

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

HIST-6 NEW S 77

256

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 <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	IF NR, SPECIFY <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common)		(Historic)	
Same		New Haven Jewish Home for the Aged	
2. TOWN/CITY		VILLAGE	COUNTY
New Haven			New Haven
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)			
169 Davenport Ave.			
4. OWNER(S)			
New Haven Jewish Home for the Aged <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present)		(Historic)	
Residential/Medical		Same	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE IF YES, EXPLAIN			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No By request	

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
Beaux-Arts Classical (Post-Modern addition)		1921-23; addition 1975	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Glass and steel (solarium)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: <u>Details</u>	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input type="checkbox"/> balloon	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____			
10. ROOF (Type)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Gable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Hip	<input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
(Material)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Tin	<input type="checkbox"/> Slate
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
11. NUMBER OF STORIES		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS	
3&4 stories			
12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN? (Alterations) IF YES, EXPLAIN			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Large masonry and steel additions added 1950 and 1975; older portions renovated 1934.
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) 1975; solarium added 1934.
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden	Center courtyard, rear parking area, landscaped front and sideyards.
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT			
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS			

Situated along busy Davenport Ave. between Asylum and Ward Streets. This is a dense residential neighborhood of late 19th-c. dwellings, many of which are in poor condition. This complex is major institutional building (OVER)

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

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Building: Complex consists of original building (4-story masonry and steel construction), 1950 rear wing (4-story, masonry and steel construction), and 1975 (east) side wing (3-story masonry and steel construction). The original building is 5 bays wide and has a flat roof. A glass and metal solarium was added to the roof in 1934. A mutually cornice crowns the mass and has a wide frieze, all in cast stone. Vertical quoin quoins rise from the basement to the cornice and are also constructed of cast-stone. At the center of the front facade is a shallow pavilion, 3 bays wide. Fenestration in the building is symmetrical with rectilinear windows in 2nd and 3rd stories and tall arched bays on 1st. floor. Arched bays have cast-stone keystones and impost blocks. A wide frieze in cast-stone divides 1st from 2nd stories. The entry is center and formal with a small projecting entry porch with recessed doors in an arched opening. Flanking the entry

18. ARCHITECT: Brown and Von Beren; (Orr deCossey, and Winder-1975 addition) BUILDER:

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: NR(Site)

SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural: Large institutional building set in the middle of a residential neighborhood. The Jewish Home has expanded at two times in its 60 year history causing demolition of the surrounding residences and weakening the late 19th-c. character of the street and surrounding area. The original building was designed by Brown and Von Beren, one of New Havens most prolific architectural firms. Starting in the late 19th-c. they designed many residences and commercial and public buildings up through the 1920s in New Haven. This structure was originally a restrained Beaux Arts Classical design. The new (east) wing detracts from the formality of the front facade and reorients the attention to the wing.

Historical: The Jewish Home for the Aged is historically significant for four reasons. First of all it was the 2nd institution in the state, and largest at that time, established for the care of

SOURCES

City Directories
 New Haven Building Dept. Records
 Ryan, Susan; The New Haven Jewish Home for the Aged, unpublished history, 1980

PHOTOGRAPHER: Alan Putherg August 1981

VIEW: South (front) NEGATIVE ON FILE: NHPT, CHC Sheet #78

COMPILED BY: Preston Hayward August 1981

ORGANIZATION: New Haven Preservation Trust

ADDRESS: Box 1671, New Haven, Ct. 06507



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known Highways Vandals Developers Other

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning Expropriation

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures New Haven Jewish Home
Davenport Ave.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 256 Date: _____

#17. Building Description:

engaged columns resting on a raised stoop. Flanking the entry porch are single bays on each side with pilasters. The whole is sheathed in rusticated cast-stone masonry. A wide entablature unites entry porch and center pavilion. The west side continues with same detail as front facade, including arched and rectilinear bays divided horizontally by cast-stone friezes.

The 1950s rear wing mimics the detail in the original block. This 4-story rectilinear mass has a flat roof and same horizontal friezes and cornice. The only difference found in this wing is that the detail is simpler and more restrained than in the front.

The 1975 wing is a 3-story mass in a "U" shape with interior courtyard. The wing joins the original block with a 4-story tower, then leads to a recessed entry and lobby area before expanding into the larger 3-story mass. The new entry is recessed and has double doors and plate glass bays. The main block (of the addition) features 2 recessed stories (at 1st and 2nd levels) with a projecting 3rd story. The lower stories are divided vertically by masonry and steel piers which rise to the 3rd floor. Window openings are small in the exterior walls and are grouped adjacent to the vertical members. The interior of the new wing has small balconies opening into residents rooms. The courtyard itself has landscaping and street furniture. At the northeast corner is a massive masonry tower containing the new synagogue.

#19. Architectural and Historical Significance:

elderly, indigent Jews. Its support came not only from Connecticut but from out of state as well, especially New York City. Secondly the Home has played an important role in the history of the neighborhood. The area surrounding the Home has been the traditional neighborhood for immigrant groups for over 100 years. Although German Jews arrived here in the 1860s the mass migration of Russian Jews arrived in New Haven at the end of the 19th and early 20th-c. They settled in the tenements that bordered Congress Ave. and Oak St. Many Jews ran businesses along these two commercial streets. The Jewish Home for the Aged was one of several benevolent associations designed to assist Jews. Here a resident could receive Kosher meals and attend religious services, not available in other elderly homes. The third interesting factor has been the Home's association with the Yale/New Haven Medical Center for over 50 years. Medical care was introduced here when the home moved into its building in 1923. Members of the Jewish Physicians Club, many of whom worked at the hospital, provided volunteer medical services to the residents. Finally the Home was organized, established, and managed in its early years entirely by women. Started by the Sisters of Zion, a Jewish women's service club, 496 of the first subscribers were women (out of a total of 500).