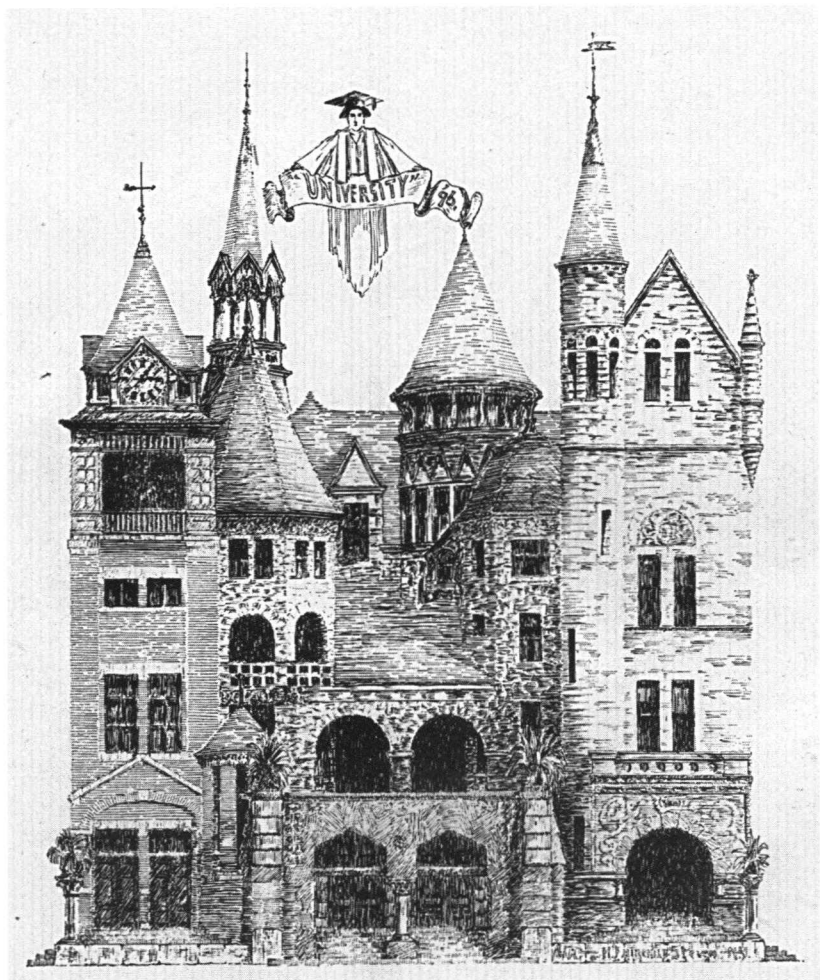
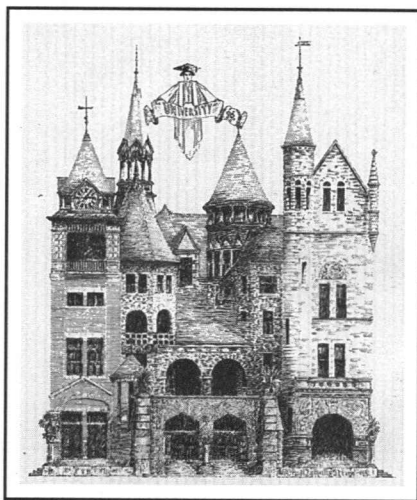


# **Guide to the Architectural Records in the Oberlin College Archives**



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**Roland M. Baumann, General Editor**  
**Roland M. Baumann, Jessica G. Broadwell, and Michael Morgenstern, compilers**



### **ON THE COVER:**

The cover drawing depicts the Oberlin Stone Age, which lasted for a quarter-century after 1885. Included in the montage is the tower of the College Chapel, tower of Council Hall, tower of Talcott Hall, entry of Spear Library (later, Spear Laboratory), tower and entry of Baldwin Cottage, tower of Warner Hall, and tower and entry of Peters Hall.

Artist is Herbert Fairchild Steven, an 1890s student who studied art.

Drawing appears in the 1897 *Hi-O-Hi*, page 13.

*Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are from the holdings of the Oberlin College Archives.*

**Guide to the  
Architectural Records  
in the  
Oberlin College Archives**





# **Guide to the Architectural Records in the Oberlin College Archives**

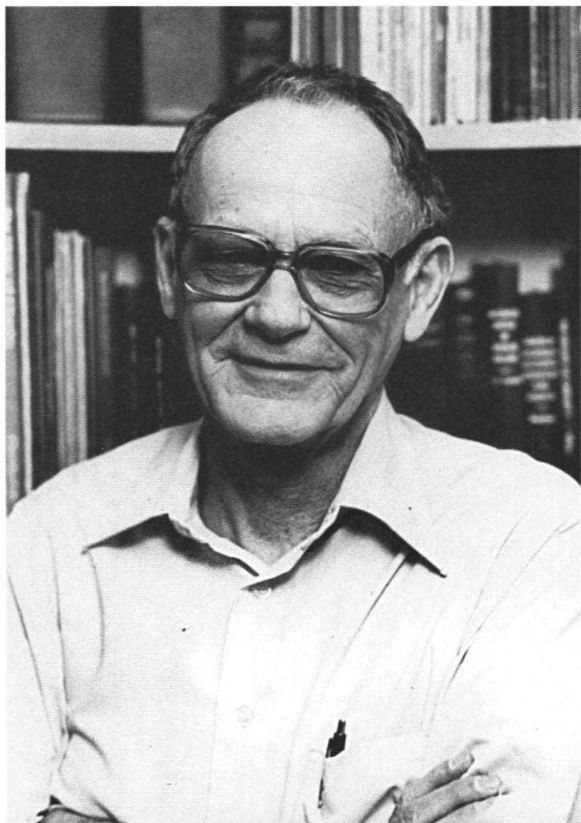
Roland M. Baumann, General Editor  
Roland M. Baumann, Jessica G. Broadwell, and  
Michael Morgenstern, compilers

Gertrude F. Jacob Archival Publications Fund  
Oberlin College  
Oberlin, Ohio  
1996

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*Dedicated to  
William E. Bigglestone  
Oberlin College Archivist, 1966-1986*

[illegible]

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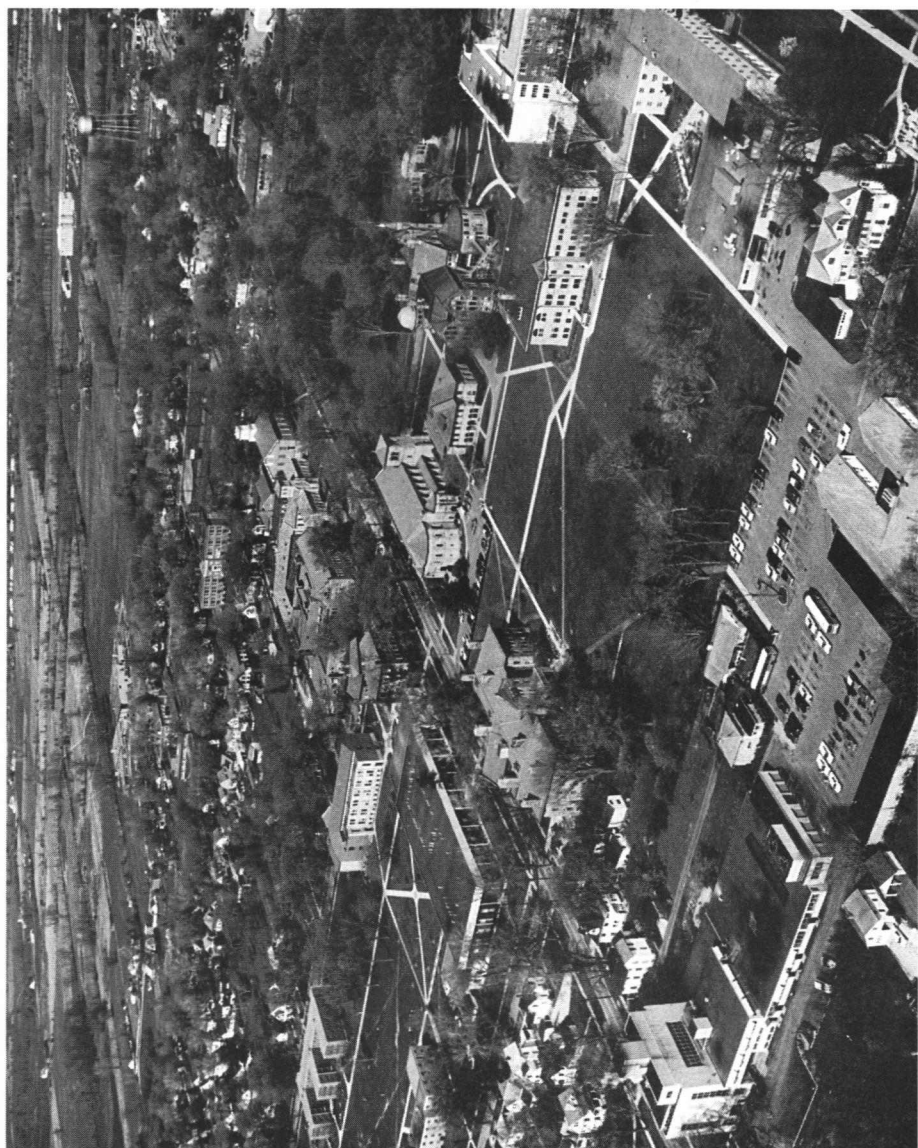
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*Aerial View of the Oberlin College Campus  
ca. mid-1960s*

