



**CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
STAMFORD URBAN TRANSITWAY PHASE II PROJECT**

**STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT**

*Submitted to:*  
THE CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

*Submitted by:*  
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TRC Project 51043

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June 2006

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

In January and February, 2006 personnel of TRC Environmental Corporation (hereafter referred to as “TRC”) conducted a cultural resource survey for the proposed Stamford Urban Transitway (SUT) Phase II Project through Stamford, Connecticut. The project’s Area of Potential Effect (APE) was defined as the area of proposed construction and possible acquisition of properties. The APE runs on East Main Street from the existing railroad overpass eastward as far as the intersection of Lockwood Avenue, Myrtle Avenue from East Main Street southward to Elm Street, and the two properties located on the northern side of the intersection of Elm and Myrtle Streets.

Background research and consultation included map review of the APE provided by Diversified Technology Consultants of North Haven, CT. Also reviewed were copies of the *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed Stamford Urban Transitway, Stamford, Connecticut Addendum Report*, prepared by TRC in February, 2001, the *Stamford Urban Transitway Cultural Resources Summary Report*, prepared by TRC in June, 2002, and the *Federal Transit Administration Final Environmental Assessment and 4 (f) Evaluation* prepared in January, 2003. Additional research and consultation with the Connecticut Historical Commission (CHC) led to the Dodd Center at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, to review existing state historical property survey forms. A study conducted between July 1977 and May 1979 by Renee Kahn Associates of Stamford, CT included a number of properties within the current APE.

Background research and consultation also indicated that there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the project area or its vicinity. TRC conducted a walkover of the proposed project area and, based on visual inspection only, identified no sites or resources because of the highly disturbed nature of the area. The project lies within a heavily developed part of Stamford, and typical archaeological testing procedures would be rendered impractical, if not impossible, in most locations.

Field work was conducted in February, 2006. This work comprised of driving the APE and making notations on the existing conditions of all properties within the area which appear to be over 50 years old. A total of twelve buildings were identified. Each of these buildings was documented using digital photography. A comparison between the findings laid out by Renee Kahn Associates and actual field survey shows that almost half of the buildings identified in 1977/1979 have been either demolished or undergone extensive “improvements” in the intervening years. In accordance with the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility criteria, no buildings were found to be eligible for National Register status, primarily because alterations have compromised their integrity.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

TRC would like to thank Dr. David Poirier of the Connecticut Historical Commission and Laura Katz Smith of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, for their assistance in providing background information from their files and guidance in the preparation of this document.

At TRC, Raymond Pasquariello of the Providence, Rhode Island office served as project manager and point of contact with the City of Stamford. Nicolas Avery of the Providence, Rhode Island office performed the background research and fieldwork for the architectural investigation and prepared the report graphics.

