

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) Community C		1. E. Church	
Building Name (Historic) Eastern Press			
Street Address or Location 654 Orchard	Street		
Town/City New Haven	Village Goffe-Dixwell	County	New Haven
$\operatorname{Owner}(s)$ Bethel African Methodist Epise	copal Church, 255 Goffe Stro	eet	O Public Private
PROPERTY INFORMATION Present Use: Non-profit Community Cent	er / City of New Haven Seni	or Center	
Historic Use: Commercial / Industrial - F	rinting Company		
Accessibility to public: Exterior visible Interior accessible? • Yes • No If y Style of building Modernist	res, explain During limited ho		
Material(s) (Indicate use or location when app			
Clapboard Asbestos Siding		ood Shingle	Asphalt Siding
Fieldstone Board & Batten	Stucco Co	bblestone	Aluminum Siding
Concrete (Type Block Masonry	_)		Other Insulated Metal Panels
Structural System Wood Frame Post & Beam Other Reinforced Concrete Beams		ad bearing masonry	Z Structural iron or steel
Roof (Type)			
☐ Gable	Mansard Monitor Hip Round	Sawtooth Other	
(Material) Wood Shingle Roll As Built up Tile	ohalt Tin Other Rubl		Asphalt Shingle
Number of Stories: 1 and 2 Appr	oximate Dimensions 110' x	150', 40'x50', 40'x40' ((2 stories)
Structural Condition: Excellent	Good Fair Deterior	rated	
Exterior Condition: Excellent 🗹 Go	od Fair Deteriorated	d	
Location Integrity: On original site Alterations? Yes No If yes, exp			o for senior center.
FOR OFFICE USE: Town # District: \Backslash S	Site # UTM NR If NR, Specify:		

PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)
Related outbuildings or landscape features: ☐ Barn ☐ Shed ☐ Garage ☐ Carriage House ☐ Shop ☐ Garden ☐ Other landscape features or buildings: Asphalt paving, concrete walks & retaining walls, landscaping.
Surrounding Environment: Open land Woodland Residential Commercial Industrial Rural High building density Scattered buildings visible from site
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings: In the 1960s this was a commercial building that was retained when the adjacent neighborhood was redeveloped with a goal of removing most non-residential uses. On the south and east the neighboring buildings are Redevelopment-era housing of two-story height, on the west a church from the same period, and on the north some remaining 19th-century houses. Dixwell Avenue to the northeast, Whalley Avenue to the south, and Broadway to the southeast, are nearby commercial areas. • Other notable features of building or site (Interior and/or Exterior) See continuation sheet.
Architect Earl P. Carlin, 1965 Carlin, Pozzi, and Associates, 1974 • Historical or Architectural importance: See continuation sheet. Builder Jaybe Construction Company, Inc., Derby CT, 1965 W. A. Vandeweerd, Northford CT, 1974 • See continuation sheet.
• Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills; New Haven: A Guide to Architecture & Urban Design, Yale U. 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: 293/ 324/ 041, Building Department permit files. "Eastern Press, Inc.: Renovation and Expansion in an Urban Setting," Architectural Record, February 1969, pp. 162-3.
Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 1/20/2010
View Multiple views Negative on File NHPT
Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 2/28/2010
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 ☐ Explanation ☐ Control ☐

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

654 Orchard Street, New Haven CT 3

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

The complex consists of a tall 1-story block originally comprising office space, printing and bindery facilities. The original structure was enlarged by the addition of office and storage space along its south side, with a basement level. The exterior walls are painted concrete block masonry in a combination of patterned block scored with vertical grooves creating the appearance of smaller units, and full size blocks as quoins and a frieze at the roof line.

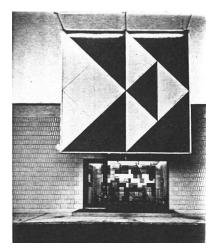
As originally designed, the public entrance under the large square red and white "super-graphic" logo sign, was differentiated from the employee and loading entrances further back from the street. The cube-shaped two-story office addition set on a diagonal, altered the composition of abstract block shapes, changed the entrance location, and moved the sign closer to the street. This addition is clad in vertical aluminum paneling alternating with vertical strips containing metal-framed windows and metal-clad spandrel panels in white or red.

Later renovations to convert the building to a community center, have again changed the circulation pattern by moving the entrance to the west side of the diagonal block. Seen in an aerial view, the assemblage of different building components can be seen; from the ground, the building is a unified composition.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

The building was an existing early 20th-century 1-story structure with a traditional storefront facing Orchard Street. The Redevelopment Agency's plan for the area had a goal of removing non-conforming uses in what was to be solely a residential area; this business was allowed to remain as an exception to the policy because it was a strong local business and employer. The existing structure was wrapped by a new Modernist concrete masonry shell using a scored block pattern that epitomized the Modernist ideal of uniting functionality and decoration. Much as in the Hamilton-East Street industrial area, this material was a popular and economical alternative to traditional brick during the 1960s. Adjacent houses to the south were removed, making way for parking and loading access and allowing the building to be seen clearly from the intersection of Orchard and Goffe Streets.

The scale of the one-story block along Orchard Street matches the height of the nearby 2-story residential buildings to the north. Although the windowless west facade now seems unfriendly to pedestrians, its massing set off the supergraphic of the sign-canopy on the south side and conformed to the contemporary Modernist preference for expressing building volumes as a series of abstract building blocks. The sign graphic by graphic designer/artist Norman Ives doubled as a canopy over what was originally the public entrance, and was a vivid logo for the company for some years, appearing also on their trucks. Traces of the pattern can still be seen through the overpainted signage. The cubic office wing placed diagonally was added nearly 10 years after the 1965 remodeling, and continued the expression of building elements as abstract volumes.



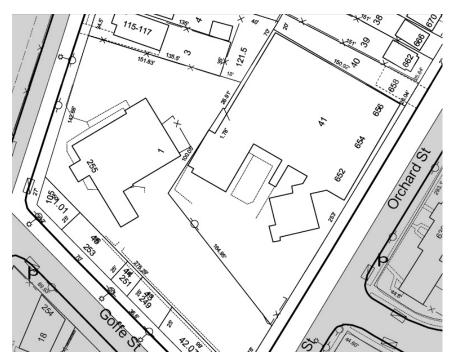
1. View of sign and entrance in 1969 (Architectural Record. p. 163).



2. Southeast view from Orchard Street, camera facing northwest.



3. East view - neighborhood context showing adjacent houses along Orchard Street, camera facing north.





5. Aerial view from Google Maps http://maps.google.com/ accessed 2/28/2010.