

OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 E. Hudson St. Columbus, Ohio 43211
614/297-2470



1. No.	2. County LOR	4. Present Name(s) #17 Manuel's Barber Shop; #19 Apollo Theater; #21 Nationwide Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> Coded
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Hobbs Block: #17 College Beauty Shop; # 19 Apollo Theater; # 21 Hobbs Restaurant and Bakery; Oberlin Travel Bureau; Caryle Shop	
Roll #	Exp. #	Facing	
Front 1	25	S	
Rear 2	21	N	

6. Specific Address or Location 17, 19, 21 East College Street	17. Date(s) or Period 1913	17b. Alteration Date(s)	30. Foundation Material Stone
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 09-00-086-102-038	18. Style or Design No academic style - vernacular	High Style <input type="checkbox"/>	31. Wall Construction Brick, Post & Beam
7. City or Village Oberlin	18a. Style of Addition or Element(s) Moderne: Zig Zag	Elements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	32. Roof: Type Other Pitch Low Material Tar
8. Site Plan with North Arrow	19. Architect or Engineer		33. No. Bays Front 5 Side 6
	19a. Design Sources		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Brick, Tile Panels
	20. Contractor or Builder		35. Plan Shape Rectangular
9. U.T.M. Reference	21. Building Type or Plan Other		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Altered
Zone Easting Northing	22. Original Use, if apparent Restaurant, Theater		37. Window Type(s) Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	23. Present Use Theater, Service		38. Bldg. Dims. 67 ft. X 125 ft.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object	24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		39. Endangered? no Explain:
11. On National Register? no	25. Owner's Name & Address, if known		40. Chimney Placement No Chimney Observed
12. N.R. Potential? yes	26. Property Acreage .192		41a. Distance from road 11.5 ft.
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? no	27. Other Surveys in Which Included Dobson -Brown (92)		41b. Frontage on road 67 ft.
14. Dist. Potential? yes	28. No. of Stories 2		
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)	29. Basement? Yes		
16. Thematic Association(s) Entertainment: Motion Pictures			

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features
The first floor of this two story commercial building was remodeled in the 1930s and has vitrolite, black and red brushed aluminum and plate glass. Ticket booth has tile walls on the north facade. The upper floor has double hung windows with stone sills and continuous brick lintels as well as a band of common bond variegated brick work. This building has stone coping. The date plaque is inset at the parapet level and reads: "19 Hobbs 13". The structure has two additional first floor storefronts.

43. History and Significance
This building, built by William Hobbs, was Oberlin's first 300 seat theater. For years, the eastern storefront was the well-appointed Hobbs Bakery and Restaurant. In 1917 the building was sold to Ira West; in 1922 he sold it to a company that owned several theaters in Lorain County. Mr. West repurchased it later that year. In 1923 it was purchased by a local family, the Steels, who continue to own and operate the theater. Mr. West also owned the silent moving picture theater on South Main the Rex. and for a few years he operated both. (cont..)

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)
East College Street is an extension of Oberlin's business district. There is an alley to the west of the building.

45. Sources of Information
O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Fred Maddock files; Oberlin H.P.C. files; City Directories. Lorain County Courthouse tax records.

46. Prepared by	
47. Organization	O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.
48. Date Recorded	12/11/1998
49. Revised by	
50a. Date Revised	
50b. Reviewed by	

51. Condition of Property

- Excellent Ruin
 Good/Fair Destroyed/Burned
 Deteriorated Date _____

54. Farmstead Plan



52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

- Corn Crib or Shed Summer Kitchen Silo
 Smoke House Spring House Ice House
 Designed Landscape Features Privy Garage

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s) _____

OAI Completed? _____

Archaeological Feature:	Observed	Expected on Basis of Archival Research
Well	no _____	no _____
Privy	no _____	no _____
Cistern	no _____	no _____
Foundation	no _____	no _____
Structural Rubble	no _____	no _____
Formal Trash Dump	no _____	no _____
Other _____	no _____	no _____

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

43. History and Significance (Continued from page 1.)

The Rex closed prior to 1922; in 1928 the talkies were introduced to Oberlin at the Apollo. For some time, live performances were also conducted at the Apollo, but that stopped years ago.