### OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

**Ohio Historic Preservation Office**
567 E. Hudson St. Columbus, Ohio 43211
614/297-2470

---

#### 1. No. 2. County 4. Present Name(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Howard Apartments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3. Location of Negatives 5. Historic or Other Name(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll #</th>
<th>Exp. #</th>
<th>Facing</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Front</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Howard Apartments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Howard Apartments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 6. Specific Address or Location

- **36 North Pleasant Street**

#### 6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number

- **0900-086-101-042**

#### 7. City or Village

- Oberlin

#### 8. Site Plan with North Arrow

![Site Plan](image)

#### 9. U.T.M. Reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Oberlin College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 16. Thematic Association(s)

- Commerce - Apartments

---

#### 17. Date(s) or Period

- **1904**

#### 18. Style or Design

- **No academic style - vernacular**

#### 18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)

- **Elements**

#### 19. Architect or Engineer

- Unknown

#### 19a. Design Sources

- Unknown

#### 20. Contractor or Builder

- Unknown

#### 21. Building Type or Plan

- **Fourplex**

#### 22. Original Use, if apparent

- **Multiple Dwelling, Apartment House**

#### 23. Present Use

- **Multiple Dwelling, Apartment House**

#### 24. Ownership

- **Public**

#### 25. Owner's Name & Address, if known

- **Oberlin College**

#### 26. Property Acreage

- **.17**

#### 27. Other Surveys in Which Included

- **No**

#### 28. No. of Stories

- **2 and 1/2**

#### 29. Basement?

- **Yes**

#### 30. Foundation Material

- **Sandstone**

#### 31. Wall Construction

- **Balloon Frame/Western Frame/Platform**

#### 32. Roof:

- **Type**: Hip
- **Pitch**: Steep
- **Material**: Slate, imbricated

#### 33. No. Bays

- **Front**: 6
- **Side**: 6

#### 34. Exterior Wall Material(s)

- **Aluminum Siding; Wood, Vertical Board; Wood, Shingle**

#### 35. Plan Shape

- **Rectangular**

#### 36. Changes (Explain in #42)

- **Altered, Minimal**

#### 37. Window Type(s)

- **6 over 1, 8 or more over 1**


- **55 x 50**

#### 39. Endangered?

- **No**

#### 40. Chimney Placement

- **4 Chimneys Off Center Within Ridgeline**

#### 41. Distance from road

- **approx. 40’**

#### 41b. Frontage on road

- **4 ft.**

---

#### 42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features

This symmetrical apartment complex consists of four American Foursquare-type buildings crowded back to back, with a hipped U-shaped roof covering each side-by-side pair and a stairwell between them. The front and back of the complex are each covered by a two-level verandah with a metal railing, and there are two hipped dormers on each outer side of the roof. There is a rectangular skylight over each exterior stairwell between the buildings. The front façade and the back side of the building each have four front doors, one on each floor of each segment, and these are each flanked by a large window on each side. On the façade facing Pleasant Street, each front door is at the center of a semi-elliptical bay projecting from the wall.

#### 43. History and Significance

The Howard was Oberlin’s first modern apartment building. Around 1900, the interurban electric trolley stop at the corner of College and Main increased the demand for housing downtown, so the Oberlin Realty Company met the demand in 1904 with the Howard, an eight-unit complex furnished with the latest in kitchen appliances, including gas ranges and built-in refrigerators (Blodgett). Historian Geoffrey Blodgett points out that the design avoided the cramped feel of city apartments by separating the units with breezeways and exterior stairways. Now, the College owns the building and rents the apartments to faculty and staff.

#### 44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)

A driveway on the south side of the building leads to a parking lot in the rear.

#### 45. Sources of Information


---

#### 46. Prepared by

- H. Petersen, M. Franck, D. Musson, and O.H.I.O. Interns

#### 47. Organization

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

#### 48. Date Recorded

- **12/16/2002**

---

#### 49 Revised by

- 50a. Date Revised
- 50b. Reviewed by
51. Condition of Property
- Excellent
- Good/Fair [X]
- Deteriorated

52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies
Barn Type(s)
- Corn Crib or Shed
- Smoke House
- Designed Landscape Features

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s)

54. Farmstead Plan
OAI Completed?

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

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

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