# FOREWORD

Just over a century ago, in the 1880s, Oberlin College launched a conscious program to rebuild, expand, and modernize its campus building resources. Thereafter the College tried whenever possible to tap the talent of nationally renowned architects for this purpose. The resulting parade of distinguished structures by distinguished designers has created here an architectural ensemble of remarkable eclecticism. This campus registers every major impulse in the history of American architecture from Richardsonian Romanesque to contemporary Postmodernism.

The paper record reflecting this development—building by building over the past century and more—is a historical resource of striking value. In recent years College Archivist Roland M. Baumann has devoted much energy to gathering the paper record from locations scattered all over the campus and organizing these documents for effective use. And the comprehensive guide which he and his staff have prepared makes their use by scholars a vastly more orderly and informed process than it otherwise might be. Thus important new dimensions of Oberlin College history and of American architectural history are now open for promising investigation. Welcome to the search!

*Geoffrey Blodgett*  
*Danforth Professor of History*  
*Oberlin College*

September 3, 1995

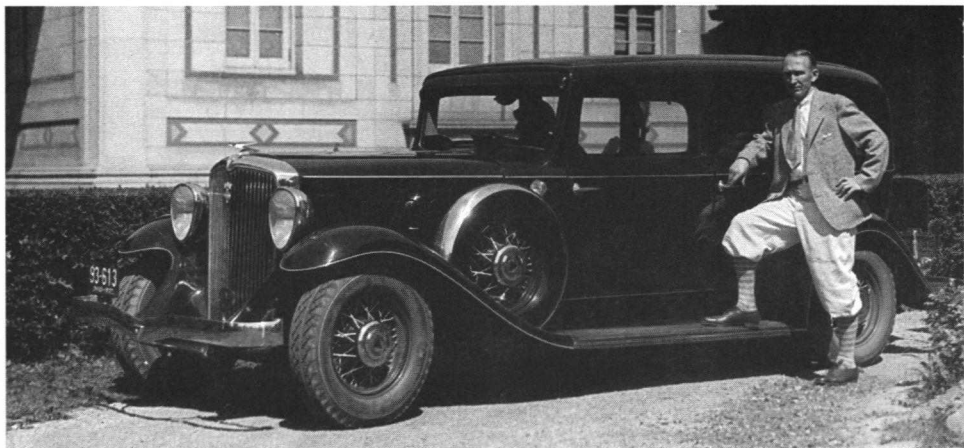
## THREE OBERLIN ARCHITECTS



*William Hoskins Brown*  
*ca. 1930s*



*Cass Gilbert (1907)*  
*Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society*



