



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) Chemical Abuse Services Agency, Inc.
 Building Name (Historic) DeMuisis Brothers
 Street Address or Location 426 East Street
 Town/City New Haven Village Wooster Square County New Haven
 Owner(s) Chemical Abuse Services Agency, Inc. Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Commercial - Substance abuse treatment center
 Historic Use: Industrial - Heating & Air Conditioning
Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____
 Style of building Modernist- New Formalism Date of Construction 1962

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</u> | | |

Structural System

- Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel
 Other Cast-in-place and Pre-cast Concrete Tee and U beams

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 _____

Number of Stories: 2 **Approximate Dimensions** 131' x 55'

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: Window glazing obscured, projecting entry vestibule.

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: Lawn and shrubs, paved parking areas

Surrounding Environment:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Located on the west side of East Street in a mid-20th-century industrial park, the building sits south of the rail lines which separate the area from a residential neighborhood to the north. Most buildings are 1- and 2-story flat-roofed structures, although there are some taller 19th-century buildings located to the south on the east side of East Street.

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

The east side consists of 5 glass-infilled bays defined by load-bearing concrete columns. Double glass storefront doors in the middle bay set up a symmetrical facade. The building's cantilevered pre-cast concrete Tee roof structure creates an open porch with a deep overhang. On the north and south sides, the 1st bay is infilled with glazing to match the facade; concrete masonry fin walls define the separation between the public front and utilitarian sides. The cantilevered roof appears on the sides as projecting canopies over side entries. The remainder of the building walls, including a rear warehouse area, are constructed of concrete masonry. Recent alterations have obscured the design intent with painted-out windows and an unsympathetic entry vestibule.

Architect Perry and Travers with Vincent C. Amore Builder Owner: DeMuis Brothers

• Historical or Architectural importance: The DeMuis Brothers building was designed by Vincent C. Amore with architects-of-record Perry and Travers as part of New Haven's extensive urban renewal program undertaken between the 1950s and the mid-1970s. During Redevelopment, 90 percent of the buildings in this section of the Wooster Square area were demolished to make way for an elevated highway (now I-91), and an industrial park. Located in the easternmost part of the Wooster Square area, the industrial park is bounded by Grand Avenue, East Street, and Hamilton Street. The DeMuis Brothers was a heating and cooling company previously located on St. John Street, and one of the first two companies that agreed to relocate to the area.

Travers, Amore, and several other architects active during the 1960s were experimenting with pre-cast concrete, an innovative structural system at that time (see Inventory forms for 824 Woodward Avenue, 323 Temple Street, 206 Day Street, 87 Webster Street). Here it is used to create a calm formal rhythm of repeated elements, much as in a classical loggia, while the massive Tee beams also contribute a sense of humor in their application to such a modest structure.

- 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 & the Modern Movement* (Privately printed, the New Haven Preservation Trust) 6/ 2008.
- Amore, Vincent C., Interview at the New Haven Preservation Trust, 7/01/2010.
- Hommann, Mary, *Wooster Square Design*, The New Haven Redevelopment Authority, 1965, p.147.
- New Haven City Plan Department, Pamphlet: "Wooster Square Industrial District," undated.
- New Haven Register, 7/1959, "Wooster Square Redevelopment," New Haven Public Library Local History Room clipping files.
- New Haven Assessor's Record Map/Block/Parcel 200/0588/003, Building Department permit files.

Photographer Amy Gagnon Date 8/15/2009

View Multiple views Negative on File NHPT

Name Amy Gagnon / Charlotte Hitchcock Date 10/28/2009

Organization The New Haven Preservation Trust

Address 934 State Street, P.O. Box 1671, New Haven, CT 06507

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Facade altered by construction of exterior vestibule with clapboard siding, 2010.

Threats to the building or site:

