

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 Conservatory of Music		<input type="checkbox"/> Coded										
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr.				5. Historic or Other Name(s) Oberlin College Conservatory of Music												
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr. <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Roll #</td> <td>Exp. #</td> <td>Facing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W.Side 5</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>13</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				Roll #	Exp. #	Facing	W.Side 5	3		8	13					
Roll #	Exp. #	Facing														
W.Side 5	3															
8	13															
6. Specific Address or Location 77 West College Street		17. Date(s) or Period 1964		17b. Alteration Date(s) 1988		30. Foundation Material Unknown										
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 0900-085-112-084		18. Style or Design New Formalism		High Style <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		31. Wall Construction Metal/Steel Frame										
7. City or Village Oberlin		18a. Style of Addition or Element(s) Modern Movement		Elements <input type="checkbox"/>		32. Roof: Type Flat Pitch Flat Material Unknown										
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		19. Architect or Engineer Minoru Yamasaki; addition by Gunnar Birkerts		19a. Design Sources Unknown		33. No. Bays Front over 10 Side over 10										
		20. Contractor or Builder John G. Ruhlin Construction Co.		21. Building Type or Plan Other		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Quartz Aggregate										
		22. Original Use, if apparent College/University		23. Present Use College/University		35. Plan Shape Irregular										
9. U.T.M. Reference		Zone		Easting		Northing										
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										
10. <input type="checkbox"/> Site		<input type="checkbox"/> Structure		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building		<input type="checkbox"/> Object										
11. On National Register ? No		12. N.R. Potential ? Yes		24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		37. Window Type(s) Fixed										
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No		14. Dist. Potential ? Yes		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Oberlin College 173 W. Lorain St. Oberlin OH 44074		38. Bldg. Dims. 150 x 75										
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local) No		26. Property Acreage 2.18		27. Other Surveys in Which Included No		39. Endangered? No Explain:										
16. Thematic Association(s) Private Education - Conservatory/College, Performing		28. No. of Stories 3		29. Basement? Yes		40. Chimney Placement No Chimney Observed										
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features This building exemplifies Yamasaki's "space-age gothic" version of New Formalism. The main segment of the building (Bibbins Hall) is a rectangle with its long side facing College St. The entry is to the west of the center, and is dominated by five windows that extend to the top of the three-story atrium. The middle three windows have doors as their lowest segment. The rest of the façade is an uninterrupted row of narrow, floor-to-ceiling hexagonal windows on each floor. The hexagon motif continues at the building's crown, with the hexagon pattern creating sawtooth battlements, and the spines between the windows extending up to create finials atop the (cont.)																
43. History and Significance Ever since the directorship of Fenelon B. Rice in the last three decades of the 19th century, the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music has been known as one of the best music schools in the world. From 1884 until 1959, it was housed in Warner Hall, a robust Richardsonian Romanesque building on the present site of the King Building. By the 1950s, the Conservatory had outgrown Warner, so in the early 1960s it moved across the street into a new complex designed by prominent architect Minoru Yamasaki, occupying each part of the complex as it was completed. The complex includes classrooms, offices, (cont.)																
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) This building is located between Oberlin's commercial downtown and the college campus. It is surrounded by streets on the north, east and west sides. The small areas between the building and the streets are filled-in with trees, shrubs and planting beds. There is a Japanese garden located to the south, which includes a large pond.				46. Prepared by H. Petersen, M. Franck, D. Musson, and O.H.I.O. Interns												
45. Sources of Information Blodgett, Geoffrey. <u>Oberlin Architecture, College and Town: A Guide to its Social History</u> . Oberlin College, 1985. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin City Directories. Lorain County Courthouse, Auditor Property Records, 2001. Internet. http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor/index.shtml . Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files. O.H.I.O. Resource Center Files. Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pat Holsworth, Oberlin Pioneer Database. Oberlin College Yearbooks, O.H.I.O. Resource Center.				47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.												
				48. Date Recorded 12/16/2002												
				49. Revised by												
				50a. Date Revised												
				50b. Reviewed by												

51. Condition of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruin
<input type="checkbox"/> Good/Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed/Burned
<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	Date _____



54. Farmstead Plan

52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

<input type="checkbox"/> Corn Crib or Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> Silo
<input type="checkbox"/> Smoke House	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring House	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice House
<input type="checkbox"/> Designed Landscape Features	<input type="checkbox"/> Privy	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s) _____

OAI Completed? _____

Archaeological Feature:	Observed	Expected on Basis of Archival Research
Well	_____	_____
Privy	_____	_____
Cistern	_____	_____
Foundation	_____	_____
Structural Rubble	_____	_____
Formal Trash Dump	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____

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

battlements. Behind Bibbins, a one-story hallway extends back to the one-story lounge and the two-story Kulas Recital Hall. Beyond those is the three-story Warner Concert Hall, with recessed hexagonal windows perforating its otherwise-blank wall. The courtyard formed by Bibbins, the lounge, and WCH holds an ornamental Japanese pond and an entry plaza leading to the double doors of the lounge. The windows of the lounge are a variation on the hexagon motif. There are three doors at the northwest corner of WCH, and a covered walkway extends north from them, with its columns following the hexagonal pattern of the lounge windows. A hallway leads past WCH to Robertson Hall, a three-story cube with a courtyard in the center and pairs of narrow hexagonal windows. Between WCH and Robertson projects a two-story addition to the library, sided in white tile, with eccentric windows of varying sizes. This addition was built in 1988, designed by architect Gunnar Birkerts.

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

large group rehearsal rooms, individual practice rooms, recording studios, a library (expanded in 1988), an atrium with a lounge, Kulas Recital Hall, and Warner Concert Hall. Warner Concert Hall is named for the family that funded the original Warner building, but despite remedial improvement, has never equaled its predecessor in acoustical excellence (Blodgett). Today, the complex continues to host world-class musicians as students, faculty, and guest artists. Ever since September 11, 2001, the building has attracted the attention of visitors to town because of its resemblance to one of Yamasaki's more famous designs, the World Trade Center.