



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) Trinity Temple Church of God

Building Name (Historic) Trinity Temple Church of God

Street Address or Location 275 Dixwell Avenue

Town/City New Haven Village Dixwell County New Haven

Owner(s) Trinity Temple Church of God Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Religious - Church

Historic Use: Religious - Church

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

Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain Limited hours when open for congregation

Style of building Modernist Date of Construction 1965

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 type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <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 _____

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 **Approximate Dimensions** 78' x 125'

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: Parking lot at rear of building, plaza and steps at west front, landscaped side yard, black ornamental metal fencing, signage.

Surrounding Environment:

Open land Woodland Residential Commercial Industrial Rural

High building density Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The building stands at the southeast corner of Dixwell Avenue and Henry Street. The building is one of several mid-20th-century religious institutions located on Dixwell Avenue, a major neighborhood commercial street as well as a through route from New Haven to Hamden. To the east of the site is the former Winchester Repeating Arms factory complex, a major employer in the 20.

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

See continuation sheet.

Architect Harrison E. Baldwin Builder The Rice Construction Company

• Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheet.

- Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: 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 Assessor's Record: Map/Block/Parcel 282/0347/040, Building Department permit files.
- Dixwell Redevelopment Office pamphlet, "Dixwell Renewal News". Septmber, 1964.
- "3 Churches Planned for Dixwell Project", *New Haven Register*, November 30, 1964.

Photographer Lucas Karmazinas Date 11/12/2009

View Multiple Views Negative on File NHPT

Name Lucas Karmazinas Date 4/05/2010

Organization 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 _____

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

The building is roughly rectangular in plan and has a concrete foundation, variegated red brick masonry walls, and a flat roof. The tall main floor is a half-level up from grade, allowing a basement level to have some light through small windows. The building is set back from the street line more than the adjacent houses, allowing for a monumental flight of steps and a small plaza area at the west front facing Dixwell Avenue, and some landscaped area at the north side yard facing Henry Street. Projecting 2-story pavilions extend north and south from the main volume at the west end and near the east end of the building, probably stair towers. Those at the west have diagonal corner walls. The segmental-arched facade extends above the building's roofline and has an aluminum cornice with cornice returns. The entry has a centered, partial-width, two-story window wall with aluminum sash and doors flanked by a concrete segmental arch. There is a cantilevered roof over the entry porch. Three tall, rectangular 12-pane windows can be found in recessed bays on each of the side elevations; the windows have the form of a vertical wide center band with narrower sidelights. The corner pavilions feature a pair of windows having a picture window above an awning, on each floor.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

The "Dixwell Renewal Plan" targeted lower Dixwell Avenue for a comprehensive redevelopment and rehabilitation plan, which was initiated in the fall of 1964. The \$22 million project was carried out by the Redevelopment Agency in coordination with the Dixwell Community Council, as well as with local churches and businesses. The project was self-identified as, "The nation's outstanding example of the revitalization and improvement of an entire neighborhood through the dedicated efforts of residents, and public, private agencies and institutions." The Trinity Temple was constructed as part of the plan in the northern section of the Dixwell renewal area at the corner of Henry Street and Dixwell Avenue.

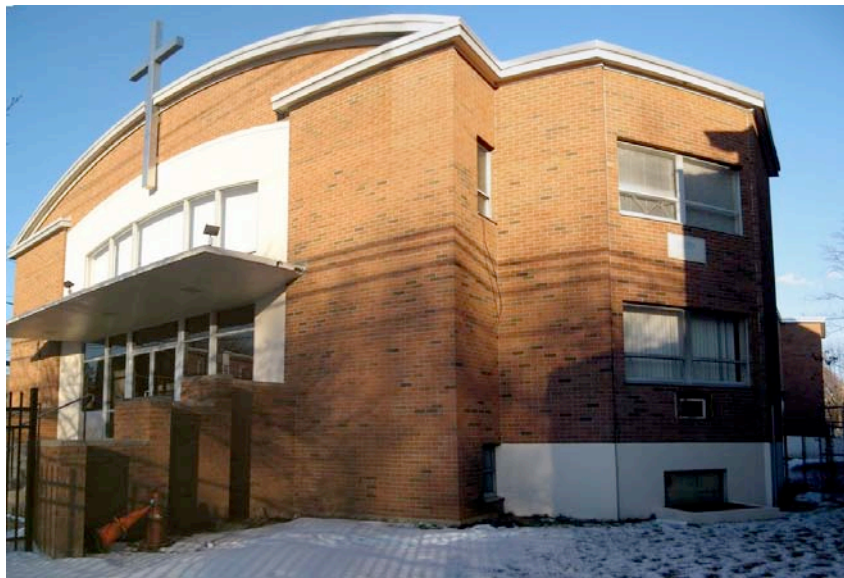
One of three churches included in the Dixwell Renewal Plan (see Inventory forms for 217 Dixwell Avenue and 100 Webster Street), the Trinity Temple Church of God in Christ was built to replace the congregation's old facility at 132 Foote Street, demolished as part of redevelopment efforts. The new church could seat 500 people and had a large meeting room and basement kitchen facilities.

