

# 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) Lenzi Park / Playground  
 Building Name (Historic) Lenzi Park / Playground  
 Street Address or Location 6 Jefferson Street  
 Town/City New Haven Village Wooster Square County New Haven  
 Owner(s) City of New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation, and Trees  Public  Private

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Present Use: Public Park  
 Historic Use: Public Park  
**Accessibility to public:** Exterior visible from public road?  Yes  No  
 Interior accessible?  Yes  No If yes, explain During daylight hours  
 Style of building Modernist Landscape Date of Construction 1955,1970

**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 _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Lawn</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:** N/A **Approximate Dimensions** 0.5 acres

**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: Demolition of concrete wall, original playground structure

**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: Painted mural on south wall of building located at north end of park, iron fence (both later additions).

**Surrounding Environment:**

Open land     Woodland     Residential     Commercial     Industrial     Rural

High building density     Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: Lenzi Park is located along Jefferson Street between St. John Street and Grand Avenue; one block to the east is the elevated I-91 highway. The park is located two blocks north of Wooster Square, and is surrounded by 19th and early-20th-century homes on St. John Street, commercial structures on Grand Avenue, and Modernist buildings on Hughes Place, Greene Street, Wooster Street, and Chapel Street (see Inventory forms for 511 Chapel Street, 285 Greene Street, and 6-30 Court Street).

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

Lenzi Park is composed of a rectangular grassy plot of land, which serves as the main park space, and a widened stretch of sidewalk along Jefferson Street. The main section contains a curving walkway, which runs along the park's north-south axis, and is accented by recently-planted cherry trees. A mural has also been painted on the south façade of a building bordering the north end of the park, and is currently considered part of the park. A simple wrought-iron fence also surrounds the grassy space. North of the main park plot, a grouping of concrete stools or bollards in various shapes and sizes is spread along the center of the sidewalk on the east side of Jefferson Street. Shade trees are interspersed among the concrete stools. The fence stools and trees, and a few benches, appear to be the only remaining features of Dan Kiley's 1970 design.

Architect (Landscape) Dan Kiley Builder \_\_\_\_\_

• Historical or Architectural importance: First constructed in 1955 by the New Haven Redevelopment Agency, and redesigned by renowned landscape architect Dan Kiley in 1970, Lenzi Park was part of the New Haven "playground modernization program" which placed numerous parks on designated lots in commercial, industrial, and residential sectors of the city. The park was erected on the site of the former Eaton School and named after Joseph Lenzi, a marine who grew up in the neighborhood and was killed on Iwo Jima during WWII. The purpose of such a park was described in Mary Hommann's *Wooster Square Design*: "In addition to helping to beautify the neighborhood, the objective of these new parks [was] to coordinate dispersed development and community facilities." However, the park's condition severely deteriorated in the 1980s and 1990s. In 2001, the park received a Forest Service grant for its rehabilitation, which included the removal of its Kiley-designed features (such as the playground structure) and the addition of a new pathway, new trees, and a mural painted on the side of a structure bordering the park at its north end.  
See continuation sheet.

• Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture & Urban Design*, Yale U. Press, New Haven, 1976, p.193.  
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: 209/ 569/ 001, Building Department permit files.  
Hommann, Mary, *Wooster Square Design*, The New Haven Redevelopment Authority, 1965.  
See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 1/29/2010

View Multiple views Negative on File NHPT

Name Julie Rosen Date 12/27/2010

Organization The New Haven Preservation Trust

Address 934 State Street, P.O. Box 1671, New Haven, CT 06507

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Renovations in Spring 2011 have removed the trees along Jefferson Street and relocated the bollard street furniture.

**Threats to the building or site:**

None known     Highways     Vandalism     Developers     Renewal     Private

Deterioration     Zoning     Other \_\_\_\_\_     Explanation Ongoing renovations

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

6 Jefferson Street, New Haven, CT

3

•Historical Architectural Impacts (continuation):

The architect's work here is a fine example of the work of the firm of ...

