

BRAINARD AIRPORT  
Hartford, Connecticut

OVERVIEW

Brainard Airport has significance as one of Connecticut's oldest airports. Early aviators such as Charles Lindbergh and Lieutenant Stuart Chadwick (the first person to land at the airport)<sup>1</sup> are associated with the site. As Hartford's only airport, Brainard is an important part of the social and economic history of the area.

Located in the southeast section of Hartford, east of Interstate 91, Brainard Airport was built by the city and opened on June 11, 1921. It was constructed in response to an accident in which two men were killed as they tried to land their plane in Goodwin Park.<sup>2</sup> In 1927 Charles Lindbergh landed at Brainard, which was his first stop on a major tour after his cross-Atlantic flight. In 1952 the City of Hartford divided the property, and the state purchased that portion currently occupied by the airport. Buildings which date from the 1930s are a hangar, the headquarters building, and an Air National Guard office and hangar.

<sup>1</sup>H. B. Wetherall, Director, Brainard Airport, to Arthur J. Lumsden, unpublished letter dated January 23, 1967.

<sup>2</sup>"Aviation Field is Informally Opened," photocopy of newspaper clipping, unnamed Hartford newspaper, Saturday Morning, April 30, [1930] edition.

2427

# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

HIST-6 REV. 6/83

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

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.:

Site No.: 740

UTM:

QUAD:

DISTRICT

IF NR, SPECIFY

☐ S ☐ NR

☐ Actual

☒ Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)  
Dept. of Aeronautics Headquarters Same

2. TOWN CITY VILLAGE COUNTY  
Hartford Hartford

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)  
Airport Road - Brainard Airport

4. OWNER(S)  
State of CT - Dept. of Transportation ☒ Public ☐ Private

5. USE (Present) (Historic)  
Office Same

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: ☒ Yes ☐ No EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD ☒ Yes ☐ No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ☒ Yes ☐ No IF YES, EXPLAIN  
Office

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING DATE OF CONSTRUCTION  
Utilitarian - Modern 1935

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)  
☐ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☒ Brick ☐ Other (Specify)  
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding ☐ Fieldstone  
☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone  
☐ Aluminum Siding ☐ Concrete Type: ☐ Cut stone Type:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM  
☐ Wood frame ☐ Post and beam ☐ balloon  
☐ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel  
☐ Other (Specify)

10. ROOF (Type) (Material)  
☐ Gable ☒ Flat ☐ Mansard ☐ Monitor ☐ sawtooth  
☐ Gambrel ☐ Shed ☐ Hip ☐ Round ☐ Other (Specify)  
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Roll Asphalt ☐ Tin ☐ Slate  
☐ Asphalt shingle ☐ Built up ☐ Tile ☐ Other (Specify)

11. NUMBER OF STORIES APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS  
2 30 x 50'

12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)  
☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN? (Alterations) IF YES, EXPLAIN  
☒ On original site ☐ Moved ☒ Yes ☐ No roof was raised from one story to two stories

14. RELATED OR ADJACENT BUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES  
☐ Barn ☐ Shed ☐ Garage ☐ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)  
☐ Carriage house ☐ Shop ☐ Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT  
☐ Open land ☐ Wood-land ☐ Residential ☐ Scattered buildings visible from site  
☒ Commercial ☒ Industrial ☐ Rural ☒ High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

The headquarters building is located between the Air National Guard Headquarters/Hanger and the garage. It overlooks the landing field.

(OVER)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

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

The Headquarters Building is a two-story buff-colored brick structure with a flat roof. It is seven bays long with a centered entrance. This has a double glass and aluminum door with transom and brick soldier course lintel. The east-facing facade has two one-story bay windows. Fenestration consists of fixed and hopper-type windows with brick soldier course lintels. Second story windows are slightly shorter. There is a brick soldier belt course just below the second story window sills.