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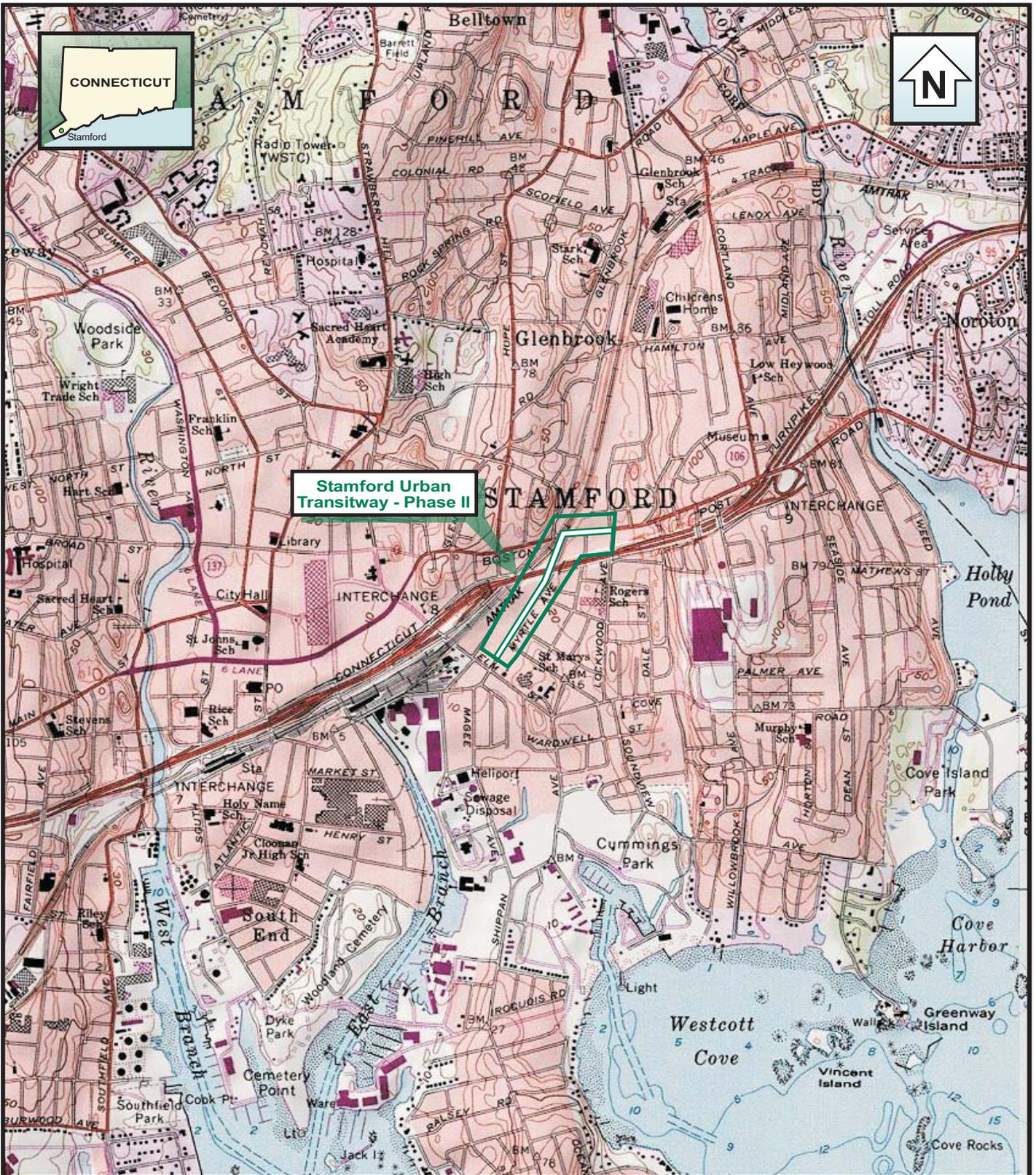
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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

In January and February 2006, personnel of TRC Environmental Corporation (hereafter referred to as “TRC”) conducted a cultural resource survey for the proposed Stamford Urban Transitway (SUT) Phase II project in Stamford, Connecticut (Figures 1 and 2).

The proposed project’s Area of Potential Effect (APE) was defined as the area of proposed construction and possible acquisition of properties. The APE runs on East Main Street from the existing railroad overpass eastward as far as the intersection of Lockwood Avenue, Myrtle Avenue from East Main Street southward to Elm Street, and the two properties located on the northern side of the intersection of Elm and Myrtle Streets. The survey was conducted in compliance with Section 106 of the National Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the implementing regulations for Section 106 found at 36 CFR 800; and guidelines of the Connecticut Historical Commission (CHC).

Background research and consultation identified a 1977-1979 survey of the City of Stamford, conducted by Renee Kahn Associates. CHC historic survey forms for twenty (20) buildings were found within the APE. No buildings were revealed to be on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within the APE.



