

# 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) Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven

Building Name (Historic) Standard Tire Company

Street Address or Location 37 Union Street

Town/City New Haven Village Wooster Square County New Haven

Owner(s) 37 Union Ave LLC TTEE  Public  Private

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Present Use: Industrial - Offices and warehouse

Historic Use: Industrial - Retail tire sales and garage

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road?  Yes  No

Interior accessible?  Yes  No If yes, explain During business hours

Style of building Modernist - Brutalist Date of Construction 1962

**Material(s)** (Indicate use or location when appropriate):

Clapboard  Asbestos Siding  Brick  Wood Shingle  Asphalt Siding

Fieldstone  Board & Batten  Stucco  Cobblestone  Aluminum Siding

Concrete (Type Block Masonry)  Cut Stone (Type \_\_\_\_\_)  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 Rubber Membrane

Number of Stories: 1 Approximate Dimensions 33' x 78' x 15' 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: Asphalt paving and chain link fencing, landscaped entrance patio.

**Surrounding Environment:**

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: Fair Street formerly connected State and Olive Streets but was truncated and became a cul-de-sac access for this .5-acre site at the corner of Union Street, and two properties to the east. The residential Wooster Square neighborhood is to the east and the commercial downtown is to the west. The residential area is a mix of 19th- and mid-20th-century 2- and 3-story buildings while the adjacent commercial buildings are contemporary, built according to the Redevelopment Plan of the 1950s and 60s.

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*) The building has a simple rectangular plan and flat roof. The main level is entered from the west side through a landscaped patio at an upper-level grade and there is a lower level entered through an overhead door at the east side. The walls are exposed concrete block masonry - blocks are scored at the center into two 8-inch squares, and laid in an offset pattern. The west facade has a solid wall at the right (south) half and a series of projecting fin walls alternating with full-height glazing at the left side. The asymmetrical composition emphasizes the openness of a wide display window at the far left, and accents the entry with a closer rhythm of four fins to the right. The glazing has been divided subsequently and solid panels have reduced the extent of the glass. There appear to have been additional glass areas at the northeast corner and on the east facade as there are similar groupings of projecting fin walls; the openings have been infilled with horizontal siding and small replacement windows. A recent exterior paint job with a contrasting colored horizontal faux cornice has obscured the verticality of the fins which continue to the roof line.

Architect deCossy, Vercelli, & Winder Builder Joseph N. Rice, Inc.

• Historical or Architectural importance: The immediate area was planned as a model wholesale-service district between rehabilitated residential Wooster Square and the downtown. The philosophy of the Redevelopment Agency and its staff architect was to require a high level of design in their projects, intending to re-make the image of the city as a clean and modern place. Therefore attention was paid to the design of clean abstract forms. Hommann made a point of the importance of design, illustrating this property in "Wooster Square Design" along with a "before" photograph of the prior facility of Standard Tire (Hommann, p. 138).

Architects: The firm of Douglas Orr, deCossy, Winder & Associates was organized in 1963 as a successor firm to the Office of Douglas Orr, and continued in practice for several decades. The name deCossy, Vercelli, & Winder appears to have existed briefly prior to the joining with Douglas Orr. See Inventory forms for 80 Audubon Street, 1 State Street, 90 and 100 Sargent Drive. Frank Dodd Winder (1920-2003) studied at Yale, and designed his own home at 10 Briar Lane, Hamden.

• Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *A Guide to Architecture & Urban Design*, Yale U. Press, New Haven, 1976, 228 pp.

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. 138.

New Haven Tax Assessor's Record: Map/Block/Parcel: 225/ 532/ 002, Building Department permit files.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 11/30/2010

View Multiple Views Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 12/18/2009

