**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**
**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

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

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**Long Wharf**

204-529-1

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**1. BUILDING NAME (Common)**

Teletrack

**2. TOWN CITY/ VILLAGE/ COUNTY**

New Haven

**3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)**

600 Long Wharf Drive

**4. OWNER(S)**

American Totalizer Company Inc.

**5. USE (Present)**

Recreational (theater)

**6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exterior Visible from Public Road</th>
<th>Interior Accessible</th>
<th>IF YES, EXPLAIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>regular day and evening hours</td>
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</table>

**7. STYLE OF BUILDING**

Post-Modern

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION**

1979

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

- Asbestos Siding
- Brick
- Other (Specify): fiberboard & wood
- Wood Shingle
- Asphalt Siding
- Fieldstone
- Board & Batten
- Stucco
- Cobblestone
- Aluminum Siding
- Concrete

**9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM**

- Wood frame
- Post and beam
- Balloon
- Structural iron or steel

**10. ROOF (Type)**

- Gable
- Flat
- Mansard
- Monitor
- Round
- Other (Specify): turret

**11. NUMBER OF STORIES**

4

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**12. CONDITION (Structural)**

Excellent

**13. INTEGRITY (Location)**

On original site

**14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES**

- Barn
- Shed
- Garage
- Other landscape features or buildings (Specify): Large asphalt parking lot planted with scattered new trees

**15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT**

- Open land
- Woodland
- Residential
- Scattered buildings visible from site

**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)
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 project 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.

Architect: 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.