**Stamford Urban  
Transitway - Phase II**



1:24000

BASE CREATED WITH TOPO™ © 1996 WILDFLOWERS PRODUCTIONS,  
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**PHASE II URBAN TRANSITWAY  
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT**

**FIGURE 1  
STAMFORD URBAN TRANSITWAY  
PHASE II SITE LOCATION**

Date: 02/06

Project No. 51043-0000-00003



TRC's architectural historian conducted a walkover of the proposed project area and, based on visual inspection only, identified twelve (12) structures of at least 50 years of age remaining of the 20 identified in the 1977-1979 survey. In accordance with the NRHP eligibility criteria in 36 CFR 60.4, TRC recommends none of the structures eligible for the NRHP because the majority have undergone severe alterations that compromise their integrity. Only one building in the APE retains a high level of integrity (162 Myrtle Avenue), but is considered ineligible for the NRHP as it retains little architectural significance or historic weight.

Background research and pedestrian survey also indicated that there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the project area or its vicinity, and that the potential for encountering previously unrecorded archaeological sites is low.

This report is organized in the following manner: Chapter II contains the cultural resource survey methods, and Chapter III discusses the results of the survey. Chapter IV presents the report summary and a review of the recommendations.

## **II. METHODS**

In this chapter, the methods and resources used for the historic structure investigation are described. Both the background research and field methodologies utilized during the survey are discussed.

### **BACKGROUND RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION**

Background research and consultation with the CHC were undertaken at the outset of the survey in order to identify any previously recorded historic structures that might lie within the proposed project corridor. The NRHP files and historic structure survey files at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, were reviewed. A copy of the 1977-1979 historic structure survey of the City of Stamford, conducted by Renee Kahn Associates, was reviewed at Storrs as well.

### **FIELD METHODS**

Pedestrian and vehicular surveys of the project's APE were undertaken to identify all structures 50 years old or older. An APE is defined as "the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist" (36 CFR Part 800.16[d]). For the Phase II SUT project, the APE was defined as the area of proposed construction and acquisition. Historic structures requiring survey within the APE would include those to be acquired in whole or in part (i.e. only frontage taken), and those immediately adjacent to the APE (i.e. within the project corridor but no acquisition in whole or in part). The location of each surveyed historic structure within the APE was marked on project base maps, and color digital photographs were taken for use in the compliance document. Data on appearance and integrity were gathered to assist in making recommendation of NRHP eligibility in accordance with 36 CFR 60.4.

The archaeological field survey was accomplished by pedestrian coverage of the proposed project corridor. Due to the highly disturbed and heavily developed nature of the area, TRC conducted a visual inspection and determined that typical archaeological testing procedures would be rendered impractical, if not impossible, in the APE.

### III. RESULTS

TRC's architectural historian conducted a historic structure investigation and determined that the APE contained 12 structures at least 50 years of age. Eleven (11) of these structures are recommended ineligible for the NRHP because severe alterations have comprised their integrity. Only one building in the APE retains a high level of integrity (162 Myrtle Avenue), but is also considered ineligible for the NRHP as it retains little architectural significance or historic weight. This property will be subject to a partial taking of land (frontage) in the proposed project.

Implementation of this project will require the total taking of approximately eight (8) properties and partial taking (frontage) of approximately 67 other properties. Of the eight properties being taken, three (3) were identified as 50 years of age or older (178 Myrtle Avenue/402 Elm Street, 909/911 East Main Street and 921/923 East Main Street). Other than the potential loss of these three historic structures, it appears that the proposed project will create No Adverse Effect on the remaining historic structures in the APE.

TRC's visual inspection of the project area also considered the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological sites, and concluded that this potential is low due to the highly developed nature of the project area.

The following discussion describes the historic structures within the APE. Each individual structure discussion includes a description of the identified resource and a statement of its NRHP eligibility. Figure 2 shows by address the locations of each surveyed structure.

### **909-911 East Main Street**

This two story structure is a pared down example of the Art Deco style (Figure 3). The approximate date of construction is estimated at 1920. Its original use was, and continues to be, mixed residential and commercial.

The structure is a double wide, six bay, painted brick building with flat roof and stepped, raised parapet. Decorative banding on the façade is unpainted grey concrete. Trim at roof line is unpainted grey concrete facing the street and glazed terra cotta tiles on the sides of the building. The original windows on second floor have been replaced, and the first floor has modern storefront windows. The second story houses residential/commercial units, while the first floor houses a convenience store and beauty salon. This structure has undergone extensive alterations, primarily confined to the first floor, and retains only a moderate amount of historical integrity, and is not eligible for the NRHP.