*Clarence Ward, Professor of Art*  
*1932*

# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this subject guide is to assist researchers in accessing, identifying, and locating records (institutional and noninstitutional) in the Oberlin College Archives relating to architecture or the built environment from the 1830s to the present. The focus is on the architecture of Oberlin College and the City of Oberlin, except for a handful of isolated references to other places. The buildings which make up the Oberlin College campus, as well as those which are now gone, constitute a rich artifactual document of institutional growth since the founding of Oberlin in 1833. Oberlin's architectural history is one of eclecticism—a mixture of styles from Greek Revival, H.H. Richardsonian Romanesque, Italian Renaissance, Utilitarian, and Modern. The structural development of the place of Oberlin is well documented in the holdings of the Oberlin College Archives.

The contents of this guide are based upon a painstaking review of hundreds of box listings/inventories developed by staff between 1966 and 1995, as well as on a review of individual documents filed in about 400 individual groups or collections of records that comprise the Archives' present classification scheme. The Archives contains 54 record groups with eight to ten million pages of documentation.

This subject guide makes no claim to being comprehensive or in having identified every single document relating to the many aspects of architecture and the structural development of the college campus and the town itself. Neither does this volume report on all campus structures or houses built or renovated over time. Yet, this descriptive product containing 83 entries directs users to appropriate archival and manuscript holdings to engage in subject-oriented research. Indirectly, it also reports on the complex relationships that exist among collections or groups of papers holding architectural record content. Most record groups consist of the files of single administrative units, such as the Office of the Provost (RG4), Office of the Treasurer (RG7), and the Construction Office under the Operations Division (RG14). Some records were also brought together on the basis of similar type, medium, or other relationship. Examples of collective groups are Student Life (RG19), Postcards (RG36), and Paintings and Drawings (RG40).

Each numbered entry in this guide includes a collection title in boldface type, with inclusive dates and quantity figures in linear feet (l.f.). The time span and quantity figures are for the entire collection/group and not just for the subject content. Following the collection title is a modest Administrative History or Biographical Note, depending upon whether the entry reports on departmental records of the institution or on the personal papers of an individual or family. In many cases the compilers have provided a "Historical Note" instead of detailed administrative histories or biographical notes because more often than not more detailed versions of these narrative statements can be found in the respective finding guides for each group. Finally, each entry contains a Scope and Content Note, which briefly summarizes the value, extent, and depth of the group or collection being described. Here, too, more detailed descriptive material on the characteristics of the described material is available in the finding guides (Administrative History or Biographical Sketch, Scope & Content Note, and Inventories). A great many of our finding guides are available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.oberlin.edu/~archive/> for those users with access to the Internet.

Although this guide is ordered by the record group numbers of the classification scheme, the names and subjects found in the index are keyed to the bracketed entry number appearing before each entry title, and not to pages in the guide or to the classification number assigned to the group. For example, in the index, the bold face number

[55] associated with commissioned architect Cass Gilbert refers to a main entry on Gilbert and not to the page number. The other 15 numbers listed, however, refer to references to Cass Gilbert in other individual entries.

The Archivist wishes to acknowledge the many individuals who have helped in one way or another to make this publication possible. First, to project archivists Jessica G. Broadwell and Michael Morgenstern who worked with me at different intervals to compile the more than 80 entries making up this subject guide. Not only did this prove to be a difficult assignment but also the descriptive work had to be done under a rigorous time frame. Acknowledgment is also due to former staff members Valerie Komor, project archivist, and Brian Williams, assistant archivist, who participated in the 1991-1992 retrospective conversion project leading to the creation of 110 new finding guides at the College Archives. In anticipation of this subject guide project and for use to accompany a grant application, Brian Williams was asked to produce the initial checklist of architectural record holdings found in the Oberlin College Archives. This subject guide represents a substantial expansion of that document. Thanks are also due to Departmental Secretary Tammy L. Martin for assisting in the administration of the guide project in all matters requested of her; to Assistant Archivist Mary Margaret Giannini and student assistants Amy Brown and Anita L. Buckmaster, who assisted in the review of select groups of papers and in the preparation of summary information; student assistant Eric Miller compiled a checklist of the architectural blueprints, drawings, and other like media held by the College Archives; to Paul B. Arnold, emeritus professor of art; to Betty Walden, administrative assistant, Operations Division; and Mark Wagner, office manager/accountant, Office of Facilities Planning and Construction, for meeting some special needs; to Danforth Professor of History Geoffrey Blodgett '53, who teaches a course on the "Social History of American Architecture," for the use of his compiled list "Architecture of the Oberlin College Campus," for his valuable support of this project, and for his continuing interest in the development of the Oberlin College Archives; and to Jeffrey Weidman, art librarian, for being willing to respond to our calls for assistance from reference sources held across campus in the Art Library in the Allen Art Building and for his comments on a number of the entries.

