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

OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

1. No. 2. County LOR
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr.
Roll # Exp. # Facing
Front 4 9
E. Side 6 21
4. Present Name(s)
Hales Memorial Gymnasium, Cat in the Cream Coffeehouse, and Crane Pool

5. Historic or Other Name(s)
Hales Memorial Gymnasium, Crane Pool

6. Specific Address or Location
180 West Lorain Street
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number
0900-075-105-079
7. City or Village
Oberlin
7a. If Rural, Township & Vicinity

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name
Zone Easting Northing

10. Site Structure Object

11. On National Register?
No

12. N.R. Potential?
Yes

13. Part of Esth Hist Dist?
No

14. Dist. Potential?
Yes

15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)

16. Thematic Association(s)
Private Education - College

17. Date(s) or Period
1931, 1939
17b. Alteration Date(s)
1958

18. Style or Design
Mediterranean, also Art Moderne

19a. Style Sources
Unknown

19b. Design Sources
Unknown

20. Contractor or Builder
Pool: Crowell and Little

21. Building Type or Plan
Other

22. Original Use, if apparent
College/University

23. Present Use
College/University

24. Ownership
Public

25. Owner’s Name & Address, if known
Oberlin College
173 W. Lorain St.
Oberlin OH 44074

26. Property Acreage
4

27. Other Surveys in Which Included
No

28. No. of Stories
1 and 1/2

29. Basement?
Yes

30. Foundation Material
Unknown

31. Wall Construction
Metal/Steel Frame

32. Roof:
Type Flat, Hangar, and Hip
Pitch Moderate (on hip)
Material Mission/Spanish Tile (on hip)

33. No. Bays Front 7
Side 4

34. Exterior Wall Material(s)
Hales: Stone, Smooth Dressed;
Crane: Brick, Flemish Bond

35. Plan Shape
Irregular

36. Changes (Explain in #42)
Additions

37. Window Type(s)
Casement, Hopper, and Fixed

250 x 200

39. Endangered?
Yes

40. Chimney Placement
No Chimney Observed

41a. Distance from road
approx. 80'
41b. Frontage on road
4 ft.

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.)

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.

45. Sources of Information


46. Prepared by
H. Petersen, M. Franck, D. Musson, and O.H.I.O. Interns

47. Organization
O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.

48. Date Recorded
12/16/2002

49. Revised by

50. Date Revised

50b. Reviewed by
52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barn Type(s)</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Smoke House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designed Landscape Features</td>
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<td>Summer Kitchen</td>
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<td>Spring House</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Silo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ice House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Privy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garage</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Formal Trash Dump</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s)  

OAI Completed? __________________________

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<th>Observed</th>
<th>Expected on Basis of Archival Research</th>
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54. Farmstead Plan

51. Condition of Property

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<td>Ruin</td>
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<td>Good/Fair</td>
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<td>Destroyed/Burned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deteriorated</td>
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Date __________________________

52. 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.

53. 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.