



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) Tortilleria la Michoacana, LLC
 Building Name (Historic) Marzullo's Pastry Shop
 Street Address or Location 656 Grand Avenue
 Town/City New Haven Village Wooster Square County New Haven
 Owner(s) Patrick Palmieri Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Commercial - Restaurant and tortilla factory
 Historic Use: Commercial - Pastry shop
 Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain During hours of restaurant opening
 Style of building Modernist - New Formalism 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 type="checkbox"/> Stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type <u>Precast & Block Masonry</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 Precast Concrete Tees and Columns

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 40' x 106' and 48' x 30'

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: Painted exterior, some window & door openings altered

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 paving, 6' chain link fencing and 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 stands at the southeast corner of Hamilton Street and Grand Avenue. The building reflects the commercial function of the surrounding buildings, all of which are 1- to 2-story mid-20th century construction. In the next block west across the street is an early public housing complex, Farnam Courts, and DeLauro Park (see Inventory form for 657 Grand Avenue).

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

The building is a 1-story rectangle with its walls constructed of concrete block masonry. The front of the building has five bays separated by precast concrete piers, with entry doors in the 2nd bay from the left (east) and fixed glass windows in the 4 remaining bays. The western side consists of similar bays defined by piers, with concrete block masonry infill and several window openings. The east side, facing the driveway, is a solid concrete block wall with one window adjacent to the north corner, and one glass storefront-type door near the center; the rear portion is narrower, set back several feet. The building has a flat roof constructed of precast concrete tees which cantilever beyond the walls to form a deep overhang. Door and window locations have been altered from the original. The structure is painted yellow with a blue-green roof. The small side windows on the western side have been replaced with decorative pierced blocks. A second smaller building is located at the rear (south).

Architect Fletcher-Thompson, Inc., Bridgeport CT Builder Bomarc Construction Associates, Inc.

• Historical or Architectural importance: The shop was constructed as part of New Haven's extensive urban renewal campaign. During redevelopment, 90 percent of the buildings in the eastern section of Wooster Square were demolished to make way for new light industry and commercial business. The shop, located in a mostly industrial area, was an emblem of the Italian-American population in the city, and in Wooster Square in particular. The building went through three design schemes before settling on the final design, which is boldly Modernist by comparison with the more traditional early schemes. The Redevelopment Agency prided itself on promoting "good design" and its staff, including planner James Skeritt and architect Vincent C. Amore, worked closely with the designers of the new businesses, which for the most part were relocating from nearby locations being redeveloped for residential purposes. Here precast tees and columns, initially an industrial material developed more for use in highway bridges and factories, are used for their ornamental effect as well as for structure.

Architect: E. Leslie Fletcher and Charles L. Thompson began providing industrial engineering services in 1910, and expanded to become an architecture & engineering firm which continues to the present time, having acquired several other firms.

• 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 printed by the New Haven Preservation Trust, New Haven CT) June, 2008.

Fletcher-Thompson web site: http://www.fletcherthompson.com/about_history.aspx

Hommann, Mary; *Wooster Square Design*, The New Haven Redevelopment Authority, 1965, pp. 126-7.

New Haven Tax Assessor's Record: Map/Block/Parcel: 201/0571/001.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 5/24/2011

View Multiple Views Negative on File NHPT

Name Amy Gagnon / Charlotte Hitchcock Date 5/24/2011

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 _____



1. North (front) view, camera facing southwest.



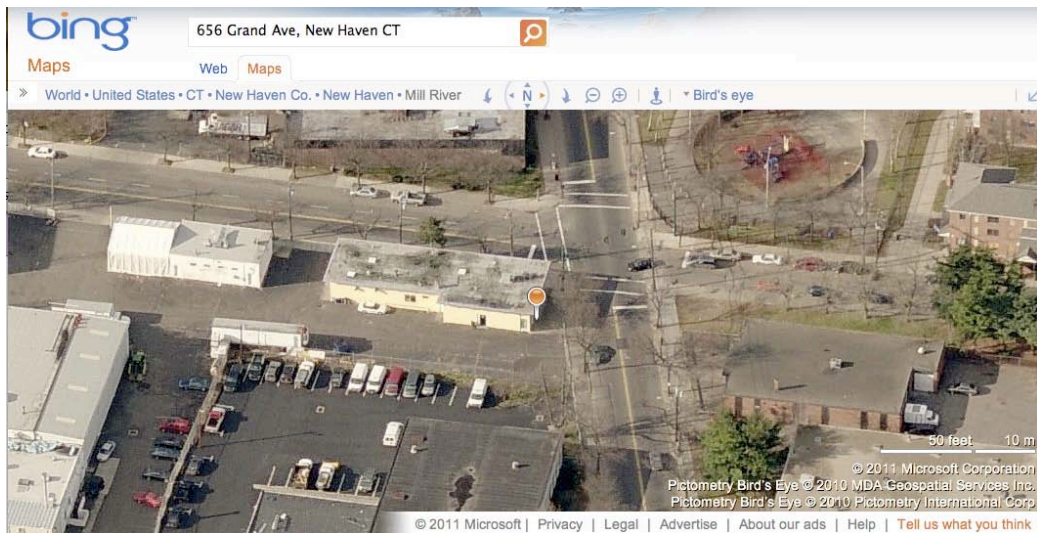
2. East side view, camera facing south.



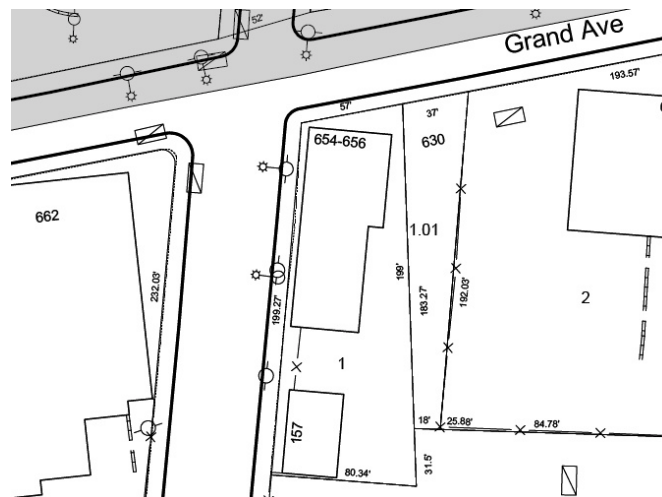
3. West side, camera facing south.



4. Northwest view, camera facing south.



5. West aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 5/24/2011.



6. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 201/571/001, not to scale, North ↑ .