

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) Oberlin College Bookstore	<input type="checkbox"/> Coded
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource		5. Historic or Other Name(s)	
Roll #	Exp. #	Facing	
Front 1	24	S	
Rear 2	36a	N	
		Royce block (demolished); Co-op Bookstore	

6. Specific Address or Location 37 West College Street	17. Date(s) or Period 1993	17b. Alteration Date(s)	30. Foundation Material Concrete
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 09-00-085-112--002	18. Style or Design Post modern	High Style <input type="checkbox"/>	31. Wall Construction Steel Frame
7. City or Village Oberlin	18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)	Elements <input type="checkbox"/>	32. Roof: Type Other Pitch Low Material Asphalt Shingle
8. Site Plan with North Arrow	19. Architect or Engineer Integrated Architectural Services...		33. No. Bays Front 5 Side
	19a. Design Sources		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Brick, Glass
	20. Contractor or Builder Fortney & Weygrandt, Inc.		35. Plan Shape Rectangular
9. U.T.M. Reference	21. Building Type or Plan Other		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Unaltered
Zone Easting Northing	22. Original Use, if apparent Bookstore		37. Window Type(s) Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	23. Present Use Bookstore		38. Bldg. Dims. 38 ft. X 89 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 Oberlin College		40. Chimney Placement None
12. N.R. Potential? no	26. Property Acreage .072		41a. Distance from road
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? no	27. Other Surveys in Which Included		41b. Frontage on road 38 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) Commercial: General Merchandise	42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features This post modern, steel-frame commercial structure has a false third floor facade on its north side. The first floor has extensive fixed-glass display windows high on the west side. This brick structure was built to a scale and of a material that kept with the other structures on the street.		

43. History and Significance In 1991, the Oberlin Consumers Cooperative demolished the three 19th century structures on this site to house their book, supply and gift business; all three were built by S. Royce. In November 1999, the Co-operative closed and declared bankruptcy. In late spring of 2000, the college purchased the building and inventory, leased management of the bookstore to a division of Barnes & Noble. The earliest building was the 1863 eastern storefront on West College Street. The second was the 1872 storefront on College Place, 75 ft. to the south of College Street; the 1879 structure was the corner building. The Co-op combined all three buildings into one storefront. (cont.)	
--	--

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) This site is the anchor location for retail businesses downtown. Its proximity to the College makes it easily accessible to pedestrians as they walk to the commercial district.	46. Prepared by
45. Sources of Information Fred Maddock files at O.H.I.O Resource Center and Oberlin College Archives; Oberlin H.P.C. files; Lorain County Courthouse tax records; June 2000 interview with Jack Harley; Oberlin News-Tribune, June 13, 2000.	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 second story had served as office space and residences. Before the bookstore other notable businesses occupied the two separate storefronts. The longest occupant of the east storefront was the Varsity Restaurant, which relocated to the building in 1927 from North Main Street. Other east side businesses included C.W. Persons Drug Store from 1899-1916 and between these two long term businesses were three tea rooms and various other businesses. From 1890-1950 the Comings family ran the A.G. Comings Bookstore. In November 1999 the Oberlin Consumers Cooperative closed for business.