

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) Memorial Arch		<input type="checkbox"/> Coded										
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Memorial Arch												
Roll #	Exp. #				Facing									
Front 1	34A	W												
S. Side 1	33A	N												
6. Specific Address or Location East side of Tappan Square along North Professor between West Lorain and College Streets		17. Date(s) or Period 1903	17b. Alteration Date(s)	30. Foundation Material Stone, Concrete										
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 09-00-085-110-001		18. Style or Design Neo-Classical Revival	High Style <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	31. Wall Construction Sandstone										
7. City or Village Oberlin		18a. Style of Addition or Element(s) Elements <input type="checkbox"/>		32. Roof: Type Other Pitch Low Material Sandstone										
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		19. Architect or Engineer Joseph Lyman Silsbee, Chicago		33. No. Bays Front 1 Side										
		19a. Design Sources		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Stone, Smooth Dressed										
		20. Contractor or Builder		35. Plan Shape U-Shaped										
9. U.T.M. Reference		21. Building Type or Plan Other		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Rehabilitation										
Zone Easting Northing		22. Original Use, if apparent Monument		37. Window Type(s)										
<table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>												23. Present Use Monument		38. Bldg. Dims.
10. <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object		24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		39. Endangered? No Explain:										
11. On National Register ? Yes		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Oberlin College 135 West Lorain Street Oberlin OH 44074		40. Chimney Placement										
12. N.R. Potential ?		26. Property Acreage		41a. Distance from road										
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No		27. Other Surveys in Which Included McQuillin (76)		41b. Frontage on road										
14. Dist. Potential ? Yes		28. No. of Stories 1												
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local) NR: Oberlin College thematic nomination		29. Basement?												
16. Thematic Association(s) Education: Higher & Religion: Christianity														
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features Composed of sandstone with red marble inlays, this monument is one of two structures in Tappan Square. The footprint of the Arch conforms to a half circle, which is bisected by the path running from east to west across the middle of the Square. The central component of the arch is a rectilinear corridor with a bracketed crown of terraced sandstone and rectangular red marble inlays. The ceiling of the corridor is 20 ft from ground level and both supporting walls have a large bronze plaque. The flanking colonnades, attached on the north and south sides, are single rows of Doric columns set on a curved base. Each curved row of columns has a border at ground level of three steps that provide access (cont.)														
43. History and Significance The Indiana sandstone Memorial Arch was privately commissioned and it was designed by architect J.L. Silsbee of Chicago. Final cost for the arch was \$20,720, of which D. Willis James donated \$20,000. The remainder was raised in small amounts from students and friends of the college. It was built to honor those former Oberlin College students who, as missionaries in China, were killed in the Boxer Rebellion. The cornerstone was laid October 16, 1902; dedication was on May 14, 1903 (OC General Catalogue, 1908). Missionary work became possible in China after the nation lost the Opium War in 1839. Oberlin missionaries had gone to China's Shansi Province (cont.)		46. Prepared by M. Fedelchak-Harley; L. Previll												
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) The Arch is located in the middle of the west edge of Tappan Square. It provides a transition from the west of Professor Street college campus to the downtown.		47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.												
45. Sources of Information Lorain County Courthouse: Lorain County Tax Records. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files; General Catalogue of Oberlin College, 1908; Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association brochure. Blodgett, Geoffrey. Oberlin Architecture College and Town: A Guide to its Social History. Oberlin College, 1985.		48. Date Recorded 8-10-2000												
		49. Revised by												
		50a. Date Revised												
		50b. Reviewed by												

51. Condition of Property

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruin
<input checked="" 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	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Privy	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Cistern	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Foundation	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Structural Rubble	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Formal Trash Dump	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Other _____	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>

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

to the base, and upon which rest the columns and an end pier. The columns support a carved entablature with text and acanthus leaves that is level with the ceiling of the central corridor. Above each column a circle of red marble interrupts the entablature. A row of stone brackets sits above the entablature. The piers on each end of the monument are topped with decorative, functional, street lamps mounted on oxidized copper posts. In May 2000 the monument was sandblasted.

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

between 1882 and 1900. As Christian missionaries they learned and spoke Chinese, started schools, cared for orphans, and opened refuges to cure opium addicts. The Boxer Rebellion was a reaction to the missionaries as foreigners and to the special privileges given to Chinese Christians. In the revolt more than 200 foreigners lost their lives, including thirteen Oberlin missionaries and five of their children, all of whom were beheaded (Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association brochure).

Today, the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association continues programs of educational exchange with universities in a number of Asian countries. Students walked through the Arch as a part of graduation ceremonies for many years, but when the arch came under criticism as the monument to Imperialism, that practice was halted, though graduation continues to be held in front of the Arch.

This structure is significant as a monument to an important part of Oberlin College's missionary history, for its record of an unintended outcome, and for its evidence of the college's response to the tragedy. The Memorial Arch was listed on the National Register as part of the Oberlin College thematic nomination in 1978. It was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin City Landmark in November of 1997.