

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Please send completed form to: National Register and State Register Coordinator,
State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development,
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford CT 06103

* Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) Jennings Hall, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU)
 Building Name (Historic) Jennings Hall, Southern Connecticut State College
 Street Address or Location 501 Crescent Street
 Town/City New Haven Village Westville County New Haven
 Owner(s) State of Connecticut, Southern Connecticut State University Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: EDUCATION/college: laboratory/classrooms
 Historic Use: EDUCATION/college: laboratory/classrooms

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain By appointment
 Style of building MODERN MOVEMENT: New Formalism Date of Construction 1983

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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type <u>Cast in place</u>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

Structural System

- Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel
 Other Reinforced concrete

Roof (Type)

- Gable Flat Mansard Monitor Sawtooth
 Gambrel Shed Hip Round Other _____

(Material)

- Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Tin Slate Asphalt Shingle
 Built up Tile Other _____

Number of Stories: 3 Approximate Dimensions 170' x 220'

Structural Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Exterior Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Location Integrity: On original site Moved When? _____

Alterations? Yes No If yes, explain: _____

FOR OFFICE USE: Town # _____ Site # _____ UTM _____

District: S NR If NR, Specify: Actual Potential

PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

Barn Shed Garage Carriage House Shop Garden

Other landscape features or buildings: Academic buildings, lawns, landscape plantings, paved walks and driveways.

Surrounding Environment:

Open land Woodland Residential Commercial Industrial Rural

High building density Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Jennings Hall is located at the north edge of the central academic area of the SCSU campus, on the east side of Fitch Street. The building does not have a distinct entrance feature, but is linked by a passage to Morrill Hall to the south. To the north is the Pelz Gymnasium and to the east the grade slopes down to an artificial pond and, further east, the natural Beaver Ponds. The west side faced a parking lot until the recent construction of a new science building, which has created a quadrangle.

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*)

The building is a three-story flat-roofed rectangular block with an exposed reinforced concrete frame nine bays in length by seven bays in width. A partial fourth floor holds mechanical equipment. At the four corners, stair towers have exposed concrete walls. The two at the east side have sloped tops with metal roofing extending above the main roofline, providing roof access and forming sculptural accents. Wall infill between the structural elements consists of vertical strip windows separating the concrete from non-bearing brown brick infill panels. The verticals of the frame, along with a horizontal lintel at the roof line, form a pattern that refers abstractly to a classical order. The building entrance is from a one-story vestibule attached to the south end, connecting via an enclosed corridor to Morrill Hall. The building is industrial and somewhat fortress-like in character. It has recently been connected at its north end to the new science building.

Architect Westcott & Mapes, Inc. Builder _____

• Historical or Architectural importance:

The campus of New Haven State Teachers College relocated from central New Haven after the 1947 purchase of farmland surrounding Fitch and Crescent Streets. A campus plan was prepared by the office of Architect Douglas Orr, and the first buildings were Pelz Gym and Engleman Hall, built in the early 1950s. Lyman Auditorium and Buley Library concluded the first building campaign by 1969. All of the campus buildings were Modernist in design though, economically constructed. The abstract geometric volume with exposed structure forming repeated patterns of vertical pilasters, and avoidance of ornamental trim mark the building as a New Formalist type of Modernism. The building is named for Manson Jennings, President of the college in the 1970s, and was among the last buildings in the second campaign of campus development during the 1970s. See continuation sheet.

• Sources:

Brown, Elizabeth Mills; *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1976.
 Carley, Rachel D., *Tomorrow is Here: New Haven and the Modern Movement* (Privately printed by the New Haven Preservation Trust, New Haven CT) June, 2008.
 See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 10/23/2016

View Multiple Views Negative on File NHPT

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 10/26/2016

Organization New Haven Preservation Trust

Address 922 State Street, P.O. Box 8968, New Haven, CT 06532

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude: 41.333924, -72.945607

Threats to the building or site:

None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private

Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation _____

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Jennings Hall, SCSU, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT

Historical or Architectural importance (*continued*):

Architects:

Westcott & Mapes, Inc. established their practice as an engineering firm in 1916 and grew to also provide architectural services across the northeastern states. During the Modernist period, they were the designers of the Pelz Gymnasium at SCSU (1952), the Doctors Building at 2 Church Street South (1963), Southern New England Telephone Company Building Three at 400 State Street (1975), the Fairbank Apartments at 355 Ferry Street (1973), and Jennings Hall (1983).

