

# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

**\* Note:** Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Building Name (Common) Hoffman Press, Inc.  
 Building Name (Historic) Hoffman Press, Inc.  
 Street Address or Location 30 Printers Lane  
 Town/City New Haven Village \_\_\_\_\_ County New Haven  
 Owner(s) Willam B. Hoffman  Public  Private

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Present Use: Commercial - vacant / for sale  
 Historic Use: Commercial - printing  
**Accessibility to public:** Exterior visible from public road?  Yes  No  
 Interior accessible?  Yes  No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_  
 Style of building Modernist Date of Construction 1961

**Material(s)** (Indicate use or location when appropriate):

- |   |   |   |                                       |  |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard  | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten         | <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco           | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone  | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type <u>Block Masonry</u> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |                                       |  |

**Structural System**

- Wood Frame  Post & Beam  Balloon  Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel  
 Other Long Span Steel Roof Trusses

**Roof** (Type)

- Gable  Flat  Mansard  Monitor  Sawtooth  
 Gambrel  Shed  Hip  Round  Other \_\_\_\_\_

(Material)

- Wood Shingle  Roll Asphalt  Tin  Slate  Asphalt Shingle  
 Built up  Tile  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Stories:** 1 **Approximate Dimensions** 50' x 100'

**Structural Condition:**  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

**Exterior Condition:**  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

**Location Integrity:**  On original site  Moved When? \_\_\_\_\_

Alterations?  Yes  No If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR OFFICE USE:** Town # \_\_\_\_\_ Site # \_\_\_\_\_ UTM \_\_\_\_\_  
 District:  S  NR If NR, Specify:  Actual  Potential

**PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)****Related outbuildings or landscape features:**

- Barn     Shed     Garage     Carriage House     Shop     Garden  
 Other landscape features or buildings: Paved loading area at rear

**Surrounding Environment:**

- Open land     Woodland     Residential     Commercial     Industrial     Rural  
 High building density     Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: Printers Lane extends southwest from Ella Grasso Boulevard and dead-ends at the West River. The area is an industrial district containing primarily light industrial uses, although some retail has located in the buildings close to Ella Grasso Boulevard. Adjacent to the southeast is the Columbus House social service facility and to the south is an educational/social service campus (formerly a shopping center). Buildings are one or two stories, most with flat roofs and utilitarian design. On the north side of Ella Grasso Boulevard is a large cemetery.

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*)

The building is flat-roofed, 1-story, rectangular in plan. The northwest long side is the front facade facing Printers Lane, and is faced in brown brick. Near the left (northeast) corner a glass and aluminum storefront entry leads into the building. Above the glazing are mounted aluminum letters spelling the business name in a period display font. To the right a long horizontal strip of high windows contrasts with the verticality of the entry glazing and provides a modest touch of style. The other three sides are painted concrete block masonry with minimal utilitarian window openings high on the walls and a loading dock at the southwest rear wall. Several square chimneys extend above the roof.

Architect J. Hoechel, Engineer Builder Alpert Construction Company, Abe Alpert

**• Historical or Architectural importance:**

During the planning for urban renewal in the 1950s, industrial uses were to be separated from residential. Three areas were identified for new industrial parks: Long Wharf, where fill from harbor dredging had created land from marshes, the Hamilton-East Street area east of the new I-91 highway, and an area adjacent to the West River where a road then known as "the Boulevard" was extended as a ring around the city to connect Westville with Route US 1 and the Connecticut Turnpike (I-95). The West River industrial area provided parcels where businesses could relocate from areas planned for demolition and redevelopment. During the 1950s a shopping plaza (now city social service facilities), a car dealership, and numerous small businesses rebuilt. Hoffman Press is the best preserved example of the businesses erected in this industrial "park," with the fourth generation of the family running the business. Hoffman Press was previously on State Street, now the site of the Knights of Columbus Museum (see Inventory form for 1 State Street).

• Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills, *A Guide to Architecture & Urban Design*, Yale U. Press, New Haven, 1976.

Carley, Rachel D., *Tomorrow is Here: New Haven and the Modern Movement*, (Privately printed by the New Haven Preservation Trust, New Haven CT) June, 2008.

New Haven Tax Assessor's Record: Map/Block/Parcel: 307/068/011, Building Department permit files.

Hoffman Press web site: <http://www.thehoffmanpress.com/ourhistory.html>, personal communication Bill Hoffman 1/18/2011.

