

OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 E. Hudson St.
Columbus, OH 43211
614/298-2000



1. No. LOR-1714-21		2. County Lorain		4. Present Name(s) Hall Auditorium		1. No. LOR-1714-21
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Cen						
Roll No. 7		Picture No.(s) 12,13		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Sophronia Brooks Hall Auditorium		2. County Lorain
6. Specific Address or Location 67 North Main Street		16. Thematic Associations: Theatre, Music, College		28. No. of Stories Two story		
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 0900-086-101-054		17. Date(s) or Period 1953		17b. Alteration Date(s) c. 1960		4. Present or Historic Name(s) Hall Auditorium
7. City or Village Oberlin		18. Style or Design Neo-Expressionism,		29. Basement? Yes		
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s) International		30. Foundation Material Stone bearing		
		19. Architect or Engineer Wallace Harrison		31. Wall Construction Concrete slab		
		19a. Design Sources		32. Roof Type Other Roof Material Other		
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name: Oberlin		20. Contractor or Builder		33. No. of Bays Irregular Side Bays Irregular		
17 398108 4571822		21. Building Type or Plan Other Building Type		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Other		
Zone Easting Northing		22. Original Use, if apparent Auditorium,,		35. Plan Shape Irregular		
10. Classification: Building		23. Present Use Auditorium,,		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Addition Yes Altered Moved		
11. On National Register?		24. Ownership Private		37. Window Type(s) Other,		
13. Part of Established Hist. Dist?		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known		38. Building Dimensions unknown		
15. Other Designation (NR or Local)		26. Property Acreage 1.40		39. Endangered? By What?		
		27. Other Surveys		40. Chimney Placement No chimney observed		
				41. Distance from & Frontage on Road Approx. 50'		
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)						6. Specific Address or Location 67 North Main Street
Architect Wallace Harrison designed this auditorium. It consists of a Neo-Expressionist structure & rear International style addition. The dominant feature of this building is the massive, wavy wall at the front facade. A flat, wide cornice stretches to the flat, stone walls at each side & extends north & south. The slab roof slants in & down towards the center & rear of the building. Entries are concealed behind the wavy wall at each side & continued...						
43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)						
According to Blodgett, Hall Auditorium has been a very controversial building over the years. The building was completed in 1953, even though planning for the auditorium began around the First World War, when Charles Martin Hall willed \$600,000 for 'a large auditorium' in memory of his mother, to be used by both college and town to encourage 'all forms of education,'(Blodgett 38). The first architect chosen to design the building was Cass Gilbert. His first design looked more like a church than continued...						
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)						
This building is in good condition, and is located between the Allen Memorial Art Museum (to the north) and the Oberlin Inn (to the south). Across busy Main Street is Tappan Square, which is the college and town's public square.						
45. Sources of Information						
Blodgett, Geoffrey, 'Oberlin Architecture, College and Town: A Guide to Social History,' Oberlin College, 1985.; City Directories, O.H.I.O Resource Center.; Holsworth, Pat, Oberlin Pioneer Database.; Lorain County Court House, Auditor Property Record, Internet, http://www.lorainc continued...						

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Roll No. **7** | Picture No.(s) **12,13**

4. Present Name(s)
Hall Auditorium

5. Historic or Other Name(s)
Sophonra Brooks Hall Auditorium

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