



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) West Battalion Headquarters, New Haven Fire Department, Engine Co. 9
 Building Name (Historic) West Battalion Headquarters, New Haven Fire Department, Engine Co. 9
 Street Address or Location 120 Ellsworth Avenue
 Town/City New Haven Village _____ County New Haven
 Owner(s) City of New Haven Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Fire Station
 Historic Use: Fire Station

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain Some areas
 Style of building Modernist Date of Construction 1969

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 type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Terne metal</u> | | |

Structural System

- Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel
 Other Reinforced & Precast Prestressed 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 Rubber

Number of Stories: 1 **Approximate Dimensions** 90' x 137' x 20' 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: _____

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 apron in front of engine bays, hedges, lawn, and landscaping.

Surrounding Environment:

Open land Woodland Residential Commercial Industrial Rural

High building density Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The fire station is located on Ellsworth Avenue in the block between Stanley Street and Edgewood Avenue in a residential neighborhood of 19th- and early 20th-century wood-framed homes and brick apartment buildings of 2-3 story height. The use of brick and terne metal, with concrete exposed selectively, harmonizes with nearby brick apartment buildings.

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

See continuation sheet.

Architect Carlin, Pozzi & Associates

Builder Giordano 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.

City of New Haven Assessor's Record: Map/Block/Parcel: 336/ 1265/ 014.

See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock

Date 7/14/2009

View Multiple Views

Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock

Date 11/15/2009

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 _____

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

An earlier firehouse stood on the north half of the site; an adjacent lot to the south was purchased and structures demolished to provide more lot area for the new station, which is set back from the street behind a paved apron.

The building consists three abstract rectangular volumes: a three-bay equipment garage, a tall and narrow hose drying tower set back to the rear (west), and a shorter single story wing to the north for office and residential spaces. The equipment bays have massive concrete piers framing the doorway, across which the roof structure spans. The structure consists of three pairs of lateral precast concrete girders, with precast concrete planks spanning from front to rear. At the front elevation, the structure is faced with a fascia of terne metal material in a standing seam pattern that would normally have been used for sloped roofing. Here set on a vertical surface, it expresses the idea of roof while actually functioning as a wall cladding. A rear overhead door allows equipment to move through out into the rear parking area.

The hose tower and residential wing are constructed of a warm reddish brick, giving the building a scale and color compatible with its residential context. Roofs are flat except for an aisle running along the south side of the equipment space, topped with sloping skylights; a similar detail can be seen at the Whitney Avenue Fire Station by the same architects, but utilized there to enclose a stair. This skylit aisle brings clerestory light into the interior of the garage space. On the north side of the equipment area, clerestory windows above the roof of the lower wing bring in light as well. The three overhead doors were originally fully glazed, but have been replaced by partially solid panels for energy conservation. Windows in the residential wing are treated as abstract unornamented holes cut into the volume, and have simple aluminum-framed sash recessed behind the surface.

The building has a pedestrian entrance in a glazed link between the residential wing and the equipment garage; a simple shed-roofed porch of terne metal shelters the doorway. A similar roof covers the rear door to the residential wing. A brick wall stands forward of the building to carry applied signage lettering in a sans serif font; this is typical of the firehouses designed by the Carlin firm. At the north side a small area of landscaping connects the low wing to the scale of the neighborhood.

• *Historical or Architectural importance:*

This is the fourth of five fire stations designed by the firm for the New Haven Fire Department during the decades of the 1960s and 1970s, including the Woodward Avenue Fire Station (1960), the Fire Headquarters on Grand Avenue (1961), the Whitney Avenue Fire Station (1962), and Howard Avenue Fire Station (1979). See Inventory forms for 824 Woodward Avenue, 952 Grand Avenue, 352 Whitney Avenue, and 525 Howard Avenue. Only the Goffe Street building (see Inventory form for 125 Goffe Street), designed by Venturi and Rauch, was by a different designer as the Fire Department consolidated and replaced stations throughout the city during the urban renewal period.

The basic plan of this 1-story station resembles the Woodward Avenue building, with the addition of a hose tower and a pedestrian entrance into the residential wing from the street side. However, the Brutalist design tendencies are not exhibited here; this firehouse blends more politely with its neighbors by echoing the materials and scale of nearby buildings. Only the concrete piers framing the overhead doors hint at the scale of structure needed for a clear span roof across the open equipment space. Modernist style is expressed in the abstraction of volumes into clean rectangular and triangular solids, but the total effect is a low-key blend of traditional materials in a Modernist design.

• Sources:

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

Dedication plaque in building lobby.

New Haven Journal Courier, September 20, 1971, "Inside Your Fire Stations," #3 of a series, New Haven Public Library Local History Room files.

Photograph of old firehouse: <http://cityofnewhaven.com/Fire/Stations.asp#westbat>

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1. East elevation from Ellsworth Avenue, camera facing west.



