

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) Abcon Environmental, Inc.
 Building Name (Historic) S. Rashba & Sons, Movers
 Street Address or Location 205 Wallace Street
 Town/City New Haven Village Wooster Square County New Haven
 Owner(s) Vita Bella LLC Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Commercial - Office-warehouse
 Historic Use: Commercial - Office-warehouse

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 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>Stucco-faced panel retrofit</u> | | |

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** 60' x 100' x 18' 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: Stucco-faced cladding panels applied to exterior.

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: Parking lots on east and north sides of building.

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 on the east side of Wallace Street north of Grand Avenue and south of the Amtrak Railroad line. The building reflects the commercial function of the surrounding buildings, all of which are 1- to 2-story mid-20th century construction. Nearby to the west 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 S. Rashba & Sons Moving Company building has a rectangular footprint, poured concrete foundation, 2-story concrete block masonry walls, and flat roof. The original "white sand blocks" have been covered by new cladding. The building's only windows are found in the southwest corner where projecting piers form 2-story bays, four each on the west (front) and south (side) elevations. Each bay has two windows; these are fixed glass above an aluminum sash hopper window. The front entrance is a single door in the leftmost opening on the west elevation. Administrative office areas appear to be located in this part of the building. The rear portion of the building is devoted to warehouse space; there are no openings on the north and south walls and an overhead door opening in the center of the east side.

Architect Samuel Gitlitz, Registered Designer Builder Alpert Construction Company, Woodbridge CT

• Historical or Architectural importance: The S. Rashba & Sons building was built in 1963 as part of an 11-acre industrial development located north of Grand Avenue between the new elevated highway, the railroad line, and the Mill River. The industrial park was included as part of the larger Wooster Square Redevelopment Area, underway by the late 1950s. By locating the industrial park on the eastern side of the US Route 5 (eventually I-91) corridor, planners hoped to provide a divide between residential and industrial land uses in the Wooster Square area as determined by project architect and planner James Skeritt. The process of clearing the blocks of a stock of 2- and 3-story residential units began in 1958. Eventually 12 industrial and commercial structures were built, all characterized by Modernist designs. S. Rashba & Sons was identified as, "One of New Haven's leading moving and storage firms." The boxy utilitarian design focused its hint of Modernism in the entry corner where full-height projecting piers compress the windows into vertical slits. The Redevelopment Agency stressed good design, and some of the industrial structures featured name architects and innovative construction technology. Here a modest warehouse structure has a touch of design applied at the featured corner.

• Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture & Urban Design*, Yale U. Press, New Haven, 1976, p.195. 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 200/0588/00600, Building Department permit files.

"1963 Report of the City of New Haven", *New Haven Register*, September 15, 1963.

Renewal Plan for the Wooster Square Project Area, New Haven Redevelopment Agency, 1954.

Hommann, Mary, *Wooster Square Design*, The New Haven Redevelopment Authority, 1965.

Photographer Lucas Karmazinas, Charlotte Hitchcock Date 6/24/2009

View Multiple views Negative on File NHPT

Name Lucas Karmazinas Date 6/09/2010

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:

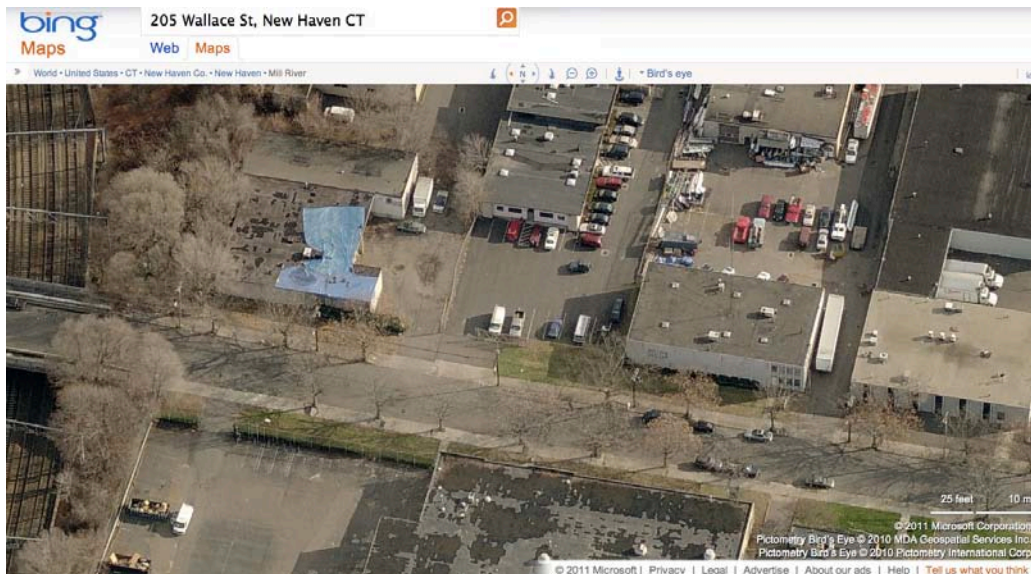
- None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private
- Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation _____



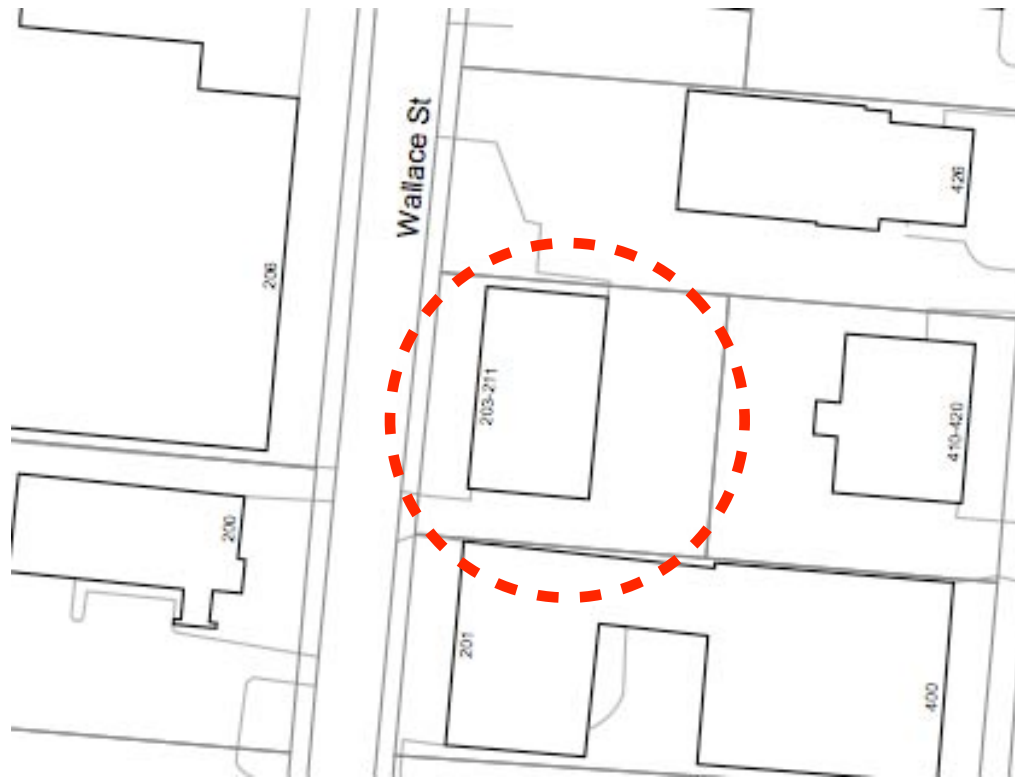
1. Southwest view of Wallace Street elevation, camera facing northeast.



2. Southwest corner from Wallace Street, camera facing northwest. 3. North elevation from Wallace Street, camera facing southeast.



4. West aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 5/19/2011.



5. Site plan – from City of New Haven tax map, parcel 200/0588/00600, not to scale, North ↑