New Haven Redevelopment Agency, New Haven Development Guide, 1961.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 1/17/2011

View Multiple views Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 1/18/2011

Organization The New Haven Preservation Trust

Address 934 State Street, P.O. Box 1671, New Haven, CT 06507

• Subsequent field evaluations:

**Threats to the building or site:**

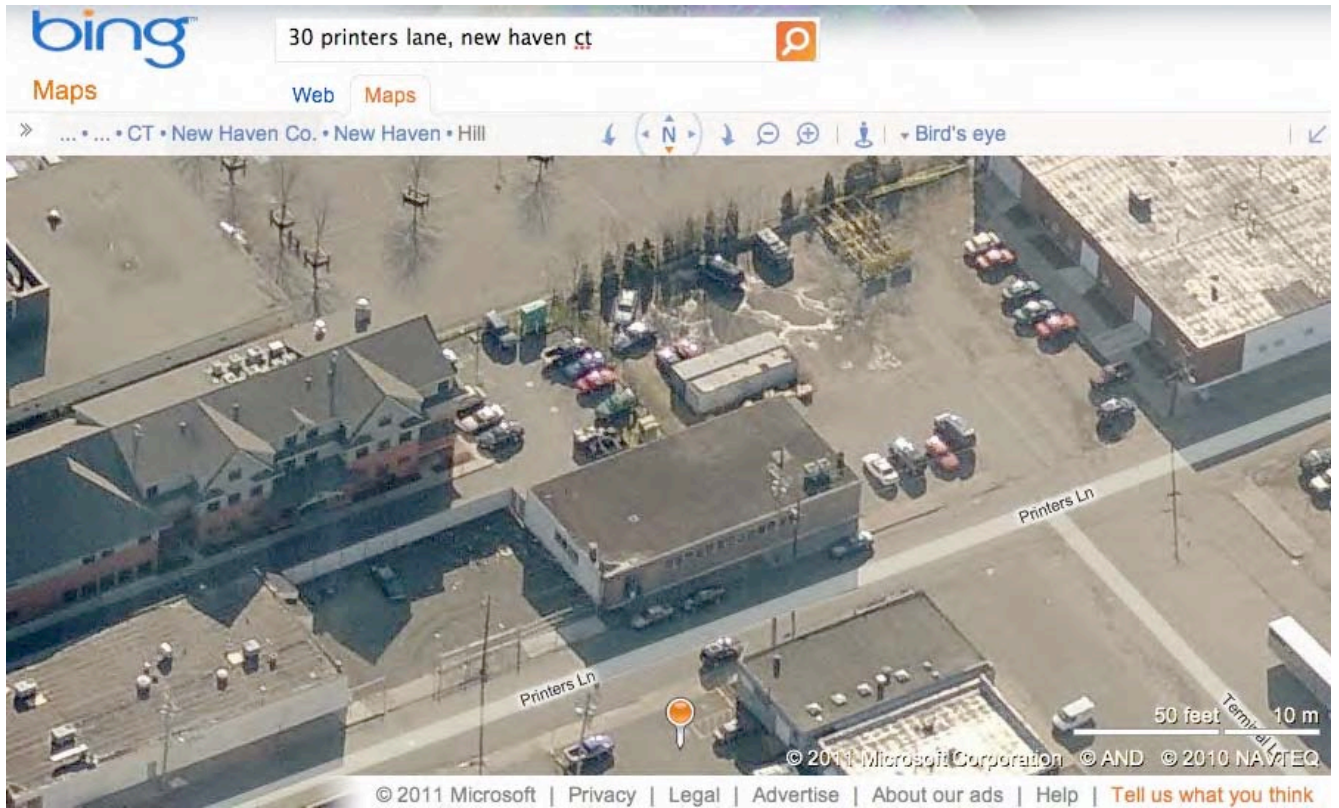
- None known     Highways     Vandalism     Developers     Renewal     Private  
 Deterioration     Zoning     Other \_\_\_\_\_     Explanation building for sale



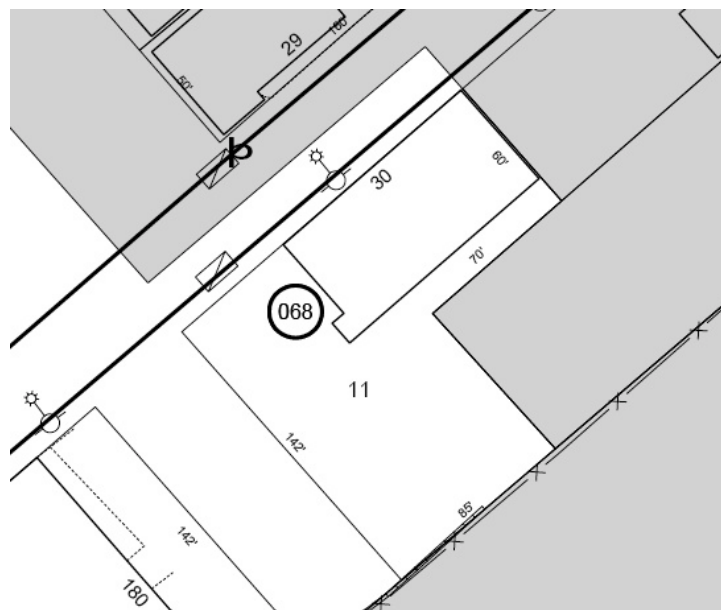
1. Northeast view from Printers Lane, camera facing south.



2. Southwest view from Printers Lane, camera facing north.



3. North aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 1/18/2011.



4. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 307/068/011.