

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

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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

Long Wharf 204-529-1

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) Teletrack (Historic) --

2. TOWN/CITY New Haven VILLAGE _____ COUNTY New Haven

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 600 Long Wharf Drive

4. OWNER(S) American Totalizer Company Inc. Public Private

5. USE (Present) Recreational (theater) (Historic) --

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD Yes No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE Yes No IF YES, EXPLAIN regular day and evening hours

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Post-Modern DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1979

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

Clapboard Asbestos Siding Brick Other (Specify) fiberboard & wood

Wood Shingle Asphalt Siding Fieldstone

Board & Batten Stucco Cobblestone

Aluminum Siding Concrete found & entr. Type: poured Cut stone Type: _____

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

Wood frame Post and beam balloon

Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel

Other (Specify) _____

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 4 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS _____

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) Large asphalt parking lot planted with scattered new trees

Carriage house Shop Garden

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

Teletrack is located on infill land near New Haven harbor. It occupies a small block bounded by East, Water and Hamilton Streets and Long Wharf Drive. Near convergence of I95 and I91. To the east, an area occupied by numerous oil drums relates visually to the Teletrack building.

(OVER)

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior use or exterior)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Teletrack is a large, drum-shaped mass with numerous lower, irregular projections including a large entrance pavilion on the northeast side. Exterior painting in geometric patterns highlights the planes and projectic of the building. The exterior is further accented by neon lighting (band around the drum with the name "Teletrack"), effective from the nearby highways, and flagpoles for banners radiating around the base of the drum.

Steel and concrete entrance area has a large, open porch which extends well into the parking area. Entrance bays have doors set at angles to the wall, reminiscent of the starting gates of racetracks.

Interior: circular entrance ramp and concourse provides gradual transition from light to dark. Neon lighting extends to the interior.

18 ARCHITECT: Herbert S. Newman & Associates

BUILDER: E & F. Construction Co.

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural: The building represents an innovative type of recreational facility. It is the first building in the country with a program of its type (legalized gambling facility based on races shown via large-scale television theater).

The design of Teletrack was intended to enhance a feeling of excitement (responding to the short period of time it takes to watch an individual race), drawing on electronic neon and computerized aspects of visual culture today. Teletrack provides an interesting comparison with another recent sports facility in Connecticut by the same firm, the Milford Jai-alai Fronton.

The design of the Teletrack building also responds to the realities of its site: the drum-like mass echoes the large area of oil drums nearby to the east.

SOURCES

Interview with Herb Newman, New Haven, 5/6/80.

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER: Roger Baldwin

DATE: 6/17/80

VIEW: Northwest

NEGATIVE ON FILE: NHPT, CHC, Sheet no. 1

Place

COMPILED BY: Susan Ryan

DATE: 7/29/80

Photograph

ORGANIZATION: New Haven Preservation Trust

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1671, New Haven, CT 06507



21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known

Highways

Vandalism

Developers

Other

Renewal

Private

Deterioration

Zoning

Expunction