

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) The Farnam Neighborhood House
 Building Name (Historic) The Farnam Neighborhood House
 Street Address or Location 162 Fillmore Street
 Town/City New Haven Village Fair Haven County New Haven
 Owner(s) Farnam Neighborhood House Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Youth and family recreational and education facility
 Historic Use: Youth and family recreational and education facility
Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain during program hours
 Style of building Modernist Date of Construction 1963

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>masonry</u>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Glass Block</u> | | |

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: 1 and 2 **Approximate Dimensions** 93' x 94'

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: Entrance ramp and porch added.

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: Chain link fencing, adjacent lots used for play, parking.

Surrounding Environment:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The building is located in a highly built-up area of mostly residential 19th- and early-20th-century multi-family houses with the mixed uses typical of the time before zoning regulations. The abandoned Shoreline Railroad right-of-way provided part of the site area, still evident in the building's truncated corner. Adjacent properties to the north and east (across the street) have been added to the property for parking and a play area for the nursery school at the Neighborhood House.

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

The building at 162 Fillmore Street is rectangular in plan, except for a truncated northeast corner. The building is of 2-story height and is constructed of brick and concrete block masonry walls with a flat roof. The east and north walls are brick while the rear (west) and south side walls are painted block. The east entrance to the building is off-center at the far right (north) and has a 3-step entrance with a ramp, concealed by a low wall, that leads up to a recently-added enclosed glass entryway. The southern portion, enclosing a full height gym/activity space, features smooth brick walls in Flemish bond, with small rectangular windows set high in the wall and infilled with glass block. The north portion of the front (east) façade, recessed slightly back from the street, features generously-sized steel-framed ribbon windows across the second floor. The north side has a series of multi-pane metal-framed windows, some replaced with modern aluminum sash. A chimney is located near the middle of the north wall. A small shed addition off the southwest corner allows rear service access from Blatchley Avenue.

Architect Harry W. Labov & Joseph U. Labov, P.E. Builder Harry Labov, Halarco Co., 185 Front Street

• Historical or Architectural importance:

The Farnam Neighborhood House is New Haven's oldest neighborhood center, tracing its roots to the settlement house movement around 1900. The merger of two older community centers in 1935 resulted in the present name, after benefactor Professor Henry Farnam. In 1906 a building was erected on Hamilton Street; it was demolished in 1939 to make room for the Farnam Courts housing project. The Neighborhood House moved to a new facility on Beach Street (Douglas Orr was the architect), soon to be in the path of I-91 and to be demolished as well. The next new building was part of New Haven's Wooster Square Redevelopment Plan and the Farnam Neighborhood House was built at its current location on Fillmore Street in 1963. The Farnam Neighborhood House was planned in a severe stripped Modernist style with a flat roof, simple massing, and an absence of ornamentation. The design has a very plain, near-industrial aesthetic similar to buildings of the late 1950s and early 1960s such as the Lombard Street Fire Station (see Inventory form for 412 Lombard Street).

• 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: 168/780/01200, others, Building Department Permits No. 65371, 66727 (4/18/1962), cost \$130,000.

Farnam Neighborhood House website: <http://www.farnamhouse.org/history.htm>

Douglas Orr archived drawings at the New Haven Museum and Historical Society, Projects No. 3913 and No. 4406.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 12/04/2010

View Multiple Views Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 12/05/2010

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 _____



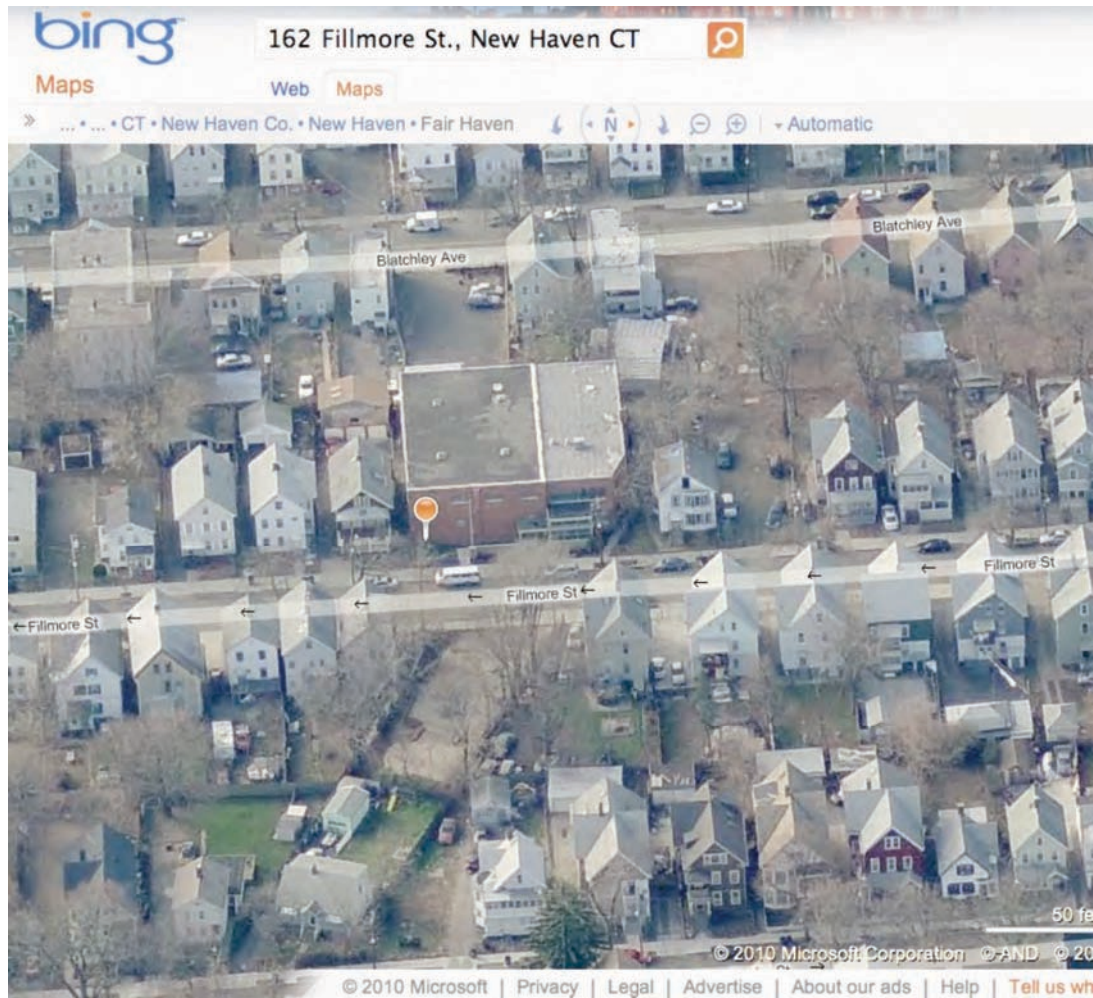
1. Southeast view of Fillmore Street façade and south wall, camera facing west.



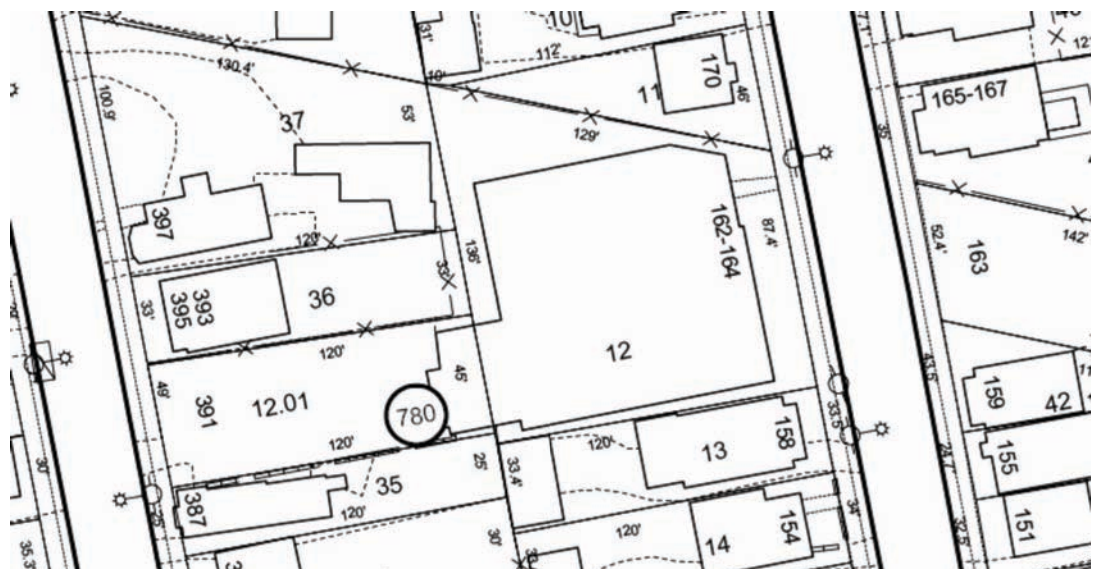
2. East view of Fillmore Street façade and entry, Camera facing northwest.



3. North view of side elevation from adjacent parking area, camera facing south.



4. East aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 12/05/2010.



5. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 168/780/012, not to scale, North ↑.