



## 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) Court Street Landscape between Academy and Olive Streets  
 Building Name (Historic) Court Street Landscape between Academy and Olive Streets  
 Street Address or Location 6-30 Court Street, 20-26 Academy Street, 87-91 Olive Street  
 Town/City New Haven Village Wooster Square County New Haven  
 Owner(s) City of New Haven  Public  Private

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Public Right of Way: one lane of traffic, two lanes of landscape treatments  
 Historic Use: Prior to 1960s, three lanes of roadway (one lane with parking)

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road?  Yes  No  
 Interior accessible?  Yes  No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_  
 Style of building Modernist Date of Construction 1961

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Plant Materials</u> |   |  |

### Structural System

- Wood Frame  Post & Beam  Balloon  Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel  
 Other Concrete

### Roof (Type)

- Gable  Flat  Mansard  Monitor  Sawtooth  
 Gambrel  Shed  Hip  Round  Other n/a

(Material)

- Wood Shingle  Roll Asphalt  Tin  Slate  Asphalt Shingle  
 Built up  Tile  Other n/a

Number of Stories: 0 Approximate Dimensions 350' x 35' public right of way

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: Original signage, some plant materials replaced

**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: Concrete and asphalt paving, iron ornamental fencing

**Surrounding Environment:**

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: Court Street runs from the west side of Wooster Square to the New Haven Green. This block adjacent to Wooster Square is lined on both sides by mid- to late-19th-century four-story brick row houses with brownstone trim. The nearby blocks of Olive Street and perimeter of Wooster Square are a mix of commercial, industrial, and residential buildings of the 19th and mid-20th centuries. New residential units built during the 1960s and old industrial buildings converted to residential use in the first decade of the 21st century, form a dense residential setting.

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

The landscape of Court Street consists of the right-of-way between the shallow front yards. Where originally there were sidewalks, one traffic lane, and parking, the traffic has been reduced to a single lane and the remaining area devoted to plantings and pedestrian spaces. Iron gates at both ends have planting beds with twining roses, signifying the start of a limited access area. A series of concrete-edged beds and large square concrete planters occupy the former parking lanes and are now filled with plantings ranging from mature perennial shrubs and flowering trees, to annual flowers. At the center of the block a stretch of concrete paving replaces asphalt, suggesting a pedestrian across the full street width. Short-term parking is made possible within the block, and long-term resident parking is provided in city-owned parking lots along Olive Street.

Architect James L. Skerritt Builder \_\_\_\_\_

• Historical or Architectural importance:

At the time of the Wooster Square Redevelopment Plan, the concept of combining slum clearance and new construction with selective preservation of historic buildings was novel. Court Street and the perimeter of Wooster Square became the testing ground for the new idea of selective rehabilitation. The elimination of most car traffic from the block of Court Street and installation of landscaping and a nearby parking lot, supported the Redevelopment Agency's program of rehabilitating the historic housing stock. Designed by the Agency's staff architect, James Skerritt, the landscape of the street itself has a Modernist look consisting of abstract concrete boxes as planters, which also control traffic by preventing parking along the street. The mature plantings have now resulted in a shady semi-private environment. Equally important is the provision of parking facilities nearby in city-owned lots with brick walls and landscaped corner planting beds, designed by Redevelopment landscape architect E. Robert Gegan.

• Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture & Urban Design*, Yale U. Press, New Haven, 1976, p.189. 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 208 Blocks 549 and 560. Renewal Plan for the Wooster Square Project Area, New Haven Redevelopment Agency, 1954. See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 1/29/2010

View Multiple views Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 11/04/2010

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 Maintenance     Explanation \_\_\_\_\_

• Sources (*continuation*):

Heritage Landscapes, LLC, "Court Street Modernist Landscape Preservation, Management & Interpretation Plan: Phase I," Privately published, Prepared for Court Street Association/City of New Haven, November 2009.

Hommann, Mary, *Wooster Square Design*, The New Haven Redevelopment Authority, 1965, pp. 46-60.

Royalty, Douglas, "Court Street, New Haven, Connecticut: Cultural Landscape Report," Privately published, Prepared for University of Vermont Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, December 2005.



1. View from Academy Street showing south side of Court Street, camera facing west toward Olive Street.



2. View of north side of Court Street, camera facing west toward Olive Street.





3. Southeast view of neighborhood parking lot at northwest corner of Olive and Court Streets (now privately owned).

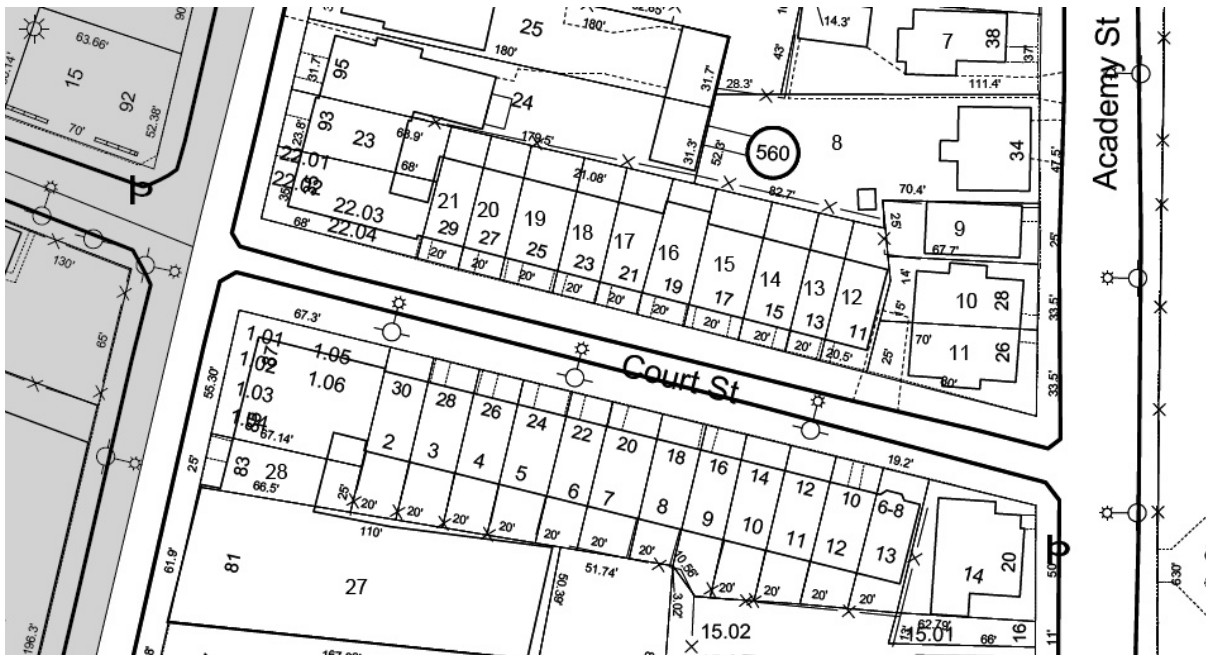


4. South side of Court Street, camera facing west toward Olive Street.





5. Aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 11/04/2010. Parking lot at lower left, Court Street at center, Wooster Square park at top.



6. Site Plan – from City of New Haven Tax Map 208, not to scale, North ↑.