Architect Wallace Harrison designed this auditorium. It consists of a Neo-Expressionist structure & rear International style addition. The dominant feature of this building is the massive, wavy wall at the front facade. A flat, wide cornice stretches to the flat, stone walls at each side & extends north & south. The slab roof slants in & down towards the center & rear of the building. Entries are concealed behind the wavy wall at each side & continued...

According to Blodgett, Hall Auditorium has been a very controversial building over the years. The building was completed in 1953, even though planning for the auditorium began around the First World War, when Charles Martin Hall willed $600,000 for ‘a large auditorium’ in memory of his mother, to be used by both college and town to encourage 'all forms of education,'(Blodgett 38). The first architect chosen to design the building was Cass Gilbert. His first design looked more like a church than continued.

1. No. LOR-1714-21  
2. County Lorain  
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Cen  
4. Present Name(s) Hall Auditorium  
5. Historic or Other Name(s) Sophronia Brooks Hall Auditorium

51. Condition of Property: Excellent

52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

53. Affiliated OAI Site Numbers

54. Farmstead Plan

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

aren’t visible from the front. Each entry is comprised of pairs of glass & aluminum doors with windows between them & fixed windows extending to the roof. The box office is inside. From the side elevations, the flattened ‘U’ shape of the roof is visible. Double glass & aluminum entryways with sidelights are at the north & south elevations. The rear door sits lower than the other & is situated below low, slab roof. At the south elevation, a brick wall rises up from the rear of the structure & has a metal cornice. The cornerstone is at the southwest corner of the building. The rear of the building is comprised of brick, except a glassed-in portion jutting out from the lower right side. A tall garage is also visible here, which faces south & connects to the loading dock. The addition is made of a light colored brick, while the majority of the original structure is simulated marble. The addition is not visible from the road but extends from almost every angle of the building. The west elevation contains a door at the 1st & 2nd stories, with cement stairs & a metal railing leading to the upper emergency exits. The flattened ‘V’ of the slab roof is also visible. At the north, the addition has a wall of windows at the right side, made of fixed & hopper windows; most are glazed. The left side is not as tall & contains a ribbon of 1/1 fixed windows. Double doors are located to the left with a flat metal hood above the door. The east elevation of the addition has a 2nd story door with cement stairs & a metal railing. Its south elevation contains a ribbon of windows in the second story, with fewer in the 1st story. The double doors at this elevation have steps leading to them. Above the glass & aluminum door, ‘Little Theater’ is etched in the transom. The addition contains a wall of windows.

43. History and Significance (Con’t)

an auditorium and it resembled one of his other building designs in town, Finney Chapel. However, when the college finally decided to build, ‘the war and then postwar inflation delayed its construction.’ In 1929 the Great Depression and the slumping ALCOA stock, where the money to build the Auditorium was invested, ‘no longer supported Cass Gilbert’ s design’ (Blodgett 39). Finally in 1946, the new president of the college, William Stevenson, settled on a design by architect Wallace Harrison. Harrison was the chief designer of the United Nations complex in New York City (Blodgett 39). The new building held just over 500 people when it was completed, well under the 4000-seat auditorium that was originally designed (Blodgett 39).

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

45. Sources (Con’t)

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<th>Present Name(s)</th>
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