

## 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) Joseph Merritt & Company  $Building\ Name\ (Historic)\ \underline{\ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ }$ Street Address or Location 60 Hamilton Street Town/City New Haven Village Wooster Square County New Haven Owner(s) 60 Hamilton LLC O Public Private PROPERTY INFORMATION Present Use: Industrial - Printing Company Historic Use: Industrial - Laboratory (materials testing) **Accessibility to public**: Exterior visible from public road? • Yes • No Interior accessible? • Yes • No If yes, explain Some areas during business hours Style of building Modernist - New Formalism \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Construction 1967 **Material(s)** (*Indicate use or location when appropriate*): Clapboard Asbestos Siding Brick ☐ Wood Shingle Asphalt Siding Fieldstone Board & Batten ☐ Stucco Cobblestone Aluminum Siding Cut Stone (Type \_\_\_\_\_ Concrete (Type Block Masonry Structural System Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon Other Roof (Type) Gable **✓** Flat Mansard Monitor Sawtooth Other \_\_\_\_\_ Gambrel Shed ☐ Hip Round (Material) Slate Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Tin Asphalt Shingle Tile **V** Built up Other Number of Stories: 1 Approximate Dimensions 50' x 130' Structural Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Exterior Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated **Location Integrity:** • On original site • Moved When? \_\_\_\_\_ Alterations? O Yes O No If yes, explain: \_

District: S NR If NR, Specify: Actual Potential

UTM

Site #

FOR OFFICE USE: Town #

PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)	
Related outbuildings or landscape feature	
	Garage Carriage House Shop Garden
Other landscape features or buildings: Low concrete masonry screen wall, gate, parking to north.	
Surrounding Environment:	
<u> </u>	Residential 🗹 Commercial 🔽 Industrial 🔲 Rural
High building density	Scattered buildings visible from site
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: The building is located directly to the east of I-91, at the northwest corner of Hamilton Street and Chapel Street. Its scale, materials, and setback from the street are consistent with other industrial buildings on the street constructed between 1963-1967. Late 19th- early 20th- century factory buildings are also present and are converted to residential/commercial uses.	
• Other notable features of building or site (Interior and/or Exterior) This 1-story building is constructed of concrete masonry units (CMU). Large units are used for the lower portion whereas smaller units are present in the "cornice" above a shallow horizontal reveal. On the east (front) façade, floor-to-ceiling windows and a wide glass entranceway are metal-framed. The entrance, marked by piers subtly wider than those of the adjacent window openings, is placed off-center; unequal numbers of windows flank the doorway on each side. This asymmetry adds a playful element to the building which may be interpreted as a classical take on Modernist design. The entrance is accessed by three broad poured concrete steps which meet the adjoining walkway. A detached wall, also CMU, is located directly to the north. It rises approximately five feet (one half of the building height). The building is in good condition with only one noticeable patch of cracked mortar/spalled CMUs on the facade.	
Architect Gilbert Switzer & Associates	Builder Gabrielle Construction Company, West Haven CT
• Historical or Architectural importance: The non-combustible masonry structure was designed by Gilbert Switzer for the New Haven Testing Laboratory and built for \$58,000. During the urban renewal period of the 1960s, industries were advised to move to the Hamilton Street area because of its proximity to the new highway (I-91) and the Connecticut Turnpike (I-95). Much of the land was set aside for local firms displaced from other redevelopment areas. Industrial park construction covered four blocks, originally dominated by 19th- early 20th- century wooden frame houses. A major goal of the industrial park was to create a cohesive relationship between buildings and environment through the specification of building height, materials, colors, and parking layouts. Here the deep-set vertical window groupings punctuating the long wall expanses, achieve a surprising sense of classical monumentality and weight in a utilitarian building type.  See continuation sheet.  Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills; New Haven: A Guide to Architecture & Urban Design, Yale University 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 202/0553/003, Building Department Permit files.  Redevelopment & Renewal Plan for the Wooster Square Project Area, 1961.	
Photographer Julie Rosen	Date <b>6/22/2009</b>
	Negative on File NHPT
	Date <b>8/17/2009</b>
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	

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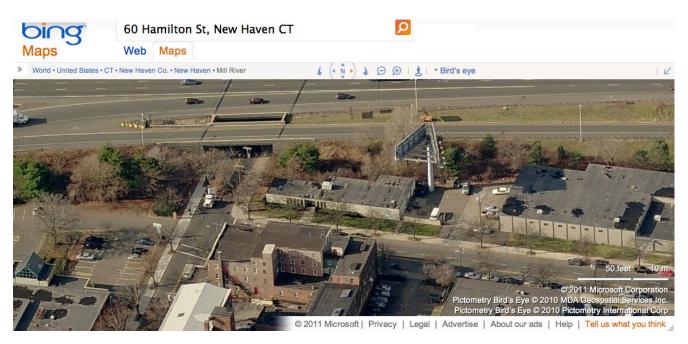
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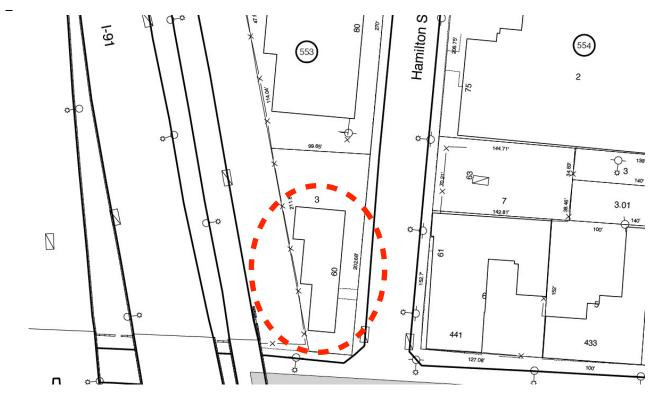


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