•Sources (continuation):

"City of New Haven ..."

"Photograph ..."

"Revised ..."

Other sources include ...

Additional information is provided ...

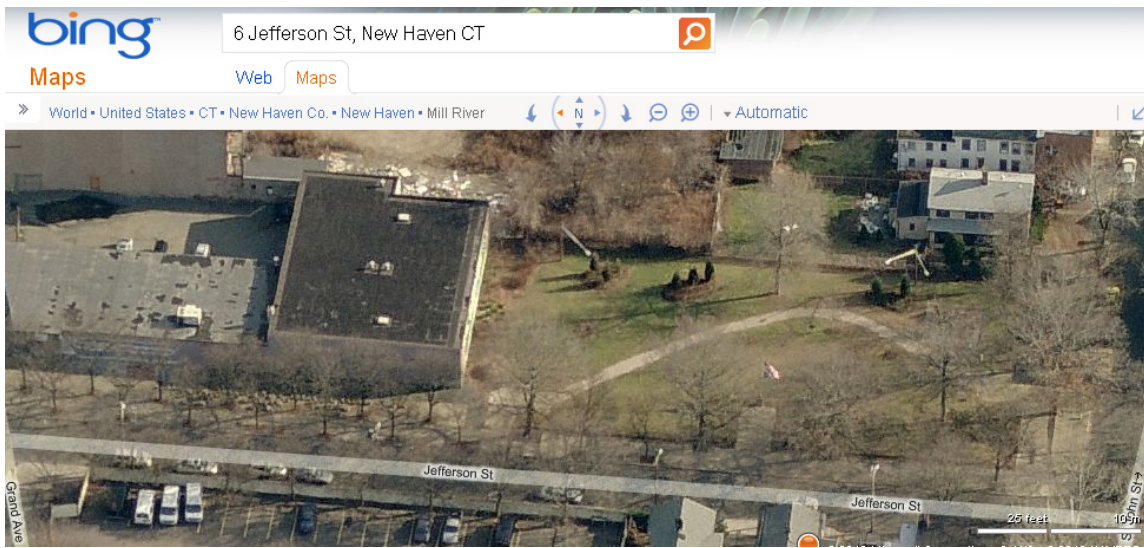


1 View from Jefferson Street across the street

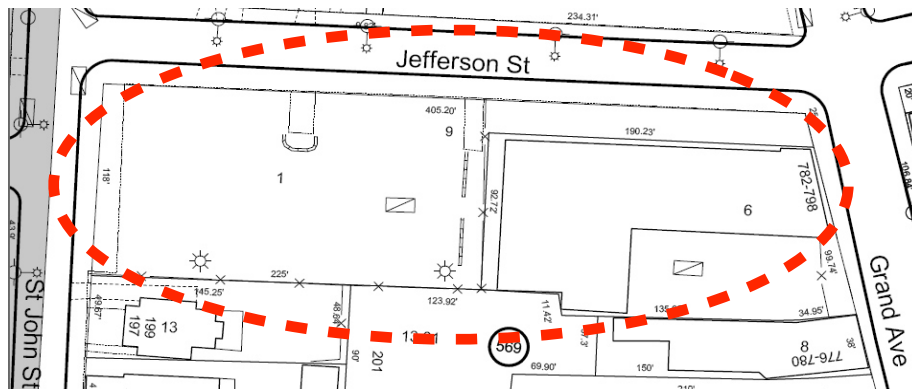
6 in 6 mis 6 h n & T o im 0 6 it u i R h a d F b H art 6 d C 0  
 HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES in th  
 6 Jeffe n Stre , New Hava CT



2 View of m Jeffe s tre s dewak me af ac g n th



3 We a e ial view of m B i m ap h tp w w b g n m ap a d 0



§ it p h n d e aif m C ty n ew H ava 0 M ap 0 t o IN o th ↑.