**Ohio Historic Inventory**

1. **No.** LOR-1775-21  
2. **County** Lorain  
3. **Location of Negatives** O.H.I.O. Resource Center  
4. **Present Name(s)** Seaman-Tower House  
5. **Historic or Other Name(s)**  
6. **Specific Address or Location** 158 South Prospect Street  
7. **City or Village** Oberlin  
8. **Site Plan with North Arrow**

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9. **U.T.M. Reference**
   - **Quadrangle Name:** Oberlin  
   - **17 Easting:** 397098  
   - **Northing:** 4571182  

10. **Classification:** Building  
11. **On National Register?**  
12. **Part of Established Hist. Dist?**  
13. **Other Designation (NR or Local)**  
14. **Property Acreage** 0.29  
15. **Other Surveys**  
16. **Thematic Associations:** Residential, College, Art Moderne  
17. **Date(s) or Period**  
   - **c. 1941**  
   - **c. 1950**  
18. **Style or Design**  
   - **High Style Elements**  
19. **Architect or Engineer** William Hoskins Brown  
20. **Contractor or Builder**  
21. **Building Type or Plan**  
22. **Original Use, if apparent** Single Dwelling,  
23. **Present Use** Single Dwelling,  
24. **Ownership** Private  
25. **Owner's Name & Address, if known**  
26. **Endangered?** By What?  
27. **No. of Stories** Two story  
28. **Basement?**  
29. **No. of Bays** 5  
30. **Foundation Material** Brick  
31. **Plan Shape** L-shaped  
32. **Roof Type** Hip  
33. **Material** Asphalt shingle  
34. **Exterior Wall Material(s)** Brick  
35. **No. of Bay(s)** 5  
36. **Addition** Altered Moved  
37. **Window Type(s)** Casement, Other  
38. **Building Dimensions** 68 x 51  
39. **Alteration Date(s)** c. 1941, c. 1950  
40. **Distance from & Frontage on Road** Approx. 25'  
41. **Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)**

- This is a good example of an Art Moderne home in Oberlin. The east elevation features a carport at the far right with a flat roof. At the center of the first story, a set of three one-panel windows projects from the house. To the left, the wall curves to the south elevation and is comprised of glass block windows. The second story has corner windows with a long, narrow band of glass block windows at the center. A brick belt course runs below the continued...

43. **History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)**

- The Seaman family purchased this property in 1938 so as to allow William Hoskins Brown, a young architect who was teaching in the OC Art Department, to design the house; it was completed by 1940 (Blodgett 203, House Tour). Brown utilized the idea of functional architecture & multipurpose rooms with the absence of applied ornament: William 'Bill' Harlow & Francis 'Fran' Seaman lived here. He was an OC graduate, & attended a Theological Seminary in NY & Columbia University. Fran was an OC graduate continued...

44. **Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)**

- This house is in very good condition, as are the surrounding homes. The building is bound by South Prospect and Morgan streets.

45. **Sources of Information**


46. **Prepared By:** Petersen, T Reeves, M Surovy  
47. **Organization:** O.H.I.O.
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### Condition of Property
- Excellent

### Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

#### Door Selection
- Two doors asymmetrical

#### Door Position
- Flush

#### Orientation
- Lateral axis with lateral smaller extension

#### Symmetry
- Bilateral asymmetry

### Farmstead Plan

#### Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)
- Second story windows; all windows have brick sills. The south elevation has a door located at the far right, which has four molded panels and a semi-circular window in the upper half. The exterior chimney is located near the center of the elevation. Corner windows are located in the second story. A set of three windows is located to the left of the chimney. The west elevation has corner windows in the second story, and a set of three windows on the left side of the first story. Another window is located at the right side of the first story, but it is obscured. The north elevation features a door at the carport. Corner windows are located in the second story. A second garage was added to the house in 1950, and was later converted into a potting shed and storage area, beyond it is a screened-in porch (House Tour). Within the front door, a wide hall leads to a stairway, office, kitchen, living, and dining room (House Tour). According to Blodgett, the architect, William Hoskins Brown implemented...the principals of functional architecture, which he championed in college assembly talks, local radio broadcasts, and countless private conversations, find mature expression: convenient multipurpose use of flowing interior space; continuity and adaptability in the composition of that space; and the absence of applied ornament. In this case, conventional wood frame technology is at work, but the functional arrangements - planned in close cooperation with the clients - make for radical aesthetic departures.’ (Blodgett 203).

### History and Significance (Con't)
-通过Conservatory (Archives) She was Assistant to the Dean of Women & later became the Dean of Women. In 1928, Bill became the first Director of the OC Admissions Office & served as Director of the OC Bureau of Appointments, as well as acting Alumni Secretary until 1948. He was a member of several college organizations, including the Prudential Committee, Shansi Memorial Association Board of Trustees, & YMCA Advisory Board. Bill shocked the community when he committed suicide in 1948, because he was well regarded by many (Archives). Fran continued to live here and ran a nursery school in the house for a number of years after his death until 1957 (Blodgett 204). From 1957-79, Virginia & Lewis R. Tower lived here (Blodgett 204). Lewis was a Business Manager at OC (City Directory). Jeptha J. & Demaria Carrell lived here from 1979-95 (Carlson, Doud). Jeptha was the director of the Nordson Foundation & sold the property to OC for the Dean of Women (Property Card).

### Description of Environment and Outbuildings (Con't)

### Sources (Con't)
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