The Trinity Temple was founded in 1929 in a storefront on the corner of Admiral and Ashmun Streets. The congregation moved to a more formal building on Foote Street in 1948; however this was slated for demolition by the Dixwell Redevelopment Plan to make way for a new elementary school. It was at this time that the site for a replacement building was integrated into the Dixwell Renewal Plan.

Architect: Harrison Earl Baldwin (1892 – c. 1952) studied at the University of Pennsylvania, served in the military in World War I, and subsequently worked in the offices of several local firms — Brown & von Beren, Norton & Townsend, and Fletcher & Thompson — before opening his own office. Thus he was a generation older than many of the architects designing Modernist works during the Redevelopment period. The style of this building has more in common with the stripped or simplified classicism of the work of Douglas Orr's office, than with the more abstract variants of Modernism being constructed during the 1960s.



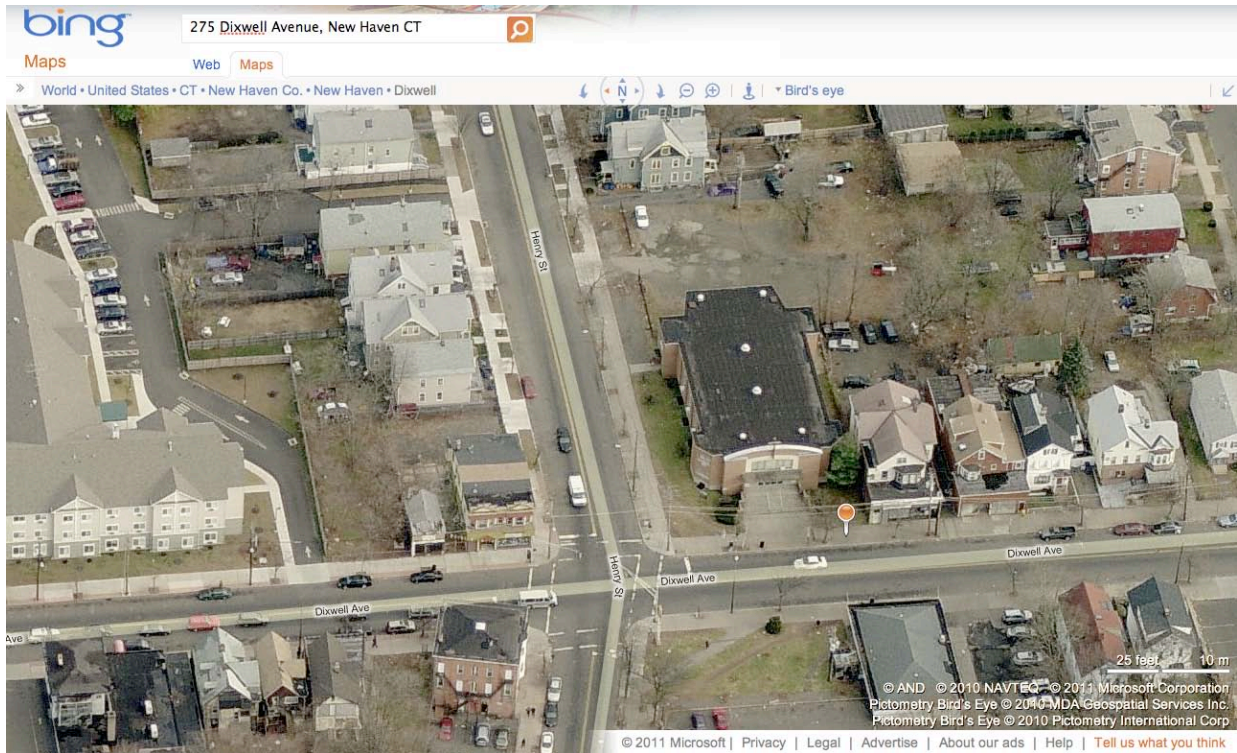
1. West (front) and north (side) elevations from Dixwell Avenue, camera facing southeast.



2. Southwest view from Dixwell Avenue, camera facing northeast.



3. Northwest view, camera facing southeast.



4. West aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 5/27/2011.



5. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 168/782/011, not to scale, North ↑.