OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

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

	614/298-2000		
1. No. LOR-1714-21 2. County Lorain	4. Present Name(s)		۲. Zoz
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Cen	– Hall Auditorium		1. No. LOR-1714-21
Roll No. Picture No.(s)	5. Historic or Other Name(s)		4-21
7 12,13	Sophronia Brooks Hall Auditorium		
6. Specific Address or Location	16. Thematic Associations:	28. No. of Stories	
67 North Main Street	Theatre, Music, College	Two story	2. County Lorain
	17. Date(s) or Period 17b. Alteration Date(s)	29. Basement? Yes	inty
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number	1953 c. 1960	30. Foundation Material	
0900-086-101-054	18. Style or Design High Style	Yes Stone bearing	
7. City or Village If Rural, Township & Vicinity	Neo-Expressionism, Elements	31. Wall Construction	
Oberlin	18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)	Concrete slab	
8. Site Plan with North Arrow	International 19. Architect or Engineer	32. Roof Type Other	4. T
	Wallace Harrison	Roof Material Other	Pres All A
	19a. Design Sources	33. No. of Bays Irregular	ent o vudi
		Side Bays Irregular 34. Exterior Wall Material(s)	itor Hi
	20. Contractor or Builder	Other	ium
		35. Plan Shape Irregular	4. Present or Historic Name(s) Hall Auditorium
	21. Building Type or Plan	36. Changes Addition Yes	me(
	Other Building Type	(Explain in #42) Altered	S)
9. U.T.M. Reference	22. Original Use, if apparent	Moved	
Quadrangle Name: Oberlin	Auditorium, , ,		-
17 398108 4571822	23. Present Use	37. Window Type(s) Other,	
Zone Easting Northing	Auditorium, ,	38. Building Dimensions	-
10. Classification: Building	24. Ownership Private	unknown	
11. On National Register?	25. Owner's Name & Address, if known	39. Endangered?	
5		By What?	
13. Part of Established Hist. Dist?		40. Chimney Placement	-
		No chimney observed	
15. Other Designation (NR or Local)	26. Property Acreage 1.40	41. Distance from & Frontage on Road	
	27. Other Surveys	Approx. 50'	-
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior	Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)		
Architect Wallace Harrison designed this auditorium. It confecture of this building is the massive, wavy wall at the from north & south. The slab roof slants in & down towards the continued	onsists of a Neo-Expressionist structure & rear Internatio ont facade. A flat, wide cornice stretches to the flat, ston	e walls at each side & extends	6. Specific Address or Location 67 North Main Street
43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if neces	ssary)		lress ain \$
According to Blodgett, Hall Auditorium has been a very c planning for the auditorium began around the First Work mother, to be used by both college and town to encoura was Cass Gilbert. His first design looked more like a churc	ontroversial building over the years. The building was c d War, when Charles Martin Hall willed \$600,000 for 'a la ge 'all forms of education,'(Blodgett 38). The first archite	rge auditorium' in memory of his	or Location Street
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #5.	2)		1
			1

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...

1. No. LOR-17	714-21 2. County Lorain	4. Present Name(s)	5 ⁻
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Cen		- Hall Auditorium	R-17
Roll No. 7	Picture No.(s) 12,13	5. Historic or Other Name(s) Sophronia Brooks Hall Auditorium	LOR-1714-21
51. Condition of H	Property: Excellent	54. Farmstead Plan	
52. Historic Outbut53. Affiliated OA	uildings and Dependencies I Site Numbers		
Door Selection: 1	Three or more		
Door Position:	Recessed		
Orientation:	Lateral axis with lateral smaller exten	ision	
Symmetry:	Bilateral symmetry		
FOR OHPO USE:	:		
49. Revised By:			
50a. Date Revised	1:		
50b. Reviewed by	<i>r</i> :		

RPR Number:

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)

aren' t visible from the front. Each entry is comprised of pairs of glass & aluminum doors with windows between them & fixed windows extending to the roof. The box office is inside. From the side elevations, the flattened 'U' shape of the roof is visible. Double glass & aluminum entryways with sidelights are at the north & south elevations. The rear door sits lower than the other & is situated below low, slab roof. At the south elevation, a brick wall rises up from the rear of the structure & has a metal cornice. The cornerstone is at the southwest corner of the building. The rear of the building is comprised of brick, except a glassed-in portion jutting out from the lower right side. A tall garage is also visible here, which faces south & connects to the loading dock. The addition is made of a light colored brick, while the majority of the original structure is simulated marble. The addition is not visible from the road but extends from almost every angle of the building. The west elevation contains a door at the 1st & 2nd stories, with cement stairs & a metal railing leading to the upper emergency exits. The flattened 'V' of the slab roof is also visible. At the north, the addition has a wall of windows at the right side, made of fixed & hopper windows; most are glazed. The left side is not as tall & contains a ribbon of 1/1 fixed windows. Double doors are located to the left with a flat metal hood above the door. The east elevation of the addition has a 2nd story door with cement stairs & a metal railing. Its south elevation contains a ribbon of windows in the second story, with fewer in the 1st story. The double doors at this elevation have steps leading to them. Above the glass & aluminum door, ' Little Theater' is etched in the transom. The addition contains a wall of windows.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

an auditorium and it resembled one of his other building designs in town, Finney Chapel. However, when the college finally decided to build, ' the war and then postwar inflation delayed its construction.' In 1929 the Great Depression and the slumping ALCOA stock, where the money to build the Auditorium was invested, ' no longer supported Cass Gilbert' s design' (Blodgett 39). Finally in 1946, the new president of the college, William Stevenson, settled on a design by architect Wallace Harrison. Harrison was the chief designer of the United Nations complex in New York City (Blodgett 39). The new building held just over 500 people when it was completed, well under the 4000-seat auditorium that was originally designed (Blodgett 39).

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (Con't)

45. Sources (Con't)

county.com/auditor/index.shtml, Accessed 2003.; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.; Gordon, Stephen C., ' How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory. Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, 1992.; McAlester, Virginia and Lee, ' A Field Guide to American Houses,' Alfred K. Knopf Inc., New York, 2000.; ' Alumni Register: Graduates and Former Students, Teaching and Administrative Staff, (1833-1960),' Oberlin College, 1961.

1. No. LOR-1714-21	2. County Lorain	4. Present Name(s) Hall Auditorium	L.No.
3. Location of Negatives	O.H.I.O. Resource Cen		^{0.} R-17
Roll No.	Picture No.(s)	5. Historic or Other Name(s)	14-:
7	12,13	Sophronia Brooks Hall Auditorium	21