**Figure 3. 909-911 East Main Street, north and east sides, view southwest.**

## **921/923 East Main Street**

This structure is an example of French Second Empire architecture with a vernacular addition (Figure 4). Its approximate date of construction is estimated at 1890 with a 1930s addition. It was historically used as a single family residence, with a later commercial addition. Currently it is a multi-family residential structure with a commercial addition.

The original structure on this property is a 3-story residence with mansard roof. The roof is marked by ornamental slate tiles and two original dormer windows. The façade of the residence has been parged with stucco. The sides of the building are clapboard. A one and two story modern ell has been added to the rear. The first floor of the residence had a one story, flat roof addition added in the 1930s. A historic building survey done between July 1977 and March 1979 by Renee Kahn Associates describes this storefront addition as “distinguished by Cobalt Blue glass panels which give it a distinctive 1930s look.” These (and any other historic details) have all been removed. The addition now houses a restaurant. Due to the removal of almost all historic architectural details, this property is viewed to have a low level of historic integrity, and is not eligible for the NRHP.



**Figure 4. 921/923 East Main Street, north and east sides, view southwest.**

### **930 East Main Street**

This structure is an example of vernacular architecture with Classical Revival elements (Figure 5). Its approximate date of construction is estimated around 1900. Its historic use was as a single family home, but today is used as mixed residential and commercial.

The building is 2½-stories tall, with a pedimented end-gable with cross gable at center of ridge line. The building is 3-bays wide with a three part bay window on the first and second floors. A three part bay window also rises from the first to second floor under the cross gable on the west side of the building. It is marked by a full-width front porch with Doric columns and knee wall. The second story has a porch one bay wide centered over the main entrance on the first floor. A staircase addition on the façade permits access to an apartment/office in what was originally attic space. The building rests on a granite foundation, and the roof is asphalt shingle. All original doors and windows have been replaced, and the original cladding (most likely a combination of wood shingle and clapboard) has been replaced by vinyl. The front steps to the building come to the sidewalk edge. Side and rear yards have been replaced by paved parking lots. Due to the extensive renovations and alterations, this building retains a minimal amount of historic integrity, and is not eligible for the NRHP.



**Figure 5. 930 East Main Street, south and east sides, view northwest.**

### **936 East Main Street**

This structure is an example of vernacular architecture with Classical Revival elements (Figure 6). Its approximate date of construction is estimated around 1900. Its historic use was as a single family home, but today is used as mixed residential and commercial.

The building is 2½-stories tall, with a pedimented end-gable with cross gable at center of ridge line. Building is 3-bays wide with a three part bay window on the first and second floors. A three part bay window also rises from the first to second floor under the cross gable on the west side of the building. It is marked by a full-width front porch with Doric columns. The knee wall and foundation of the porch have been rebuilt with brick. The second story has a porch one bay wide centered over the main entrance on the first floor. The building rests on a granite foundation, and the roof is asphalt shingle. All original doors and windows have been replaced, and the original cladding (most likely a combination of wood shingle and clapboard) has been replaced by vinyl. A historic building survey done between July 1977 and March 1979 by Renee Kahn Associates describes this house as having egg and dart molding and dentils in the cornice. These elements are no longer in place. The front steps to the building come to the sidewalk edge. Side and rear yards have been replaced by paved parking lots. Due to the extensive renovations and alterations, this building retains a minimal amount of historic integrity, and is not eligible for the NRHP.



**Figure 6. 936 East Main Street, south and west sides, view northeast.**

## **68 Myrtle Avenue**

This structure is an example of vernacular residential architecture (Figure 7). The approximate date of construction is estimated around 1910. Its original use was, and continues to be, residential.

