### Rice Hall

#### Location of Negatives
- **O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr.**
- **Roll #** 3
- **Exp. #** 24
- **Facing** Front
- **W.Side** 3
- **25 ft.**

#### Specific Address or Location
- **108 West College Street**

#### City or Village
- **If Rural, Township & Vicinity**
- **Oberlin**

#### Site Plan with North Arrow
![Site Plan](image)

#### U.T.M. Reference
- **Zone**
- **Quadrangle Name**
- **Easting**
- **Northing**

#### Site and Structure
- **No.**
- **Building**
- **Object**

#### On National Register?
- **Yes**

#### Part of Estb Hist Dist?
- **No**

#### Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)
- **Rice Memorial Hall**

#### Present Name(s)
- **Rice Hall**

#### Historic or Other Name(s)
- **Rice Memorial Hall**

#### Date(s) or Period
- **1910**
- **17b. Alteration Date(s)**
- **1959-1965**

#### Style or Design
- **Richardsonian/Romanesque**
- **Modern Movement**

#### Architect or Engineer
- **A.B. Jennings (New York City)**

#### Architectural Elements
- **No**

#### Architectural Style
- **High Style**

#### Architectural Style of Addition or Element(s)
- **Unknown**

#### Design Sources
- **Unknown**

#### Contractor or Builder
- **George Feick (Sandusky)**

#### Resources of Information
- **Oberlin College, 1985.**
- **A.B. Jennings (New York City).**
- **George Feick (Sandusky).**

#### Chimney Placement
- **No Chimney Observed**

#### Foundation Material
- **Sandstone, with stone water table**

#### Wall Construction
- **Stone Bearing, also Brick Bearing**

#### Roof:
- **Pitch**
- **Type**
- **Flat**
- **Pitch**
- **Flat**

#### Structural Elements
- **No Chimney Observed**

#### Endangered?
- **No**

#### Bldg. Dims.
- **44 x 48**

#### Threatened Association(s)
- **Private Education - College/Conservatory**

#### Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features
This Richardsonian Romanesque creation has been stripped of its ornate fourth floor and roof, but retains its historic character. Its subtly T-shaped footprint gives it long sides and a short front façade. A large stone staircase decorated with stone globes leads up to a set of glass double doors in an entry which projects slightly. The tympanum of the elliptical arch over the entry has been covered with metal. Above the arch, a dentilled entablature underlines the words “Rice Memorial Hall”, which are carved in relief. There are two more stone globes, one atop each corner of the projecting entry. The center bay of the second floor is a set of four windows under another elliptical arch, but the tympanum of this arch is decorated with alternating (cont.)

#### History and Significance
Fenelon B. Rice served as the director of the Oberlin Conservatory from 1870 until his death in 1901, and it was under his leadership that the Conservatory rose to the level of prominence it enjoys today, known as one of the best music schools in the world. He supervised the building of the old Warner Hall, which housed the Conservatory from 1884 until 1959 when it was torn down to make way for the King Building (Archives). Rice Memorial Hall, adjacent to Warner, was completed in 1910 and included 112 practice rooms, 14 classrooms, and a large ensemble room. It also hosted the first co-ed social dance in Oberlin College history, (cont.)

#### Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)
This building is located in a college campus setting. There are sidewalks surrounding the building and an enclosed courtyard to the east. The courtyard is located between Rice Hall and King Building, and is accessed through a cast iron gate at the south.

#### Prepared by
- **H. Petersen, M. Franck, D. Musson, and O.H.I.O. Interns**

#### Date Recorded
- **12/16/2002**

#### Revised by
- **12/16/2002**

#### Contribute to Historicalsociety.org
- **HISTORICALSOCIETY OHIO SINCE 1885**
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)
smooth and rock-faced blocks in a checkered pattern. On each side of the entry, there is a pair of slightly-recessed two-story round arches, which frame the first and second story windows of the façade’s outer bays. The windows themselves still have lintels and sills, and the tympanum of each round arch is filled in with stone. The windows on the third floor have lintels and lug sills, but no arches. This fenestration pattern is followed for the east and west sides of the south portion of the building. The windows on the northwest side of the building have simple lintels and sills, except for the third-floor windows, which are topped by segmental arches. The northeast side, which faces the courtyard, has a brick wall instead of stone, but the windows have stone lintels and lug sills, and again the third-floor windows have segmental arches.

43. History and Significance (Continued from page 1.)
on January 10, 1920. In 1959 when Warner was replaced by King and the Conservatory moved across the street to its present location, Rice was re-used as a faculty office building adjacent to King, although its ornate fourth floor was removed in an effort to achieve some visual harmony with the flat roof of King (Blodgett). Today, Rice houses the offices of most of Oberlin’s social science and humanities professors, all of whom keep office hours open to students.