



## 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: John Mills - Alex Breanne Corporation

Address: 44 Burr Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002

City: Bloomfield State: CT Zip: 06002

Phone: 860-212-9897

E-Mail: john@alexbreanne.org

**Site Information:**

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

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

Name of site (if applicable):

New Guinea or Guinea Town in Sharon, CT

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: Cornwall Bridge State: CT Zip: 06754

Longitude and Latitude of building or site to be included on the Connecticut Freedom Trail for future GPS mapping: 41.80784464413763, -73.39364358940408

**Property Owner:**

Name: Elizabeth Frost

Address: 78 River Rd.

City: Cornwall Bridge State: CT Zip: 06754

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: frost.beth@gmail.com

**General information:**

Present use of property: Private Property

Age of property: \_\_\_\_\_

Open to Public:  Yes  No

Visible 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<br>District Name: _____ | [ ] | [ ] |
| State Register of Historic Places                  | [ ] | [✓] |
| Individually listed                                | [ ] | [ ] |
| Contributing to a District<br>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.**

New Guinea or Guinea Town is a historic area of Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut. It is the location of a community of formerly enslaved families that settled there in the 18th century. It began to be called Guinea around the time Robin Starr took up residence there shortly after the Revolutionary War.<sup>1</sup>

Robin Starr is a formerly enslaved man originally from Guinea Africa. Robin was enslaved to Josiah Starr in Danbury, CT. On June 2, 1777, Robin enlisted with the 7th Connecticut Regiment under Colonel Herman Swift.<sup>2</sup> Before he headed off to the Revolutionary War, Robin's enslaver gave him the option to buy his freedom for £40, which is the 2025 equivalent of nearly \$9,000.<sup>3</sup> Robin was able to pay £22, leaving him in debt £18. In 1781, Robin returned from war to discover that his enslaver, Josiah Starr, had died. Even though, Starr's descendants still expected payment of the remaining balance, so Robin paid the balance of £18;<sup>4</sup> the 2025 equivalent of approximately \$4,000. Robin then returned to war, enlisting with the 2nd Connecticut Regiment in March 1781.<sup>5</sup> Robin was discharged on June 7, 1783. For his six years of faithful service, Robin was awarded the Badge of Merit from George Washington.<sup>6</sup>

Robin Starr married a woman named Lilly around 1791. They lived in this location of Cornwall Bridge identified as New Guinea or Guinea Town. When they passed, their home was passed down to their son, Abel Starr, who fought in the war of 1812.<sup>7</sup> On the death of Abel Starr, the home was passed down to Abel's son, Josiah Starr, who served in the 29th Connecticut Colored Regiment during the Civil War. Josiah also lived out his life in that home.<sup>8</sup>

Today, you can see the ruins of the homes that used to make up this community. There are cellar holes and the outline of the road that ran through this community. It sits next to the Dawn Hill Road entrance to the Appalachian Trail. This request is to add this community to the Connecticut Freedom Trail.

<sup>1</sup> Goodenough, G. F., ed. *A Gossip about a Country Parish of the Hills and Its People* (Amenia, NY: Times Press, 1900), 59.

<sup>2</sup> National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), *U.S. Revolutionary War Service Records, 1775–1783*, publication M881, compiled service records of Robin Starr, 7th Regiment, 1777–1780. Fold3. <https://www.fold3.com/file/20921320>.

<sup>3</sup> Eric Nye, University of Wyoming, Department of English. University of Wyoming. <https://www.uwyo.edu/numimage/currency.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> Danbury (Conn.) Town Clerk, "Robin Starr Buys His Freedom," *Land Records, 1777–1904*, Book 2, 40.

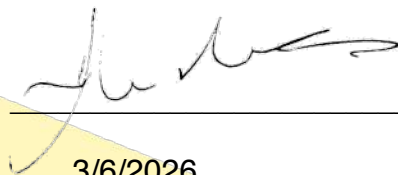
<sup>5</sup> National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), *U.S. Revolutionary War Service Records, 1775–1783*, publication M881, compiled service records of Robin Starr, 2nd Regiment, 1781–1783. Fold3. <https://www.fold3.com/file/14715792>.

<sup>6</sup> Danbury (Conn.) Town Clerk, "Robin Starr receives the badge of merit from George Washington," *Land Records, 1777–1904*, Book 2, 132.

