**OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY**

1. **No.**
2. **County**
3. **Location of Negatives**
4. **Present Name(s)**
   - Gasholder Building; Roundhouse
5. **Historic or Other Name(s)**
   - Oberlin Gas Lighting Company Gasholder House

### Location Information
- **3. Location of Negatives**
  - Roll #
  - Exp. #
  - Facing
  - Front: 3 17A E
  - Side: 3 18A S
- **6. Specific Address or Location**
  - 291 South Main
- **6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number**
  - 09-00-096-103-04
- **7. City or Village**
  - Oberlin
- **8. Site Plan with North Arrow**
- **9. U.T.M. Reference**
  - Zone
  - Easting
  - Northing
- **10. Site**
  - Structure
  - Building
  - Object
- **11. On National Register?**
  - Yes
- **12. N.R. Potential?**
  - No
- **13. Part of Estb Hist Dist?**
  - No
- **14. Dist. Potential?**
  - No
- **15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)**
  - "
- **16. Thematic Association(s)**
  - Manufacturing: Manufact. Industries: Utilities: Gas
- **17. Date(s) or Period**
  - 1889
- **17b. Alteration Date(s)**
  - 1889
- **18. Style or Design**
  - Vernacular
- **18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)**
  - High Style Elements
- **19. Architect or Engineer**
- **19a. Design Sources**
- **20. Contractor or Builder**
- **21. Building Type or Plan**
  - Other Building
- **22. Original Use, if apparent**
  - Manufactured Gas Storage
- **23. Present Use**
  - Storage
- **24. Ownership**
  - Public
  - Private
- **25. Owner’s Name & Address, if known**
- **26. Property Acreage**
  - 6.030
- **27. Other Surveys in Which Included**
- **28. No. of Stories**
  - 2
- **29. Basement?**
  - Yes
- **30. Foundation Material**
  - Stone
- **31. Wall Construction**
  - Brick Bearing
- **32. Roof: Type**
  - Conical
- **33. Exterior Wall Material(s)**
  - Brick, Stretcher or Running Bond
- **34. Plan Shape**
  - Circular
- **35. Changes (Explain in #42)**
  - Altered, Substantially
- **36. Endangered?**
  - Yes
  - Explain: jeopardized by location & deterioration
- **37. Window Type(s)**
  - Altered
- **38. Bldg. Dims.**
  - 54 ft. diameter
- **39. Distance from road**
  - 41b. Frontage on road
- **40. Chimney Placement**
  - No Chimney Observed
- **41. Chimney Placement**
  - No Chimney Observed
- **42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features**
  - This round, brick, two-story building has a conical, slate-shingle roof, capped with a small, metal cone. The exterior wall has a line of brick corbelling and a belt course under which ten brick pilasters divide the wall into ten equal segments. Boarded window and door openings, with segmental arches and stone sills, exist along the outside perimeter. Two sets of utility doors, one with original double doors, the other a replacement rolling garage door, indicate its industrial purposes. This building has an uneven, concrete floor that was added at ground level.
- **43. History and Significance**
  - The Gasholder House was built in 1889 to store 35,000 cubic feet of locally manufactured coal gas. Samuel Plumb had started the Gas Company in 1858, and Albert H. Johnson was president of the Oberlin Gas Lighting Company when the Gasholder was built. According to an 1889 newspaper story, the builders were from Cincinnati. The gas was manufactured in an adjacent retort with a brick smokestack, which has been demolished. The gas was piped underground to the gasholder storage facility. The site also had a freight railway depot, train tracks, and siding, all of which have been removed. At first the manufactured gas was used for lighting and heating; then it was used for lighting and heating.
- **44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)**
  - This building is located behind a chain fast-food restaurant and to the north of a strip shopping center. Its location obscures the building, but its proximity to the bicycle path provides opportunity for increased visibility.
- **45. Sources of Information**
  - Lorain County Courthouse: Lorain County tax records. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files; National Register nomination.

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### Additional Information
- **46. Prepared by**
  - M. Fedelchak-Harley; L. Previll
- **47. Organization**
  - O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.
- **48. Date Recorded**
  - 10-13-2000
- **49 Revised by**
- **50a. Date Revised**
- **50b. Reviewed by**
51. Condition of Property

□ Excellent
□ Good/Fair
□ Deteriorated

□ Ruin
□ Destroyed/Burned

Date ______________

54. Farmstead Plan

52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

□ Corn Crib or Shed
□ Smoke House
□ Designed Landscape Features

□ Summer Kitchen
□ Spring House
□ Privy

□ Silo
□ Ice House
□ Garage

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s)

OAI Completed? ________________

Archaeological Feature:  Observed  Expected on Basis of Archival Research

Well
□ No
□ Yes
Privy
□ No
□ Yes
Cistern
□ No
□ Yes
Foundation
□ No
□ Yes
Structural Rubble
□ No
□ Yes
Formal Trash Dump
□ No
□ Yes
Other ________________________
□ No
□ Yes

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

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

for cooking, and the company sold gas cook stoves at cost. In 1893 Mr. Johnson converted the company to the Oberlin Gas and Electric Company, and electric street lights went into operation shortly thereafter on September 28, 1893. The manufactured coal gas continued in use for heating until natural gas became available in 1918 when purchasing began from the Lorain County Electric Company (NR nomination).

Since the 1960s the building has been owned by Clark Brothers Construction Company and it is currently used as a storage facility for a recycling and scrap metal business. It has had many uses over the years, including a mushroom farm in the basement. Various different community-based preservation efforts have developed since 1990, each with a different proposal for use, these have included a restaurant, a museum, and a visitors’ center.

This building is significant for its unique architecture and as the last remaining evidence of a once busy industrial section of town. It is also significant for its history of the introduction of modern methods of energy production for lighting and cooking. This building was listed by the City of Oberlin as an City Landmark in September of 1975. The building was listed on the National Register in 1999.