

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) 149 York Street Building Name (Historic) Yale University Press Building Street Address or Location 149 York Street ____ County New Haven Town/City New Haven ___ Village __ Owner(s) Yale University O Public Private PROPERTY INFORMATION Present Use: University Historic Use: Bakery and warehouse; University press; University offices. **Accessibility to public**: Exterior visible from public road? • Yes O No Interior accessible? O Yes O No If yes, explain _____ __ Date of Construction 1924, 1960 Style of building Modernist **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 block masonry) Cut Stone (Type _____ Structural System Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel Other Roof (Type) Gable **✓** Flat Mansard Monitor Sawtooth Other _____ Gambrel Shed | Hip Round (Material) Tin Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Slate Asphalt Shingle ✓ Other Rubber membrane Tile Built up Number of Stories: 2 Approximate Dimensions 130' x 198' 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 features: Barn Shed Garage Carriage House Shop Garden Other landscape features or buildings: none; full site coverage
Surrounding Environment: Open land Woodland Residential Commercial Industrial Rural High building density Scattered buildings visible from site
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:
149 York Street is a 2-story masonry building on a commercial street in downtown New Haven. It is located on the eastern side of the north-south street, in the middle of the block. The building covers all but a small corner of its lot and the west face comes flush to the street. Nearby buildings date from mid-19th to late 20th centuries.
• Other notable features of building or site (Interior and/or Exterior)
The façade consists of an applied frame of precast concrete piers and crosspieces that divide the façade into panels filled with pierced concrete block. At the top, a concrete crosspiece projects to suggest a cornice. Another projecting horizontal forms a canopy for the entrance. Except for the entry and a loading door, the openings are hidden behind the pierced block screen. The original façade, visible at the bottom and ends, is of off-white glazed brick with a small amount of cast-stone trim. The sides and rear are exposed common brick with irregular openings. The roof is flat. The interior was not accessed for this survey, but the lobby, visible through the glass entry doors, has a screen wall of the sampierced block as the façade. Henry A. Pfisterer, structural engineer; Hubbard, Lawless & Blakely, mechanical/electrical engineers.
Architect Francisco & Jacobus, 1924 Builder Edwin Moss & Son, Bridgeport CT, 1960
Office of Carleton Granbery, 1960 • Historical or Architectural importance:
See continuation sheet.
• Sources: Brown, Elizabeth Mills; New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and 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: 261/ 0231/ 00300, Building Department permit files. See continuation sheet.
Photographer Christopher Wigren Date 12/01/2010
View West, multiple views Negative on File NHPT
Name Christopher Wigren Date 12/20/2010
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

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• Historical or Architectural importance:

Architecture: The pierced block screen, clearly the most eye-catching design element of 149 York, was popularized by Edward Durell Stone on such buildings as the widely publicized American Embassy in New Delhi, India (1954). In this case, it provided an easy and cost effective way of covering an outdated façade without actually rebuilding the façade and while still allowing light and ventilation. The blocks continue into the lobby as a decorative feature. The organization of the precast concrete posts and beams suggests classical columns and entablature, a reflection of interest in applying classical formality and order to Modernist buildings in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Lincoln Center, in New York City, is a prominent national example of this trend, but it is also reflected in Granbery's East Rock Lodge (85 Webster St.; Granbery, Cash and Associates, 1967; see inventory form).

History: Giving older commercial buildings new, modern façades was a common practice in the second half of the 20th century as historic downtowns sought to keep up with the booming suburbs. While this building was remodeled for an institutional user rather than a commercial one, it reflects the same urge to present an up-to-date image to the public. Because of its previous commercial use, the floor plan and structure of the building were ideally suited to printing operations and to support heavy printing presses. According to the Yale facilities website, the Press moved out in 1973, and the building housed the University Printing Service and the offices of University Communications and Information, the Weekly Bulletin and Calendar, Alumni Records, Alumni Magazine and Journal, and University News Bureau. It is now part of the Arts Area Complex and is scheduled for a major renovation.

Architect: E. Carleton Granbery (1913-1998) received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Yale and practiced in New Haven with his wife, Diana, a graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Design. The Granberys were especially proud of this work, highlighting it in a biography submitted for Carleton's 25th reunion at Yale.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Carleton Granbery Associates, Architects. "Office of Carleton Granbery Architect." Brochure, dated 1 January 1970. Scanned copy in possession of Christopher Wigren.

"Granbery, E. Carleton, Jr." AIA Historical Dictionary of American Architects (http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/ahd1016724.aspx).

"Press Turns Dingy Bakery into New Home." The Architectural Forum, February 1961: 87.

Yale University Class of 1935. Quarter Century Record. 1960.

Yale University, Facilities website. http://www.facilities.yale.edu/#top (accessed 20 November 2010). Facility no. 2745.



1. West view from York Street, camera facing southeast.



2. Detail, pierced block screen & concrete frame.

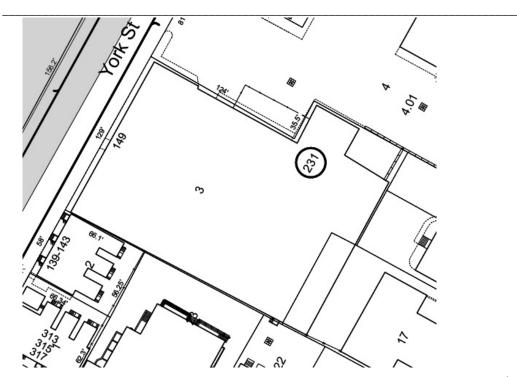


3. Detail, original brick and cast-stone façade.

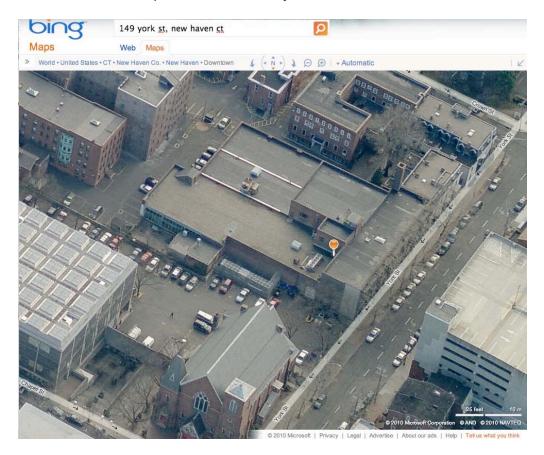
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4. Site Plan – detail from City of New Haven Tax Map 261/0231/00300, not to scale, North 1



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