



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) Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of New Haven

Building Name (Historic) Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of New Haven

Street Address or Location 255 Goffe Street

Town/City New Haven Village _____ County New Haven

Owner(s) Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of New Haven Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Religious - church

Historic Use: Religious - church

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

Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain by appointment

Style of building Modernist - Post-modern Date of Construction 1975

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 type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Transite Panels</u> | | |

Structural System

- Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel
- Other Laminated Wood Arches, Precast Concrete Planks

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: one Approximate Dimensions 65' x 84'

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 drive and parking, front yard plaza, side yard landscaping

Surrounding Environment:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: The 3/4-acre site is on the north side of Goffe Street, in the Goffe-Dixwell neighborhood. East and south of the site are developments of residential townhouses and apartments built during the 1960s and early 1970s during New Haven's urban renewal campaigns. Immediately adjacent to the east is the former Eastern Press, now a social service facility (see 654 Orchard St.). Goffe Street extends from Broadway and the Yale campus west through this area to the Beaver Hills neighborhood, a district of early-20th-century homes.

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

The church is a simple gable-roofed rectangle with its ridge-line oriented north-south and the south gable-end facing Goffe Street. The east side has a shed-roofed addition with a series of four dormer-like gables facing east. At the southeast corner, a large porte-cochere extends east from the main block. A gable-roofed porch projects from the south facade over a porch and steps. The porch framing is designed as a stylized Gothic tracery supporting the roof. The exterior walls are red brick up to the eave line. Above in the attic gable of the south facade, a pattern of colored Acrylite panels with vertical muntins and staggered horizontal muntins, evokes the idea of stained glass in a Post-modern reference. At the southwest corner, an older cornerstone from a previous building bears the dates "1882-1929" and below is a small cornerstone marked "1975."

Architect Joseph I. Godkin Builder Herbert W. Jaeger and Associates, Inc., Harold E. Cook

• Historical or Architectural importance:

During the Urban Renewal of the mid-20th century, this area was extensively cleared and redeveloped. A number of local churches had the opportunity to rebuild on freshly-cleared sites (for instance see Inventory forms for 100 Webster Street and 100 Dixwell Avenue). This building for Bethel AME Church, uses a simple form dressed up by its stylized Gothic porch and porte-cochere, apparently an added feature after initial construction. The Post-modern vocabulary incorporates a sense of whimsy in the reinterpretation of traditional iconography, in this case the Gothic pointed arch window with stone tracery, using wooden stick construction. The better known Firehouse designed by Venturi and Rauch, down the street (see Inventory form for 125 Goffe Street), was a pioneer in the Post-modern idiom.

• Sources:

Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1976, 228 pp.
 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/Block/Parcel: 293 / 324 / 001, Building Department permit files.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 8/21/2010

View Multiple Views Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 1/11/2011

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 _____

- Sources (*continuation*):



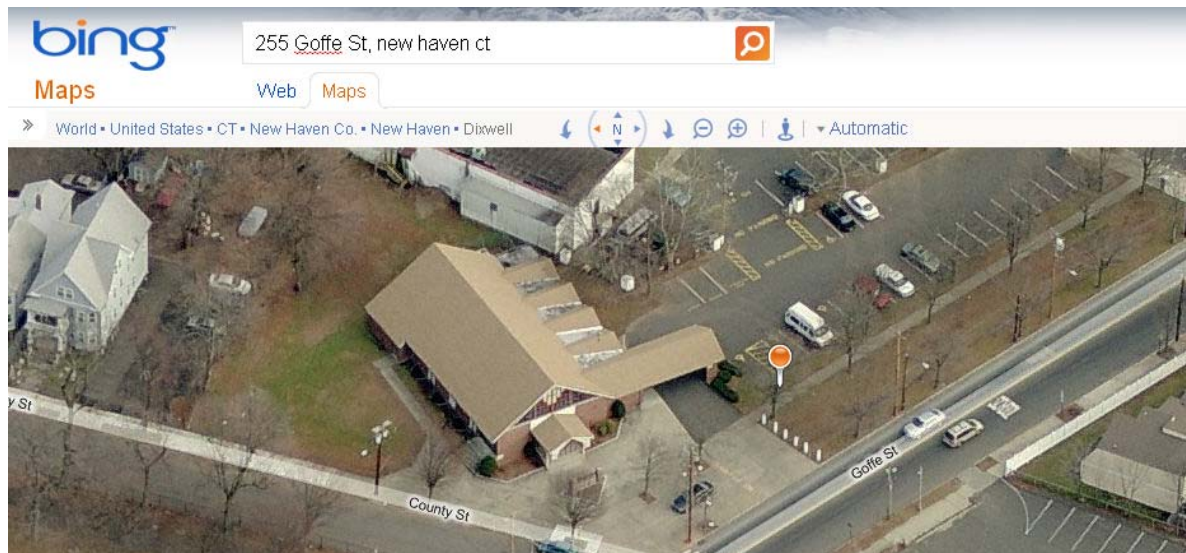
1. South view from Goffe Street, camera facing north.



2. Southeast view from parking, camera facing northwest.



3. East view from parking area, camera facing west.



4. West aerial view from Bing Maps. <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 1/11/2011.

