



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) East Rock Community School

Building Name (Historic) East Rock Community School

Street Address or Location 133 Nash Street

Town/City New Haven Village East Rock County New Haven

Owner(s) City of New Haven Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Educational - public school - vacant (to be demolished)

Historic Use: Educational - public school

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

Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____

Style of building Modernist Date of Construction 1974

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 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 _____

Number of Stories: 1 and 2 Approximate Dimensions 450' x 270'

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: Playgrounds on north and south sides of front of building. Parking lots on north and south sides of rear of building.

Surrounding Environment:

Open land Woodland Residential Commercial Industrial Rural

High building density Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Located on Nash Street, the building occupies the whole of the block formed by Nash Street, Eagle Street, Willow Street, and the western boundary of East Rock Park. The building is located in a residential neighborhood, of predominantly 19th-century construction.

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

See continuation sheets.

Architect Edward Larrabee Barnes Builder R.A. Civitello Company

• Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheets.

• 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.
New Haven Assessor's Record: Map/Block/Parcel 197/0428/001, Building Department permit files.
See continuation sheet.

Photographer Lucas Karmazinas Date 6/03/2010

View Multiple Views Negative on File NHPT

Name Lucas Karmazinas Date 6/21/2010

Organization The New Haven Preservation Trust

Address 934 Street 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 to be demolished

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

The building at 133 Nash Street consists of three, large rectangular blocks. Each block has 1-story concrete block walls faced with concrete, and a hipped roof. The first block faces northwest and abuts Nash Street. It houses the school's gymnasium, which is flanked on each side by a row of classrooms. Ribbon windows run the length of the northeast and southwest (side) elevations, which are the exterior walls of the classrooms. The remaining two blocks intersect the first block at its northeast and southeast (rear) corners, creating a symmetrical, Y-shaped footprint. Four steel doors, framed by a plain concrete entry porch, provide access to each of the wings near their intersection with the central block. Like the central block, the rear blocks have unadorned walls broken only by ribbon windows where classroom spaces are present.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Built in 1974, the East Rock Community School was named after the prominent New Haven landmark and the neighborhood in which the school was located. The school replaced several local district schools, including the Edwards Street School, Lovell School, and accommodated older students from the Hooker School. In his brief, 1976 history of New Haven schools Dr. Barry E. Herman noted that, "The school has many innovative and creative features in school design." The school earned this recognition as it boasted an open classroom design, spacious gymnasium, large library, and bright, expansive greenhouse.

Architect: Edward Larrabee Barnes (1915-2004) studied at Harvard's Graduate School of Design under Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer in the years just before World War II. After the war he developed a distinctive Modernist idiom of abstracted forms referencing vernacular building shapes, in his residential work. He also designed a wide range of building types including corporate headquarters and campus plans, as at Yale. He married Mary Elizabeth Coss, an architect who had worked with Alvar Aalto and others in putting together exhibitions for the Museum of Modern Art; she managed the office they opened in New York City in 1949.

Many schools of the period have massive walls and few or small windows, partly inspired by Brutalism and partly to discourage vandalism. In New Haven the urban renewal-period schools with the fewest windows have been the ones that have been demolished or severely altered; this one is planned for demolition, to be replaced by a new building designed by Newman Architects.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Dr. Barry E. Herman, "How Did New Haven's Schools Get Their Names?" *Journal of the School Administrator's Association of New Haven*, Vol. 1, No. 1, February 1976.

Martin, Douglas, "Edward Larrabee Barnes, Modern Architect, Dies at 89," *New York Times*, Arts, 9/23/2004, http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/23/arts/23barnes.html?_r=1

Bernstein, Fred, "Gold Medal: Edward Larrabee Barnes," *Architectural Record*, May 2007, http://archrecord.construction.com/features/aiaAwards/0705_goldmedal.asp



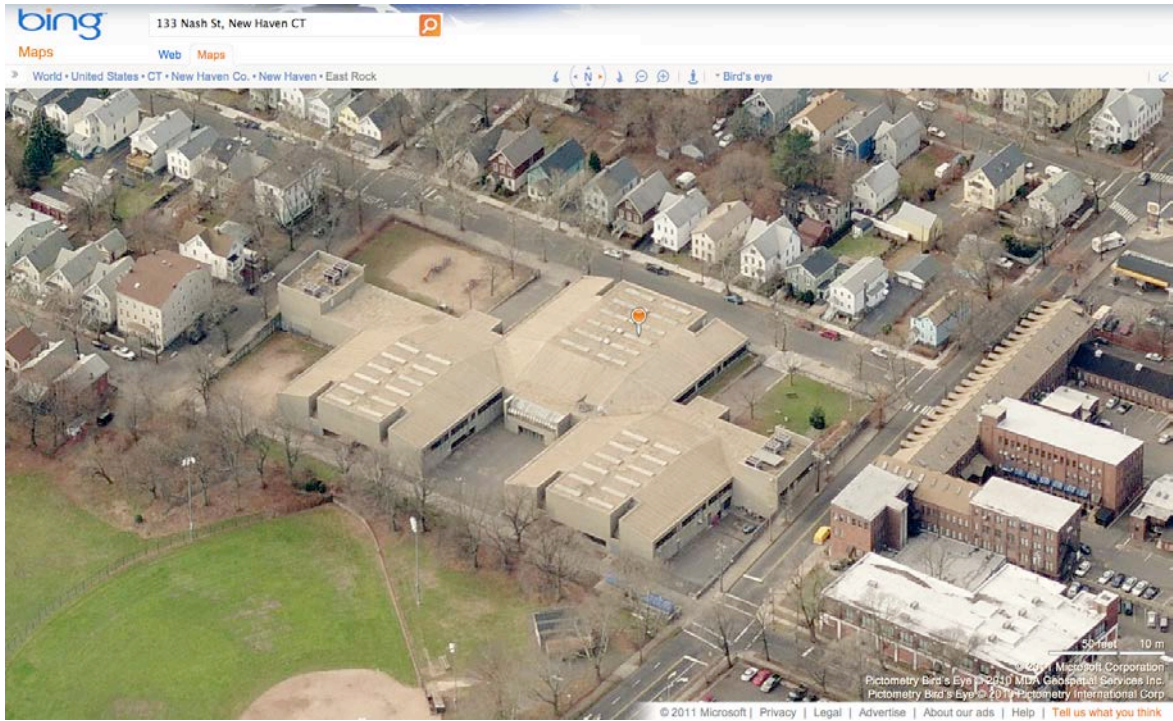
1. Northwest view from Nash Street, camera facing southeast.



2. West (front) and south (side) elevations from Nash Street, camera facing northeast.



3. North view from Nash Street, camera facing south.



4. East aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 6/15/2011.



5. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 197/0428/00100 not to scale, North ↑.