



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

Address: 44 Burr Rd

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): Primus Mural

Address: 55 Town Street

City: Norwich State: CT Zip: 06360

Longitude and Latitude of building or site to be included on the Connecticut Freedom Trail for future GPS mapping: 41.54775719063033, -72.0922446136047

Property Owner:

Name: UCFS Healthcare

Address: 55 Town Street (mural address) 47 Town Street (UCFS business address)

City: Norwich State: CT Zip: ~~06002~~ 06360

Phone: _____

E-Mail: pkinder@ucfs.org

General information:

Present use of 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 to determine if the property has a designation.

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

Primus Armes was a man formerly enslaved to Ebenezer Lathrop, and later enslaved to Ebenezer Lathrop's 1st cousin (and brother-in-law) Col. Simon Lathrop in Norwich, CT.¹ According to the 1895 book, "Old Houses of The Ancient Town of Norwich" , Primus was taken from his sick mother's bedside in The Gambia and placed on a slave ship with his father. His father died on that Middle Passage journey, but Primus was brought to Norwich where he was enslaved.²

Primus married a woman named Venus and they had two children, Job and Flora.³ Job, served in the Revolutionary war, enlisting as Job Primus. He crossed the Delaware with George Washington, fighting in the battle of Trenton.⁴ He remained enslaved on his return from war, sold to Caleb Huntington in 1778 who emancipated him.⁵ Many years later, two of the Great-Grandsons of Job (Thomas ⁶ & Daniel Lathrop ⁷) enlisted in the 29th Connecticut Colored Regiment during the Civil War. Daniel's image is etched into the 29th Connecticut Colored Regiment Monument at Criscoolo Park in New Haven, Connecticut.

There is no record of where Primus and Venus are buried. There is also no record where their daughter Flora is buried, nor where their son Job is buried who fought in the Revolutionary war. As such, the Alex Breanne Corporation, in collaboration with UCFS Healthcare has commissioned the creation of a mural on the side of the UCFS Healthcare building at 55 Town Street in Norwich. The wall we are using faces the African American section of the cemetery, where most graves are unmarked. The mural will be a story telling mural, telling the story of Primus and his family. We will also be placing a marker in the cemetery, donating it as the African American section. The panel will face the mural, and will marry the story of Primus with the cemetery section where he is likely buried.

With this being the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, I ask that you honor this family by including the Primus Mural and signage to the Connecticut Freedom Trail.

Signature of Applicant: _____



Date of Submission: _____

March 10, 2026

Bibliography and/or Other Reference Information:

- 1 - First Congregational Church (Norwich, Connecticut), *Church Records, 1660–1928*, vol. 2, Baptism of the Children of Primus, May 9, 1756, 142, FamilySearch, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3F-F3QY-H> .
- 2 - Lydia Sigourney, *Sketch of Connecticut, Forty Years Since* (Hartford: Oliver D. Cooke & Sons, 1824), 81–94. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/rc01003198/> .
- 3 - First Congregational Church (Norwich, Connecticut), *Church Records, 1660–1928*, vol. 2, Baptism of the Children of Primus, May 9, 1756, 142, FamilySearch, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3F-F3QY-H> .
- 4 - National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), *U.S. Revolutionary War Pensions, 1800–1900*, publication M804, pension request of Job Primus, April 8, 1818, 9. Fold3. <https://www.fold3.com/file/25869692> .
- 5 - Norwich (Connecticut) Town Clerk. *Land Records, 1660-1907*. Caleb Huntington Frees Job, June 2, 1778. Book 23, page 125.
- 6 - Thomas Williams Lathrop, service record, *U.S. Civil War Service Records (CMSR), Union—Colored Troops Artillery, 1861–1865*, publication M1824, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Fold3, <https://fold3.com/file/264489681>.
- 7 - Daniel Stanley Lathrop, Civil War pension application request, July 9, 1923, file no. 1423382, Civil War and Later Pension Files, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, DC, p. 55.

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.