Special thanks are due to the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts (Chicago) for its seed or challenge grant of \$5,000 in support of a "Document Catalogue of Campus and Town Buildings." The matching provision of this award was met by members of the Oberlin College Class of '29, which sought to remember fellow classmate Gertrude F. Jacob (d. 1989), an archival assistant and volunteer at the College Archives over a 23-year period. These friends, along with many others, were also responsible for the creation in 1987 of the Endowed Gertrude F. Jacob Publications Fund. This Fund was used to underwrite the publication of this subject guide. Finally, it is fitting that this second subject guide of the College Archives be dedicated to William E. Bigglestone, Oberlin College's first archivist between 1966-1986, who appreciated the value of Oberlin's built structures as settings for collegiate and social life.

*Roland M. Baumann*  
*Archivist*  
*Oberlin College*

November 15, 1995

# ARCHITECTURE OF THE OBERLIN COLLEGE CAMPUS

NAME	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	ARCHITECT
First Church	1844	Richard Bond (Boston)
Allencroft	1861	Architect unknown
Westervelt Hall	1874	Walter Blythe (Cleveland)
Warner Hall	1884	A.B. Jennings (New York)
Johnson House	1885	George H. Smith (Cleveland)
Peters Hall	1886	Weary & Kramer (Akron)
Baldwin Cottage	1887	Weary & Kramer (Akron)
Talcott Hall	1887	Weary & Kramer (Akron)
Shurtleff Cottage	1892	Weary & Kramer (Akron)
Tank Hall	1896	F.A. Coburn (Cleveland)
Severance Laboratory	1900	Howard Van Doren Shaw (Chicago)
Warner Gymnasium	1900	Normand Patton (Chicago)
Old Barrows	1901	Howard Van Doren Shaw (Chicago)
Memorial Arch	1903	J. L. Silsbee (Chicago)
Finney Chapel	1908	Cass Gilbert (New York)
Carnegie Library	1908	Normand Patton (Chicago)
Rice Hall	1910	A. B. Jennings (New York)
Wilder Hall (Men's Bldg.)	1911	J. L. Silsbee (Chicago)
Keep Cottage	1913	Normand Patton (Chicago)
Cox Administration Building	1915	Cass Gilbert (New York)
Allen Memorial Art Building	1917	Cass Gilbert (New York)
President's House	1920	Clarence Ward (Oberlin)
Stadium	1925	Osborn Eng. Co. (Cleveland)
Crane Pool	1931	Walker & Weeks (Cleveland)
Bosworth Hall & Quadrangle	1931	Cass Gilbert (New York)
Noah Hall	1932	C. W. Frank (Akron)
AMAM Addition	1937	Clarence Ward (Oberlin)
Hales Gymnasium	1939	Richard Kimball (New York)
Wright Physics Laboratory	1942	E. J. Schulte (Cincinnati)
Burton Hall	1946	Mellenbrook, Foley & Scott (Berea)
Jones Field House	1948	Eldredge Snyder (New York)
Service Building	1949	Eldredge Snyder (New York)
Harkness	1950	Eldredge Snyder (New York)
Fairchild	1950	Eldredge Snyder (New York)
Hall Auditorium	1953	Wallace Harrison (New York)
Oberlin Inn	1954	Eldredge Snyder (New York)
Barrows	1956	Potter, Tyler, Martin & Roth (Cincinnati)
Dascomb	1956	Potter, Tyler, Martin & Roth (Cincinnati)

