

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) McConaughy Terrace Public Housing
 Building Name (Historic) McConaughy Terrace Public Housing
 Street Address or Location 410 Valley Street, South Genessee Street
 Town/City New Haven Village West Hills County New Haven
 Owner(s) Housing Authority of New Haven Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Multi-family Residences
 Historic Use: Multi-family Residences
Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____
 Style of building Vernacular Modernist Date of Construction 1948

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <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: two Approximate Dimensions various

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: Gable roofs replaced original flat roofs, window replacement.

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: Driveways, fencing, lawns, landscaping

Surrounding Environment:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: The West Hills neighborhood of New Haven east of Whalley Avenue, and Beverly Hills to the west, were among the last large undeveloped areas in the city. On rolling land sloping off the cliffs of West Rock, a series of streets were laid out in curving patterns, giving a suburban feel to the terrain. A large number of small-scale single- and multi-family homes were constructed in the early 1940s, along with this public housing development in 1947-8 on terraces between Valley Street and the West River, intended as moderate income rental housing.

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

The McConaughy Terrace development includes a series of brick 2-story multi-family buildings. Some are square free-standing buildings housing several families. Others are long row- or townhouse-style buildings. Flat roofs with overhangs and tiled walls at the entryways are touches of Modernist design. The siting of the buildings on flat terraces set off from each other by sloping banks, and separated by ample expanses of lawn, walkways, and playfields, gives the layout of the development a Corbusian look of ranks of buildings floating in an open (and somewhat barren) landscape.

Architect Office of Douglas Orr

Builder Fusco-Amatruda Corporation

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Notable and prolific local architect Douglas Orr designed a development of 300 dwelling units for the West Hills area, constructed rapidly in 1943. After the war, his office also designed McConaughy Terrace (Wiedersheim, p. 17) as publicly-owned rental housing. Douglas Orr (1892-1966), a prominent New Haven-based architect, practiced in various architectural styles throughout his career, always adapting to the latest trends. He served as President of the American Institute of Architects (1947-1949), and "left a stronger architectural imprint on commercial, social, and religious New Haven than any man since Henry Austin." (Wiedersheim, p. 3) Trained in Beaux Arts architectural principles at Yale, Orr became known for his Colonial Revival designs in the 1920s and for his Art Deco work in the 1930s. By the 1950s much of his work was based on a Modernist philosophy, although he continued to work in Colonial Revival styles throughout his career.

• Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and 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.

New Haven Tax Assessor's Record: Map/Block/Parcel: 402/ 1183/ 05300, 423/ 1185/ 01200, others.

Dana Collection, New Haven Museum & Historical Society, v. 58, pp. 34, 55-8 (news articles, Housing Authority Annual Reports).

Wiedersheim, William A., *Journal of The New Haven Colony Historical Society: Douglas W. Orr, F.A.I.A., Exhibition Catalogue*. New Haven: New Haven Colony Historical Society, 1980, print.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 9/14/2010

View Multiple views Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 11/29/2010

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:

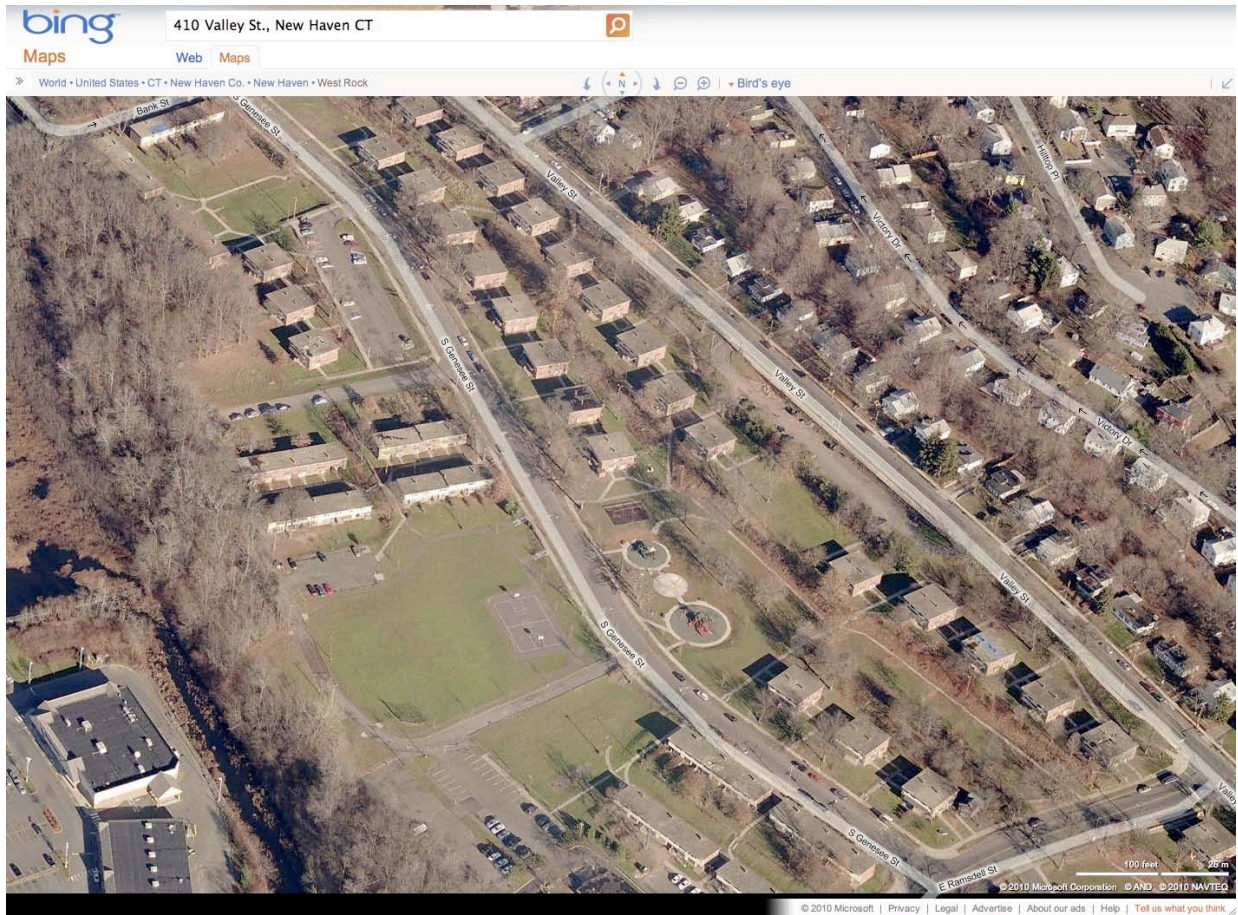
- None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private
 Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation _____



1. Southeast view from Valley Street parking lot, camera facing northwest, buildings after renovation.



2. East view of South Genesee Street, camera facing southwest, buildings after renovation.



3. Aerial view looking north before renovation, from Bing Maps, <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 11/29/2010.