

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY  
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES  
HIST-6 NEW 5 77

184

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Site No.: \_\_\_\_\_

UTM: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

QUAD: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT:  S  NR IF NR, SPECIFY:  Actual  Potential

Church St. South/Oak St. Connectr 264-103-001

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) Lee High School Yale School of Nursing (Historic) Lee High School

2. TOWN/CITY: New Haven VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: New Haven

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location): 165 Columbus Ave.

4. OWNER(S): City Of New Haven Yale University  Public  Private

5. USE (Present): Educational (Historic): \_\_\_\_\_

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD:  Yes  No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE:  Yes  No IF YES, EXPLAIN: By request

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Post-Modern DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1964

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):  
 Clapboard  Asbestos Siding  Brick  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wood Shingle  Asphalt Siding  Fieldstone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Board & Batten  Stucco  Cobblestone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Aluminum Siding  Concrete Reinforced Concrete Type: Concrete  Cut stone Type: \_\_\_\_\_

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:  
 Wood frame  Post and beam  balloon  Structural iron or steel  
 Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel  
 Other (Specify) Reinforced Concrete

10. ROOF (Type):  
 Gable  Flat  Mansard  Monitor  sawtooth  
 Gambrel  Shed  Hip  Round  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Material):  
 Wood Shingle  Roll Asphalt  Tin  Slate  
 Asphalt shingle  Built up  Tile  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2&B APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: School: 307'X323'; gym: 120'X130'

12. CONDITION (Structural):  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated (Exterior):  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location):  On original site  Moved WHEN? \_\_\_\_\_ (Alterations):  Yes  No IF YES, EXPLAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 Barn  Shed  Garage  Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Carriage house  Shop  Garden Gym and playing fields to the rear (west) side.

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:  
 Open land  Wood-land  Residential  Scattered buildings visible from site  
 Commercial  Indus-trial  Rural  High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

This building takes up an entire block (with its adjacent playing fields). To the south and west is the old Hill neighborhood a part of which was demolished for the school. To the east is the Church St. South Housing complex and beyond that the Penn Central railroad yards. To the north (OVER)

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Building: 2-story concrete megastructure situated on a block-long site. The building rests in a shallow bowl so that the 2nd floor of the building is at the same level as surrounding streets. The structure consists of 4 square units linked around a cross-shaped axis. Cantilevered walkways link these units to the streets. The 2nd story of the building forms a broad overhang over the first story. This overhang creates a covered walkway at ground level. Tall, plate glass windows break the poured concrete wall areas at random intervals. The 2nd floor has a single, continuous window band extending the length of the building. Capping the whole is a wide, overhanging parapet in poured concrete. Attached to the west side of the school block is a wing which holds athletic facilities (gymnasium and swimming pool). This wing extends westward to the end of the lot. The entire building is reinforced concrete with a textured surface. Contrast this building with the Knights of Columbus Tower and the New Haven Coliseum, also designed by Dinkeloo and Roche.

18. ARCHITECT: Kevin Roche, John Dinkeloo and Associates  
 BUILDER: P. Francini Co., Inc.

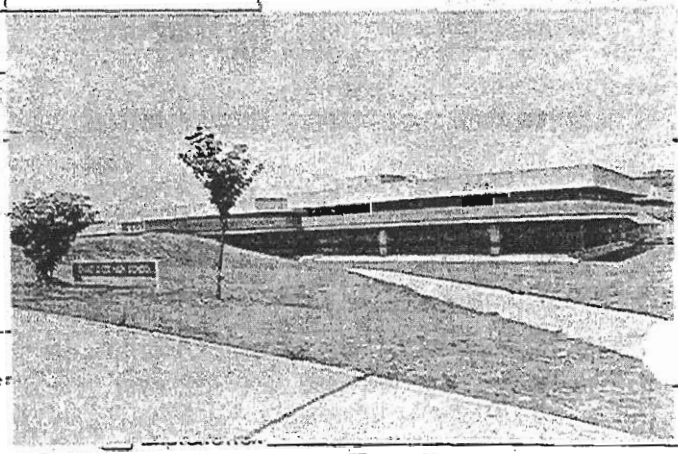
19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Architectural: The Lee High School was one of the first large renewal era projects in the Hill neighborhood. The building has a monumental scale which is meant to relate to the wide boulevard of Church Street South. The architects have reduced a slight rise in the site and effectively tucked the building into the space left over. This emphasizes the horizontality of the building. The building itself has a fortress-like quality with rugged concrete walls and thick, vandal-proof glass. The wide overhanging parapet adds to the defensive and forbidding nature of the building. These qualities set the building at odds with the large residential neighborhood which surrounds it. The interior of the building is divided into four distinct teaching groups. Each group has its own teachers and headmaster. Thus the megastructure on the outside is broken into four smaller schools on the inside in the attempt to be more responsive to student needs. The four groups use common athletic and service facilities.

SOURCES

New Haven Building Dept. Records  
 Brown, pg. 95  
 Maps: 1888  
 Futagawa, Kevin Roche, John Dinkeloo and Associates 1962-1975  
 Cook and Klotz, Conversations with Architects

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	Alan Rutberg	DATE	4/1981
	VIEW	South(side)	NEGATIVE ON FILE	NEPT, CHC Sheet # 75
COMPILED BY	NAME	Preston Maynard	DATE	2/10/1981
	ORGANIZATION	New Haven Preservation Trust		
	ADDRESS	Box 1671, New Haven, Ct. 06507		



← Alterations for Yale School of Nursing

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

<input type="checkbox"/> None known	<input type="checkbox"/> Highways	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/> Developer
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning