



## 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) Mount Bethel Missionary Baptist Church  
 Building Name (Historic) Mount Bethel Missionary Baptist Church  
 Street Address or Location 100 Webster Street  
 Town/City New Haven Village \_\_\_\_\_ County New Haven  
 Owner(s) Mount Bethel Missionary Baptist Church  Public  Private

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Religious  
 Historic Use: Religious

**Accessibility to public:** Exterior visible from public road?  Yes  No  
 Interior accessible?  Yes  No If yes, explain by appointment  
 Style of building Modernist Date of Construction 1973

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stucco                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone  | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type <u>Bluestone</u><br>Flooring) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Veneer Brick</u><br>(added) |                                       |                                          |

### Structural System

- Wood Frame  Post & Beam  Balloon  Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel  
 Other Reinforced Concrete, Precast Concrete "Celdex"

### 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 1/2 **Approximate Dimensions** 33' x 77'

**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: Veneer brick added 2007, cross over door altered by new mullions.

**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, picket and chain link fencing.

**Surrounding Environment:**

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This small church is located on a residential lot of .18 acre between older 19th- or early 20th-century homes on narrow lots on the south side of Webster Street. The north side is occupied by parking shared by the church, and by mid-20th-century buildings built during the urban renewal activities directed by the New Haven Redevelopment Agency.

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

"This Baptist Church is on a small urban site with narrow frontage. The orientation allows the exclusion of direct sun year round except for a short period during late afternoon in the summer. The budget was extremely tight and the only luxuries are the bluestone floor and the handmade white oak pews of my design. The main floor of Celdex is supported by reinforced concrete walls which carry the block masonry of the entire upper floor. The church can comfortably house 120 worshippers, without the balcony. During Christmas and Easter it can take up to 180. The entire lower floor is for social activities and Sunday School. The main floor of the church is lighted by three continuous skylights with various widths from 2'- 6" to 3'- 6". The main floor's contrasting spaces from 7'- 0" to 24'- 0" [high] were created by three roof heights and a balcony. The only colors in the church are the natural materials and a huge mural by Josef Albers which was a personal gift ... by the painter and Mrs. Albers. The cross above the entrance divides the large piece of glass. At night it can be seen from afar." (Wu, Yale Faculty Exhibit)

Architect Harvey P. Conway & Associates, King-lui Wu    Builder H.E. Murdock & Sons, Inc.

Structural Engineer: Tor

• Historical or Architectural importance:

This church is a contextual structure set in a row of older houses and matching their scale. In contrast, the surrounding neighborhood is the Dixwell Urban Renewal area, where acres of buildings were demolished entirely and a new more suburban-scaled environment created. The matrix of new homes such as the large Florence Virtue Homes development (Goffe Street) and the smaller McCollough Court (see 110 Dixwell Avenue) became the setting for heroic sculptural monuments formed by a series of churches and community buildings (217 and 197 Dixwell Avenue, 87 Webster Street). Mt. Bethel makes a quieter statement, but the dramatic lighting via skylights and the subtle placement of a cross in the glass above the entry, are the work of Wu, and architect who taught for many years at the Yale School of Architecture and became an authority on daylighting in architecture long before the current attention to sustainable design.

• 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.

King-Lui Wu Papers (MS 1842). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Wu, King-lui, New York Times Obituary, August 25, 2002.

Faculty exhibit, Yale School of Architecture, 1987, catalogue item in the collection of Christopher Wigren.

