

# 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) Goffe Street Condominium  
 Building Name (Historic) Goffe-Orchard Housing  
 Street Address or Location 244-250 Goffe Street and 606-618 Orchard Street  
 Town/City New Haven Village Goffe-Dixwell County New Haven  
 Owner(s) Multiple - condominium owners  Public  Private

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Present Use: Residential Condominium Dwelling Units  
 Historic Use: Residential

**Accessibility to public:** Exterior visible from public road?  Yes  No  
 Interior accessible?  Yes  No If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_  
 Style of building Modernist - California Date of Construction 1970

**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 type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Vertical Wood, Vinyl Siding</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:** 2 **Approximate Dimensions** 11 dwelling units @1300 square feet

**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: Vinyl siding, conversion to condominium

**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 paved parking, private gardens, fencing along street line

**Surrounding Environment:**

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: This development lies in a mixed area. Commercial Whalley Avenue and 19th-century residential blocks are on the south. Immediately adjacent to the east and north are housing developments of the 1960s urban renewal period. To the west are a National Guard Armory, Juvenile Detention Center, and a public high school; to the north is the early 20th-century Beaver Hills neighborhood of 1- and 2-family homes.

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

Eleven dwelling units are arranged in two blocks in a row-house configuration on a corner lot. Seven units face Orchard Street and four face Goffe Street. The rectangular units are offset, creating a staggered facade which defines private outdoor areas on the outer perimeter. Parking is located at the interior of the lot. Roof profiles create the appearance of shed-roofed volumes (aerial views reveal the roof crickets that provide storm water drainage). Leanto roofs over the north and east facades provide a one-story elevation at the street sides, while the two-story walls of the units face the interior of the site. On the Goffe Street elevations, the leanto shed is compromised by a second-floor window inset into the roof. Originally the siding was vertical wood; the heating system is electric, an indication of low-cost construction. Recently a high perimeter fence has replaced the original, increasing privacy but blocking views of the buildings.

Architect Edward E. Cherry Builder \_\_\_\_\_

• Historical or Architectural importance: The slum clearance plans of the New Haven Redevelopment Agency gathered momentum in the mid- to late-1960s with large projects like the nearby Florence Virtue Homes and St. Martin de Porres Townhouses. Brown notes (p. 176) in her description of these developments, that there was a push toward suburban ideals of flowing space, light and air, in the layout of these buildings, and attempts to disguise the actual urban density. It can be seen as a reference to the International-style ideal of buildings floating in open landscaping. These projects were intensively managed by the Redevelopment Agency staff including its architect in order to achieve both their planning and aesthetic goals (Hommann, p. 95). The Goffe-Orchard Housing was a late addition to the Dixwell area, on a small site. The architectural design of this project aims for robust sculptural forms with setbacks and shed roofs in the style of Californian or Vermont ski resort architecture. Architect: Edward E. Cherry, an African-American architect who studied at Howard University and practiced in the Greater New Haven area, also collaborated with other firms on some larger projects such as the Dixwell Community Center (see Inventory form for 197 Dixwell Avenue).

• Sources:

Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1976, p.176.  
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: 320/ 0300/ 02001-11.  
See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 8/19/2010

View Multiple Views Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 10/28/2010

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 \_\_\_\_\_

• Sources (*continuation*):

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

New Haven Museum and Historical Society, Redevelopment collection,

[http://www.cthistoryonline.org/cdm4/item\\_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/cho&CISOPTR=14205&CISOBOX=1&REC=3](http://www.cthistoryonline.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/cho&CISOPTR=14205&CISOBOX=1&REC=3)



