



## 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) Woodward Fire Station, Engine 5  
 Building Name (Historic) Woodward Fire Station, Engine 5  
 Street Address or Location 824-830 Woodward Avenue  
 Town/City New Haven Village \_\_\_\_\_ County New Haven  
 Owner(s) City of New Haven ☒ Public ☐ Private

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Fire Station  
 Historic Use: Fire Station

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
 Interior accessible? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain Some areas during limited hours  
 Style of building Modernist - Brutalist Date of Construction 1960

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):

☐ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☐ Brick ☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding  
☐ Fieldstone ☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone ☐ Aluminum Siding  
☒ Concrete (Type Precast & Cast-in-place) ☐ Cut Stone (Type \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Structural System

☐ Wood Frame ☐ Post & Beam ☐ Balloon ☐ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel  
☒ Other Reinforced and Precast Concrete Beams, Columns, & Panels

### 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 Approximate Dimensions 120' x 93'

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: Entry addition, interior conversion for bunk room

**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: Paved areas at driveway apron and parking; hedge and lawn landscaping

**Surrounding Environment:**

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

## • Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The fire station is located on approximately 1 acre between a four-lane road (US Route 1) and a hill with a power line right of way and wooded land. Nearby buildings are mostly commercial, with increasing residential character to the north. The one-story building resembles the scale of automotive and neighborhood commercial buildings that are its neighbors.

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

See continuation sheet.

Architect Carlin-Millard; Earl P. Carlin, Peter Millard Builder Bomar Construction

## • Historical or Architectural importance:

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 Tax Assessor's Record, Map/Block/Parcel: 070/ 0978/ 01700; dedication plaque in building, Building Department permit files.  
 See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 11/12/2009

View East elevation (front) facing Woodward Avenue Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 11/16/2009

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

The building has two parts: a 3-bay garage for fire vehicles and a lower-roofed wing for fire fighter quarters. The vehicle bay walls are constructed with custom-designed precast concrete frames forming a series of upside down U shapes, spaced to allow openings between frames and tapered from bottom to top. Pre-cast panels of a lighter color infill the frames, fitting flush with the outer face of the precast frames, and creating a battered wall surface. Narrow aluminum framed windows fill the openings between frames. Pre-cast prestressed beams support the roof; the ends of the beams are exposed to view along the side elevations and are filled with obscure glass to allow a clerestory light to the interior. The roof structure is a clear span the full width of the equipment garage; three fully glazed overhead doors are framed with steel tube columns, paired to permit person doors between the vehicle doors. The rear part of the garage area has been partitioned off for the fire fighters' bunk room, a later modification.

The residential wing is constructed similarly but with a lower ceiling height. Facing west at the rear of the building, two precast frames are in-filled with glazing to light living spaces, and on the north side a brick chimney is tapered similarly to the concrete frames. Free-standing concrete columns along the north side support an overhang of the roof. Light brown glazed brick is used as an infill material in the north and south walls of this wing as well as in the duty officer's desk in the main garage.

A plan published in 1965 (Stern, p. 189) indicates that entry to the residential wing was only through the equipment space or from the rear yard. The present canopy and front entry to this wing was added in 1996.

A low brick wing wall at the south east corner of the building carries signage identifying Engine 5, a motif that is consistent across several city fire stations designed by the Carlin-Millard firm.

- Historical or Architectural importance:

This is the first of five fire stations designed by the firm for the New Haven Fire Department during the decades of the 1960s and 70s, including the Fire Headquarters on Grand Avenue (1961), and the Whitney Avenue (1962), Ellsworth Avenue (1969), and Howard Avenue (1979) Fire Stations (see Inventory forms). Like the others, this building exhibits careful attention to every detail. Similarities to the Central Fire Headquarters indicate the architect's experimentation with new uses of exposed concrete. The massive tapered trapezoidal form of the columns resembles the more complex forms of supporting interior structure at the Fire Headquarters. The use of glass to infill openings, creating the effect of a curtain wall, is present here and is more extensively used in the later firehouse buildings. Concern for introducing light in clerestories is akin to extensive use of skylights in later buildings. Here an application of a relatively new material, pre-cast and pre-stressed concrete, is exposed to view so that the visual form comes directly from the structural materials which make up the building envelope.