## 18 ARCHITECT

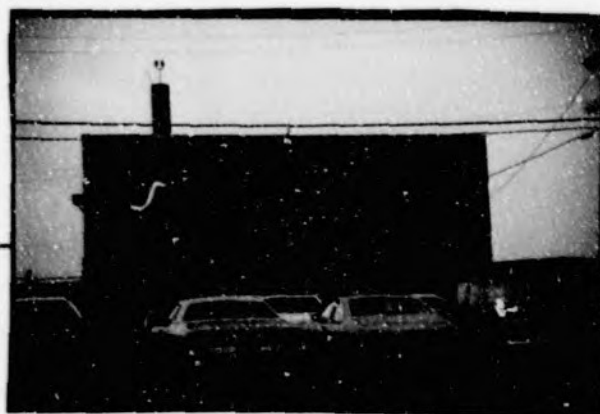
## BUILDER

## 19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

The Headquarters Building may have significance as one of the early structures at Brainard Airport. It is a solid and well-proportioned building.

SIGNIFICANCE

SOURCES



COMPILED BY PHOTO

## PHOTOGRAPHER

Marian Grabowicz

## DATE

6/24/85

## VIEW

facade &amp; west elevation

## NEGATIVE ON FILE

CHC

Place

## NAME

Marian Grabowicz

## DATE

7/85

Photograph

## ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

Here

## ADDRESS

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

## 20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

## 21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- ☒ None known
 ☐ Highways
 ☐ Vandalism
 ☐ Developers
 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Renewal
 ☐ Private
 ☐ Deterioration
 ☐ Zoning
 ☐ Explanation \_\_\_\_\_

# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

HIST-6 REV. 6/83

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.:

Site No.: 741

UTM

QUAD:

DISTRICT

IF NR, SPECIFY

☐ S

☐ NR

☐ Actual

☒ Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common)

Hanger

(Historic)

Same

2. TOWN CITY

Hartford

VILLAGE

COUNTY

Hartford

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)

Airport Road - Brainard Airport

4. OWNER(S)

State of Connecticut - Department of Transportation

☒ Public

☐ Private

5. USE (Present)

storage

(Historic)

hanger - plane storage & repair

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:

EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD

INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE

IF YES, EXPLAIN

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Yes

☒ No

7. STYLE OF BUILDING

Modern hanger

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1935

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

☐ Clapboard

☐ Asbestos Siding

☒ Brick

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Wood Shingle

☐ Asphalt Siding

☐ Fieldstone

☐ Board & Batten

☐ Stucco

☐ Cobblestone

☐ Aluminum Siding

☐ Concrete Type:

☐ Cut stone Type:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

☐ Wood frame

☐ Post and beam

☐ balloon

☒ Load bearing masonry

☐ Structural iron or steel

☐ Other (Specify)

10. ROOF (Type)

☐ Gable

☐ Flat

☐ Mansard

☐ Monitor

☐ sawtooth

☒ Gambrel flat

☐ Shed

☐ Hip

☐ Round

☐ Other (Specify)

(Material)

☐ Wood Shingle

☐ Roll Asphalt

☒ Tin

☐ Slate

☐ Asphalt shingle

☐ Built up

☐ Tile

☐ Other (Specify)

11. NUMBER OF STORIES

1 1/2

APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS

45' x 75'

12. CONDITION (Structural)

☐ Excellent

☒ Good

☐ Fair

☐ Deteriorated

(Exterior)

☐ Excellent

☒ Good

☐ Fair

☐ Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location)

WHEN ?

(Alterations)

IF YES, EXPLAIN

☒ On original site

☐ Moved

☐ Yes

☐ No

14. RELATED BUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

☐ Barn

☐ Shed

☐ Garage

☒ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) plane runway

☐ Carriage house

☐ Shop

☐ Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

☐ Open land

☐ Wood-land

☐ Residential

☐ Scattered buildings visible from site

☒ Commercial

☒ Industrial

☐ Rural

☒ High building density


16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

This building is located on the eastern edge of the field across from the Air 1 building.