<sup>7</sup> Goodenough, *Gossip about a Country Parish*, 60.

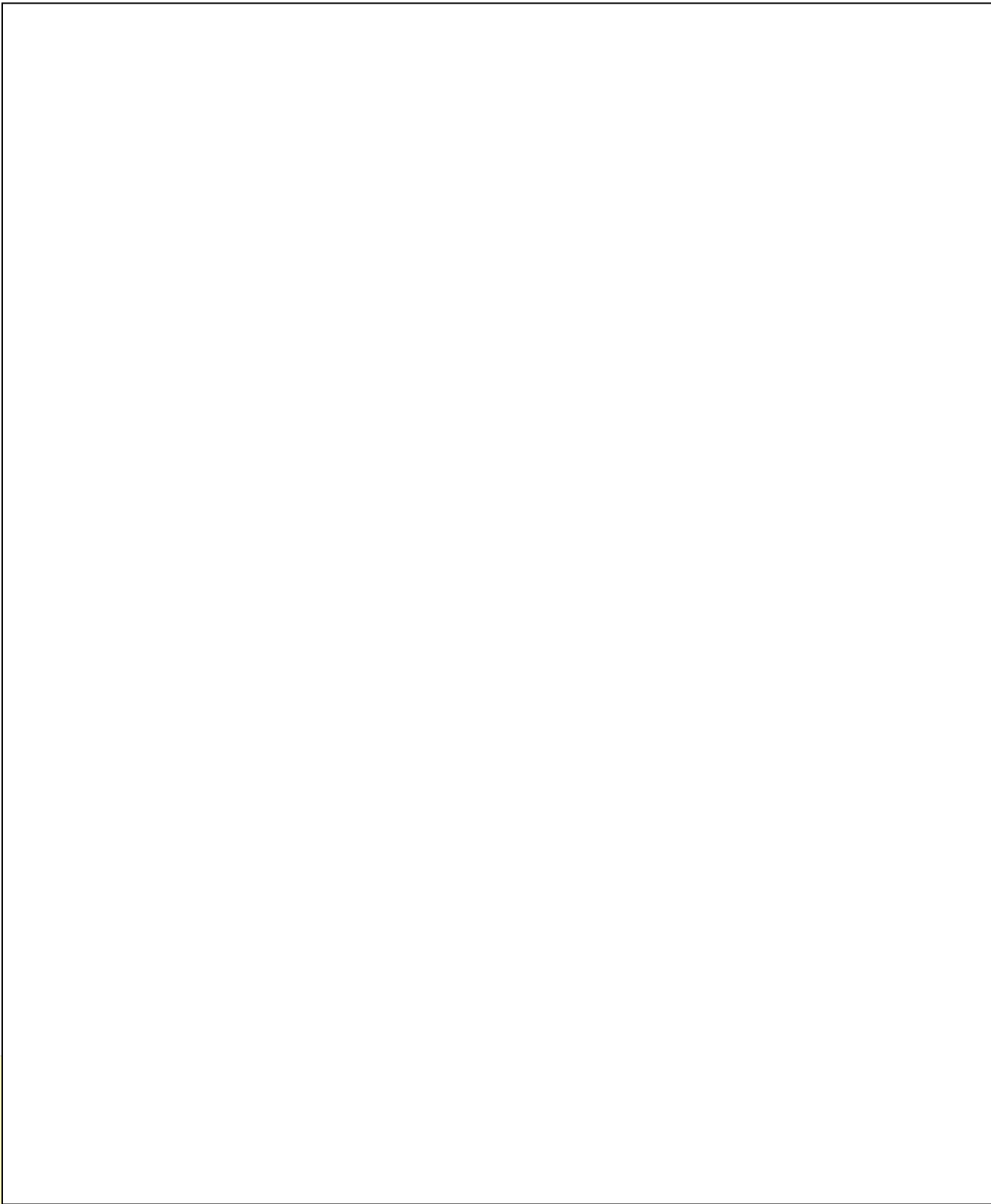
<sup>8</sup> *The Newtown Bee*, "A Son of the Revolution," August 2, 1895, p. 7, col. 6, Newspapers.com, <https://www.newspapers.co/image/861691082>.

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



**Date of Submission:** 3/6/2026

**Bibliography and/or Other Reference Information:**



**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.