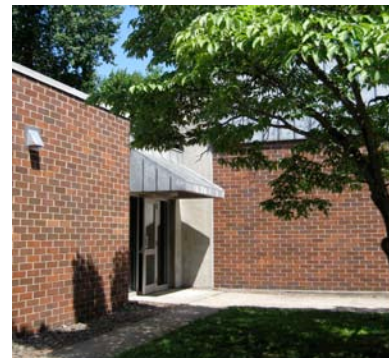
2. Southeast view, camera facing west, hose tower at rear beyond signage wall.



3. East detail of pedestrian entry, camera facing west.



4. Southwest view of rear of building, camera facing north.



5. Rear entry porch roof detail.

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6. East front doors, view of skylights, camera facing south.



7. West rear door, view of skylights, camera facing southeast.



8. West rear view of hose tower, camera facing east.

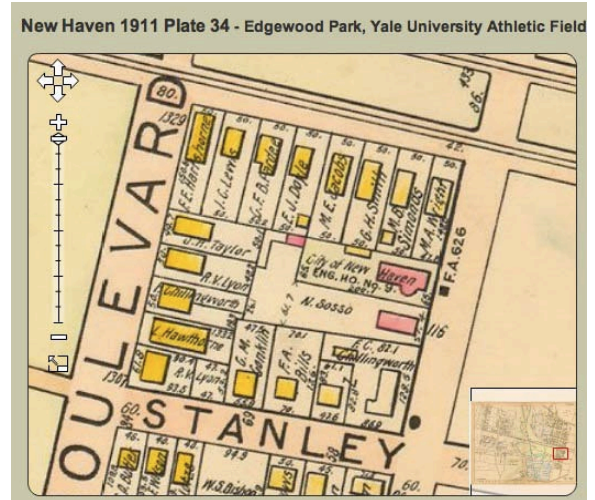


9. Dedication plaque inside lobby.

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10. Earlier firehouse (demolished) at 120 Ellsworth Avenue

11. Atlas of 1911, map showing 116 Ellsworth Avenue, which was combined with Number 120.

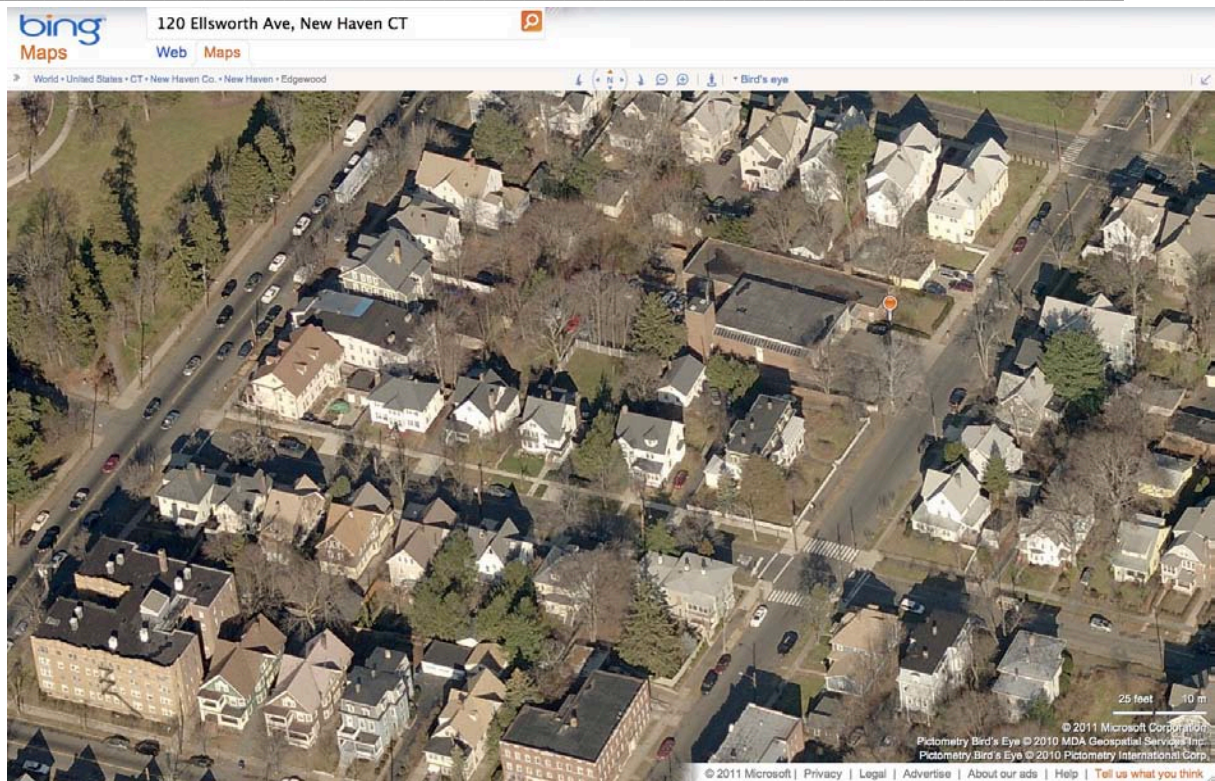


12. Site Plan – from City of New Haven Tax Map/Block/Parcel: 336/ 1265/ 01400, not to scale, North ↑

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13. South aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 6/01/2011.