New Haven Tax Assessor's Record: Map/Block/Parcel: 296/328/036, Building Department permit files.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock    Date 6/17/2010, 12/04/2010

View Multiple views    Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock    Date 12/21/2010

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 \_\_\_\_\_

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

100 Webster Street, New Haven, CT

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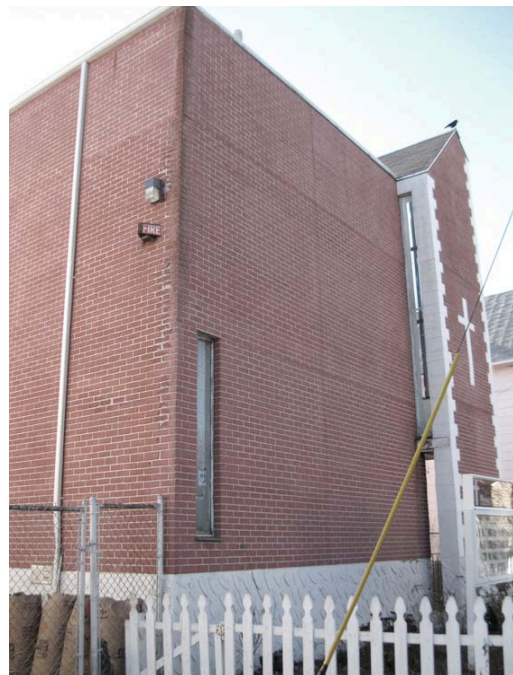
Baptist Church, New Haven, Connecticut



1. Northwest view from Webster Street, camera facing southeast.  
Photo from Yale Faculty Exhibit, 1987.



2. Northwest view from Webster Street, camera facing southeast, showing altered glazing above entrance.



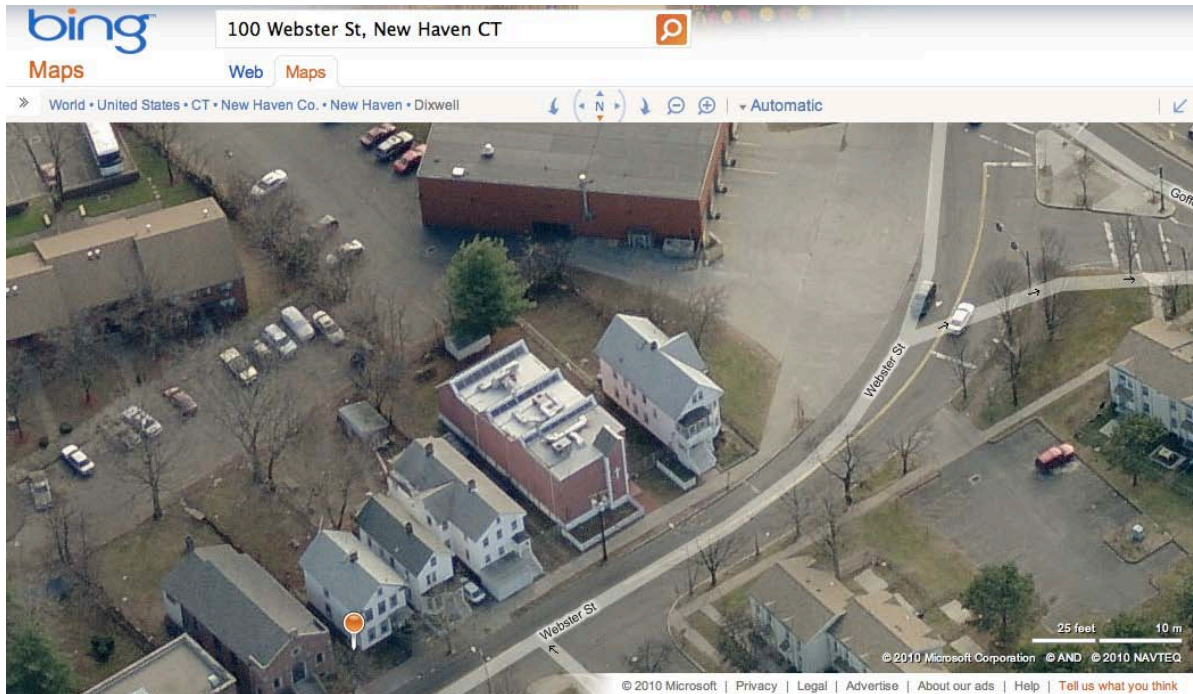
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3. Northeast view, camera facing southwest.

4. North view, camera facing southwest.



5. North aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 12/20/2010.



6. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 296/328/036.