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 \_\_\_\_\_



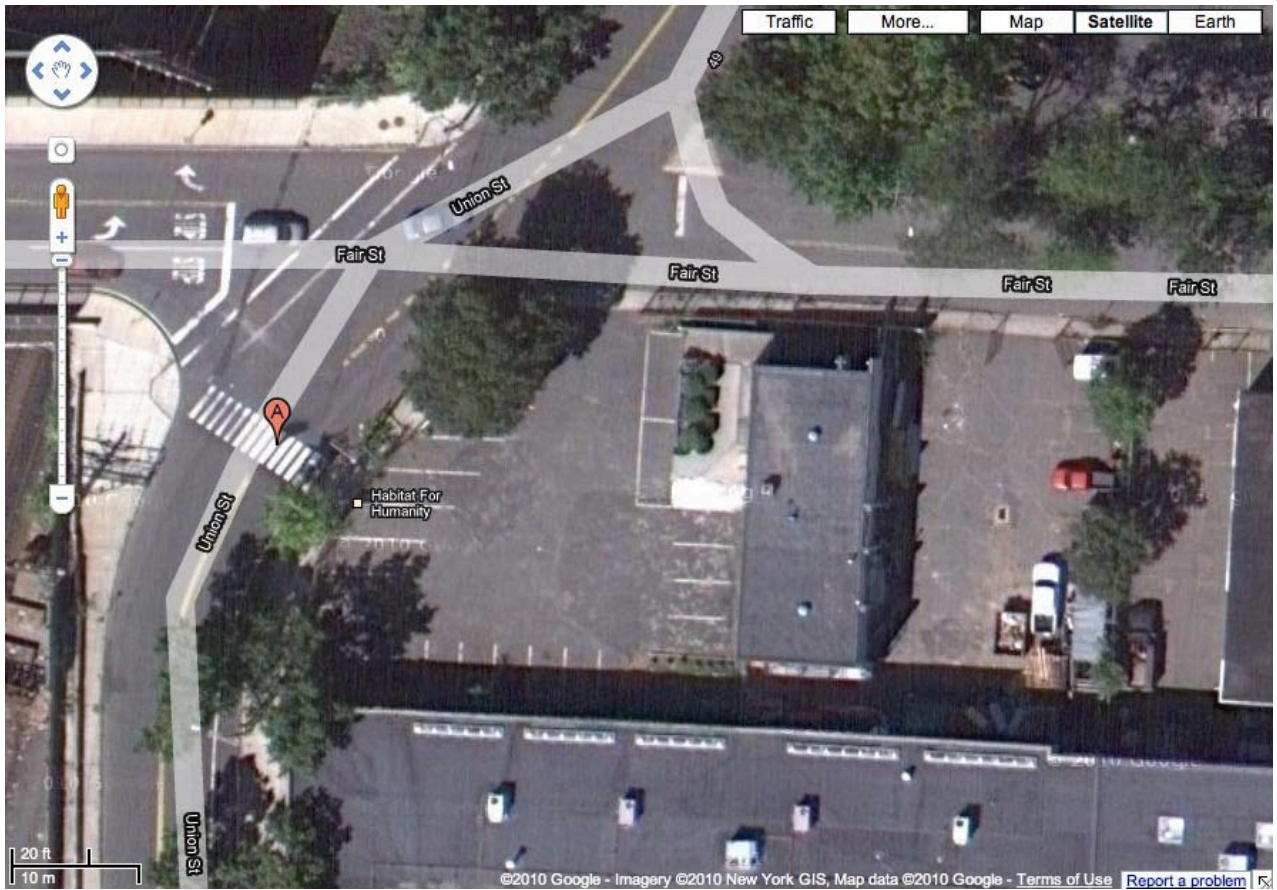
1. West view from Fair Street, camera facing east.



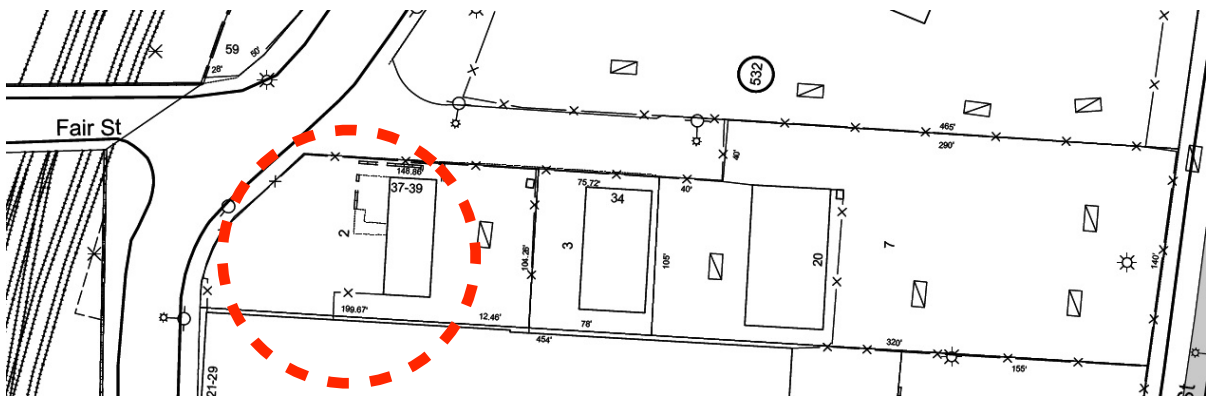
2. West view from front parking, camera facing east.



3. Northeast view from Fair Street, camera facing southwest.



4. Aerial view from Google Maps <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 12/18/2010.



5. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 225/532/002, not to scale, North ↑.