



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) Anne E. Seabury Hall, School of Business, Southern Connecticut State University

Building Name (Historic) Anne E. Seabury Residence Hall, 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: Academic - School of Business

Historic Use: Academic - Dormitory Residence

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

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

Style of building Modernist - International Date of Construction 1959

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>Pre-cast</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 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: 4 Approximate Dimensions 35' x 130'

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 grounds, other buildings, asphalt paving areas, campus pond.

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 southeast corner of the Southern Connecticut State University campus, the building stands just to the northeast of the intersection of Crescent Street and Roger White Drive. The building is adjacent to the Old Student Center, and remote from other campus buildings. To the north lie the campus pond and Beaver Pond Park. Residential neighborhoods are located to the east and south.

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

See continuation sheet.

Architect Paul Schweikher with Earl Carlin Builder Monaco Construction Company

• 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. Stern, Robert A. M., Stern, Robert A. M., "The Office of Earl P. Carlin," *Perspecta* 9/10, 1965, New Haven, School of Architecture & Design, Yale University, p. 183ff.

Schweikher, Paul: <http://www.chicagobauhausbeyond.org/cbb/mission/schweikher.htm>

Photographer Lucas Karmazinas / Charlotte Hitchcock Date 8/20/2009

View Multiple Views Negative on File NHPT

Name Lucas Karmazinas / Charlotte Hitchcock Date 6/25/2011

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 Demolition planned

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

Seabury Hall has a simple rectangular footprint with a ground floor flush with grade. Seven structural bays are marked by square concrete-clad columns at the ground floor, where the walls are transparent glass enclosures in the plane of the columns, recessed 4' in from the cantilevered upper floors. The lobby at the south end is fully transparent, with the open tread steel stair visible through the glass wall. Operable awning windows and floor-to-ceiling fixed glass panels fit into a grid of metal mullions. A perimeter corridor just within the glass line retains the effect of transparency.

Above are three floors, originally dormitory rooms but later re-used as academic offices. Centered above each column line is a vertical band of curtain wall, consisting of pairs of metal spandrel panels, now painted grey-green, and pairs of triple casement windows. Between the openings are bands of pre-cast concrete cladding panels, appearing smooth from a distance but on close inspection showing the texture pattern of wood form boards. The building terminates in a minimalist detail above the 4th floor without a cornice. The north and south end walls also have a lesser cantilever over the recessed ground floor. A pair of full-height glazing panels fill a continuous slot between precast concrete cladding, lighting the stair within. At the south end in the lower left corner of the 2nd floor, sans serif applied letter on the concrete surface spells the building name. An areaway to cellar access is located across the south side of the ground level, screened by a concrete wall that is integrated into the appearance of the façade.

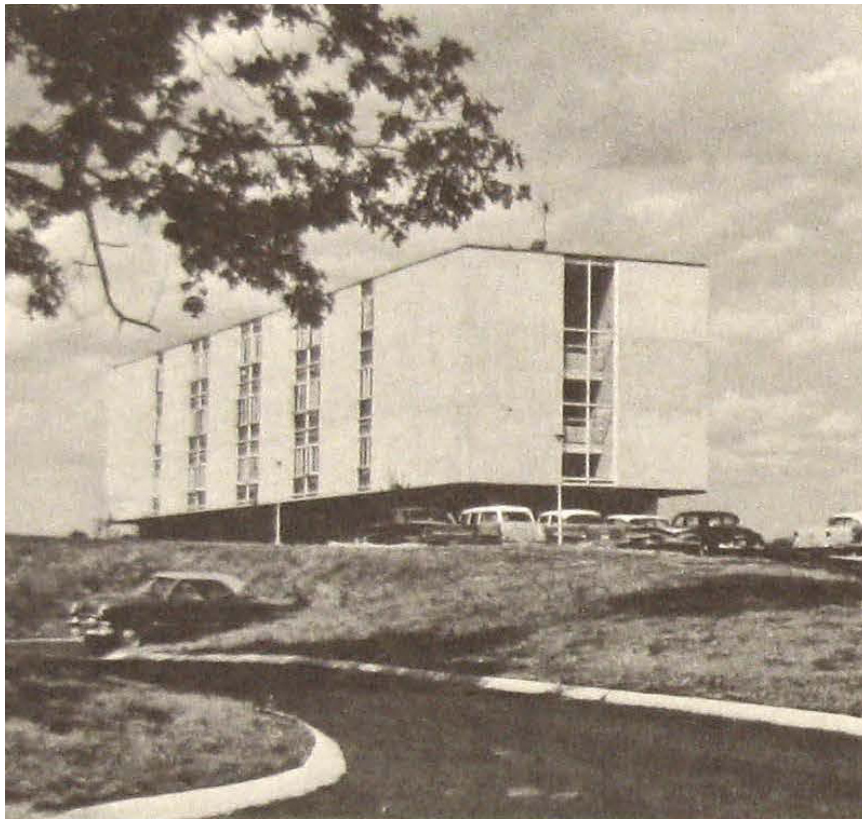
• Historical or Architectural importance:

Anne E. Seabury Hall opened in October 1959. The four-story residence hall was named after Anne E. Seabury, dean and professor of English at the university. Seabury's tenure at Southern spanned 24 years, from 1929 to 1953, and at the dedication of her namesake hall President Hilton Buley stated, "Exemplifying the highest ideals of the teaching profession Miss Seabury as a professor of English and as Dean of the College earned the affection and respect of her students, her colleagues, and the public." Seabury Hall was opened in 1959 as a women's dormitory housing 108 students. The building was part of a \$2.5 million expansion project that saw the completion of Seabury and Earl Halls, as well as the College Memorial Union, by the end of 1959 (see Inventory forms).

At the time of construction, the college was primarily training teachers; hence a dormitory for women. In the expansion of the 1970s the Southern became a liberal arts college and residential quads were created in the western part of the campus, leaving Seabury as an isolated outpost at the eastern fringe. The building has since been converted for use by the University's School of Business and demolition is planned following completion of renovation of the Old Student Center for the school.

The building is a deceptively simple-looking but finely crafted example of International style design. The block of the upper floors is raised on pilotis or columns, which leave the ground level transparent. Often this treatment results in a barren open space occupied by cars (see Inventory form for 200 Fountain Street) or the appearance of only a minimal setback in the façade (see Inventory form for 34 Park Street). Here the result is more successful as the glass wall allows the ground floor to be open but usable. The textured wall panels may be an early experimentation that led to the skilled use of concrete by Earl Carlin and Peter Millard (see Inventory forms for 952 Grand Avenue and 352 Whitney Avenue).

Architects: Paul Schweikher (1903-1997) came to New Haven from Chicago to assume the chairmanship of the architecture department at Yale, which he held from 1953-58. He subsequently moved to Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh. He was much influenced by Japanese design as well as by his work in Chicago. Earl Carlin (1923-) worked as the office manager for Schweikher's private practice in the mid-1950s after assisting Louis Kahn and Douglas Orr with the Yale Art Gallery project. Peter Millard, who partnered with Carlin, also worked in Schweikher's New Haven office.



1. Southwest view, from Stern, p. 186. Note the clear glass of the south end wall openings.



2. East view, camera facing west.



3. West view, camera facing northeast.



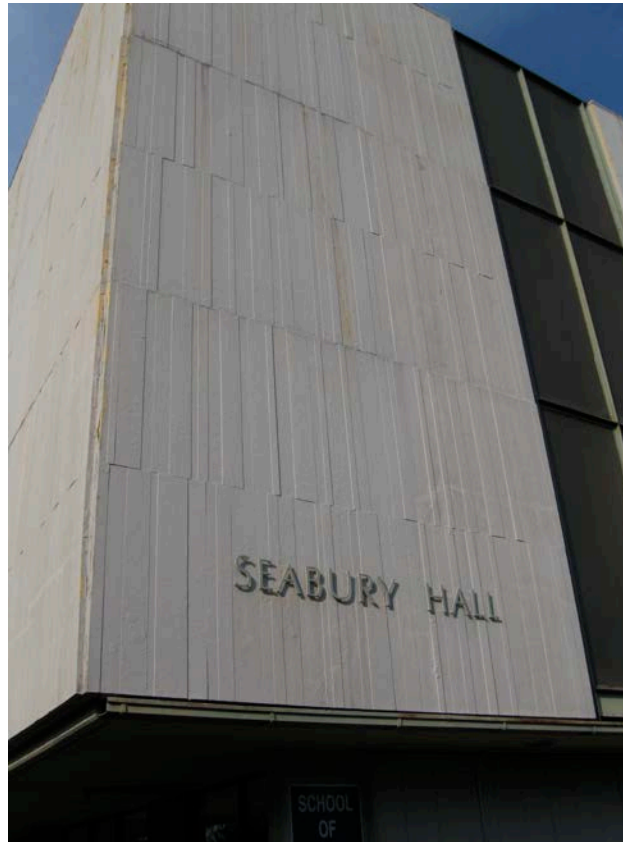
4. Southwest view, camera facing northeast.



