



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) Jet Cleaners

Building Name (Historic) Jet Cleaners

Street Address or Location 687 State Street

Town/City New Haven Village _____ County New Haven

Owner(s) Michael J. Amore, Jr. Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Commercial - Dry Cleaner

Historic Use: Commercial - Dry Cleaner

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

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

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>Glass, Steel</u> | | |

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** 45' x 108' x 16' 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 paved parking lot

Surrounding Environment:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: The building is located on the southeast side of State Street at the edge of the Downtown in a medium-density area of mixed residential, commercial, and civic buildings of the 19th and 20th centuries. The I-91 highway is adjacent to the east and the Amtrak railroad line runs directly behind the building to the southeast in a below-grade railroad cut.

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

See continuation sheet.

Architect Vincent C. Amore Builder Cassella Company,
Rapid Building Construction, Ernest Marucca

• Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheet.

• Sources:

Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1976.

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: 209/0590/00700, Building Department permit files.

See continuation sheet.

Photographer Amy Gagnon / Charlotte Hitchcock Date 12/09/2010

View Multiple Negative on File NHPT

Name Amy Gagnon / Charlotte Hitchcock Date 1/09/2011

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 _____

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and exterior*):

The building is a 1-story structure oriented northwest-southeast, with its northwest façade facing State Street. It has a rectangular steel frame three bays wide and eight bays deep with the exposed structural steel frame painted brown, and has a mix of full-height glass and concrete block masonry infill walls. The northeast and northwest sides, facing the street and parking lot sides, have deep loggias with the glass walls recessed behind covered walkways. The rear two bays of the northeast, entire southeast, and all but the front bay of the southwest side are of concrete block masonry flush with the steel frame. A glass enclosure, projecting from the glazed wall plane, serves as an entry vestibule on the northeast side. The roof is flat and the exposed steel frame provides a narrow visual cornice. The public service areas of the business are located in the glazed front areas, while the working facilities are in the rear (south) areas with solid walls. A concrete masonry chimney is located flush with the exterior wall on the southwest side, in the second bay from the rear.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

State Street differed somewhat from other New Haven neighborhoods slated for renewal during the Redevelopment period in that a number of the neighborhood's existing buildings were spared demolition. Thus, the State Street area maintains an eclectic mix of 19th- and 20th-century buildings, although the immediate vicinity of Jet Cleaners was largely cleared for a highway ramp system.

Architect Vincent C. Amore designed the Jet Cleaners building for members of his family who were the owners. Amore had worked for several years as a staff architect for the New Haven Redevelopment Agency, and was involved in the Agency's strategies for directing the quality of design in renewal building projects. Other projects in which he was involved include 843 State Street, 426 East Street (see Inventory forms), and several others in the Wooster Square and Hamilton Street areas. He continued his architectural practice through the end of the 20th century. This is an example of modernist Miesian design with its glass and steel building materials and careful detailing of the structural materials instead of applied ornament, that are characteristic of the style. Jet Cleaners, in business since 1956, is still family-owned and operated.

• Additional Sources:

"Elm City's 'Big Hole' Giant Renewal Step." *The Hartford Courant* (1923-1984); February 22, 1964; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Hartford Courant (1764-1985) pg. 25C.

Hommann, Mary; *Wooster Square Design*, The New Haven Redevelopment Authority, 1965.

Amore, Vincent C., interview at New Haven Preservation Trust, July 1, 2010.

Amore Drawing Archive, Whitney Library, New Haven Museum and Historical Society, New Haven.

New Haven Redevelopment Agency, State Street Redevelopment and Renewal Plan for Audubon Street Project Area, 1968.

Pannenberg, Frank, personal communication, 2011.