The structure is a 2½-story, end-gable, 3-bay wide building. A two-story, two bay wide, flat-roofed entrance porch projects from the façade with an adjacent two-story bay window. The roof lines are marked by deep overhanging eaves. The windows in the porch are all original, but all the others in the house are replacement. The roof is asphalt shingle and the house sits on a granite foundation. Original cladding (probably a combination of wooden shingles and clapboards) has been replaced by vinyl siding. Due to extensive renovations, this structure retains only moderate historic integrity, and is not eligible for the NRHP.



**Figure 7. 68 Myrtle Avenue, north and west sides, view southeast.**

## **70 Myrtle Avenue**

This structure is an example of vernacular residential architecture (Figure 8). The approximate date of construction is estimated around 1910. The original use was, and continues to be, residential.

The building is a 2½-story, end gable, two-bay wide building. The first floor has 1-story, hipped-roof, enclosed entry porch. The sides of the house reveal shallow, projecting, scrolled eave brackets. The house has had all of its original windows replaced, although those on the front of the porch are replacements meant to echo the original fenestration. The house rests on a granite foundation and has a roof of asphalt shingle. The original cladding (most likely wooden clapboard) has been replaced with vinyl siding. Due to extensive remodeling, this structure retains only moderate historical integrity, and is not eligible for the NRHP.



**Figure 8. 70 Myrtle Avenue, north and west sides, view southeast.**

## **80 Myrtle Avenue**

This structure is an example of Queen Anne architecture (Figure 9). The approximate date of construction is estimated around 1890. The original use was residential. Today it appears to be a combination of residential and commercial space.

The structure is a 2½-story, crossed gable, three bay wide building. The plan is cruciform with main entrance adjacent to a 3½-story, through-roof tower. A historic building survey done between July 1977 and March 1979 by Renee Kahn Associates notes that the “original plate and panel front door is distinguished by applied scalloped shell ornamentation. Decorative elements retained in porch pediment, spindles, and brackets.” Only the original scrolled brackets supporting the entrance roof remain. The original front steps and porch have been replaced with pressure treated decking and rails. All original doors and windows have been replaced. The roof is asphalt shingle and the foundation is granite. The original cladding (most likely wooden clapboard and shingles) has been replaced by vinyl siding. Due to extensive remodeling, this structure retains only moderate historical integrity, and is not eligible for the NRHP.



**Figure 9. 80 Myrtle Avenue, north and west sides, view southeast.**

### **148-150 Myrtle Avenue**

This structure is an example of Queen Anne architecture (Figure 10). The approximate date of construction is estimated around 1890. The original use was single residential; today it is multi-family residential.

The structure is a 2½-story, end gable building with 3½-story tower and full length front porch. The porch retains its original turned columns. Three original leaded glass windows remain on the first and second floors, although all remaining windows are replacements. The original windows in the corner tower have been closed over. The roof is asphalt shingles and the foundation is granite. A historic building survey done between July 1977 and March 1979 by Renee Kahn Associates states that there are “scallop shingles in the pediment” and the house is sheathed in clapboard. All of the original cladding has been replaced by vinyl siding. Due to extensive remodeling, this structure retains only moderate historical integrity, and is not eligible for the NRHP.



**Figure 10. 148-150 Myrtle Avenue, west side, view east.**

## **154 Myrtle Avenue**

This structure is an example of Neo Classical style architecture (Figure 11). The approximate date of construction is estimated around 1910. The original use was twin residential; today it is multi-family residential.

The structure is a 2-story, flat roofed building with a three bay façade comprised of full height three-part bays flanking a central entrance. The original front entrance porch has been replaced and exterior steps on the side of the house provide access to a porch and second floor apartments. The building sits on a brick foundation and is clad in vinyl siding. The original double front door with large plate glass panels is intact, but all of the remaining original windows and doors have been replaced. Vertical siding with crown molding at the roof line suggests a previous ornamental parapet. Due to extensive remodeling, this structure retains a low level of historical integrity, and is not eligible for the NRHP.



**Figure 11. 154 Myrtle Avenue, north and west sides, view southeast.**

## **162 Myrtle Avenue**

This structure is an example of Classical Revival style architecture (Figure 12). The approximate date of construction is estimated around 1910. The original use was, and continues to be, multi-family residential.

