



## 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) 149 York Street  
 Building Name (Historic) Yale University Press Building  
 Street Address or Location 149 York Street  
 Town/City New Haven Village \_\_\_\_\_ County New Haven  
 Owner(s) Yale University  Public  Private

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: University  
 Historic Use: Bakery and warehouse; University press; University offices.

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

Interior accessible?  Yes  No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Style of building Modernist Date of Construction 1924, 1960

**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 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 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 Rubber membrane

**Number of Stories:** 2 **Approximate Dimensions** 130' x 198'

**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



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- Historical or Architectural importance:

Architecture: The pierced block screen, clearly the most eye-catching design element of 149 York, was popularized by Edward Durell Stone on such buildings as the widely publicized American Embassy in New Delhi, India (1954). In this case, it provided an easy and cost effective way of covering an outdated façade without actually rebuilding the façade and while still allowing light and ventilation. The blocks continue into the lobby as a decorative feature. The organization of the precast concrete posts and beams suggests classical columns and entablature, a reflection of interest in applying classical formality and order to Modernist buildings in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Lincoln Center, in New York City, is a prominent national example of this trend, but it is also reflected in Granbery's East Rock Lodge (85 Webster St.; Granbery, Cash and Associates, 1967; see inventory form).

History: Giving older commercial buildings new, modern façades was a common practice in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as historic downtowns sought to keep up with the booming suburbs. While this building was remodeled for an institutional user rather than a commercial one, it reflects the same urge to present an up-to-date image to the public. Because of its previous commercial use, the floor plan and structure of the building were ideally suited to printing operations and to support heavy printing presses. According to the Yale facilities website, the Press moved out in 1973, and the building housed the University Printing Service and the offices of University Communications and Information, the Weekly Bulletin and Calendar, Alumni Records, Alumni Magazine and Journal, and University News Bureau. It is now part of the Arts Area Complex and is scheduled for a major renovation.

Architect: E. Carleton Granbery (1913-1998) received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Yale and practiced in New Haven with his wife, Diana, a graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Design. The Granberys were especially proud of this work, highlighting it in a biography submitted for Carleton's 25<sup>th</sup> reunion at Yale.

- Sources (*continuation*):

Carleton Granbery Associates, Architects. "Office of Carleton Granbery Architect." Brochure, dated 1 January 1970. Scanned copy in possession of Christopher Wigren.

"Granbery, E. Carleton, Jr." AIA Historical Dictionary of American Architects (<http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/ahd1016724.aspx>).

"Press Turns Dingy Bakery into New Home." *The Architectural Forum*, February 1961: 87.

Yale University Class of 1935. *Quarter Century Record*. 1960.

Yale University, Facilities website. <http://www.facilities.yale.edu/#top> (accessed 20 November 2010). Facility no. 2745.



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1. West view from York Street, camera facing southeast.



2. Detail, pierced block screen & concrete frame.



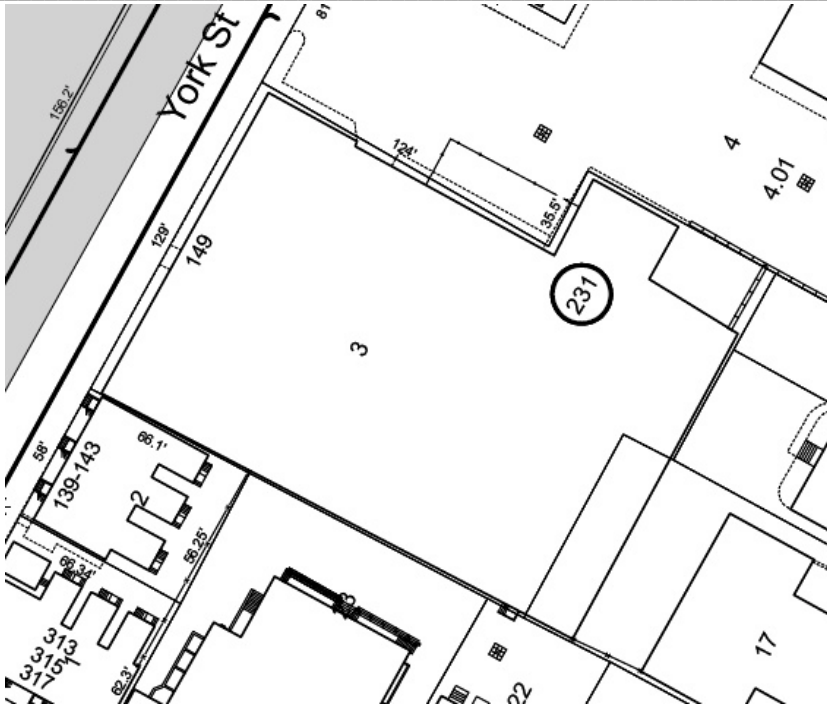
3. Detail, original brick and cast-stone façade.



