



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) Edsan Chemical Company, Inc.
 Building Name (Historic) Edsan Chemical Company, Inc.
 Street Address or Location 438 East Street
 Town/City New Haven Village Wooster Square County New Haven
 Owner(s) Edsan-Fewes Limited Partnership Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Vacant
 Historic Use: Industrial

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____
 Style of building Modernist - International Date of Construction 1961

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>Cast-in-place and Block Masonry</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 Concrete Frame, Masonry Infill

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: 1 **Approximate Dimensions** 100' x 70' x 12' height

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: Window glazing subdivided by additional mullions

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: Paved parking lot on south side and front yard landscaping

Surrounding Environment:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Located on the west side of East Street north of Grand Avenue, the building sits adjacent to the main Amtrak rail lines and a residential area to the north. The area is a mid-20th-century industrial park and is surrounded by predominantly 20th-century 1-story flat-roofed buildings, although there are some 19th-century buildings located on the east side of East Street.

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

The Edsan Chemical Building is a flat-roofed 1-story building with a rectangular footprint built into the upward sloping grade. The structure extends across five principal bays of the façade. Full-height and full-width glazing recessed slightly behind the concrete frame, in bays 2 and 4, alternates with recessed concrete masonry infill. The facade is subtly asymmetrical, with the metal-framed double-door entry placed in the second bay. The side walls of the building are constructed of concrete masonry units with two small casement windows on each side. There is a 20' x 20' covered loading platform at the rear northwest corner. The original applied aluminum signage lettering is still in place on the concrete masonry panels.

Architect Pedersen and Tilney Builder Ralph Gabrielle, West Haven CT

• Historical or Architectural importance: Edsan was among the early companies that agreed to relocation to East Street (from Wooster Street). The building was constructed as part of an industrial development included as part of the larger Wooster Square Redevelopment Area. By locating the industrial park on the eastern side of the US Route 5 (eventually I-91) corridor, planners hoped to provide a divide between residential and industrial land uses in the Wooster Square area as determined by project architect and planner James Skerritt. The process of clearing the blocks began in 1958 and the majority of new construction was completed by 1964. Industrial and commercial structures were characterized by Modernist designs. This is a minimalist International Style-inspired building with its articulated structural frame, clean planes of glass and masonry, and use of the building wall as a sign-board with simple monochromatic applied lettering.

Architects: William F. Pedersen (1908-1990) and Bradford Tilney (1908-1999) practiced architecture together from 1950 until 1964 (see Inventory forms for 323 Temple Street, 34 Park Street, and 645 Grand Avenue) before starting separate offices. Each continued working through the next several decades.

• 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.

Hommann, Mary, *Wooster Square Design*, The New Haven Redevelopment Authority, 1965, p.137.

New Haven Register, "Wooster Square Redevelopment," 7/1959, New Haven Public Library Local History Room.

New Haven City Plan Department. Pamphlet, "Wooster Square Industrial District," undated.

New Haven Assessor's Record: 201/0588/002, Building Department permit files.

Photographer Amy Gagnon Date 8/15/2009

View Multiple views Negative on File NHPT

Name Amy Gagnon / Charlotte Hitchcock Date 10/28/2009

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:

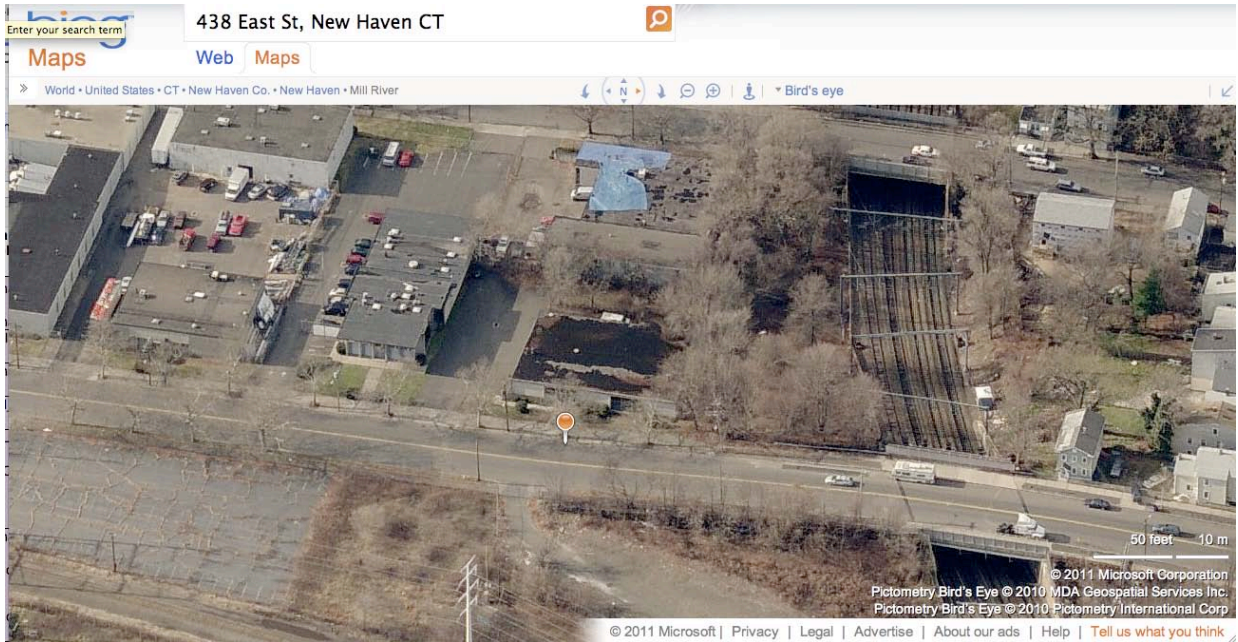
- None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private
- Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation Currently vacant



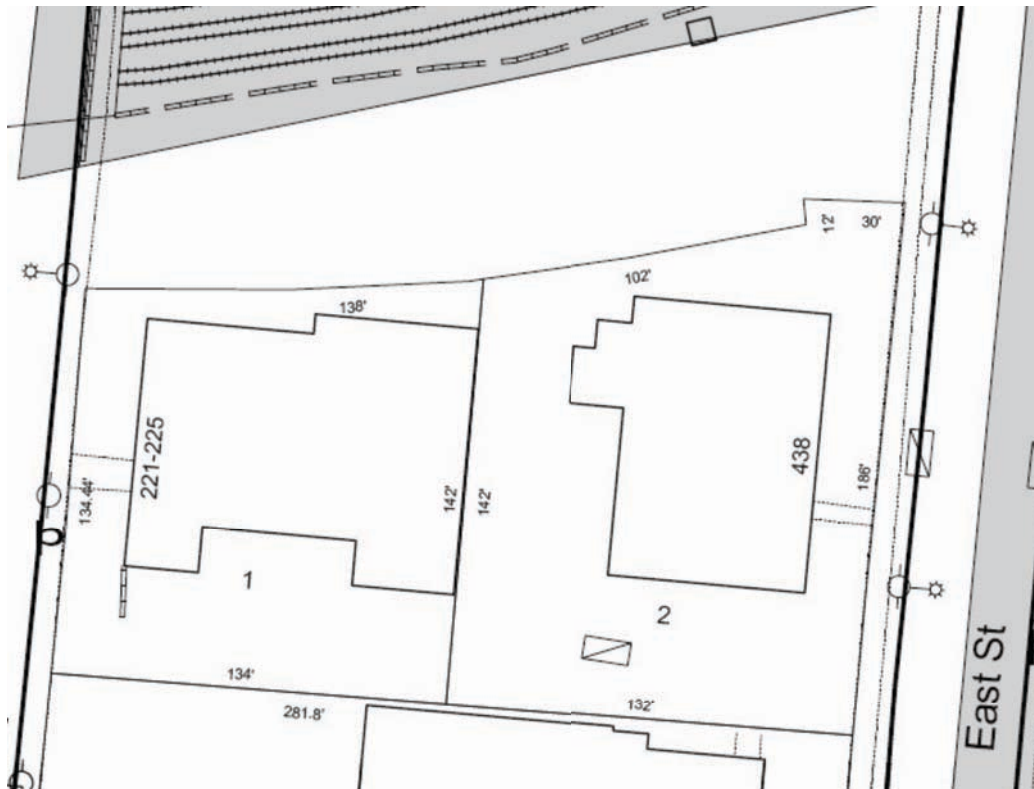
1. Northeast view from East Street, showing 4th and 5th bays of facade, camera facing northwest..



2. Northeast view from East Street, showing center bay of facade, camera facing northwest..



3. West aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 5/31/2011.



4. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 201/0588/002, not to scale, North ↑