This post modern, steel-frame commercial structure has a false third floor facade on its north side. The first floor has extensive fixed-glass display windows high on the west side. This brick structure was built to a scale and of a material that kept with the other structures on the street.

In 1991, the Oberlin Consumers Cooperative demolished the three 19th century structures on this site to house their book, supply and gift business; all three were built by S. Royce. In November 1999, the Co-operative closed and declared bankruptcy. In late spring of 2000, the college purchased the building and inventory, leased management of the bookstore to a division of Barnes & Noble. The earliest building was the 1863 eastern storefront on West College Street. The second was the 1872 storefront on College Place, 75 ft. to the south of College Street; the 1879 structure was the corner building. The Co-op combined all three buildings into one storefront. (cont.)

This site is the anchor location for retail businesses downtown. Its proximity to the College makes it easily accessible to pedestrians as they walk to the commercial district.
51. Condition of Property
- Excellent
- Good/Fair
- Deteriorated

54. Farmstead Plan

52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies
Barn Type(s)
- Corn Crib or Shed
- Smoke House
- Designed Landscape Features
- Summer Kitchen
- Spring House
- Silo
- Privy
- Ice House
- Garage

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s)

55. OAI Completed?
- no

Archaeological Feature:
- Well
- Privy
- Cistern
- Foundation
- Structural Rubble
- Formal Trash Dump
- Other

56. Date

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

The second story had served as office space and residences. Before the bookstore other notable businesses occupied the two separate storefronts. The longest occupant of the east storefront was the Varsity Restaurant, which relocated to the building in 1927 from North Main Street. Other east side businesses included C.W. Persons Drug Store from 1899-1916 and between these two long term businesses were three tea rooms and various other businesses. From 1890-1950 the Comings family ran the A.G. Comings Bookstore. In November 1999 the Oberlin Consumers Cooperative closed for business.

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