



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) Libby's Italian Pastry Shop
 Building Name (Historic) Libby's Italian Pastry Shop
 Street Address or Location 139 Wooster Street
 Town/City New Haven Village Wooster Square County New Haven
 Owner(s) Josephine and Dolores Dell'Amura, Marie D'Angelo, Leona Delcore Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Commercial - Bakery
 Historic Use: Commercial - Bakery

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain Public areas
 Style of building Modernist - International - Miesian Date of Construction 1966

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

Structural System

- Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel
 Other Concrete Block Masonry (CMU)

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: 2 Approximate Dimensions 64' x 85'

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: Awning constructed on 2nd-story balcony

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: Open porch at front, paved parking at rear

Surrounding Environment:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: The Libby's building is located on the north side of Wooster Street, west of Chestnut Street, in the Wooster Square neighborhood. It is surrounded by many Italian restaurants housed in both historic and modern buildings. This structure matches the scale of neighboring structures but differs in its Modernist style. The ground floor houses the bakery and the second floor a dwelling unit. The Libby's shop is built close to the sidewalk, aligned with the typical 19th-century context, which is somewhat eroded by parking lots that have replaced some buildings.

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

The free-standing, 2-story concrete masonry, glass, and steel structure is visually separated into two parts: a glass-walled ground-floor and a second floor composed mainly of concrete masonry units with several sets of windows, surrounded by a steel mesh-screened porch. This second-floor porch overhangs the first story and is supported by unadorned steel I-beams, creating a modernist version of a colonnade. The first-story "wall of glass" is separated into five bays by interior-exterior I-beams that mirror the porch supports. Each section has a transom window and four vertical panes the same height as the entrance door (several of the panes are blocked out with an opaque white material); the windows are framed in aluminum. Horizontal steel plates supporting the porch continue onto the sides of the building, and run along the top of both the first and second floors, creating a line of black against the white-painted CMU. A similar porch is on the back of the building and a one-story CMU extension is located at the northeast corner of the main structure.

Architect Damuck & Painchaud Builder The Rapid Building Construction Company

• Historical or Architectural importance: Libby's Italian Pastry Shop was founded by Liberato and Guiseppina Dell'Amura in 1922. It was originally located in an old brick building at 142 Wooster Street. During the urban renewal period, many areas of the Wooster Square neighborhood were demolished and subsequently redeveloped, including the lot on which Libby's stood. In 1965 the pastry shop was rebuilt (very close to its original location) as a Modernist structure. The expression of the steel structural frame on the exterior was a hallmark of the International Style of modernism, particularly associated with the work of Mies van der Rohe, here continued in a relatively modestly scaled structure.

Architects: Kelton C. Painchaud and Walter E. Damuck were principles of the firm Damuck & Painchaud (in existence from 1960-1965), located in Madison CT. Painchaud was a Yale-trained architect (1949) who served as a draftsman for the Office of Douglas Orr from 1952-1953. He started his own firm in 1956 and partnered with Damuck in 1960. Damuck studied at Drexel University (1939) and served as the senior architect for the State of Connecticut (period unknown) before establishing the architectural practice with Painchaud. After 1965, Damuck established his own firm in New Haven.

• Sources:

Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture & Urban Design*, Yale U. Press, New Haven, 1976, p.190.
 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: 207/ 0543/ 018, Building Department permit files.
 Renewal Plan for the Wooster Square Project Area, New Haven Redevelopment Agency, 1954.
 See continuation sheet.

Photographer Julie Rosen Date 8/27/2010

View Multiple views Negative on File NHPT

Name Julie Rosen 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 _____

• Sources (*continuation*):

"Damuck & Painchaud (firm)," ahd4001298. The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects. The American Institute of Architects Archives, 1962, 1970, <http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/Home.aspx>.

Libby's Italian Pastry Shop, Wooster Street, Wooster Square Project Area, New Haven, before Redevelopment. 1960s. Photograph. New Haven Museum and Historical Society, New Haven. *Connecticut History Online.* Web.

