reviews and revises its current social studies curriculum.					
6. The Social Studies Curriculum Standards and sequence of GLE's should be more directive on what content is to be covered at each grade.					

**If you have suggestions/feedback on specific content standards, expected performances or question 6 above, please include your comments below.**

## APPENDIX H

### Hartford Students Research African Americans in Ancient Burying Ground

Destination:

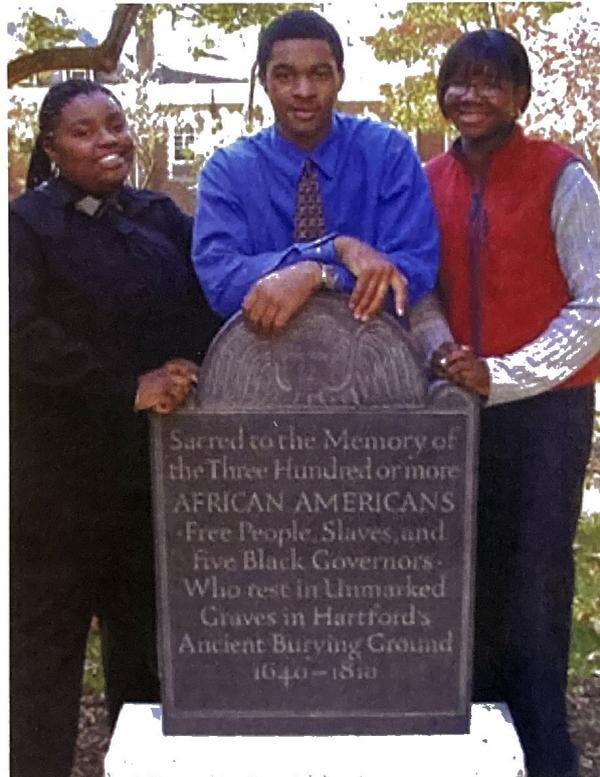
## African American Monument in The Ancient Burying Ground

By **Billie M. Anthony**

Captured Africans were first brought to Connecticut in the 17th century to work in the seaports, towns, and on farms. However, they and their descendants kept alive their African history and customs, one of which was electing a leader. In Connecticut this old African custom was practiced through the mid-1800s, and the leaders were designated the Black Governors, six of whom came from Hartford .

A man was elected governor for his wisdom, strength, honesty, and for the respect that he commanded. He often appointed his own officers who helped him keep the peace. The names and years of elections for most of the Black Governors have been known for many years, thanks to anecdotal sources and local historians, especially the late John E. Rogers, a member of the Connecticut Historical Commission and an associate professor of Black history at the University of Hartford and Greater Hartford Community College.

From 1995 to 1997 students Andriena Baldwin, Christopher Hayes, and Monique Price from Hartford 's Fox Middle School led the research and fund-raising efforts to honor the 300 or more African Americans interred in unmarked graves in Hartford 's Ancient Burying Ground. What they discovered was that five of Hartford 's Black Governors were likely buried there. Using census, probate, church, and land records, the students uncovered primary sources recording the African presence. With the assistance of the Ancient Burying Ground Association and a committee of students, parents, and representatives from the