NAME	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	ARCHITECT
Kettering Hall of Science	1961	Austin Company (Cleveland)
Langston Hall	1963	Austin Company (Cleveland)
Williams Ice Rink	1963	Austin Company (Cleveland)
Conservatory of Music	1964	Minoru Yamasaki (Detroit)
King Building	1964	Minoru Yamasaki (Detroit)
South Hall	1964	Potter, Tyler, Martin & Roth (Cincinnati)
East Hall	1964	Potter, Tyler, Martin & Roth (Cincinnati)
Zecheil	1968	Moore & Hutchins (New York)
Barnard	1968	Moore & Hutchins (New York)
Program Dorm Complex	1968	Moore & Hutchins (New York)
Oberlin Inn Addition	1969	Joseph Ceruti (Cleveland)
Philips Gymnasium	1971	Hugh Stubbins & Associates (Boston)
Mudd Learning Center	1974	Warner, Burns, Toan & Lundy (N. Y.)
Art Museum addition	1976	Robert Venturi (Philadelphia)
Tappan Square Bandstand	1987	Julian Smith (Ottawa, Ontario)
Langston Hall addition	1987	Dagit and Saylor (Philadelphia)
Con Library addition	1988	Gunnar Birkerts (Birmingham, Michigan)
Stevenson Hall	1989	Charles Gwathmey (New York)
Sperry Neuroscience Building	1990	Reed Axelrod (Philadelphia)
Heisman Field House	1992	Spillman Farmer (Bethlehem, PA)

*Compiled by Geoffrey Blodgett*

June 1995



# RECORDS OF COLLEGE GENERAL (Group 0)

## [1] Annual Reports, 1834-1994, 18 l.f.

### *Historical Note*

Since the founding of Oberlin College ("Collegiate Institute" before 1850), it was customary for the president to report annually to the board of trustees. Less clear-cut, however, is the report's publication venue, its relationship to annual financial reports, and its title. Regularity began only after 1878. Until that date, presidents issued their annual report in the College Catalogs (RG 0) or, in the case of James H. Fairchild, in the *Oberlin Weekly News*. The Oberlin College Archives also holds some manuscript copies of Fairchild's reports in a collection of his personal papers. During the first 125 years, financial summaries were subsumed under these presidential reports rather than being treated separately. From 1878 to 1957, the president's and financial annual reports appeared together under the title "Annual Report of the President and the Treasurer of Oberlin College." After 1957-1958, the treasurer's reports were no longer credited to the treasurer's office; instead, they were the creation of the new Office of the Controller. The reporting document was then titled "Annual Reports of the President and the Financial Report of Oberlin College." The narrative reports prepared since 1970 are of a more uneven character.

### *Scope and Content*

Annual reports of the president and the treasurer/controller contain excellent summary information about the development, proprietorship, and appearance of Oberlin. From the second annual report made by President Asa Mahan in 1835, presidents reported on current facilities and plans for buildings and grounds. When the Oberlin "Collegiate Institute" was in its infancy, Mahan appealed for funds to permit new construction in language that made the institution's physical accommodations inseparable from fulfillment of its moral, social, and religious missions. Researchers should comb the annual reports of the first forty years to find sections with headings like "State of the Buildings," "Boarding Hall," "Purchase of Lots," "Buildings and Grounds," and "New Buildings."

In more recent decades, the architectural historian will find information about Oberlin's built environment in the President's Report in the introduction, in a section called "The Plant," and under Trustee Actions (sometimes appearing in the appendix). The 1959-1960 annual report follows this format. In his introduction, President Robert K. Carr mentions his "newcomer's reaction to the Oberlin campus and physical plant," and the administration's success in developing it with "distinction and personality." [p.6] The section on "The Plant" outlines new building projects, parking areas, sidewalk repairs, trees threatened by Dutch Elm disease, and essential improvements to academic buildings and dormitories. [p.27] The Summary of Trustee Actions also has a brief segment called "The Plant," which discusses the awarding of contracts, authorization of construction, fundraising, and the acquisition of properties from the town of Oberlin during that year. The annual financial report, issued by the treasurer and later by the controller, contains a portion called "Plant Funds."