(OVER)

DESCRIPTION



DESCRIPTION (Continued)	17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)		
	<p>This is a 1½ story rectangular brick structure with a very flat gambrel roof which is covered with tin. On the south elevation, there is a wood paneled door with four lights and segmental arched brick radiating voussoirs comprised of two courses of brick headers. The east-facing facade has three overhead, metal garage doors. The north elevation has brick piers between four sets of four (3x3) rectangular fixed and casement metal sash industrial-type windows. There is a newer, non-descript addition on the south elevation.</p>		
SIGNIFICANCE	18 ARCHITECT		BUILDER
	19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE <p>This structure is significant because it is one of the earliest hangers at the airport which currently remains on state property.</p>		
SOURCES			
	PHOTOGRAPHER M. Grabowicz DATE 6/24/85 VIEW northeast corner NEGATIVE ON FILE CHC NAME M. Grabowicz DATE 7/85 ORGANIZATION Connecticut Historical Commission ADDRESS 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106		
COMPILED BY	Place Photograph Here		

20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None known	<input type="checkbox"/> Highways	<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/> Developers	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning	<input type="checkbox"/> Explanation _____

# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

HIST-6 REV. 8/83

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

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.:

Site No.: 742

UTM:

QUAD:

DISTRICT

IF NR, SPECIFY

☐ S

☐ NR

☐ Actual

☐ Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common)

(Historic)

Garage

2. TOWN/CITY

VILLAGE

COUNTY

Hartford

Hartford

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)

Airport Road

4. OWNER(S)

State of CT - Department of Transportation

☒ Public

☐ Private

5. USE (Present)

(Historic)

Garage

Same

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:

EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD  
☒ Yes ☐ No

INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE  
☐ Yes ☒ No

IF YES, EXPLAIN

7. STYLE OF BUILDING

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

Utilitarian

1940's

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

☐ Clapboard

☐ Asbestos Siding

☒ Brick

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Wood Shingle

☐ Asphalt Siding

☐ Fieldstone

☐ Board & Batten

☐ Stucco

☐ Cobblestone

☐ Aluminum Siding

☐ Concrete Type:

☐ Cut stone Type:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

☐ Wood frame

☐ Post and beam

☐ balloon

☒ Load bearing masonry

☐ Structural iron or steel

☐ Other (Specify)

10. ROOF (Type)

☐ Gable

☒ Flat

☐ Mansard

☐ Monitor

☐ sawtooth

☐ Gambrel

☐ Shed

☐ Hip

☐ Round

☐ Other (Specify)

(Material)

☐ Wood Shingle

☐ Roll Asphalt

☐ Tin

☐ Slate

☐ Asphalt shingle

☐ Built up

☐ Tile

☐ Other (Specify)

11. NUMBER OF STORIES

APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS

1

40 x 60'

12. CONDITION (Structural)

(Exterior)

☐ Excellent

☒ Good

☐ Fair

☐ Deteriorated

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☒ needs repointing

☐ Fair

☐ Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location)

WHEN?

(Alterations)

IF YES, EXPLAIN

☒ On original site

☐ Moved

☐ Yes

☐ No

14. RELATED OBJECTS

LODGINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

☐ Barn

☐ Shed

☐ Garage

☒ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)

☐ Carriage house

☐ Shop

☐ Garden

Metal-frame tower with green & white lights dating from the late 1930s - may be transferred to Bradley

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

☐ Open land

☐ Wood-land

☐ Residential

☐ Scattered buildings visible from site

Air Museum

☒ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Rural

☒ High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

This garage is located just South of the headquarters building.

(OVER)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

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

This is a one-story rectangular brick structure with a flat roof. It has overhead garage doors located on the north and south elevations. Fenestration consists of multipane (4x5) industrial sash-type windows. On the west elevation the windows are located between brick piers.

SIGNIFICANCE

## 18. ARCHITECT

## BUILDER

## 19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This is a plain utilitarian structure.



SOURCES

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER  
M. Grabowicz

DATE  
6/24/85

VIEW  
north elevation

NEGATIVE ON FILE  
CHC

Place

COMPILED BY

NAME  
M. Grabowicz

DATE  
6/24/85

Photograph

ORGANIZATION  
Connecticut Historical Commission

Here

ADDRESS  
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

## 20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

## 21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

☒ None known   
 ☐ Highways   
 ☐ Vandalism   
 ☐ Developers   
 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Renewal   
☐ Private   
☐ Deterioration   
☐ Zoning   
☐ Explanation \_\_\_\_\_