

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY  
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

Inventory Item # 27

(63)

HIST-6 NEW 5/77

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	1:8	6:5	19:8:04:56:03:6:0
QUAD:	Bridgeport (1:24000)		
DISTRICT	IF NR, SPECIFY		
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential		

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span>	
	Bridgeport Public Works Dept. Garage   CT Railway & Lighting Co. Car Barn	
	2. TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE COUNTY
	Bridgeport	Central Business District Fairfield
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)	
	55 Congress Street	
	4. OWNER(S)	
	City of Bridgeport <span style="float: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private</span>	
	5. USE (Present) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span>	
	Public Works Department Garage   Streetcar/bus maintenance facility	
DESCRIPTION	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	IF YES, EXPLAIN: By arrangement with Bridgeport Public Works Department	
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING	
	Early 20th-century industrial	
	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
	1910	
	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) _____ <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: cast-stone trim <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) shed roofs on monitors - large eastern wing (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		
2		
APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
220' x 325'		
12. CONDITION (Structural) <span style="float: right;">(Exterior)</span>		
<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) <span style="float: right;">WHEN? (Alterations)</span>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, EXPLAIN: Brick window in-fill panels and garage door fabric dating from ca. 1960		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden		
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site X- Other: East side of property bordered by Pequonnock River <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		
Located along the southern side of Congress Street between the Pequonnock River and a raised railroad trackbed associated with the former NY, NH, and Hartford Railroad.		

(OVER)

OCT 19 1987

**DESCRIPTION (Continued)**

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

Building: A 1½/2½-story early 20th-century industrial-style structure with load-bearing exterior brick walls elaborated with cast-stone trim and corbelled courses of brick at the top of exterior wall surfaces. Both the office (western) and garage (eastern) wings have flat roofs masked by parapets. The roof of the building's eastern wing is fronted by a gable parapet and topped by a series of parallel shed-roofed monitors. Most structural bays of the building are defined by projecting brick piers. Window openings throughout most of the building have cast-stone sills and metal-framed sash; portions of the building retain original wood-frame window fabric. The southernmost (rear) portion of the building is comprised of a single-story brick featuring exterior detailing similar to that of the front wings. The rear wing appears to be an early (Ca. 1920) addition.

18. ARCHITECT	BUILDER
unknown	unknown

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Background: Bridgeport land records, city directories, and maps of this portion of the city dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries indicate that this building was erected as the principal repair and storage facility for the Connecticut Railway and Lighting Company's Bridgeport division in 1910. The Connecticut Railway and Lighting Company was Bridgeport's principal provider of public transit during the first third of the 20th century. This facility was initially erected by the company for use as a service garage for the company's fleet of electrified streetcars; it was converted to service the company's local bus fleet after the vehicles supplanted streetcars around the World War II era.

Significance: This building is architecturally significant as a good and substantially intact example of an early 20th-century streetcar railway maintenance facility. It is historically significant as the only remaining tangible vestige of an early 20th-century public transit system which tied downtown Bridgeport to its suburban residential hinterland (see cont. sheet)

**SOURCES**

Bridgeport Assessor's Records.  
 Bridgeport City Directories.  
 Bridgeport Land Records.  
 Maps/Atlases: 1896, 1898, 1910, 1917, 1929, 1973.

<b>PHOTO</b>	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE	Place  Photograph  Here
	Dorothea Penar; Paul Loether	1-86; 8-86	
<b>COMPILED BY</b>	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE	
	Southwest	BCBD - CHC 1:7	
<b>COMPILED BY</b>	NAME	DATE	
	Paul Loether/Dorothea Penar	2-11-86 Rev. 3-30-87	
	ORGANIZATION		
	J.P. Loether Associates		
	ADDRESS		
	35 Pierpont Street, Fair Haven, CT 06513		

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

**\*\*Note:** For additional photographs of this structure, see photographs 31, 32, and 33 included as part of documentation of the Historic Resources of Downtown Bridgeport Multiple Resource Area NR Inventory/Nomination Form.

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

<input type="checkbox"/> None known	<input type="checkbox"/> Highways	<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/> Developers	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning	<input type="checkbox"/> Explanation _____

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 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: 19 Date: 2-11-86; revised 3-20-87

55 Congress Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut

Item # 19 - Significance (cont.)

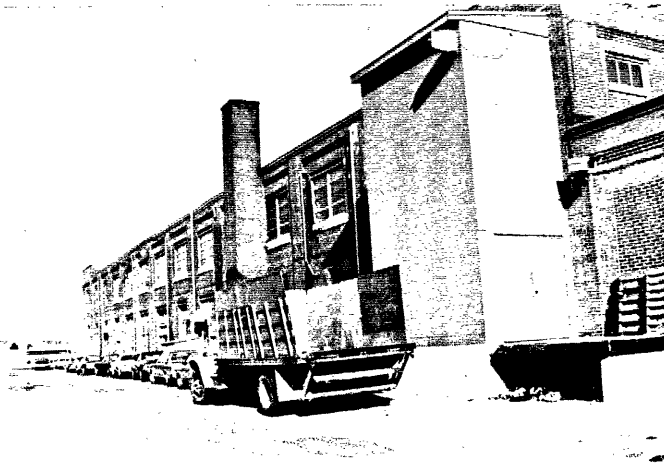
during this same era.

Verbal Boundary Description

The properties boundaries are identical to those delineated in the Bridgeport Land Records, Volume 1516; page 16.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The properties extant boundaries are substantially the same as those at the time that the present structure was constructed in 1910.



Acreage

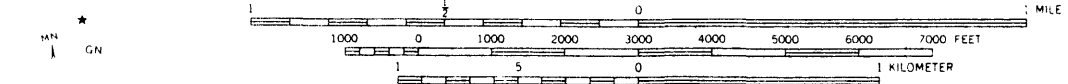
5.73



L O N G I S L A N D S O U

170 000 FEET 650 12'30" 651 652 653 10' 654

SCALE 1:24 000



13 1/2' 240 MILS 1'12" 121 MILS

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
 SHADING SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LIMITS OF