LEWIS AND HARRIET HAYDEN

ABOLITIONISTS ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

DESIGN BY BASIL WATSON

Artist/Sculptor
THE HAYDEN’S - ABOLITIONISTS

- Lewis and Harriett Hayden were both born into slavery.
- Harriet was Lewis’s second wife.
- His first wife, along with their child, was sold somewhere in the south.
- When Lewis and Harriet married, and he adopted her child.
- He always wanted to run to freedom, never wanting to experience the separation again.
• However, he was encouraged to wait until the boy was old enough to handle the stress of the journey.

• When they achieved freedom, the Hayden's spent the rest of their lives aiding others to gain and maintain their freedom.

• They operated a station on the underground railroad, did political advocacy to abolish slavery.

• They literally fought for freedom.

• Freedom was at the core of their lives, and they remained abolitionist their entire lives.
THE CONCEPT - FREEDOM

• The concept is the celebration of FREEDOM.

• The theme of freedom from slavery is represented by the symbolic raising of their clasped hands.

• The fingers are intertwined in union, togetherness and strength and are raised above their heads in triumph and celebration.
THE CONCEPT - FREEDOM

• Lewis’s gesture with his right hand is to reject and push back on the vestiges of his past life of being subjected to slavery as he moves forward a free man.

• While Harriet, left hand at her breast, expresses the heartfelt emotion of securing their freedom, the joy and the pain that comes with the struggle and ultimate success.
THE CONCEPT - FREEDOM

• Their clothing is of the fashion of the day, reflecting their status as people of learning, sophistication, and achievement.

• They stand on circles that interlock reflecting the intersection of their lives that encompasses different but important activities in the fight against slavery.

• Lewis was the statesman activist while Harriet focused more on their station on the Underground Railroad. They were, however, always supportive of each other, working together in unison.
SCALE & MEDIUM

• The scale will be approximately 7.75 - 8ft tall to the top of the man’s head and the woman a bit shorter. This is standard “Heroic” size, giving prominence, importance and power to the monument.

• The interlocking circles will be approximately 30” in diameter and they will sit on a **rectangular** or **oval** granite base that will be approximately 40” x 66” x 24”

• The granite will grey with a steel float finish.

• The medium will be bronze, the standard for outdoor sculpture and this will sit on a granite base.
CONCLUSION

• The Lexington Freedom Trail project fits perfectly into the genre of projects that I have done on so many occasions over the course of my career. I bring my experience and ability to connect and empathize with the theme and concept, and express this through the action and energy of the human figure.

• I am confident that I can successfully accomplish this project and achieve the mission of expressing the character and contributions of the Haydens who have been unsung heroes amongst us.

• I look forward to working with the people of Lexington in their quest to honor these outstanding citizens.

• Thank you and I wish the project the best of success.
THE LEXINGTON FREEDOM TRAIN MONUMENT