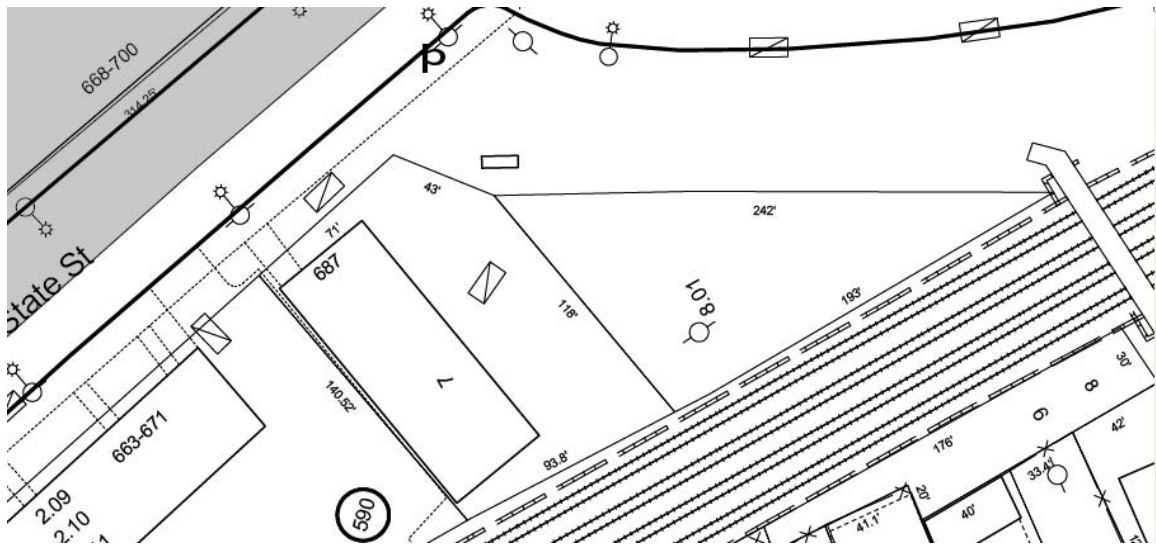
1. Northwest view from State Street, camera facing southeast.



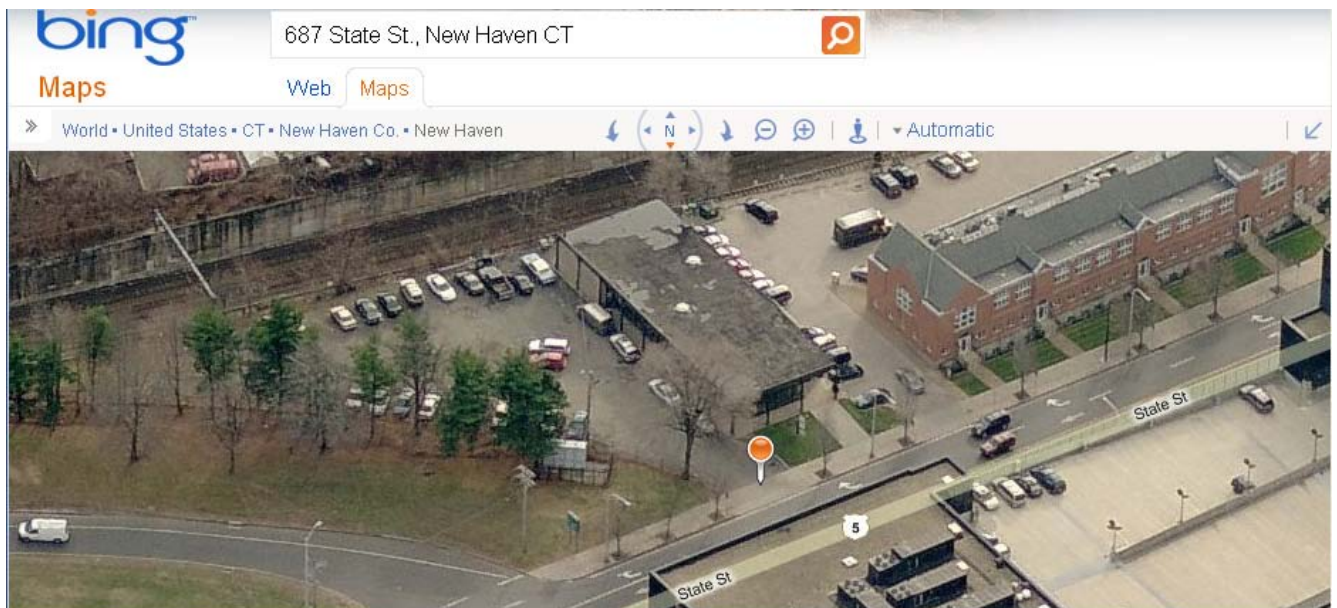
2. West view from State Street, camera facing east.



3. Northeast view, camera facing southwest.



4. Site plan — detail of City of New Haven Assessor's Map: 209/0590/00700.



5. North aerial view from Bing Maps: <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 1/09/2011.