



## The Connecticut Freedom Trail

documents and designates sites that celebrate the struggle for justice and equality that continues in the 21st century. Sites depict the efforts, in all their forms, of the state's African American community and all the communities that championed the goals of universal freedom and human dignity.

### Application for Listing the Connecticut Freedom Trail

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

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

**Contact information of the individual or organization presenting application (please note this entity will be considered the Site Ambassador if listed):**

Name: Dr. Carrissa Williams

Address: 89 Bretton Road

City: Middletown State: CT Zip: 06457

Phone: (816) 262-5649

E-Mail: carrissa.phillippe@gmail.com

**Site Information:****Type of site** (check at least one):

- ☐ Amistad
- ☒ Civil Rights
- ☐ Concepts of Freedom
- ☐ Underground Railroad

Name of site (if applicable):

Indian Hill Cemetery

Gravesite of the late State Representative Quentin 'Q' Williams

Address: 383 Washington Street

City: Middletown State: CT Zip: 06457

Longitude and Latitude of building or site to be included on the Connecticut Freedom Trail for future GPS mapping: 41°33'28.5"N and 72°39'50.3"W

**Property Owner:**

Name: Indian Hill Cemetery Association

Address: 383 Washington Street, P.O. Box 176

City: Middletown State: CT Zip: 06457

Phone: 860-346-0452

E-Mail: superindianhill@att.net

**General information:**

Present use of property: Cemetery

Age of property: 175 years (Established in 1850)

Open to Public: ☒ Yes ☐ NoVisible from the Public Road: ☐ Yes ☒ No

**Historic Designations:**

Is the project site recognized for its architectural/cultural/historical significance by any of the following designation programs? (Check all that apply.) Visit [connctis.ct.gov](http://connctis.ct.gov) to determine if the property has a designation.

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

**Is there any additional historic information that the Committee should be aware of that is not covered under “Historic Designations”? If so, please enter it in the box below.**

**Please describe the site and how it represents one or more of the categories for inclusion. Include any relevant sources and documentation in the bibliography. Attach additional sheets if necessary.**

### **Representative Quentin “Q” Williams (1983–2023)**

#### **Freedom Trail Narrative: Gravesite at Indian Hill Cemetery, Middletown, CT**

##### **Introduction**

This nomination proposes the gravesite of State Representative Quentin “Q” Williams at Indian Hill Cemetery (383 Washington Street, Middletown, Connecticut) for inclusion on the Connecticut Freedom Trail. Williams was Middletown’s first Black state representative and a transformative public servant whose legislative work advanced civil rights, housing justice, reentry, and community wellbeing. His gravesite is a place of public remembrance and civic reflection—sacred ground where community members gather to honor a leader who embodied the Trail’s core themes of freedom, dignity, and democratic participation.

##### **Site Identification**

Name of Site: Gravesite of State Representative Quentin “Q” Williams

Location: Indian Hill Cemetery, 383 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457

Coordinates: 41°33'28.5"N, 72°39'50.3"W

Present Use: Active historic cemetery (established 1850) with Williams’s gravesite used for remembrance, vigils, and reflection.

##### **Significance & Eligible Categories**

Representative Williams’s gravesite is proposed under the categories of Civil Rights and Concepts of Freedom. As Middletown’s first Black state representative, Williams broke barriers of representation and used his office to expand equitable opportunity. His legislative portfolio centered on civil rights, tenant protections, fair treatment within the criminal-legal system, and access to economic and educational opportunity—issues at the heart of Connecticut’s ongoing freedom story. The gravesite functions as a civic monument: a physical locus where residents—especially young people—engage with the living legacy of representation, public service, and community care.

##### **Historical Context & Biography**

Born November 24, 1983, and raised in Middletown’s public schools, Quentin S. Williams returned to serve his hometown in multiple roles: Planning & Zoning Commissioner (chair), City Treasurer, and, beginning in 2019, state representative for the 100th District. In the General Assembly, he brought an uncommon blend of optimism, policy rigor, and grassroots engagement. He was sworn in to a third term on January 4, 2023, and died hours later in a tragic collision on Route 9. The widespread mourning and public ceremonies that followed—along with community memorializations—attest to his profound impact on civic life in Connecticut.

(Please See Attached)

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

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

## Bibliography and/or Other Reference Information:

### State Representative Quentin "Q" Williams Civil Rights Bills Passed

#### 2019 - Co-sponsored Civil Rights Bills

S.B. 1022: AN ACT CONCERNING MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

S.B. 992: AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRUST ACT.

H.B. 6921: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL ON THE COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF A CRIMINAL RECORD

H.B. 5004: AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE

#### 2021 - Co-sponsored Civil Rights Bills

S.B. 1019: AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES, ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS FOR CERTAIN CERTAIN MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY OFFENSES, PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON ERASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION AND CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO MISDEMEANOR SENTENCES.

S.B. 999: AN ACT CONCERNING A JUST TRANSITION TO CLIMATE--PROTECTIVE ENERGY PRODUCTION AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT.

S.B. 972: AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN CORRECTIONAL AND JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES.

S.B. 891: AN ACT CONCERNING THE EZEQUIEL SANTIAGO FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM AND OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO FORECLOSURE.

S.B. 753: AN ACT CONCERNING THE COUNTING OF CERTAIN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING STATE LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL VOTING DISTRICTS.

S.B. 356: AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT GRANT PROGRAM FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

(PLEASE SEE ADDITIONAL SHEET)

**Photographs:**

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



(PLEASE SEE ATTACHED)





2021 - Co-sponsored Civil Rights Bills (continued)

S.B. 1019: AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES, ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS FOR CERTAIN CERTAIN MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY OFFENSES, PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON ERASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION AND CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO MISDEMEANOR SENTENCES.

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S.B. 753: AN ACT CONCERNING THE COUNTING OF CERTAIN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING STATE LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL VOTING DISTRICTS.

S.B. 356: AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT GRANT PROGRAM FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

S.B. 002: AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL EQUITY AND THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN.

H.B. 6606: AN ACT CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITIES AND THE RENOVATION OF HISTORIC MIXED-USE BUILDINGS.

H.B. 6531: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL IN EVICTION PROCEEDINGS, THE VALIDITY OF INLAND WETLANDS PERMITS IN RELATION TO CERTAIN OTHER LAND USE APPROVALS, AND EXTENDING THE TIME OF EXPIRATION OF CERTAIN LAND USE PERMITS.

H.B. 6463: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION, A REENTRY EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES IN MUNICIPALITIES WHERE A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IS LOCATED, THE DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS, THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA RELATING TO AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND THE PROVISION OF DEBIT CARDS TO INCARCERATED PERSONS AT THE TIME OF RELEASE.

H.B. 6034: AN ACT CONCERNING PROJECT LONGEVITY.

(PLEASE SEE ATTACHED)