

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) Allen Medical Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Coded
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr.		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Allen Memorial Hospital	
Roll #	Exp. #	Facing	
E. Side 4	8		
6	20		

6. Specific Address or Location 200 West Lorain Street	17. Date(s) or Period 1925	17b. Alteration Date(s) 1955, '62, '70, '93	30. Foundation Material Unknown
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 0900-075-105-080	18. Style or Design Mission (1925 only)	High Style <input type="checkbox"/>	31. Wall Construction Metal/Steel Frame
7. City or Village Oberlin	18a. Style of Addition or Element(s) Modern (1954, '62), Brutalism ('70), Postmodern	Elements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	32. Roof: Type Flat, Gable Pitch Moderate (on gable) Material Mission/Spanish Tile (on gable)
8. Site Plan with North Arrow	19. Architect or Engineer Cass Gilbert (1925), Hewitt & Royer (1970)	19a. Design Sources Filippo Brunellschi, Hospital of the Innocents (Gilbert)	33. No. Bays Front 11 Side 9 (Gilbert)
	20. Contractor or Builder Van Blarcom Company	21. Building Type or Plan Other	34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Brick, Stretcher or Running Bond, and Stucco
	22. Original Use, if apparent Hospital	23. Present Use Hospital	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) 6 over 6, and Fixed
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No	14. Dist. Potential ? Yes	25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Oberlin College 173 West Lorain Street Oberlin OH 44074	38. Bldg. Dims. 120 x 240
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)	26. Property Acreage 6	27. Other Surveys in Which Included No	39. Endangered? No Explain:
16. Thematic Association(s) Social Welfare - Health Care	28. No. of Stories 2	29. Basement? Unknown	40. Chimney Placement Multiple Random
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features Allen Medical Center includes Cass Gilbert's original Allen Memorial Hospital, the front façade of which has been covered by an addition. The Mediterranean Gilbert portion is only visible at the back of the building. Its walls are covered with white stucco and topped by a red tile gabled roof with carved rafters. Terra cotta tiles depicting babies in swaddling clothes top the round-arched windows of each wing, and there is a small round window under each gable end. Below the windows is a continuous sill of shaped red bricks. Its east wing has an ornate doorway (which is now a window) with a round compound arch executed in red brick. Its tympanum is decorated with festoons and fruits (cont.)			41a. Distance from road approx. 120' 41b. Frontage on road 6 ft.



43. History and Significance From 1907 until 1925, the house at 21 S. Cedar housed Oberlin's hospital, operated by the Oberlin Hospital Association. Typhoid and scarlet fever outbreaks had drawn attention to the urgent need for a new building built specifically to serve as a hospital, and Oberlin's most prominent medical family helped fill this need (Preston). Dr. Dudley Allen came to Oberlin in 1865 and his son, Dudley Peter Allen, graduated from Oberlin College in 1875 before earning his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1879 and returning to Oberlin (cont.)	46. Prepared by H. Petersen, M. Franck, D. Musson, and O.H.I.O. Interns
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) The complex is surrounded on three sides by a parking lot, and there are two garages behind the building, one on each side.	47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.
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. Dale Preston, "Oberlin Hospital Chronology", 2002. Erik Inglis, architectural historian, e-mail correspondence, 2002. Pat Holsworth, Oberlin Pioneer Database.	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)

on terra cotta tiles. The two-story 1970 addition covers the front façade of the Gilbert portion and extends south toward the street. An entrance pavilion, built in 1993, projects from the center of the façade, and there is a porte cochere in front, supported by four metal columns. The entry is a pair of automatic sliding glass doors. The pattern of the façade alternates between recessed windows and blank walls of beige brick. A sign over the entry, says "Allen Medical Center."

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

to work with his father. In 1883 he moved to Cleveland and taught surgery at Western Reserve Medical College until 1910. In 1894, he became a Trustee of Oberlin College, and hoped to build a hospital for Oberlin, but he died in 1915 of pneumonia before he could realize the goal. In accordance with his will, his widow, Elizabeth Severance Allen, donated \$100,000 to the College for the establishment of a hospital. She also funded the College's Allen Art Museum. The hospital project was delayed for eight years by World War I, postwar inflation, and disagreements over size and appearance, but in 1923, Elisabeth (now Elisabeth Severance Allen Prentiss) donated another \$50,000 on the condition that the College would raise the balance of the money needed to build a hospital designed by Cass Gilbert. The Oberlin Hospital Association donated the land to the College, and in 1925, Allen Memorial Hospital opened, designed by Cass Gilbert and owned by Oberlin College. Patients could receive visitors at their windows, and the average length of a patient's stay was 8.6 days (compared to 3 days currently). The original building had 25 beds, but additions in 1955, 1962, and 1972 eventually raised the bed capacity to 97. In 1954, Oberlin College donated the hospital to the City, and in 1960, the City transferred management to the Allen Memorial Hospital Association. Financial difficulties mounted over the years, and in 2000 the City donated the land and buildings to the Hospital Association. Oberlin College then purchased the land and buildings and leased them to the Hospital Association for \$1 per year. The hospital has now been renamed Allen Medical Center, and is managed by Community Health Partners. The federal government has designated it as a rural "Critical Access Hospital," and to comply with this designation, the hospital has reduced its inpatient bed capacity back to 25. Despite the appearance of being small, the hospital serves a large population especially in southern Lorain County and in 2002 saw over 12,000 patients (1100 inpatient; 9000 Emergency Room visits). Since 2000 there has been extensive interior remodeling, equipment acquisition, and recruitment of new physicians to make the hospital one of the best in Northeast Ohio (Preston).