1. N View of Goffe Street side, camera facing southeast.



2. E view of Orchard Street side, camera facing west.



3. Southwest view of interior of site and parking, camera facing northeast.





4. South view from Orchard Street, camera facing north.

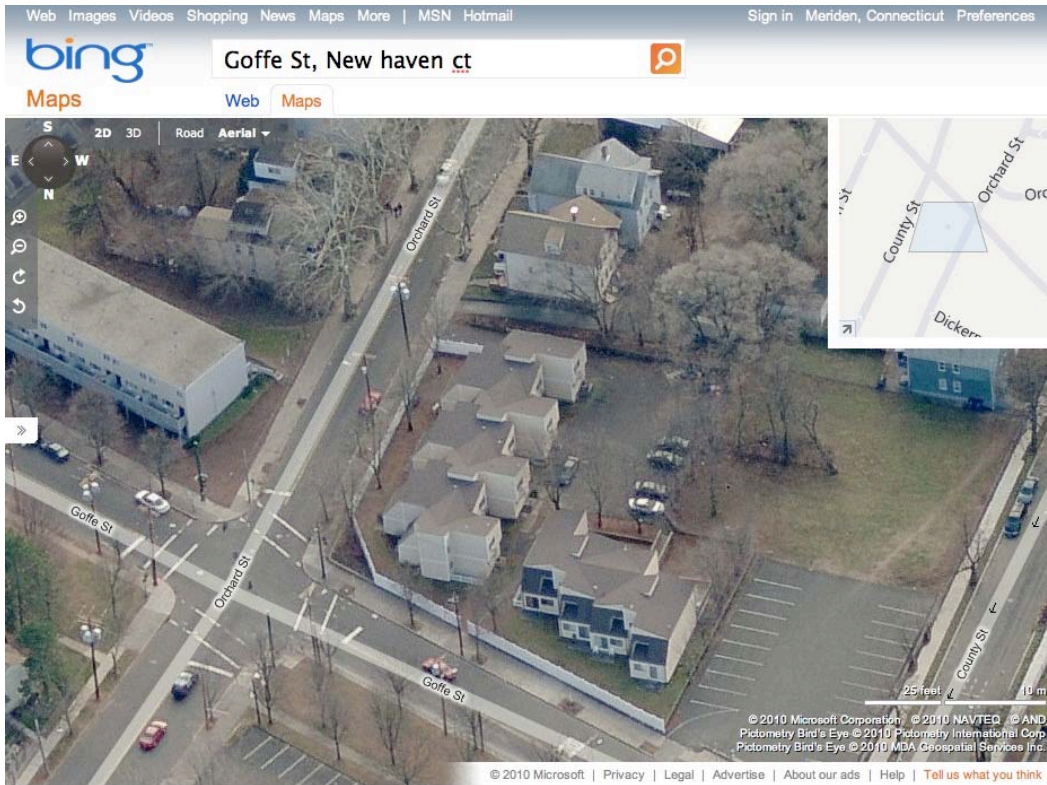


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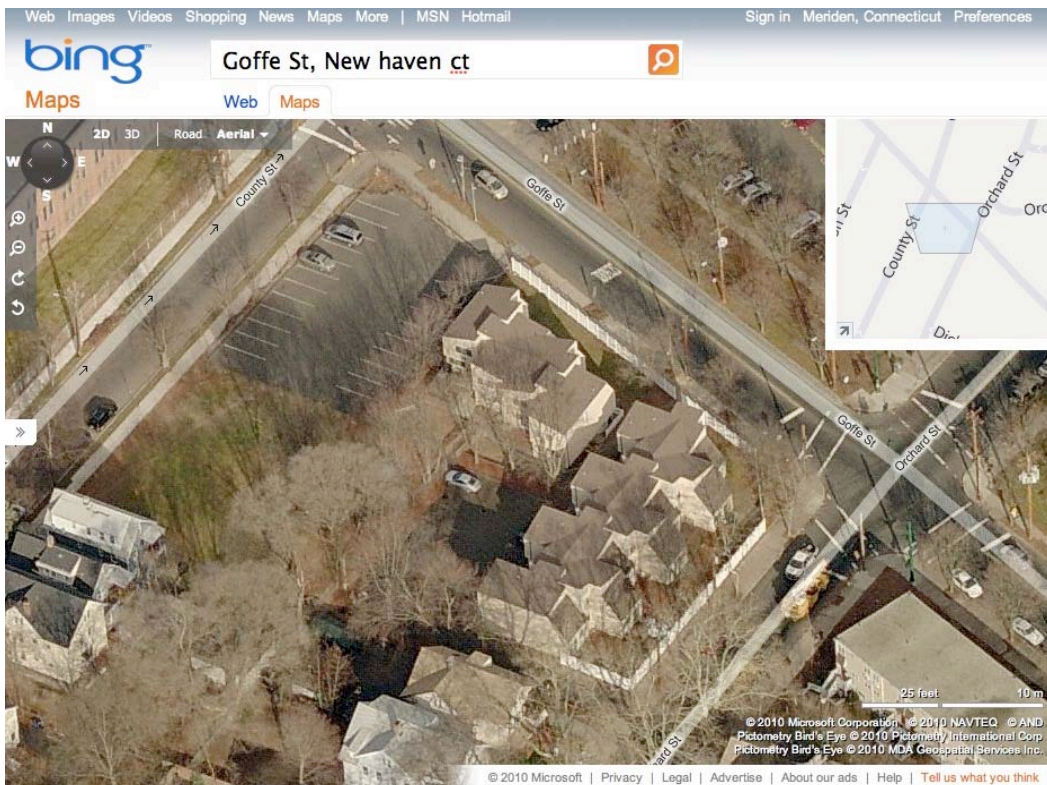
**New Haven Museum and Historical Society**

5. Perspective rendering by Architect. As built, the stepped-forward and recessed blocks are reversed.





4. Aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 10/28/2010.



5. Aerial view from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 10/28/2010.



6. New Haven Assessor's Record photograph showing wood siding before installation of vinyl.



7. Site Plan – from City of New Haven Tax Map 320/0300/02001-020011, not to scale, North ↑.