

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

420

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

Yale Central Complex 260-288-1,1.1-1.3

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) **Cross Campus/Cross Campus Library** (Historic) **Same** **Cross Campus Library**

2. TOWN/CITY **New Haven** **Bass Library** COUNTY **New Haven**

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) **High Street (through to College)**

4. OWNER(S) **Yale University**  Public  Private

5. USE (Present) **Open space/library (underground)** (Historic) **--**

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:  Yes  No (library) INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE:  Yes  No IF YES, EXPLAIN **Library hours**

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING **Post-Modern** DATE OF CONSTRUCTION **1968-1970**

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 Type: \_\_\_\_\_  Cut stone Type: \_\_\_\_\_

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

Wood frame  Post and beam  balloon

Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel below grade

Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

10. ROOF (Type)

Gable  Flat  Mansard  Monitor  sawtooth

Gambrel  Shed  Hip  Round  Other (Specify) **See below**

(Material)

Wood Shingle  Roll Asphalt  Tin  Slate

Asphalt shingle  Built up  Tile  Other (Specify) **Landscaped Cross Campus area at grade**

11. NUMBER OF STORIES **2 (below grade)** APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS **+ - shaped courtyard measures approx. 140 x 475' along its N/S arm, 95 x 475 along its E/W arm**

12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN? (Alterations) IF YES, EXPLAIN

On original site  Moved  Yes  No **No major**

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Barn  Shed  Garage  Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) **Cross Campus (see over)**

Carriage house  Shop  Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

Open land  Wood-land  Residential  Scattered buildings visible from site

Commercial  Industrial  Rural  High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

**Cross Campus is a long open space with library below grade. Above, it provides a long, clear viewpoint for the facade of Sterling Memorial Library across High Street (#120). The space is bordered on the south by Late Gothic Revival Berkeley and Calhoun Colleges (189 & 205 Elm St.); on the north by Berkeley College (north part) and L.G.R. Wm.L.Harkness Hall(100 Wall St.)**



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

**DESCRIPTION (Continued)**

**Cross Campus:** a long, landscaped space stretching from High Street, in front of Sterling Memorial Library, to College Street. The space is criss-crossed by numerous, slate-paved walkways, but a long area of lawn has been retained at the center. The west end of the courtyard, near High Street, is raised as a slate-paved plaza flanked by the 2 entrances to underground Cross Campus Library, each enclosed by stone parapet walls and accessed by dog-leg steps on the east sides (only the north entrance is in use; the other serves as a light well). Cross Campus is transversed midway by Blount Avenue (formerly University Avenue, 1902-1914) from Elm to Wall Streets, now marked by a slate walkway.

**Cross Campus Library:** an underground, and therefore entirely interior design. The library is essentially a rectangle with central circulation core containing stairs between the 2 levels, bookstacks east and west of the central core, and circulation area at the west end with lounge areas.

18 ARCHITECT: Edward Larabee Barnes  
 BUILDER: G.H. Macomber, General Contractor

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

**SIGNIFICANCE**

**Architectural:** Cross Campus is the only major remaining open space in the core of the Yale University campus (excluding the larger courtyards of the residential colleges); the underground library was constructed to preserve this space and the monumental long view of the facade of Sterling Memorial Library.

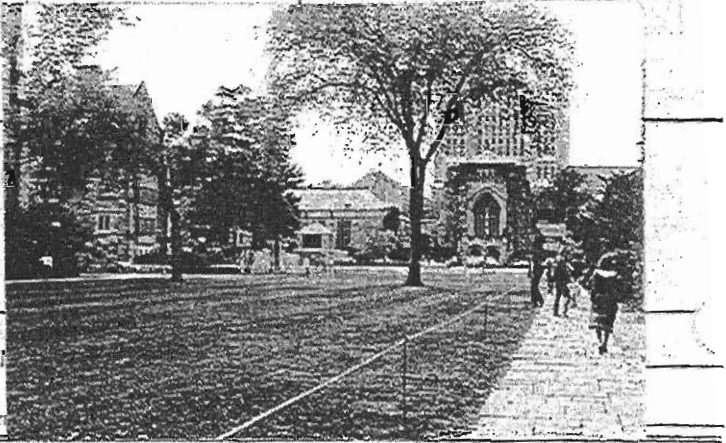
The new library plan, originally proposed in 1968 as an above-grade structure, was the subject of pioneering efforts on the part of Yale students, the Yale administration, and aided by the New Haven Preservation Trust, to arrive at an alternative solution. The present Cross Campus Library is among the largest and most important underground structures in New Haven.

Edward L. Barnes, architect of the library, has specialized in campus planning and construction throughout the country. He became associate with Yale in 1957 as a design critic in the School of Architecture, and has served since 1964 as the university's building consultant.

**SOURCES**

Yale, 1979, p. 55.  
 Brown, p. 128.

<b>PHOTO</b>	PROTOGRAPHER	DATE	Place
	Roger Baldwin ; Alan Rutberg	10/80 2/6/81	
<b>COMPILED BY</b>	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE	Photograph
	1) East; 2) northeast	24 NHPT, CHC, Sheet # 68	
<b>COMPILED BY</b>	NAME	DATE	Photograph
	Susan Ryan	9/5/80	
	ORGANIZATION		
ADDRESS			Photograph
P.O. Box 1671, New Haven, CT 06507			



Interior and stair towers demolished and rebuilt design by Hammond Beeby Rupert Ainge Architects in 2007

20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

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

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM  
For Buildings and Structures

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 420 Date: 9/5/80

Yale Central Complex

Gross Campus/Gross Campus Library  
High Street (through to College)

17. Notable Features (cont.):

near the entrance wells and the underground tunnel to Sterling Memorial Library under High Street.

19. Architectural Importance (cont.)

The Gross Campus Library is one of 2 major new projects on the Yale campus designed by Barnes (see also the Yale School of Organization and Management, 52 and 56 Hillhouse Avenue, 135 Prospect Street and 60 Sachem Street).