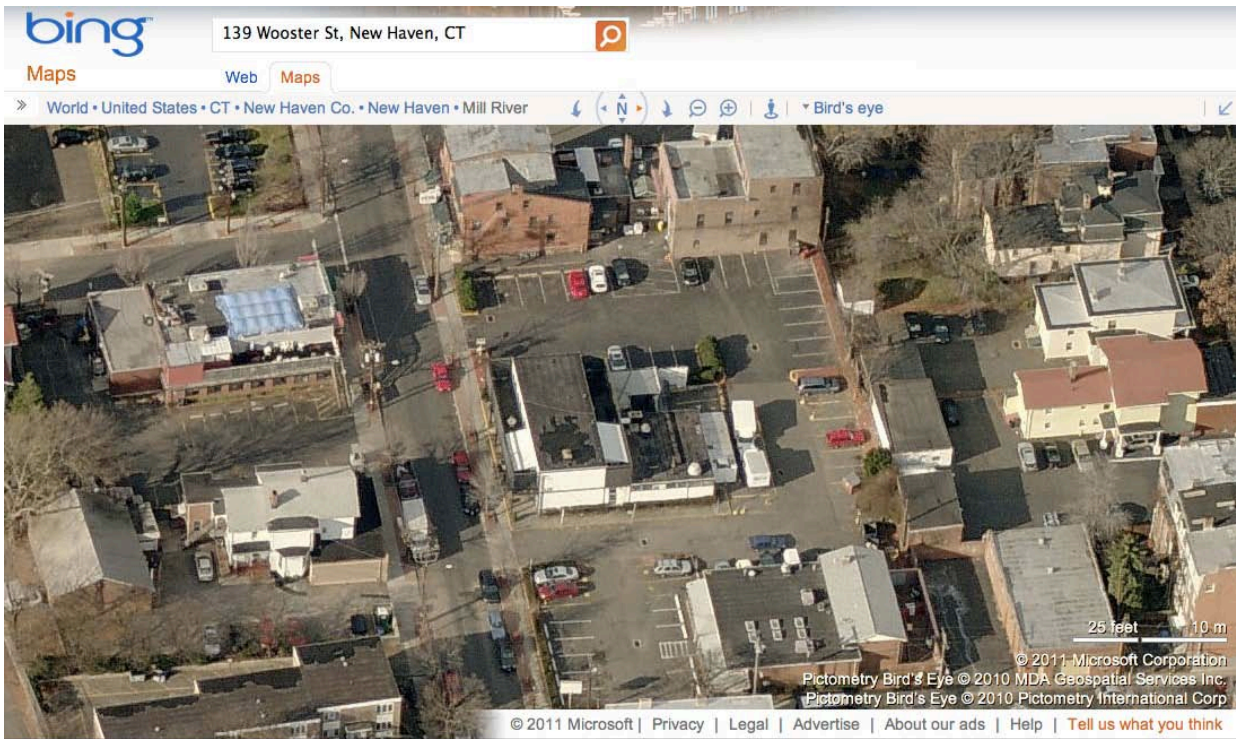
"About Us." *Libbys Italian Cookies & Pastries.* Web. <<http://libbyscookies.com/aboutlibbys.php>>.



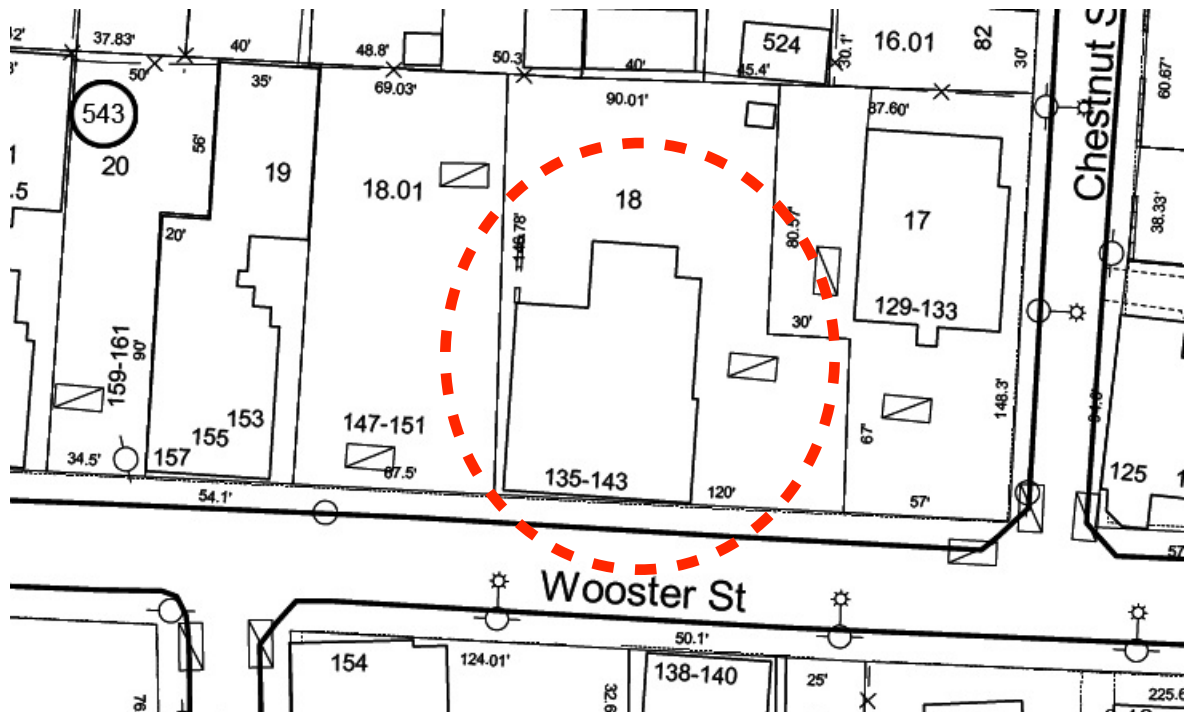
1. Southwest view from street, camera facing northeast.



2. West view from adjacent parking lot, camera facing east.



3. East aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 5/22/2011.



4. Site plan — detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 201/543/018, not to scale, North ↑ ■