### John Frederick Oberlin Apartments

**Address:** 138 South Main, Lorain, OH 44052

**Type:** Apartment House

**Construction:** 1965-1966

**Architect:** Meathe Kessler & Associates

**Features:**
- **Wall Construction:** Concrete
- **Roof Material:** Metal/steel frame
- **Roof Type:** Flat
- **Foundation Material:** Concrete slab

**Description:**
This five-story contemporary apartment building is Oberlin's largest multi-family residence, discounting area retirement facilities and college dormitories. The north elevation of this structure can be divided into four distinct segments, the first and third of which, counting from the left, are slightly recessed. There are two rectangular 'towers' that project above the roofline, one at the juncture between the second and third segments, and the other between the third and fourth segments. None of the towers have windows, but each tower is set off by a narrow line of windows to the left of the tower itself; in both towers, the window elements occur in stacked discrete units. On the first tower, each window unit comprises, from bottom to top, a metal panel, a hopper window, and a fixed window. On the second tower, the window units are composed of alternating metal panels and fixed windows. An entrance is set just to the west (right) of the first tower, and is a double door composed of plate glass in a metal frame, with a column of windows extending above it. This column of windows follows, from bottom up, the following sequence: metal panel, a row of three hopper windows, and is a double door composed of plate glass in a metal frame, with a column of windows extending above it. This column of windows follows, from bottom up, the following sequence: metal panel, a row of three hopper windows, and a fixed window. On the second tower, the window units are composed of alternating metal panels and fixed windows. An entrance is set just to the west (right) of the first tower, and is a double door composed of plate glass in a metal frame, with a column of windows extending above it. This column of windows follows, from bottom up, the following sequence: metal panel, a row of three hopper windows, and a fixed window.

**Additional Information:**
- **No. of Stories:** 5 - 10 stories
- **No. of Bays:** 9
- **Exterior Wall Material:** Brick, Concrete
- **Endangered:** No
- **Alteration Date(s):**
- **Owner's Name & Address, if known:** Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority, 1600 Kansas Ave., Lorain, OH, 44052

### Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features

The John Frederick Oberlin Apartments were built in 1965 and finished in 1966. A tragic fire on February 21, 1960 on Lincoln Street that killed seven children prompted the city of Oberlin to examine the state of housing in the city and initiate a public housing construction project. This would include building forty-three single-story duplex and single family housing units in various areas around town, in addition to an apartment complex on South Main Street. The apartment complex, which was named John Frederick Oberlin Apartments, was intended for older couples and singles and was noted to cost $650,000. The overall project was estimated to cost $1.8 million. Groundbreaking for the building happened on March 22, 1965 and its public opening was held on August 12, 1966. Meathe Kessler

**Sources of Information**
1. No.  LOR-02158-21
2. County  Lorain
4. Present Name(s)  John Frederick Oberlin Apartments
5. Historic or Other Name(s)  John Frederick Oberlin Apartments

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan:

- Door Selection:
  - Three or more

- Door Position:

- Orientation:
  - Lateral axis

- Symmetry:
  - Bilateral asymmetry

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #: 

![Site Plan Image]
windows, single rectangular fixed window. The door opens onto an outdoor picnic area with a small brick wall, filling the space in front of the third segment. Presumably, the narrow 1/1 double hung windows, all of which above the first story slightly project and have 4-layer, stepped, brick lug sills and 1-layer projecting brick surrounds, correlate with housing units. They are not placed in regular groupings. The bricks in the surrounds are the same color and type as those used in the wall. The 1/1 double hung windows in the first story are recessed and are placed over rectangular metal panels, making a single window unit about a story in height. Larger recessed panel windows, composed of a central plate glass window flanked by columns of two smaller panes of glass, all above a single rectangular metal element, occur only in the first story and presumably open into lounge or common areas. A broad belt course encircles the building at the juncture of the first and second stories. The east elevation can be divided into a north and a south segment, with the north segment slightly recessed. There are no windows on the first floor of this elevation except at the join between the north and south segments, where there is a narrow recessed area filled with a column, almost to the height of the building, of alternating metal and hopper window elements. There are comparatively few windows visible on this elevation. In metal letters, on the lower left area of this elevation, is the legend ‘John Frederick Oberlin Homes.’ Viewed from the south elevation, the building can again be divided into four segments, with the first and third segments projecting toward the south. The towers visible on the north elevation have their mates on this elevation, with one at the join between the first and second segments, and another at the join between the second and third segments. The random window groupings and belt course also resemble the north elevation. There are four pedestrian entrances coming from the parking lot on this side of the building, plus a probable loading dock/delivery bay. The doors are varied: some are like the north entrance, of plate glass; others are of metal. Two of the doors are under flat-roofed predominantly-brick hoods.

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

45. Sources (Con’t)