OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 E. Hudson St. Columbus, Ohio 43211
614/297-2470

Eastwood School

5. Historic or Other Name(s)
Eastwood School

1. No.
2. County LOR
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr.
   Roll # Exp. # Facing
   8 5
   8 6
   6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number
   198 East College Street
   6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number
   0900-086-109-051
   7. City or Village
   Oberlin
   8. Site Plan with North Arrow

9. U.T.M. Reference
   Zone
   Easting
   Northing

10. Site
    Building
    Structure
    Object

11. On National Register?
    No

12. N.R. Potential?
    No

13. Part of Estab Hist Dist?
    No

14. Dist. Potential?
    No

15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)

16. Thematic Association(s)
    Public Education - Elementary - City School District

17. Date(s) or Period
    1956

18. Style or Design
    Modern Movement

18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)
    Elements

19. Architect or Engineer
    Unknown

19a. Design Sources
    Unknown

20. Contractor or Builder
    Unknown

21. Building Type or Plan
    Other Building

22. Original Use, if apparent
    School

23. Present Use
    School

24. Ownership
    Public

25. Owner’s Name & Address, if known
    Oberlin CSD Board of Education
    198 East College
    Oberlin
    OH
    44074

26. Property Acreage
    1.92

27. Other Surveys in Which Included
    No

28. No. of Stories
    1

29. Basement?
    No

30. Foundation Material
    Unknown

31. Wall Construction
    Brick Bearing

32. Roof:
    Type
    Flat
    Pitch
    Low
    Material
    Unknown

33. No. Bays
    Front
    Irregular
    Side
    Irregular

34. Exterior Wall Material(s)
    Brick, Common/American Bond, and Stone, Rock Faced Random Ashlar

35. Plan Shape
    Irregular

36. Changes (Explain in #42)
    Altered

37. Window Type(s)
    Awning, and some Hopper

    Unknown

39 Endangered?
    No

40. Chimney Placement
    Off Center Within Roof Surface, tall

41a. Distance from road
    approx. 120'

41b. Frontage on road
    192 ft.

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features
   This school looks like many other public schools built in the 1950s, a style described by Oberlinian Tony Mealy as
   “Motel Modern” (Tribune). The walls are mostly brick, with rock-faced random ashlar at some places. The double
   doors have three panels each, with sidelights and a transom. There are various other doors around the building.
   There is one monitor roof on the east wing of the building, and there are glass-block walls in several places. The two
   windows to the right of the front door have stone sills. The school exemplifies the asymmetry and varied texture of
   1950s school architecture.

43. History and Significance
   Construction of the Eastwood School started in 1955, and the building was finished the next year. Originally, it had a
   combination lunchroom and library, an auditorium, a general purpose room, a kindergarten, and 13 classrooms, but
   four more classrooms were added before the building was completed. The building was completed for $475,000
   (Tribune). The lunchroom is now separate from the library. Oberlin’s kindergarten, first-, and second-grade students
   attend Eastwood. In recent years, local adults have been involved in programs to enrich the curriculum at Eastwood.
   One such program is the Grandparent Reading Program. (cont.)

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)
   There are two toolsheds, one of which is built with innovative strawbale construction. There are several lightposts
   around the grounds. In front of the building, a large semicircular driveway encircles a lawn and a few benches and
   picnic tables. There is a parking lot in the back, and there are playgrounds on the north and southeast sides of the building.

45. Sources of Information
   Resource Center Files. Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pat Holsworth, Oberlin Pioneer Database. Prue Richards,
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

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

which pairs students with older community members, and another is America Reads, through which the Oberlin College Center for Service and Learning places college students in elementary school classrooms to tutor elementary students in reading. Another is America Counts, through which Oberlin Community Services places college students to serve as math tutors for elementary students, and another is the Ecological Design Innovation Center project in which Eastwood students helped build a tool shed in the schoolyard with environmentally-friendly materials.

Eastwood School stands on the former site of Maria Ann Alexander Gibbs’ home, on land once owned by John Mercer Langston. Maria Ann Alexander was sent to Oberlin College in 1852 by her mother, Lucy Alexander, who had been born in Kentucky in 1803 and worked hard to send her children to be educated at Oberlin (Bigglestone). Lucy was an African American, but it is unknown whether she was ever enslaved. Maria Ann Alexander graduated from Oberlin with a Literary Degree in 1854, married politician Mifflin Wistar Gibbs, and moved to Vancouver Island, Canada, where she had five children (Holsworth). She returned to Oberlin in 1870 and bought the land where Eastwood currently stands from John Mercer Langston, an Oberlin alumnus who was the first African American lawyer in Ohio and an important civil rights leader (Holsworth). Maria lived on the site with one of her daughters, Harriette Aletha Gibbs, who worked as a teacher while earning a Bachelor of Music degree from the Oberlin Conservatory during the 1890s (Holsworth). Maria died in 1904 in Washington, DC, but is buried in Oberlin (Holsworth).