The building was designed in 1971 by Danon, Worley, Cady, Kirk & Associates of Cleveland to accommodate the growing business that occupied the original structure (now sitting behind the 1971 addition). Also, in 1968 local architect Douglas Johnson designed a small addition for the original structure, which was built in around 1959. The main design element is located near the left of the front/south elevation & features a wide, textured concrete overhang supported by narrow, textured concrete columns. The left & right columns are smooth. All the smooth columns are paired & connected at the top by concrete 'boxes' jutting out above. This portion gives the building its New Formalism appearance. Behind the columns are 9 tall, fixed windows, flanked by brick piers. The left of this part of the building is set back & set lower & features 5 narrow windows, spaced apart with brick columns between each window, with filled metal panels below each window. A textured concrete entablature is continued...

When a light industrial park was built in 1959 in northeast Oberlin, the city was able to expand its economic base beyond the college. One of the key companies was Gilford Instrument Laboratories, and a small building was built to accommodate its original ten employees. Saul Gilford came to Oberlin and built the office and factory to manufacture medical instruments in 1959, but the business quickly expanded, and several additions had to be added to the building. Originally from New York, Gilford had attended M.I.T., and then worked for the National Bureau of Standards. When the prominent addition by Danon, Worley, Cady, Kirk and Associates was constructed in 1971, Gilford labs employed about 600 people. Gilford was innovative in his hiring practices and implemented affirmative action continued...

Parking lots surround the east and west elevations of this building. An access road is located at the north elevation. The south elevation has a large lawn, which lines East Lorain Street. Most of the surrounding buildings are industrial in nature.

43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)

45. Sources of Information

1. No. LOR-1890-21

2. County Lorain

4. Present Name(s) Bayer Diagnostics Corporation Building

5. Historic or Other Name(s) Gilford Instrument Laboratories

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan:

- Door Selection: Other
- Door Position: Flush
- Orientation: Lateral axis
- Symmetry: Other

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #:
1. No. LOR-1890-21
2. County Lorain
4. Present Name(s) Bayer Diagnostics Corporation Building
5. Historic or Other Name(s) Gilford Instrument Laboratories

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

located above & has metal coping on the top (as surrounds the remainder of the building). To the right of the main design element, the roof also sits lower, as does 4 large windows. This small section has a projecting wing to the right with a slightly higher roof; its SW & SE corners have windows at each face of the corner with a filled panel below. The eave above the window has a thick, textured concrete column on the corners. This same type of corner window with thick concrete column superimposed on top is also situated at the NE corner of the wing (on east elevation). The west elevation has metal coping at the roof on the original structure. A wide, cement entablature at the right ends above a double glass door, which has a transom above. A taller brick portion with a cutaway corner is located left of the door. Farther left, a shorter brick wall extends left, with a ribbon of 12 windows connected by stone sills at the far left. The textured concrete is also located above these windows. A recessed entry left of the windows has textured concrete above them & another set of doubled doors is located left of the recessed entry. Finally, at the far left, another set of doors includes textured concrete jutting out overhead. A large, modern addition covered in metal siding is located at the northern part of this elevation & extends far to the north. At the east elevation, right of the wing, the roofline is again set lower, with the same concrete entablature & contains a ribbon of 9 large windows that are the height of the wall & appear to have an operable portion (possibly sliding or hopper) above a filled panel set low in the window. At the immediate right of these windows is the main entry, which is recessed. The glass door has a sidelight at the right & transom above. Another large window, which is not recessed, is located right of the entry. The entry opens to the exterior at a courtyard with a bench & shrubbery. Extending right of the entry portion, the roofline is again lower & has only stone coping (no entablature), until it reaches the next recessed portion, which has metal coping. The far right wing also features metal coping. The textured concrete returns at the top of the corner, above a pair of double glass doors with transom, which sits at a cutaway corner. This corner connects the original structure to an addition that McAlester would refer to as 'contemporary' style. This contemporary addition is at the south & east. The addition is comprised of a brick that is more yellow/orange than the original structure. The south elevation features 7 bays, flat roof, & is 1 story. 5 of the bays each have a pair of windows with 9 lights & continuous slip sill. The far left bay projects further out at the south. At the right edge of the 5th bay a brick pier extends up beyond the roof. The 6th bay is set back & its flat roof is lower. A ribbon of 4 1/1 windows have upper sashes that are about 1/3 larger than the lower sashes. Another recessed portion at the east features 7 bays and is set back with a low roof extending out with wide eaves/overhang. This corner is shared with the east elevation. Right of the portion with the wide overhang, a brick pillar separates the left bay from the main portion of this elevation. The main portion has brick in the lower part of the wall, periodically interrupted by 10 wood panels. Above the brick, 11 pairs of windows sit above a continuous sill. To the right of this section, the brick juts out a few inches and 2 more longer, rectangular windows share a slip sill & a pair of rectangular windows with a slip sill both have plain lintels. Below each pair of windows is a rectangular panel. At this portion, where the brick juts out a few inches, the exterior is completely brick, and the windows do not have continuous sills. To the north of the 'contemporary' style addition, a more recent brick addition is attached to another, large, industrial metal addition. Set back, on the flat roof are 2 large, arched, greenhouse-style windows that rise above the roof.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

hiring before this was common practice. Saul Gilford was also given Oberlin College's Distinguished Community Service Award in 1977. Tragically, Gilford died in a plane crash with his wife and daughter in 1979. Gilford Laboratories operated here through 1985. CIBA Corning built and occupied the building from about 1985 and sold it to its more recent occupant, the Bayer Diagnostics Corporation, which used this building until around 2001. The building was vacant through July 2006, when it was purchased by KNG, Ltd.

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


45. Sources (Con't)