**Barrows Hall**

1. No. **LOR-1931-21**
2. County **Lorain**
3. Type **Modern Dormitory**

### Address Information
- **Quadrangle Name:** Oberlin
- **Zone:** 17
- **Easting:** 397690
- **Northing:** 4572100
- **City or Village:** Oberlin
- **State:** OHIO
- **Postal Code:** 44074

### Additional Information
- **Building:** Barrows Hall
- **Date:** 1956
- **Architect:** Potter, Tyler, Martin and Roth
- **Construction Date:** 1956
- **Historic Use:** Dormitory

### Associated Documents
- **Design Sources:** 19a.
- **Contractor or Builder:** 20.
- **Building Type:** Other Dormitory
- **Use:** Dormitory
- **Ownership:** Private
- **Owner's Name:** Oberlin College

### Dimensions
- **Floor Area:** 2.34
- **No. of Stories:** Three
- **Material:** Metal/steel frame
- **No. of Bays:** 18
- **Exterior Wall Material:** Brick

### Historical Notes
- **Historic Significance:** Constructed in 1956, Barrows Hall was designed by Potter, Tyler, Martin & Roth of Cincinnati, who also served as architects for Oberlin College's Dascomb Hall (1956), South Hall (1964), and East Hall (1964). Previously on this site stood the botany department gardens and, by 1948, Botany Lane, a trailer park constructed to house the influx of students, many married, after World War II. Barrows Hall was named for Oberlin College's fifth president, John Henry Barrows (1847-1902), who served in this capacity from 1899 until his untimely death in 1902. Barrows Hall originally housed 120 students; however, in late 1999, in order to make room for Oberlin College's new Science Center (completed 2002) the south wing was demolished, containing room for 52 students, was removed. Before this alteration, continued...

### References
- [Ohio Historic Preservation Office](http://www.ohiohistory.org)
- [Barrows Hall, Oberlin College](http://www.oberlin.edu/reslife/housing/Houses/Hbarrows.html)
- [Historic Inventory of Barrows Hall](http://www.oberlin.edu/reslife/housing/Houses/Hbarrows.html)

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**Additional Notes:**
- Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)
- Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)
1. No. LOR-1931-21
2. County Lorain
3. Project Number 54. Farmstead Plan:
4. Present Name(s) Barrows Hall
5. Historic or Other Name(s) Barrows Hall

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

Report Associated With Project:
NADB #: 

Door Selection: Two doors asymmetrical
Door Position: Protruding
Orientation: Lateral axis
Symmetry: Repetition of bay arrangement
Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)

A wide concrete frieze wraps around the building; the lines of its concrete blocks match the edges of the third story windows that it borders. The north wing is positioned slightly further back than the section with the main entry; its front facade is covered largely with rows of awning/hopper windows. A side entry very similar to the main one is located at left, with one row of windows between it and the corner. Sidelights with wood panels in their lower portions flank the door, which has a transom & flat metal hood above it. Above the entry, a vertical ribbon of 3 windows extends to the roofline. Atop the flat roof over the main entry, a partial 4th level used for maintenance purposes includes wood paneling topped by a chimney, a metal door & grate beneath a large hood supported by 2 metal posts. The south & north elevations of the dormitory largely mirror each other, with 2 windows in each story; the south elevation contains a side door with a square window on the left in place of a window on the 1st level. The east elevation faces North Quad & includes a large projecting entry located off-center in the main section. The door is similar to the other entrances: glass & metal surrounded by transom & sidelights above filled panels. Marble posts flank the entry, with ribs of windows above filled panels to each side. A flat metal hood tops this entry, framed by brick pillars at each end that extend upwards to the roofline. Inside the pillars above the entry are ribs of windows with a large marble slab in the center. 2 large bays of brick with rows of windows flank the entry - the windows closest to the corners of this main wing are smaller, only awnings without hoppers. The north wing, positioned a few feet forward in this elevation, contains rows of windows in each elevation. In the center, a large vertical marble slab stretches between the three stories, flanked by a window on either side.

History and Significance (Con't)

one of Oberlin College's all-female halls and a 'freshman experience' hall had been located in Barrows. In 1997, Barrows had a moment of fame as the setting for a pivotal scene in the movie Edge of Seventeen, which tells the story of a young man coming to terms with his homosexuality. The scene proper is set in the Ohio State University of the 1980s, but Barrows room 115 was chosen for the part because, according to the film's line produce Craig Shepherd, 'It feels like jail. It's absolutely perfect.' Today, Barrows has 93 rooms and houses 168 students, all freshmen. Its first floor is divided into single-gender sections; the second and third floors are co-educational with single sex rooms.

Sources (Con't)