

State-Level Documentation Rosette Street Houses New Haven, Connecticut



The MU (Multiple Unit) Car Storage component of the Connecticut Department of Transportation's reconstruction of the New Haven rail yard required the acquisition and demolition of four Victorian-period houses on Rosette Street. Each house was a contributing element within an historic district that had been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In its Section 106/NEPA review of the project, the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office requested that written and photographic documentation be prepared as a permanent record of the houses. Black and white 4" x 6" photographs of the houses were taken, and State of Connecticut Historic Resource Inventory forms were prepared. The documentation is archived as part of the Connecticut Historic Preservation Collection, Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut, Storrs.

With their gable-end-to-the-street orientation, cross-gable forms, porches, and remnants of Victorian architectural woodwork, the four houses retain indications of their period of origin and add to the historic districts' overall sense of time and place. Although the houses are sided and otherwise modernized, their original appearance can still be perceived, especially in the context of the surrounding houses, many of which have retained more of their Victorian-period architectural detailing.



The project required the historical associations of the houses to be researched using historic maps, census returns, and city directories. The research showed that the neighborhood has an immigrant heritage, particularly Irish-American. For these members of the upper levels of the working class, home ownership usually meant acquiring a two- or three-family house and renting out the other two floors to cover the mortgage.

