OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

1. No. 1886-7
2. County
3. Location of Negatives
4. Present Name(s)
   Talcott Hall
5. Historic or Other Name(s)
   Talcott House

6. Specific Address or Location
   2 South Professor
   Oberlin

7. City or Village
   Oberlin

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

9. U.T.M. Reference
   Zone: E
   Easting: 563300
   Northing: 440720

10. Site
    Structure
    Building
    Object

11. On National Register?
    Yes

12. N.R. Potential?

13. Part of Esth Hist Dist?
    No

14. Dist. Potential?
    No

15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)
    Oberlin College Thematic Nomination

16. Thematic Association(s)
    Education: Parochial/urban: Higher

17. Date(s) or Period
    1886-7

18. Style or Design
    Queen Anne

19. Architect or Engineer
    Frank Weary and George Kramer

20. Contractor or Builder

21. Building Type or Plan
    Dormitory

22. Original Use, if apparent
    College Dormitory

23. Present Use
    College Dormitory

24. Ownership
    Public
    X Private

25. Owner's Name & Address, if known
    Oberlin College
    135 West Lorain Street
    Oberlin OH 44047

26. Property Acreage
    0.910

27. Other Surveys in Which Included
    McQuillin (75)

28. No. of Stories
    2 and 1/2

29. Basement?
    Yes

30. Foundation Material
    Stone

31. Wall Construction
    Stone Bearing

32. Roof:
    Type
    Gable
    Pitch
    Steep

33. Exterior Wall Material(s)
    Stone, Rock-Faced Ashlar

34. Plan Shape
    Other

35. Changes (Explain in #42)
    Altered, Minimal

36. Window Type(s)
    8 or more over 1 Double-hung

37. Bldg. Dims.

38. Chimney Placement
    Multiple Random

39. Endangered?
    No
    Explain:

40. Frontage on road
    Front (corner)

41. Distance from road

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features
   This three-and-one-half story, split-faced ashlar sandstone, dormitory is an example of the Queen Anne Style. The roof has multiple gable ends along an L-shaped footprint. A six-sided, steep pitched, cone roof with finial towers is above the three-sided main entrance on the northeast corner of the building. A flight of steps leads to the main entrance porch emphasizing the building's high foundation. The main entrance double doors have a pattern of small square lights surrounding a central expanse of clear glass and a transom that repeats the pattern. Decorative elements include thick bands of carved stone leaves and flowers spanning the gable ends, and decorative woodwork along the edge of the gable end. The windows of the first story are longer than (cont.)

43. History and Significance
    Construction of Talcott Hall began in August, 1886. It was named in honor of Mr. James Talcott, of New York City, who gave $20,000 to supplement the funds received from the insurance on the Ladies Hall (Second) which had been destroyed in a fire in January, 1886. It is located on the same site as the Ladies Hall (Second). The total cost, including furniture, was $65,000. The architects were Weary and Kramer, of Akron. In 1903 Talcott provided room and board for 70 women and an equal number of men received their meals there. Talcott was also the home for the Dean of Academy Women and the office for the Dean of Women. The rent for a room was $45 to $60 per year.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)
   This building is located on the corner southwest corner of South Professor and College Streets, diagonally across from Tappan Square. It is centrally located for campus foot traffic.

45. Sources of Information
   Lorain County Courthouse: Lorain County tax records.
   O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files.
   General Catalogue of Oberlin College, 1908.
   The Oberlin News-Tribune, March 29, 1935.

46. Prepared by
    M. Fedelchak Harley; L. Previll

47. Organization
    O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.

48. Date Recorded
    10-14-2000

49. Revised by

50. Date Revised
50b. Reviewed by
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

Those on the other stories: all windows are double-hung. The top lights of the windows of the first floor common rooms have leaded, stained glass, while the others have multi-paned clear glass. The rear of the building lacks the details found on the front. The interior has a dining hall and multiple grand staircases. Some of the original ash woodwork still exists in the moldings around doors and windows. This building has been maintained with regular renovations.

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

(OCC General Catalogue). Today Talcott continues to serve as a dormitory. An article in a 1935 issue of the local newspaper told the story of the “Talcott Tree,” which served as a campus bulletin board from before the Civil War. It was an elm tree that stood in front of Talcott at the intersection of West College and Professor Streets. News from the War was posted on the tree as were notices of class meetings and parties. It was cut down in 1919 when it was determined to be a threat to those passing by. (Oberlin News-Tribune).

This building is significant for its architect, its architecture and for its long service as student housing. Talcott Hall was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin Historic Landmark in November 1975. It was listed on the National Register as part of the Oberlin College thematic nomination in 1978.