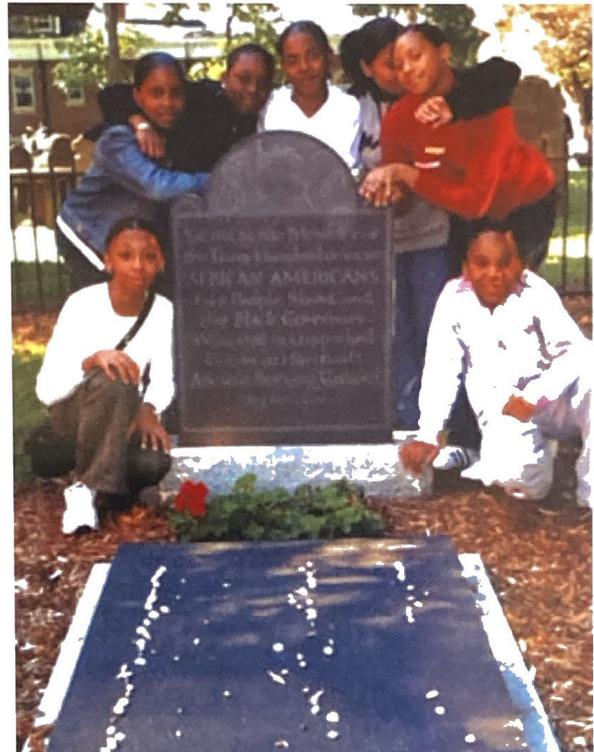


Center Congregational Church and the Historical Commission, the African Americans interred in the Ancient Burying Ground, including the five of the Black Governors, were commemorated in 1998 with a unique hand-carved black slate memorial.

They found, in the Connecticut State Library archives, the bill of sale for London , elected governor in 1755. He was purchased for £60 on September 11, 1725, by Thomas Seymour, the grandfather of Hartford 's first mayor. Governor Quaw, elected in 1760, was owned by Colonel George Wyllys, secretary of the colony and later the state. Governor Quaw's election party was held at Amos Hinsdale's tavern, which stood near present-day South Park . Governor Cuff was elected in 1766 and resigned from office in 1776. He was succeeded by John Anderson, the personal slave of Major Philip Skene, a British prisoner of war who was held in Hartford in 1776. The announcement that Anderson was the new Governor of the Slaves and that a good sum of money had been paid for his election party at Knox Tavern aroused great suspicion, as there hadn't even been an election!

An immediate investigation found no evidence of conspiracy, but there exists a document signed by both Governor Cuff and John Anderson. It states that Cuff resigned because he was "weak and unfit" and that he appointed Anderson in his place. Six Africans or African Americans are listed as witnesses. Not long after, Major Skene escaped from the Americans and John Anderson disappeared from history.

One of the most interesting Black governors was Peleg Nott, owned by Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth a Hartford businessman and representative to Congress who was the richest man in Connecticut . Nott participated in the American Revolution, driving a provisions cart. He was a man of considerable reputation, entrusted with money, goods, and later farmland in what is now West Hartford . He was elected governor in 1780 and celebrated the election in the African custom of a grand parade. An



top: Hartford students Andriena Baldwin, Christopher Hayes, and Monique Price with the African American Monument they researched and raised the fund to erect. 1998  
bottom: Seventh and 8th grade students from Billie Anthony's Carmen Arace Middle School (Bloomfield)classes follow an African tradition of placing shells on the ledger stone as the names are spoken, followed by a moment of silence. 2004

Photos: Billie Anthony

eyewitness places him on a "frisky horse." Wadsworth eventually freed Nott and his wife, and they probably lived somewhere near where the Wadsworth Atheneum now stands.

Boston Nichols of Hartford, described as a "stable and respectable man," was married to a woman named Rose. In 1774 Captain James Nichols freed them and in 1783 he granted Boston some land and a house for five pounds. This site was near the old Charter Oak tree, on what is now called Wyllys Street . According to accounts pieced together by the student researchers the place on the 1790 map of Hartford identified as "Negro house" was where Boston Nichols and Rose lived. In 1800 Boston Nichols was elected Governor of the Blacks. When he died in 1810, he was buried in the Ancient Burying Ground with his "cocked hat" and his sword on his coffin. The exact whereabouts of his grave are unknown, but his life is memorialized on the ledger stone of the African American monument.

In recent years, the stories of the Black Governors and their families have begun to be recovered and restored to Connecticut 's history. Inspired by the students' work, others have organized to further the research and tributes. In 2001, the Connecticut General Assembly, through the Connecticut Freedom Trail, commissioned Dr. Katherine Harris of Central Connecticut State University to conduct research on Connecticut 's Black Governors. In addition to bringing the total to twenty-seven, Dr. Harris uncovered myriad personal stories and fascinating details, which are being published this summer by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. The John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center was one of the first historical groups to honor the Hartford students for their work, and recently held the first Black Governors Ball and the Black Governors Exhibit.

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The Ancient Burying Ground is located at Main and Gold streets in Hartford, adjacent to Center Church.

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