5. Detail of curtain wall with windows, camera facing east.



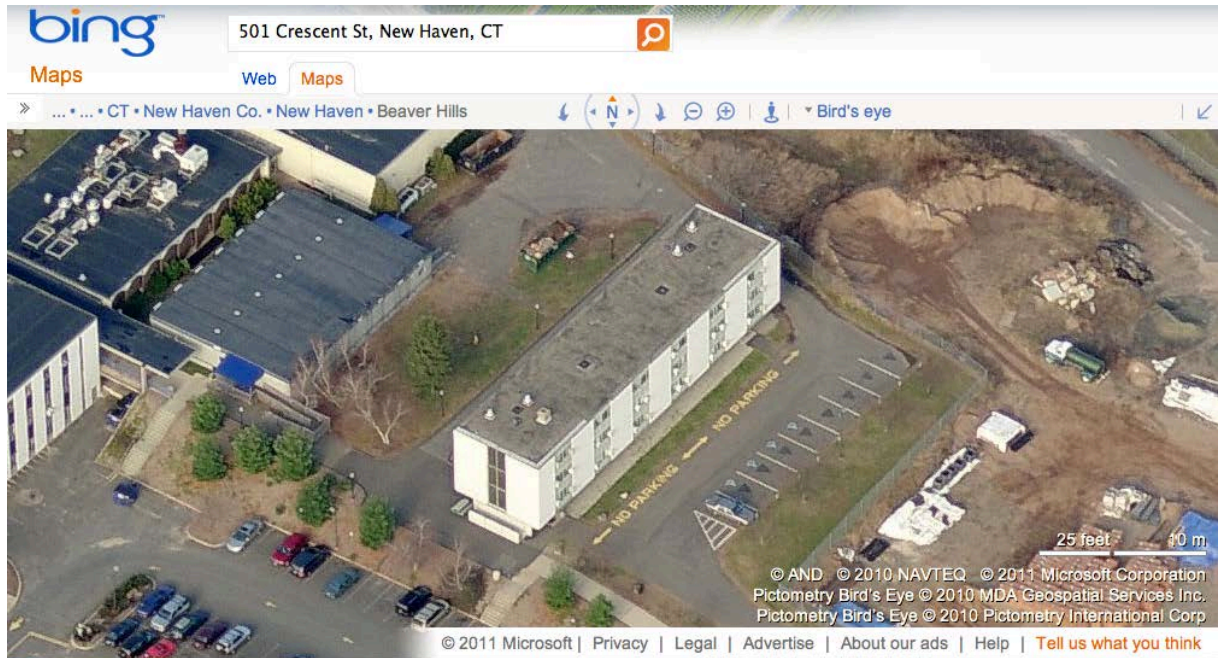
6. Detail of entry, camera facing south.



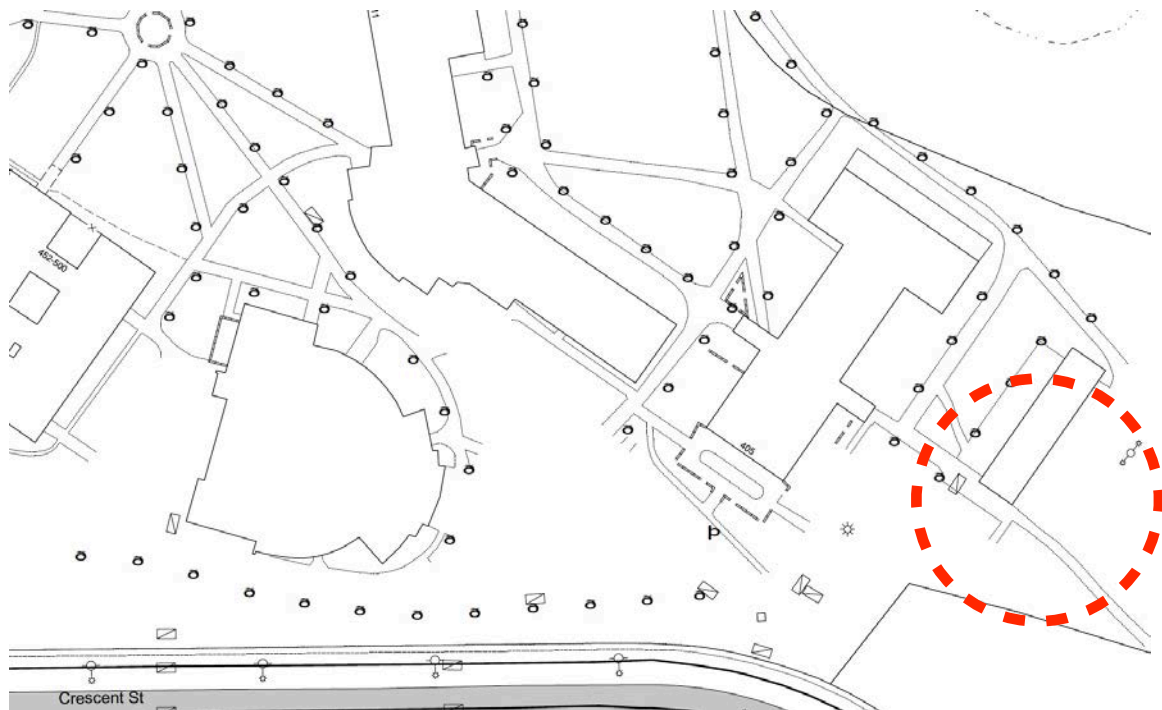
7. South wall detail, camera facing north.



8. West wall detail, camera facing east.



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



10. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 359/1160/001, not to scale, North ↑. Seabury is at the right. To its left are the Old Student Center, then Engleman Hall.