The building is a 4-story, brick, flat roofed structure. The façade is 3-bays wide. The original roof over the entry porch has been altered (replaced and aluminum clad, or perhaps only clad) but retains its squared Doric columns. The windows on the façade have concrete sills and lintels with wide keystones. Windows on the sides of the building have concrete sills, but arched, inset eyebrow lintels. The roofline on the façade has stepped corbelling and dentil details. The rear of the building has wooden porches. Despite having minor alterations done to the front porch and replacement windows, this building would be considered to have a high level of historical integrity, although not eligible for the NRHP.



**Figure 12. 162 Myrtle Avenue, north and west sides, view southeast.**

## **168 Myrtle Avenue**

This structure is an example of pared down Art Deco style architecture (Figure 13). The approximate date of construction is estimated around 1920. The original use was, and continues to be, commercial.

The structure is a 1-story, flat roofed, brick structure. The façade is 4 bays wide, each with modern plate glass and aluminum store front entrances. The sides of the structure are of red brick, while the façade is of yellow brick. The parapet is marked by a concrete cap, with a shallow central peak and four low posts marking the edges of the outer two bays on the first floor. The façade is also marked by subtle ornamentation of horizontal soldier courses of brick, with bands set at 90- and 45- degree angles. Due to extensive remodeling, this structure retains only moderate historical integrity, and is not eligible for the NRHP.



**Figure 13. 168 Myrtle Avenue, north and west sides, view southeast.**

### **178 Myrtle Avenue/402 Elm Street**

This structure is an example of vernacular, industrial architecture (Figures 14 and 15). The approximate date of construction is estimated around 1920. The original use was, and continues to be, mixed commercial.

The structure is a 2-story, flat roofed, painted brick structure. The façade (facing Elm Street) is 5 bays wide with 5 narrower spaced bays on the Myrtle Street side. The building has a parapet roof edge with pairs of simple decorative brick banding. The remaining windows on the second floor appear to be original, although a number of them have been filled in on both the second and first floors. All of the original doors and storefront entrances on the first floor have been replaced with modern glass and aluminum units, in-filled, or considerably altered. Due to extensive alterations to the first floor, this building would be considered to have a low level of historical integrity and not eligible for the NRHP.



**Figure 14. 178 Myrtle Avenue, north and west sides, view southeast.**



Figure 15. 402 Elm Street, south and east sides, view northwest.

#### **IV. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In January and February 2006, TRC conducted a cultural resource survey for the proposed Stamford Urban Transitway Phase II Project. The survey constituted a historic structure investigation of the project APE. TRC's visual inspection of the project area also considered the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological sites, and concluded that this potential is low due to the highly developed nature of the area.

Background research and consultation identified a 1977-1979 survey of the City of Stamford, conducted by Renee Kahn Associates. CHC historic survey forms for twenty (20) buildings were found within the APE. No buildings were revealed to be on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within the APE.

TRC's architectural historian conducted a walkover of the proposed project area and, based on visual inspection only, identified twelve (12) structures of at least 50 years of age remaining of the 20 identified in the 1977-1979 survey. In accordance with the NRHP eligibility criteria in 36 CFR 60.4, TRC recommends none of the structures eligible for the NRHP because the majority have undergone severe alterations that compromise their integrity. Only one building in the APE retains a high level of integrity (162 Myrtle Avenue), but is considered ineligible for the NRHP as it retains little architectural significance or historic weight.

Implementation of this project will require the total taking of eight properties (consisting of a total of 8 structures) and partial taking (frontage) of approximately 67 others. Of the nine properties being taken, 3 were identified as 50 years of age or older (178 Myrtle Avenue/402 Elm Street, 909/911 East Main Street and 921/923 East Main Street). Other than the potential loss of these three historic structures, the proposed project will create No Adverse Effect on the remaining historic structures in the APE.

## V. REFERENCES CITED

Renee Kahn Associates

Ca. 1980 *Stamford, Connecticut Historic Resources Inventory*. On file, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut, Storrs.