



# 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) Hilton C. Buley Library (Southern Connecticut State University)  
 Building Name (Historic) Hilton C. Buley Library (Southern Connecticut State College)  
 Street Address or Location 501 Crescent Street  
 Town/City New Haven Village Westville County New Haven  
 Owner(s) State of Connecticut  Public  Private

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Present Use: University Library  
 Historic Use: College Library  
 Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road?  Yes  No  
 Interior accessible?  Yes  No If yes, explain During operating hours  
 Style of building Modernist - Formalist Date of Construction 1970

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

- Clapboard  Asbestos Siding  Brick  Wood Shingle  Asphalt Siding
- Fieldstone  Board & Batten  Stucco  Cobblestone  Aluminum Siding
- Concrete (Type Precast)  Cut Stone (Type \_\_\_\_\_)  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Structural System**

- Wood Frame  Post & Beam  Balloon  Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**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: 5 Approximate Dimensions 100' x 140'

Structural Condition:  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

Exterior Condition:  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

Location Integrity:  On original site  Moved When? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renovation, major addition (Architects: Arbonies King Vlock / Shepley

Alterations?  Yes  No If yes, explain: Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott) since 2005.

**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: Surrounded by the university's landscaped grounds and other buildings.

**Surrounding Environment:**

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: Located in the center of the Southern Connecticut State University campus, the building stands on the south side of Fitch Street, between Wintergreen Avenue and Pine Rock Avenue. The building is surrounded by other university buildings, all of mid-20th-century or later construction. The site is a generally level plateau with dramatic views of West Rock to the west and of Beaver Ponds to the east. The building entrance faces an open plaza which is the central point of campus circulation; a cantilevered double entry ramp system connects to the plaza.

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*)  
 The library building consists of a symmetrical 1-story podium wrapping across the north side, and partially around the east and west sides, of a 5-story rectangular block. Brown brick masonry and precast concrete walls are supported by an internal frame of structural steel. The first four stories are brick masonry, while the fifth, and uppermost story, consists of precast concrete fins with tall, narrow fenestration. The fifth story transitions into a wide, plain, concrete cornice and flat roof. Recessed concrete and projecting brick panels, break the building into 5 bays across the front (south) and rear (north) by 7 bays on the sides. Glass slot windows fill the depth of the recesses, allowing oblique light into the interior. A recessed full-width porch at the front of the building is supported by paired, rectangular concrete piers. A mechanical penthouse adds an additional floor to the center of the building. A 5-story addition is being added to the north side of the building; this has a curved north wall paralleling the arc of Fitch Street.

Architect Anthony Antinozzi Associates, 1970    Builder R. A. Civitello Construction Company, 1970  
Arbonies King Vlock / Shepley Bulfinch, 2005    Pike Company, Rochester NY/Fusco Corporation, 2005

• Historical or Architectural importance:  
 Built at a cost of \$3.75 million, the library was part of a \$30 million campus expansion. It replaced the original library in the 1954 Engleman Hall, the first classroom building on the campus. The 110,000-square-foot building had a capacity of 500,000 volumes, and housed a computer center and the School of Library Sciences. The library had a seating capacity of 1,500 and each of the five floors had study carrels, typing rooms, and group study areas. Advanced technological and electrical equipment included the latest computers, electronic retrieval apparatus, tape machines, and electronic reproduction equipment. The library was named in honor of college President Hilton C. Buley, who retired in February 1971. Buley was the driving force behind the construction of the new library as well as other expansion projects that took place during the early 1970s.

With its symmetrical plan, the classical format of base, middle, and cornice, and the columned entry portico, the building uses the stylistic vocabulary of the Formalist variant of Modernism; the brown brick and minimal openings give it a look of weighty severity.

• 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: 323/ 0429/ 001, Building Department permit files.

"\$3.7 Million SCSC Library Going Up", New Haven Register, January 7, 1968.

"New Buildings Opened at Southern Connecticut State College", New Haven Register, May 24, 1970.

Photographer Lucas Karmazinas    Date 8/20/2009

View Multiple Views    Negative on File NHPT

Name Lucas Karmazinas    Date 6/08/2010

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 \_\_\_\_\_

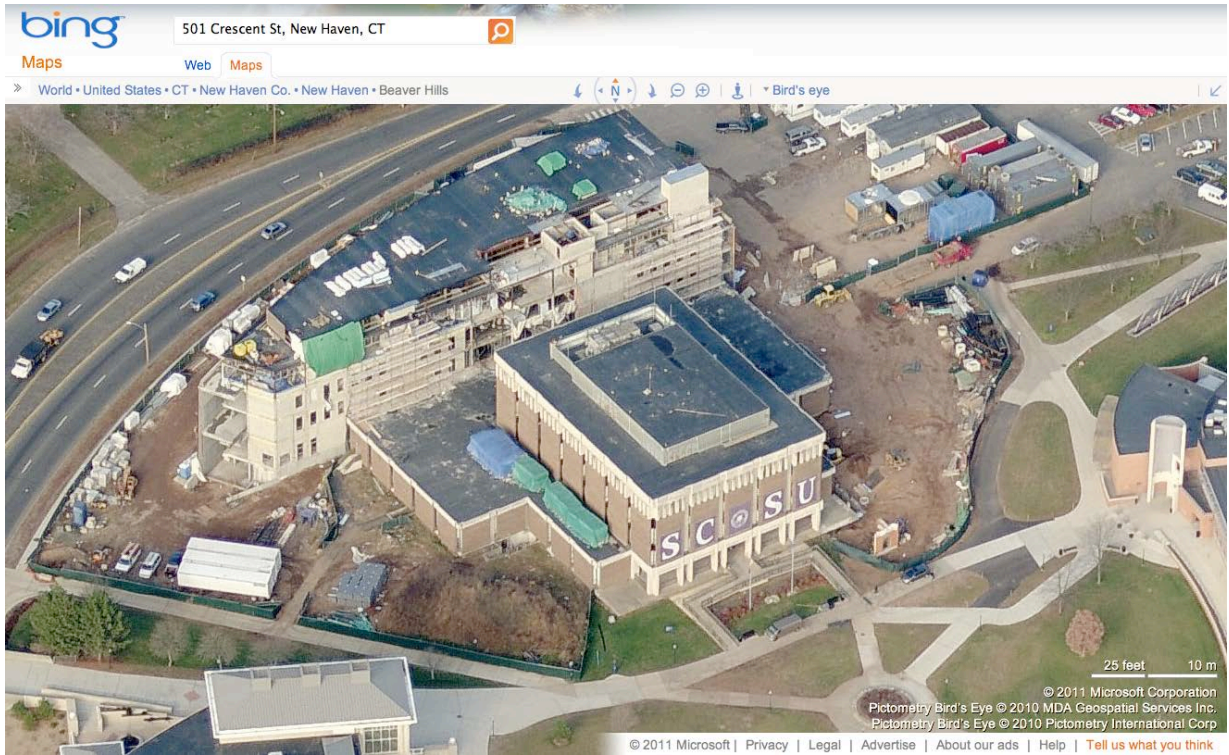


1. South (front) elevation from central plaza, camera facing north.



2. South (front) and east (side) elevations from central plaza, camera facing northwest.





3. South aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 6/21/2011.



4. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 359/1160/001, not to scale, North ↑.