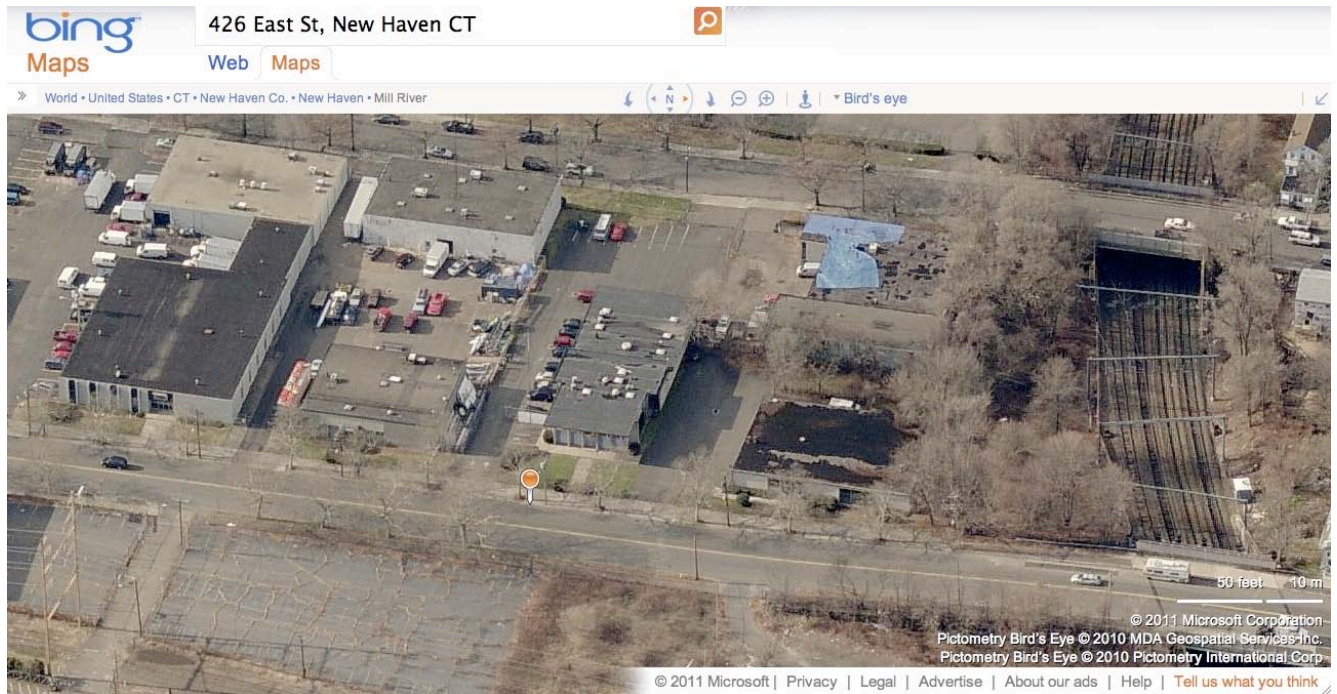
- None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private
- Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation _____



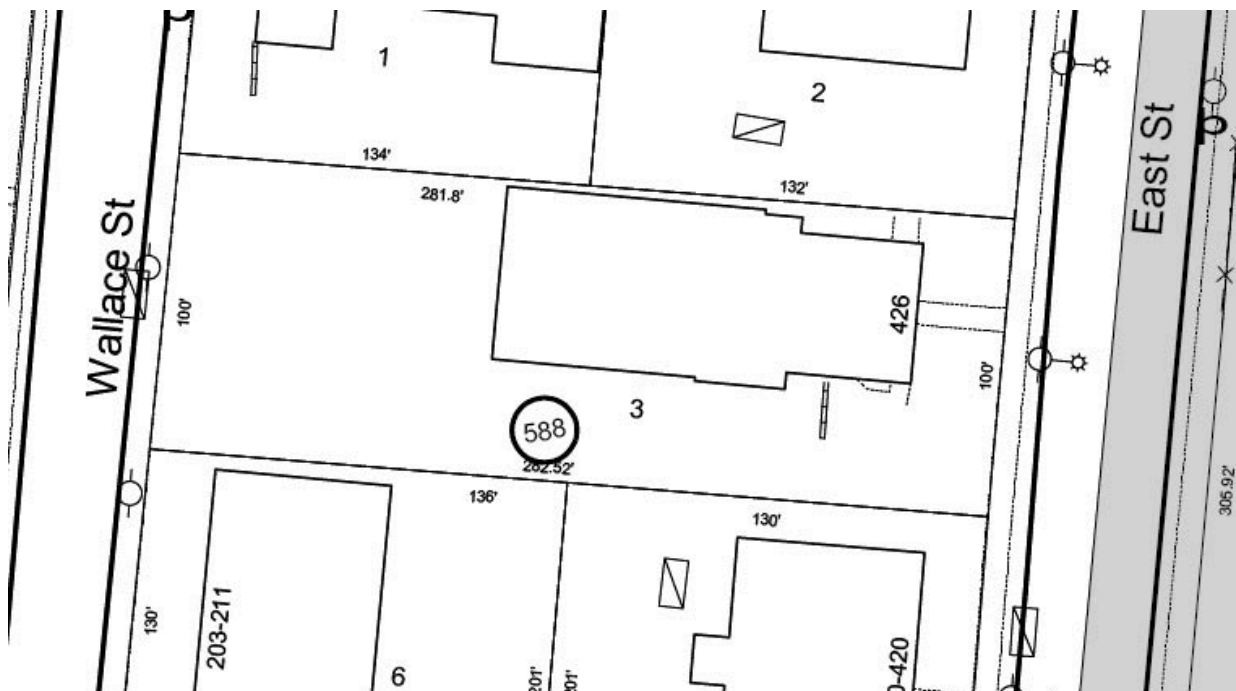
1. East Street front elevation, camera facing west.



2. North and east elevations, camera facing southwest.



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



5. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 200/0588/003, not to scale, North ↑