

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) Hales Memorial Gymnasium, Cat in the Cream Coffeehouse, and Crane Pool | | <input type="checkbox"/> Coded | |
| 3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr. | | | | 5. Historic or Other Name(s) Hales Memorial Gymnasium, Crane Pool | | | |
| 3a. Roll # Exp. # Facing Front 4 9 E. Side 6 21 | | | | | | | |
| 6. Specific Address or Location 180 West Lorain Street | | | | 17. Date(s) or Period 1931, 1939 | | 17b. Alteration Date(s) 1958 | |
| 6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 0900-075-105-079 | | | | 18. Style or Design Mediterranean, also Art Moderne | | High Style <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 7. City or Village Oberlin | | | | 18a. Style of Addition or Element(s) Modern Movement | | Elements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| 8. Site Plan with North Arrow | | | | 19. Architect or Engineer Pool: Claude Stedman (Walker & Weeks, | | | |
| | | | | 19a. Design Sources Unknown | | 30. Foundation Material Unknown | |
| | | | | 20. Contractor or Builder Pool: Crowell and Little | | 31. Wall Construction Metal/Steel Frame | |
| 9. U.T.M. Reference | | | | 21. Building Type or Plan Other | | 32. Roof: | |
| Zone Easting Northing | | | | 22. Original Use, if apparent College/University | | Type Flat, Hangar, and Hip | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object | | | | 23. Present Use College/University | | Pitch Moderate (on hip) | |
| 10. <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | | | | 24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | | Material Mission/Spanish Tile (on hip) | |
| 11. On National Register ? No | | | | 25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Oberlin College 173 W. Lorain St. Oberlin OH 44074 | | 33. No. Bays Front 7 Side 4 | |
| 12. N.R. Potential ? Yes | | | | 26. Property Acreage 4 | | 34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Hales: Stone, Smooth Dressed; Crane: Brick, Flemish Bond | |
| 13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No | | | | 27. Other Surveys in Which Included No | | 35. Plan Shape Irregular | |
| 14. Dist. Potential ? Yes | | | | 28. No. of Stories 1 and 1/2 | | 36. Changes (Explain in #42) Additions | |
| 15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local) | | | | 29. Basement? Yes | | 37. Window Type(s) Casement, Hopper, and Fixed | |
| 16. Thematic Association(s) Private Education - College | | | | 42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features The façade of Hales Gymnasium is a combination of Art Moderne with Depression-era "stripped" classicism. There are two other parts of the complex: a one-story annex that houses a bowling alley, and the Mediterranean-esque Crane Pool. The large gym has a hangar roof running parallel to the street, and a split-level entry pavilion projects from the side that faces the street. There are double doors at the center of the entry wing, which are flanked by a single door on each side. The doors are stainless steel with round "porthole" windows. Between the doors, the stone piers have lines carved into their tops, effectively turning them into columns with capitals. Inside the atrium, a very Moderne (cont.) | | 38. Bldg. Dims. 250 x 200 | |
| 43. History and Significance Crane Pool was built in 1931, and was enjoyed by generations of Oberlin College students as the site of recreational activities for the entire student body as well as the site of aquatic sporting events. Currently, Crane Pool is boarded up and waiting either for demolition or adaptive re-use. Hales Gymnasium was built adjacent to the pool in 1939. George W. Hales donated the money to build the gymnasium, and named it in honor of his mother, a proponent of physical as well as intellectual fitness (Blodgett). The Hales Annex houses the Oberlin College Lanes, pool tables, and the student-run Cat in the Cream (cont.) | | | | 44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) This building is located between a residential area to the east and a small hospital to the west. There is an open yard, with a few trees, to the south, and a parking lot and athletic fields to the north of the building. | | 39. Endangered? Yes Explain: Crane Pool boarded up, in need of re-use | |
| 44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) | | | | 46. Prepared by H. Petersen, M. Franck, D. Musson, and O.H.I.O. Interns | | 40. Chimney Placement No Chimney Observed | |
| 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. | | 41a. Distance from road approx. 80' | |
| | | | | 48. Date Recorded 12/16/2002 | | 41b. Frontage on road 4 ft. | |
| | | | | 49. Revised by | | | |
| | | | | 50a. Date Revised | | | |
| | | | | 50b. Reviewed by | | | |

51. Condition of Property

☐ Excellent☒ Good/Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruin☐ Destroyed/Burned

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 | _____ | _____ |
| Privy | _____ | _____ |
| Cistern | _____ | _____ |
| Foundation | _____ | _____ |
| Structural Rubble | _____ | _____ |
| Formal Trash Dump | _____ | _____ |
| Other _____ | _____ | _____ |

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

light fixture hangs above the streamlined stainless-steel railings of the double staircase. The interior walls of the atrium are covered with beige marble wainscoting and red marble baseboards. The exterior of the entry wing has the words "Hales Memorial" carved into its stone frieze, and subtle lines carved into its cornice as a hint of entablature. The windows of the wing have stone lug sills, and there is a stone water table around the base, above which one stone panel is inscribed "1938." The stairs leading to a door on the west side of the wing have a wrought-iron railing. Above the entry wing, the side of the gym consists of windows separated by six stone piers. The west end of the gym is similar, with five piers. There is an ornate iron light fixture next to a side door at the back corner where the gym meets the annex, and the door has a stone round arch with a large keystone. The front façade of the one-story annex bears the words "Bowling Lanes" in large blue plastic letters. Crane Pool, at the other end of the annex, is built of beige brick and topped by a red tile roof with vents as gabled dormers. The walls are dominated by large round-arched windows of block-glass, which create an arcade effect, with "capitals" executed in brick to make "columns" out of the piers between the windows.

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

Coffeehouse, all busy hosting recreation and music for college and town alike. Now that Phillips Gym is the main athletic building for the College, students and townspeople use Hales in a very wide variety of ways. Hales houses community aerobics classes, the Oberlin Conservatory's jazz department, College art studios, art exhibits, swing dances, trapeze classes, other concerts and performances, College intramural sports, and the College steel drum ensemble.