



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) Dorothy R. Davis Hall, School of Education - Southern Connecticut State University

Building Name (Historic) Dorothy R. Davis Hall, Speech Building, 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: Institutional - Academic

Historic Use: Institutional - Academic

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No

Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain During operating hours

Style of building Modernist Date of Construction 1969-72

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>Cast-in-place</u>) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

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: 2 and 3 Approximate Dimensions 60' x 180', 60' x 60'

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: University landscaped grounds, other buildings, parking, ponds to east.

Surrounding Environment:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Located at the northern edge of the Southern Connecticut State University campus, the building stands on the east side of Fitch Street, at the end of Prescott Street. The building is adjacent to several new campus buildings built since 2000, including a multi-level parking garage. When first built, the building stood quite remote from the rest of the campus.

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

The main portion of the building, housing classroom, office, and laboratory spaces along a double-loaded corridor, is formed by an L-shaped block of regular bays while a sculptural free-form west wing houses 2 partially cantilevered lecture halls. The entry is located at the inside corner of the L and consists of a band of glass doors. The building has 2 floors on the north but 3 on the downhill south side. Wall cladding is brick with a wide, flush limestone belt course at the floor line and as a cornice at the roof. Windows are in full-height slot openings abutting the structural columns which are clad in limestone. At the north end of the L, a cylindrical brick tower houses stairs. At the west wing, a projecting cube forms a hood over a side exit while housing ventilation system louvers.

Architect Kane, Fairchild, Farrell, White, and Rallis Builder DeMatteo Construction Company, Hamden CT

• Historical or Architectural importance:
See continuation sheet.• 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.

"Construction Starts on Speech Building and Dorm", New Haven Register, November 16, 1969.

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

"SCSC Campus Has New Building For Speech and Hearing Therapy", New Haven Register, April 9, 1972.

Photographer Lucas Karmazinas Date 6/23/2010

View Multiple Views Negative on File NHPT

Name Lucas Karmazinas Date 7/06/2010

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 _____

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Davis Hall opened in the spring semester of 1972. Built at a cost of \$2 million, the facility was part of a \$30 million expansion project. Construction of the new facility began in the winter of 1969, and was expected to be completed by the summer of 1971. Delays, however, pushed back the opening. The main block of the 45,000 square foot facility contained classrooms, faculty offices, speech science laboratories, and the university's Speech and Hearing Clinic. The Speech and Hearing Clinic in particular was a point of pride for the University as it was one of the most advanced in the country at the time. Clinic Director, Dr. Virginia Branson toured other facilities as part of the planning process. The chairman of the speech department, Dr. William Jay Foley, noted, "In our consultations with the architects we incorporated the best features of those centers into the plans for this building." The center also served local pre-school, elementary, and junior high school youth with speech and hearing impairments. The building currently houses the School of Education.

The building's design expresses Modernist ideas in its siting as a free-standing monument surrounded by space; it was originally set apart from other campus buildings on the edge of the hill sloping down to ponds below, and looking out at another sculptural Modernist creation, the Jackie Robinson School (now demolished) to the south on the opposite bank. The pattern of limestone trim expresses the location of the structural frame, a Miesian technique, while the holding of the brick panels away from the structural columns reinforces the non-bearing use of the wall materials as purely a weather envelope. Finally, the abstract angular sculptural forms of the west wing make a gesture toward an Expressionist type of Modernism.



1. Southwest view of lecture hall wing, camera facing north.



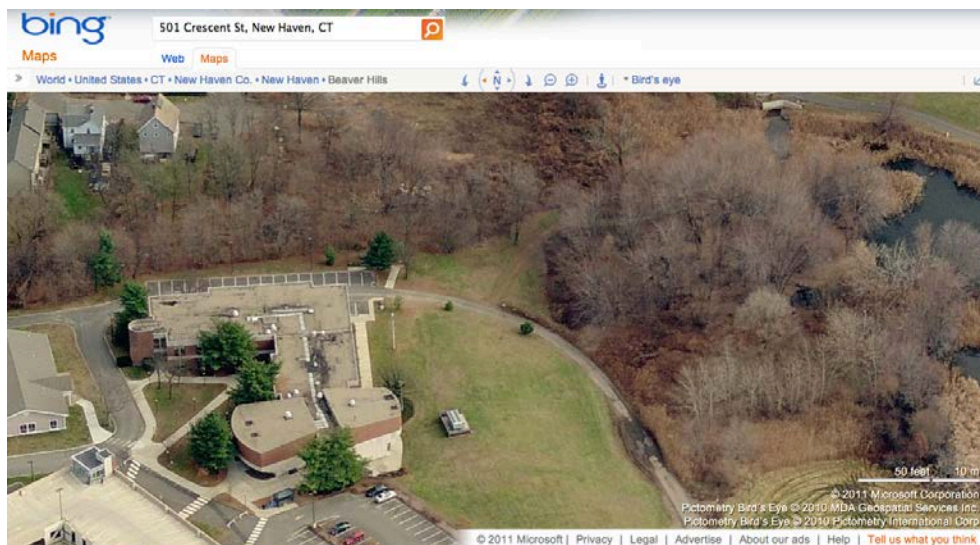
2. North view, entry at center and lecture hall wing at right, camera facing south.



3. West exit plaza from lecture hall wing, note mechanical louvers used as sculptural form; note missing limestone slab, illustrating use of limestone for similar effect to raw concrete, camera facing east.



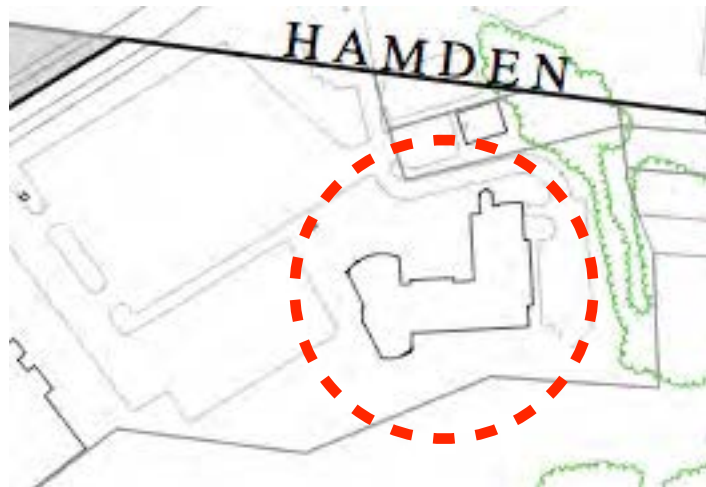
4. View of cantilevered lecture hall and building main entrance, camera facing east.



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



6. Aerial map view from Google Maps <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 7/06/2010.



7. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 323/0429/001, not to scale, North ↑.