This two-and-one-half-story Romanesque building with a red tile, hipped roof, has symmetry around an east-facing main entrance. The front and rear façades have five bays and the sides have three. All windows are double-hung and the first-story, front- façade windows are arched with transom lights. The building has a smooth sandstone construction. The second-story windows have a molded impost course and a bracketed belt course at sill level. A frame of carved stone surrounds the wood-paneled front door and fanlight with a cast-iron screen above it. One slender, red sandstone Corinthian colonnette sits on each side of the front door. Along the second story, eight red sandstone colonnettes support nine arches with carved details along each curve. (cont.)

When Cass Gilbert was appointed Oberlin College architect in 1911, another architect had already drawn plans for a new administration building. Gilbert made clear in his agreement with the college that all new buildings during his service would be his responsibility and that special arrangements were needed for the administration building (Kluker and Wuellner). A decade of disagreement among trustees and President King had focused around the appropriate location for a new administration building. One group wanted the building to be the centerpiece for a campus on Tappan Square, the other wanted campus centered around an open, landscaped square. Cass Gilbert, who had just completed the spacious and handsome New York World Building, felt that a new administration building was appropriate for a college. His design included a new administration building, which would be the centerpiece of the new campus. Cass Gilbert, New York

This building is located on North Professor between Finney Memorial Chapel and Peters Hall, with Wilder Bowl behind. It is a part of the pedestrian college campus, on a street that is not a primary thoroughfare.

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

These arches are centered above the front door, with five, recessed, eight over eight, double-hung windows. The main entrance has a porch accessible by four steps. The corners of the porch have Corinthian column lampposts with cast-iron light cages. The interior has arched halls, and a stucco stairwell with brass railing. The east vestibule includes two murals painted by American artist Kenyon Cox.

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

President King and Charles Martin Hall's vision for the location of the administration building was realized in this. Gilbert's second of three buildings for the college (Blodgett). The east vestibule paintings were done by artist, Kenyon Cox in memory of his parents. Jacob Dolson Cox provided much of the funding for the building. total cost for the building, with furnishings, was approximately $79,000 (Morgan). Cox Administration building was completed in 1915 and it has housed college presidents and campus administration since that time.

This building is significant for its architect, its architecture, and its realization of a vision to remove all buildings from Tappan Square. It was listed on the National Register as part of the Oberlin College thematic nomination in 1978. It was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin Historic Landmark in November of 1997.