

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) Garden Street Park/Garden Street Playground
 Building Name (Historic) Garden Street Park/Garden Street Playground
 Street Address or Location 1311-1323 Chapel Street at Day Street
 Town/City New Haven Village Dwight County New Haven
 Owner(s) City of New Haven Department of Parks and Recreation Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Public Park
 Historic Use: Public Park
 Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____
 Style of building Modernist Landscape Date of Construction 1968

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

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input 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>Paving, site furnishings</u>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Wood benches</u> | | |

Structural System

- Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel
 Other Reinforced concrete

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: N/A Approximate Dimensions 0.09 acre

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: Removal of trees/shrubs; demolition of concrete features

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: Trees, concrete walks, benches, lawn

Surrounding Environment:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: Situated at the northeast corner of Chapel Street and Day Street, Garden Street Park is surrounded by residential and commercial buildings, and the former Dwight School is adjacent to the north. The park's namesake street does not actually border the site. The Hospital of Saint Raphael is located several blocks west on Chapel Street; the Kensington Playground is sited one block to the west, on Kensington Street. Residential buildings are a mix of 19th- and mid-20th-century multi-family homes; the site is located in the Dwight National Register Historic District.

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

Largely rectangular in shape, Garden Street Park is visually composed of two parts. The park proper is a man-made grove, with Norway maple trees planted in a grid pattern. Within this area, round concrete tables are surrounded by concrete stools (four stools for each table); wood-and-concrete benches are also present. Cylindrical concrete bollards separate the shaded picnic area from both the street and a large lawn to the north that is located on the parcel of land containing the Dwight elementary school. A modern playscape and a basketball court have been installed along the east edge of the school property. The remainder is an open lawn.

Architect New Haven Redevelopment Agency staff Builder _____

• Historical or Architectural importance: Garden Street Park was designed and constructed by the New Haven Redevelopment Agency during the New Haven Redevelopment period. Built in 1968, the park was part of the "playground modernization program," which placed numerous parks on vacant and designated lots in commercial, industrial, and residential sectors of the city. This park created an amenity along an important pedestrian route, much as in the Wooster Square neighborhood (see Inventory forms for Jefferson Street - Lenzi Park, and Chapel Street - Union Street Park) and introduced open space in a densely built-up area where new residential developments were being interspersed among the existing housing stock. The Modernist vocabulary of benches and bollards, emphasizing abstract geometric forms such as squares, cubes, and cylinders, is consistent across the various small parks and playgrounds of the period.

In 1997 the City of New Haven conducted a site survey in order to determine restoration requirements; demolition of trees and shrubs, utilities, and a concrete wall and pathways were planned. The Timothy Dwight Elementary School, adjacent to the north, is undergoing re-construction as the Amistad Charter School.

• Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture & Urban Design*, Yale U.Press, New Haven, 1976, pp.70,77. 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: 297/ 246/ 001-3-5, 297/247/005.

Master Plan, City of New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees, 2000.

Lenzi Park Article, NH Playgrounds File, Local History, New Haven Public Library, 1955.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 1/29/2010

View Multiple views Negative on File NHPT

Name Julie Rosen - Charlotte Hitchcock Date 11/20/2010

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 _____



1. View from Chapel Street, camera facing NW toward Garden Street.

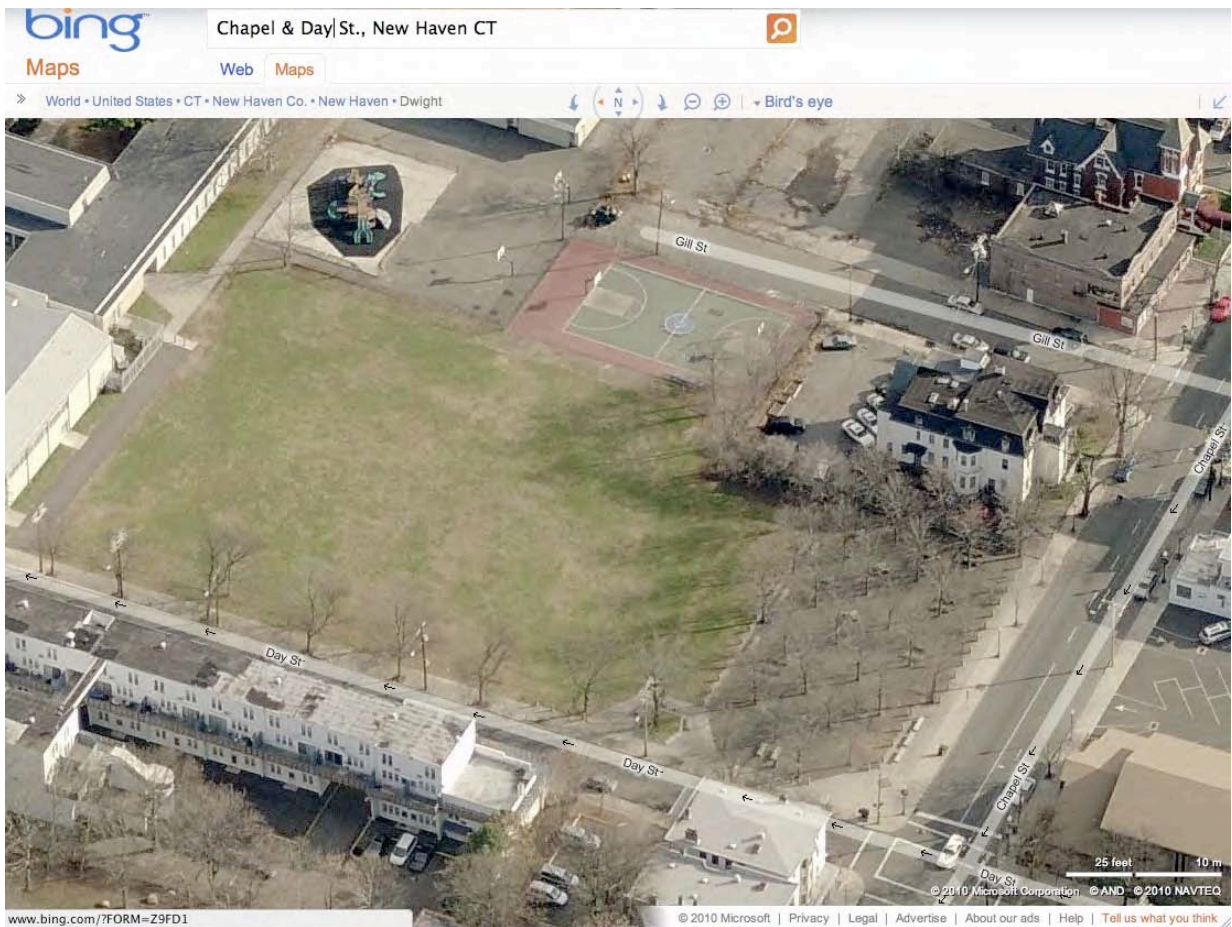


2. View from Garden Street toward Chapel Street, camera facing SE.



4. Detail view, camera facing NW.

5. View from Chapel Street toward Garden Street, camera facing west.



6. Aerial view from Bing Maps: <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 11/30/2010.