Sources (*continued*):

AIA Historical Directory of American Architects,

<http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/What's%20here.aspx>

DeCarlo & Doll, Inc. 1992. Existing Facilities Condition Survey for Southern Connecticut State University. SCSU Facilities Files.

Farnham, Thomas J. 2008. *A History of the Connecticut State University System*. Hartford: Connecticut State University System.

Maps and aerial views:

Bing Maps accessed at: <https://www.bing.com/mapspreview>

Google Maps accessed at: <https://www.google.com/maps/>

Westcott and Mapes, Inc. firm web site accessed 10/26/2016 at:

<http://www.westcottandmapes.com/about-us.shtml> .

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Jennings Hall, SCSU, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT



Figure 1. Location map of Jennings Hall. Image from Google Maps accessed 10/27/2016.

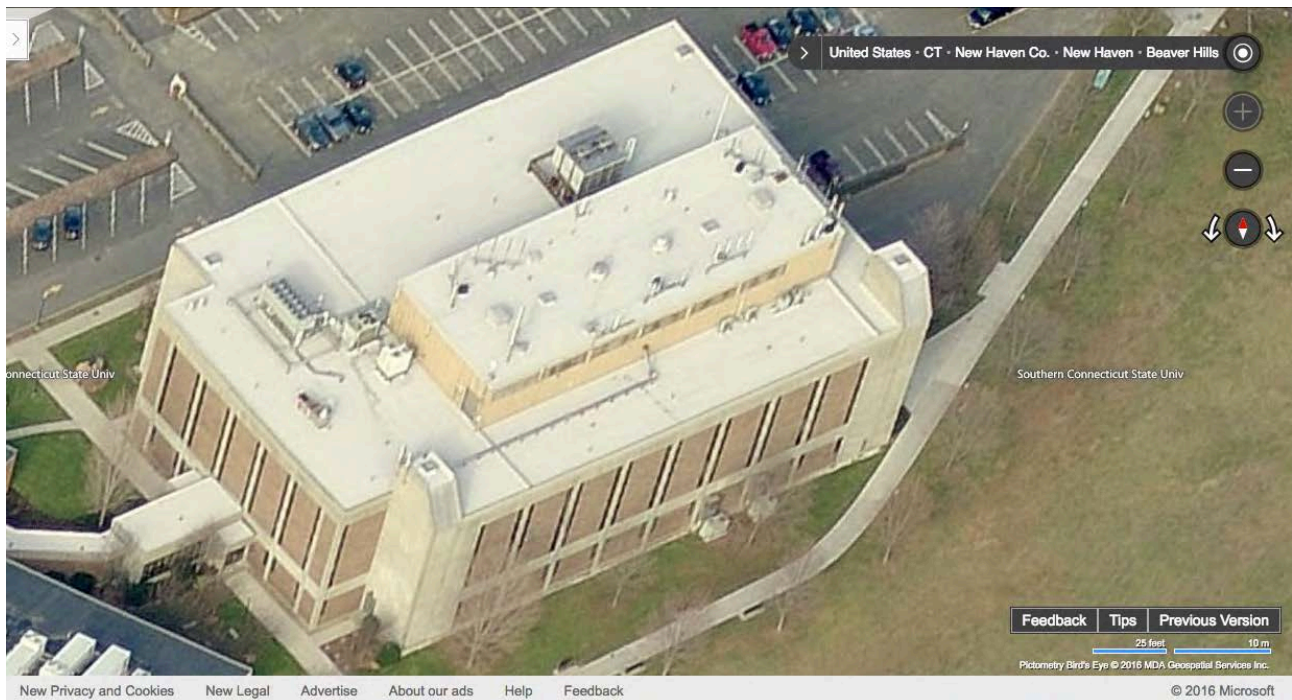


Figure 2. South aerial view of Jennings Hall. Image from Bing Maps accessed 10/27/2016.

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Jennings Hall, SCSU, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT



Photo 3. Southwest view of Jennings Hall, camera facing northeast.



Photo 4. Southeast detail view of Jennings Hall, camera facing northwest.

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Photo 5. Exterior wall detail of the east side showing concrete frame, non-bearing brick infill, and strip windows; camera facing west.