



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) ATT / SNET Central Office Building Three
 Building Name (Historic) Southern New England Telephone (SNET) Central Office Building Three
 Street Address or Location 400 State Street
 Town/City New Haven Village _____ County New Haven
 Owner(s) Southern New England Telephone Company Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Telecommunications Equipment and Offices
 Historic Use: Telecommunications Equipment and Offices

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____
 Style of building Modernist - Brutalist Date of Construction 1975

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>Pre-cast</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 _____

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: 3 Approximate Dimensions 172' x 147' x 50' 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: Sidewalk paving and street trees.

Surrounding Environment:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: The site is on the west side of State Street at the corner of Court Street on the east edge of the Downtown and directly across the street from an Amtrak and Metro North railroad line which runs in a sunken right-of-way. Several 19th-century 3- to 5-story buildings stand to the north and south. Directly adjacent to this building on the south is a tunnel entrance leading to underground services for 1960s-era urban renewal projects including the Federal Building and City Hall located in the next block to the west.

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

See continuation sheet.

Architect Westcott & Mapes, Project Manager George Dexter Builder Dwight Building Company

• Historical or Architectural importance:

In the 1950s and early 1960s a crowded commercial neighborhood along State Street was partially cleared by the Redevelopment Agency. This building was built on a cleared parcel to house telecommunications equipment for the Southern New England Telephone Company, one of several office and machinery buildings located nearby (see Inventory forms for 227 Church Street, 310 Orange Street, and 300 George Street). Prior to its purchase by SBC and later by ATT, SNET was a locally-owned telephone company with a pioneering history and a major role as an employer in the New Haven area. The Brutalist style of this building and extensive use of pre-cast concrete, echo the Armstrong Rubber Company building and the Becton Laboratory designed by Marcel Breuer (see Inventory forms for 500 Sargent Drive and 15 Prospect Street) for sites in New Haven. Westcott and Mapes has been a local architecture/engineering firm since the early 20th century.

• 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 Tax Assessor's Record: Map/Block/Parcel: 240/ 0256/ 00800, Building Department permit files.

Pannenberg, Frank, personal communication, 2011.

Shumway, Floyd, Hegel, Richard, *New Haven: an Illustrated History*, New Haven, 1981, Hardcover edition, p.212.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 10/29/2009

View Multiple views Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 7/12/2010

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 _____

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

The primary façade of this building faces east toward State Street and consists of a 3-story precast concrete frame with glazed infill. The 1st floor is recessed so that the upper floors, cantilevered over the sidewalk, form a covered walkway at street level. All floors appear to be used as office spaces, with windows facing the street but no prominent entrances or commercial activity. An understated building entry is located at the building's south end. Along the Court Street (north) façade, the wall is composed of large textured pre-cast concrete modules arranged in a pattern that appears intended to create a sculptural effect on a blank windowless wall. A taller block at the southwest corner includes a free-standing chimney and has a ribbed concrete finish and strip glazing panels in dark tinted glass. Except for the offices facing State Street, the building appears to contain telecommunications equipment, its bulk somewhat disguised by the band of glazed spaces facing State Street.



1. East view from State Street, camera facing northwest.



2. Northeast view, camera facing south.



3. North wall facing Court Street, camera facing southeast.



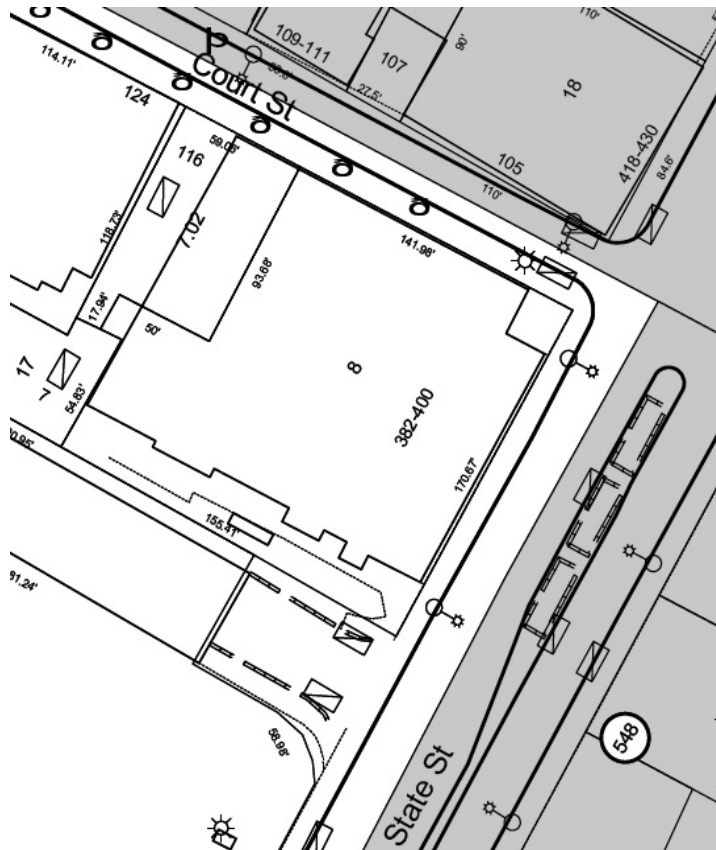
4. South side abutting tunnel, camera facing northwest.



5. Northeast view, camera facing south, from corner of State and Court Streets.



6. Northeast aerial view facing southwest, from Bing Maps: <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 7/12/2010.



7. Site Plan – from City of New Haven Tax Map 240/ 0256/ 00800.