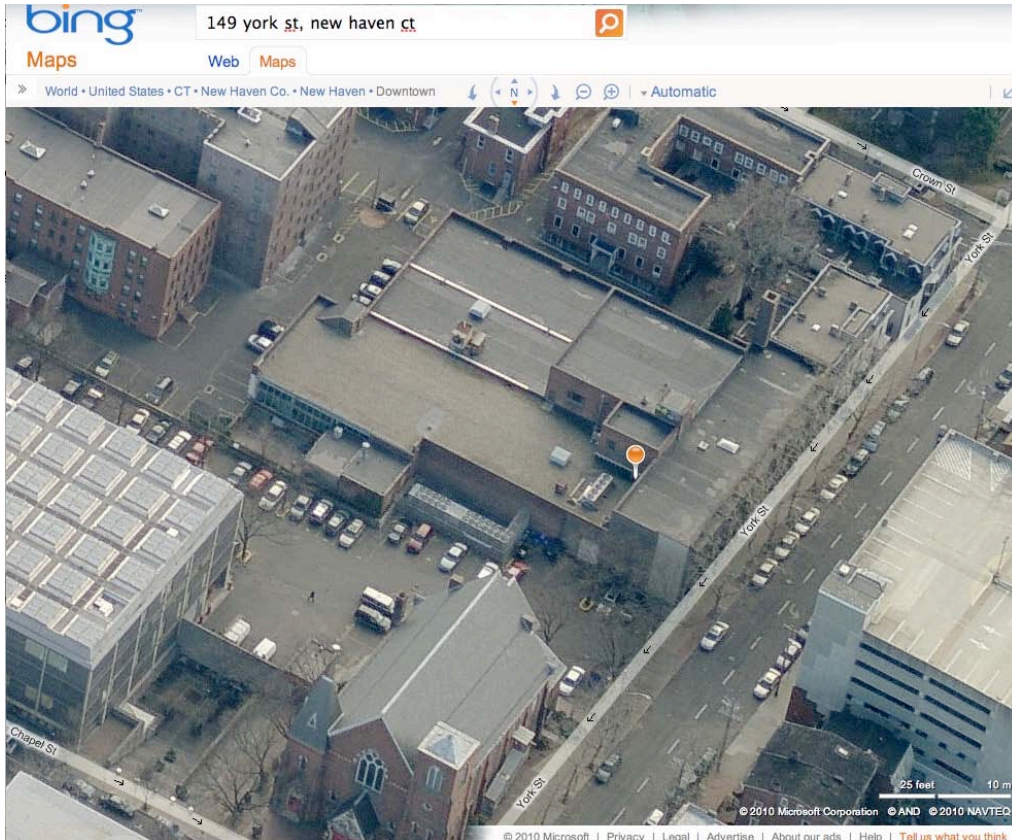
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4. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 261/ 0231/ 00300, not to scale, North ↑



5. N aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 12/20/2010.