This dormitory was built with the austerity and efficiency of Modernism. The long, narrow building lies parallel to the street, and the main entrance, a set of double doors with wide sidelights and a transom, is near the center of the south façade. On the left side of the entry, the wall is clad with panels of turquoise marble that bear the name "Dascomb" in metal letters. To the left of the marble is a row of seven large windows, covered by a continuous flat arch of concrete. A one-story dining hall projects from the north side of the building, and there are entries on its north and east sides. A side door projects from the west end of the south façade, a wheelchair ramp leads up to an entry on the east end of the building, and there is a loading dock for the (cont.)

Prior to 1950, most of Oberlin’s students lived in large houses around town, some owned by the College, and others owned by individual landlords. Starting with the G.I. Bill and continuing with the Baby Boom, Oberlin’s student body swelled in the years after World War Two, and the College’s president, William Stevenson, decided to house this influx in large dormitories on campus. In Oberlin’s own version of urban renewal, many wooden houses were torn down to make way for Dascomb Hall and its fraternal twin, Barrows Hall, both completed in 1956 (Oberlin Architecture). Dascomb is named for one of the wooden houses it replaced, (cont.)

This building is located in a college campus setting, with a residential neighborhood located across the street. There are parking lots on the east and west sides of the building, and a campus quad is adjacent to the north. A cast iron fence surrounds a tree to the north of the building.

**Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features**

This dormitory was built with the austerity and efficiency of Modernism. The long, narrow building lies parallel to the street, and the main entrance, a set of double doors with wide sidelights and a transom, is near the center of the south façade. On the left side of the entry, the wall is clad with panels of turquoise marble that bear the name "Dascomb" in metal letters. To the left of the marble is a row of seven large windows, covered by a continuous flat arch of concrete. A one-story dining hall projects from the north side of the building, and there are entries on its north and east sides. A side door projects from the west end of the south façade, a wheelchair ramp leads up to an entry on the east end of the building, and there is a loading dock for the (cont.)

**History and Significance**

Prior to 1950, most of Oberlin’s students lived in large houses around town, some owned by the College, and others owned by individual landlords. Starting with the G.I. Bill and continuing with the Baby Boom, Oberlin’s student body swelled in the years after World War Two, and the College’s president, William Stevenson, decided to house this influx in large dormitories on campus. In Oberlin’s own version of urban renewal, many wooden houses were torn down to make way for Dascomb Hall and its fraternal twin, Barrows Hall, both completed in 1956 (Oberlin Architecture). Dascomb is named for one of the wooden houses it replaced, (cont.)

**Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)**

This building is located in a college campus setting, with a residential neighborhood located across the street. There are parking lots on the east and west sides of the building, and a campus quad is adjacent to the north. A cast iron fence surrounds a tree to the north of the building.

**Sources of Information**


**Prepared by**

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**Organization**

O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.

**Date Recorded**

12/16/2002

**Revised by**

50a. Date Revised

50b. Reviewed by
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

dining hall on the northwest corner of the building. The windows of the dorm rooms have stone slip sills, and two-story windows illuminate the stairwells. The cornice of the building is a very plain stone entablature.

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

and that house had been named for Dr. James Dascomb, the first doctor in Oberlin and one of the signers of the Oberlin Covenant in 1834 (Holsworth). Historian Geoffrey Blodgett pointed out that campus architecture was the main medium through which the student anger of the 1960s arrived on campus. Students reacted vocally against Dascomb and other expedient "slabs" of "sleeping and feeding space," and this protest soon took on other controversies, including the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War (Campus Plans). Fittingly, Dascomb went from being the impetus for protest to the vehicle of social change: During January 1969, with the approval of Dean of Students George Langeler, Dascomb became the first co-ed college dormitory in the United States (Langeler). The experiment was a success, and now almost all of Oberlin Colleges dormitories are co-ed. Today, students gather at Dascomb’s dining hall on weeknights for "Fourth Meal," a late-night snack served by the campus dining service.