

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) Elm City Photo Company
 Building Name (Historic) J. Villano Sign Company
 Street Address or Location 410 East Street
 Town/City New Haven Village Wooster Square County New Haven
 Owner(s) D & T Associates Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Industrial - Sign manufacturing and offices
 Historic Use: Industrial - Photographic processing
 Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____
 Style of building Modernist Date of Construction 1963

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type <u>Block Masonry Units</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: 1 Approximate Dimensions 64' x 78' x 15' 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: Canvas awning over original entrance canopy

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: front yard lawn and shrubs, asphalt parking and loading, chain link gates

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 on the west side of East Street north of Grand Avenue and south of the Amtrak railroad cut. A railroad spur runs parallel to East Street to the east. The area in which the building is located is a mid-20th-century industrial park and is surrounded by predominantly low-rise 20th-century Modernist architecture overseen by the New Haven Redevelopment Agency during the early 1960s.

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

The building is a simple box built of concrete block masonry. The east facade facing East Street is animated by an opening to the left (south) of center containing the entrance and some window openings. Four piers, two outer piers 8 inches wide and two inner piers 48 inches wide, frame the entry, an aluminum storefront of full-height glass door and sidelights. Between the piers there are two small fixed aluminum-framed windows on each side, with sills approximately 54 inches above the floor. Above the windows and door is a stucco panel with recessed grooves centered above each of the piers. The wall infill below the windows is concrete masonry recessed a few inches. The original design had a flat cantilevered canopy over the entry, but this is covered or replaced by an awning sign. The sides and rear are painted concrete masonry with door openings for service and loading.

Architect Julius Hoechel, Engineer Builder Alpert Construction Company, Woodbridge CT

• Historical or Architectural importance:

The immediate area was planned in the 1950s under the Wooster Square Redevelopment Plan, as a model industrial park on cleared land east of the new highway (now I-91). The philosophy of the Redevelopment Agency and its staff architect was to require a high level of design in their projects, intending to re-make the image of the city as a clean and modern place. Therefore attention was paid to the design of clean abstract forms. This property was illustrated in "Wooster Square Design" (Hommann, p. 122-3) to clarify the importance of design. The evolution of the design through dialogue between the Redevelopment Agency's staff architect, Vincent C. Amore, and the client's engineer is detailed in a series of front elevation drawings, with the statement that ultimately Amore's drawing was adopted as the design. Amore's goal, to create a more varied asymmetrical massing and a more open facade in a simple functional structure, can be understood from the sequence.

• Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture & Urban Design*, Yale U. Press, New Haven, 1976.
 Carley, Rachel D., *Tomorrow is Here: New Haven and the Modern Movement* (Privately published by the New Haven Preservation Trust, New Haven CT) June, 2008.
 New Haven Tax Assessor's Record: Map/Block/Parcel: 200/588/004, Building Department permit files.
 Hommann, Mary, *Wooster Square Design*, The New Haven Redevelopment Authority, 1965, pp. 122-23.
 Renewal Plan for the Wooster Square Project Area, New Haven Redevelopment Agency, 1954.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 12/04/2010

View East, southeast Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 12/19/2010

Organization 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:

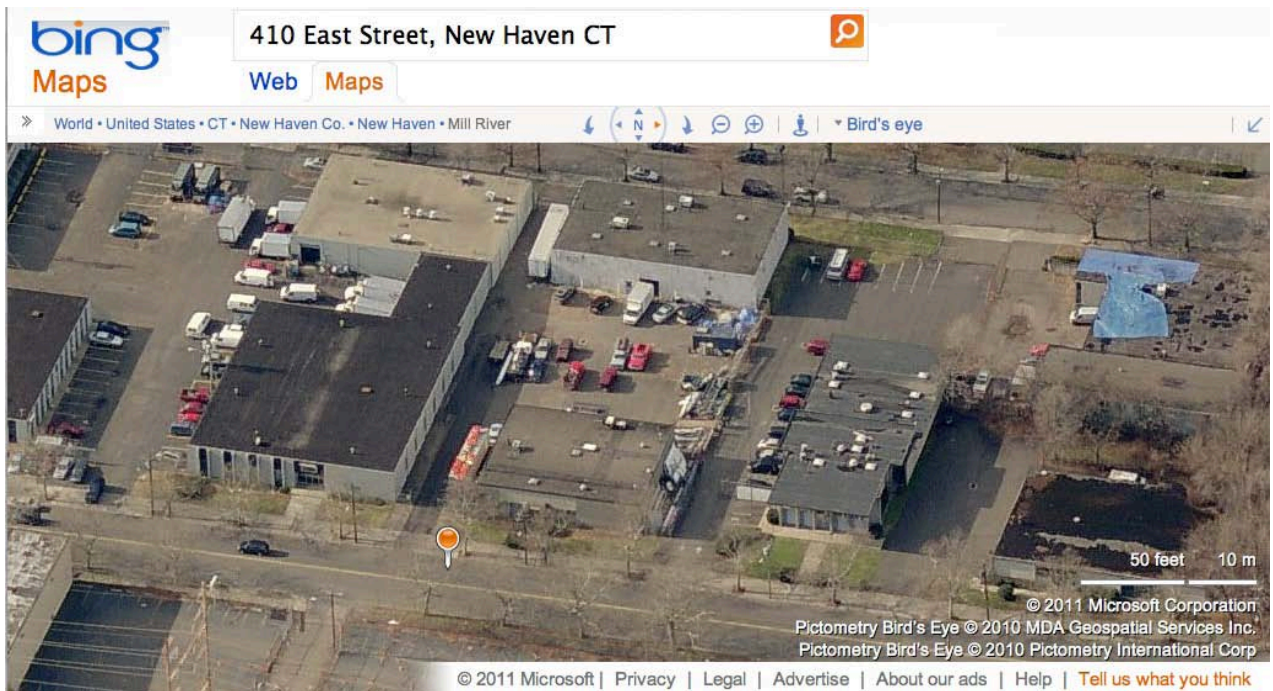
- None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private
 Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation _____



1. East view from East Street, camera facing southwest.

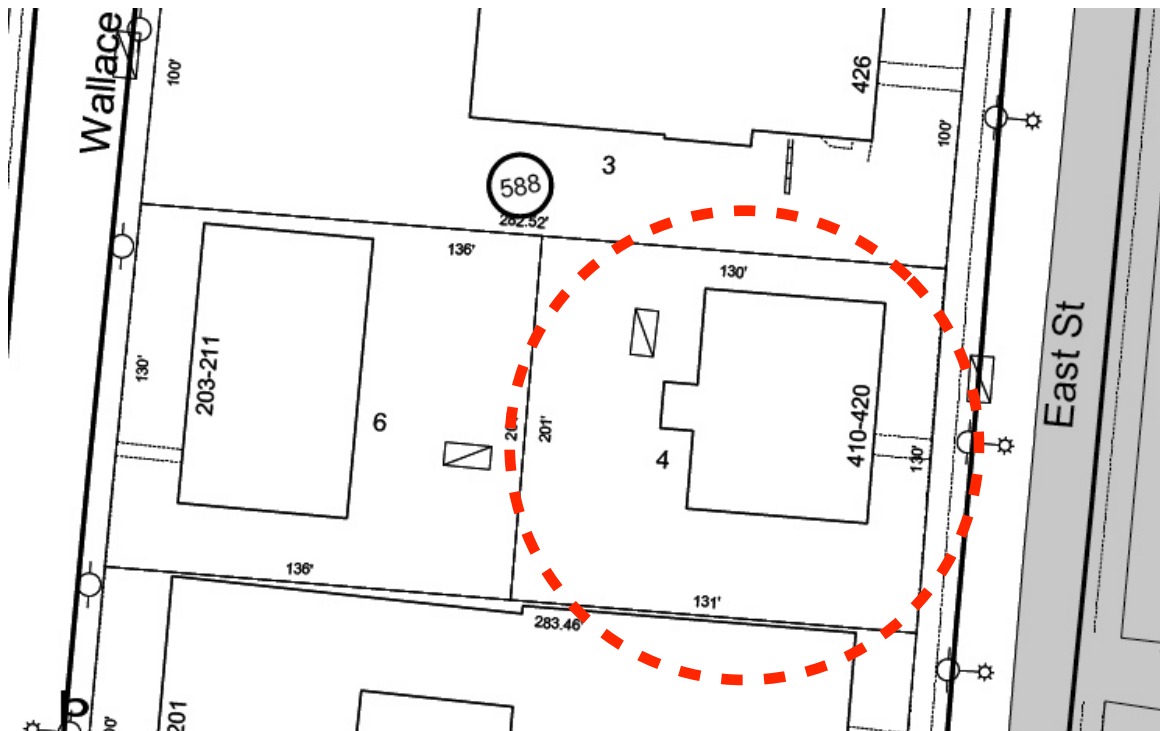


2. East view from East Street, camera facing northwest.



3. East aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 5/30/2011.

4.



4. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 200/588/004, not to scale, North ↑