1. No. | LOR-1884-21
2. County | Lorain
3. Location of Negatives | O.H.I.O.
4. Present Name(s) | Oberlin Arboretum
5. Historic or Other Name(s) | Ladies' Grove
6. Specific Address or Location | 216 S. Professor
7. City or Village | Oberlin
8. Site Plan with North Arrow
9. U.T.M. Reference
   Quadrangle Name: Oberlin
   17 397393 457118
   Zone  Easting  Northing
10. Classification: Site
11. On National Register? | 
12. Part of Established Hist. Dist? | 
13. Other Designation (NR or Local) | 
14. Number of Stories | 
15. Basement? | 
16. Foundation Material | 
17. Alteration Date(s) | 
18. Style or Design | High Style
18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s) | 
19. Architect or Engineer | 
19a. Design Sources | 
20. Contractor or Builder | 
21. Building Type or Plan | 
22. Original Use, if apparent | Nature Feature,
23. Present Use | Nature Feature,
24. Ownership | Private
25. Owner's Name & Address, if known | Oberlin College
26. Property Acreage | unknown
27. Other Acreage | 
28. Changes (Explain in #42) | Addition
29. Alteration | Moved
30. Roof Type | 
31. Roof Material | 
32. No. of Bays | 
33. Exterior Wall Material(s) | 
34. Plan Shape | 
35. Building Dimensions | 
36. Chimney Placement | 
37. Window Type(s) | 
38. Exterior Wall Material(s) | 
39. Endangered? | By What?
40. By What? | 
41. Distance from & Frontage on Road | 
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)
   A log fence and gate are located on the Professor St. entrance into the Arboretum. Two small stone pillars hold up the wood gate. Several dirt/gravel paths are located in the arboretum, while a cinder path leads the way into the arboretum from Professor St. The cinder path branches into several other cinder and grass paths. The main path dead-ends into an unfinished amphitheater, consisting only of a grassy hill. A fire pit is located at the continued...

43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)
   The Oberlin Arboretum got its start when OC purchased the 17 acre 'Ladies' Grove' in 1892, hoping to turn the patch of virgin woods into a nature preserve (Ponzetti 1-4). Wealthy OC alum Charles Martin Hall bought much of the property surrounding the grove & bordered by professor St, Morgan St, Pyle-South Amherst Road, & the NYC railroad tracks (now a bike path) in order to realize a full-fledged arboretum. One of these properties included the Rebecca A Johnson house, which is still used for continued...

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)
   The arboretum is located between the streets of Professor and Morgan, the bike path and the golf course. About seventy acres of land encompass the park. The arboretum is filled with many different trees and plants; it is a haven for animals and people.

45. Sources of Information
   City Directories, O.H.I.O Resource Center.; Gordon, Stephen C, 'How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory,' Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, 1992.; 'Lucky Stone Walk-a-thon,' Internet, http://www.oberlin.edu/external/EOG/LucyStoneWalk-a-thonTour/LucyStoneTour.html, Accessed 2004.; 'Oberlin News,' continued...

46. Prepared By: Clark, Surovy, Tomazic, Tuohy
47. Organization: O.H.I.O / Oberlin Heritage Center
48. Date Recorded: 08/02/2004
bottom of the amphitheater. Stone sitting is located around the built-in fire pit. A dirt path leads to a bridge, which crosses Plum Creek. The bridge has concrete footings and is made of steel that has rusted. Wood planks line the floor, while a wire cable held up by small steel poles acts as a handrail. A stone stairway located to the east of the bridge leads up to the reservoirs, which are city property. No buildings can be found in the arboretum, however two pillars form an entrance off of Morgan St. The pillars are made of stone and mortared together with a clay mixture and are marked with the words, 'Ladies Grove'. They stand about eight feet tall and each has lower sections that extend out about ten feet. Smaller pillars are located at the ends and are only about three or four feet tall. Each of the pillars and extensions contain stone tops.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

student housing (Ponzetti 8-9). This land probably also included Kinsman Rd, a small residential street that disappears from the City Directories about this time. There is currently a cinder path in approximately the same area. Hall presented the properties, 77 acres total, to OC soon before his death in 1914. In his will, Hall left a fund to maintain the property & outlined his hopes for the Arboretum, which were essentially that it would remain free of buildings & athletic fields & be developed as a tree & bird sanctuary for both the town & OC (Ponzetti 8-9). The will has been a source of contention ever since. For example, the College has gone to court in the past because it leases a large chunk of Hall's purchase to the private Oberlin Golf Club. Consequently, the Arboretum encompasses only about sixty acres of the roughly one hundred originally planned. Other controversies have included plans to create a public pool & recreation area around the reservoir in the 1960's & recently, the College's failed attempt to build new dorms behind Johnson House (Ponzetti 25-32). There have been numerous small improvements over the last century including various

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

45. Sources (Con't)

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