Like a number of Modernist commercial buildings built in the Hamilton Street area during the Redevelopment Era, this building explores the use of new materials with a minimum of pretension. Seen from a distance, this building appears somewhat squat with its heavy horizontal fascia across the front facade. Close appreciation of the details reveal a bold experimentation with new forms and materials. Stylistically, the geometry of the columns, windows, and chimney suggest some degree of Wrightian influence along with the Brutalist style of the very muscular concrete work.

Architects: Following graduation from Yale in 1945, Earl P. Carlin had worked as an assistant to Architects Louis Kahn and Douglas Orr on the Yale Art Gallery, and later as an assistant and office manager to Paul Schweiker while he was Dean of the Yale Architecture Department (Stern, p. 183). He had been involved with the refined brick work, bold concrete forms, and glass curtain walls that can be seen in the Yale Art Gallery. Peter Millard studied at Dartmouth College (BA 1946) and Yale (1951), and taught design at the Yale School of Architecture for 40 years along with his professional partnership with Carlin and Paul Pozzi.

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• Sources:

"In Memoriam: Architect Peter Millard," Yale University Office of Public Affairs, 2009,  
<http://opa.yale.edu/news/article.aspx?id=6583>.

Spring, Bernard P. and Canty, Donald, Architectural Forum, September 1962, "Concrete: the Material that can do almost anything," p. 78ff.

Stern, Robert A. M., "The Office of Earl P. Carlin," Perspecta 9/10, 1965, New Haven, Conn, Schools of Architecture & Design, Yale University, p. 183ff.

New Haven Journal Courier, October 4, 1971, "Inside Your Fire Stations," #5 of a series.



1. Southeast view from Woodward Avenue, camera facing northwest.



2. Northeast view from Woodward Avenue, camera facing southwest.



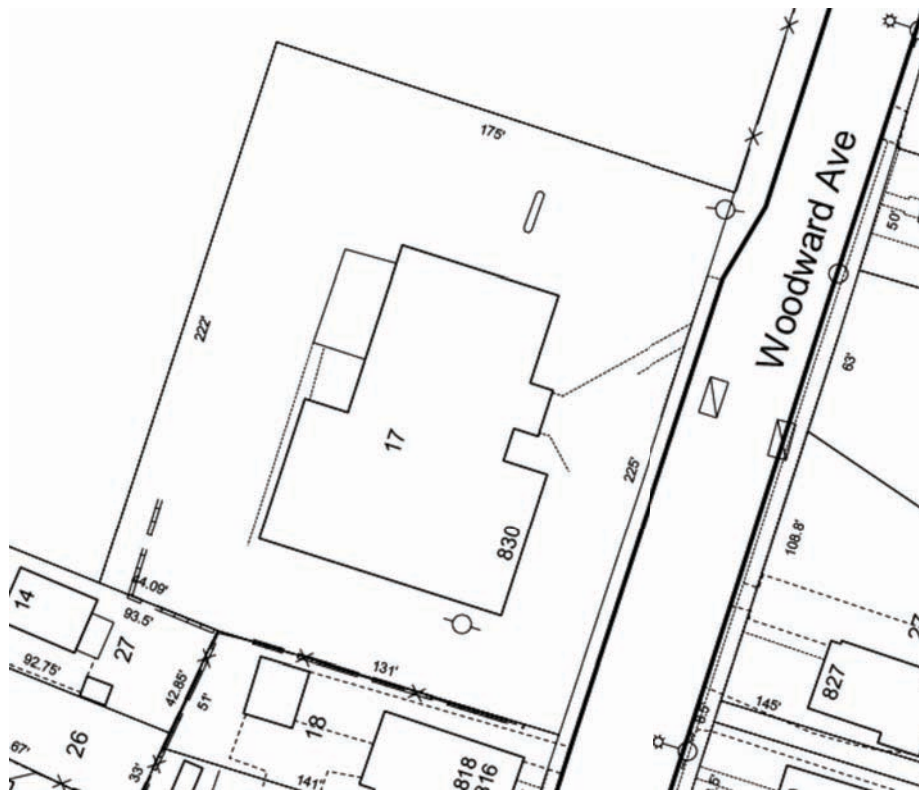
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3. Aerial View from Google Map. <http://maps.google.com/>, accessed 11/16/2009.



4. Site Plan – from City of New Haven Tax Map: 070/ 0978/ 01700, not to scale, North ↑

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5. West elevation showing fire fighters' quarters.



6. North elevation showing typical column form, fenestration, and chimney.



7. Northwest corner column, beams.



8. a, b, c. Interior and exterior of the equipment bays showing structural system.