## **[2] Records of the Oberlin Alumni Bulletin, Oberlin Alumni Magazine, and Oberlin Today, 1943-1964, 0.75 l.f.**

### *Historical Note*

This tabloid size newspaper, an outgrowth of a special March, 1943, newspaper edition of the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, was sent without charge to every Oberlin College graduate and former student. It appeared quarterly from September, 1943, through the fourth quarter of 1952. (Vol. I, No. 1 to Vol. 10, No. 4. Apparently there were no Nos. 2-4 in Vol. 8.) A new form was adopted for the third and fourth quarters of 1952, the last two issues to carry the name *Alumni Bulletin*. In November, 1952, the title was changed to *Oberlin Today* and the newspaper was published eight times per year. The publication reappeared as a quarterly from 1955 until 1964. The *Magazine* and the *Bulletin* editions from 1943 through 1952 are reproduced on microfilm.

The *Bulletin's* purpose, as stated in the first issue, was "to supply all former Oberlin students regularly with a newsy report of the latest, most important events on the campus, and to discuss all phases of the College's plans and policy which may be of interest to the alumni body as a whole."

### *Scope and Content*

The alumni serial publications, the *Oberlin Alumni Bulletin* and *Oberlin Today*, 1943-1964, reported ceremonies laying cornerstones, progress on construction, and building dedications. The post-war housing crisis, anticipated as early as December of 1943, induced the construction of several new buildings. President Ernest H. Wilkins editorialized about the "Extensive Building Program Planned" in March of 1944. Sketches and photographs often accompany articles about new dormitories, such as Burton Hall (third quarter, 1946; third quarter, 1947), Fairchild Hall (third quarter, 1948), and Harkness Hall (second quarter, 1948). Other major building projects from this decade include the Field House (fourth quarter, 1947; second quarter, 1948; fourth quarter, 1948; first quarter, 1949) and a new heating plant (fourth quarter, 1948). The old heating plant, built in 1913, was designed by the Albert M. Allen Company of Cleveland. President William E. Stevenson addressed the "building boom" on campus in the second quarter of 1949, and a summary of campus housing conditions appeared in the first quarter of 1951.

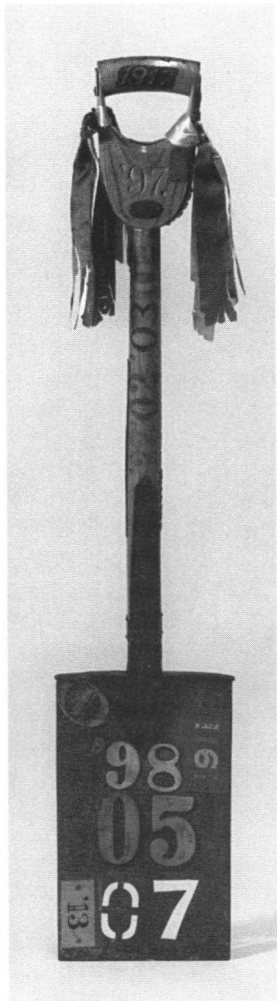
Issues from the early 1950s contain photographs, drawings, and articles about the Sophronia Brooks Hall Auditorium designed by Wallace K. Harrison (of architectural firm Harrison & Abromovitz) and dedicated in 1953. Other pieces discuss the development plans set by the board of trustees (February, 1953), "Targets for Tomorrow" on the building program and budget (March, 1953), expansion of the Graduate School of Theology facility (June, 1954), and the Oberlin Inn. Beginning in 1955, single-topic issues dominated the publications. Of note are the Report on 1954 (February, 1955), the Carnegie Library (March, 1955), and the Oberlin Building Program (fourth quarter, 1961). The covers generally feature photographs of buildings and other campus scenes.

Articles relating to Oberlin's built environment or structures appearing in the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, 1904 to present, are too numerous to list here. The pieces cover a wide range of projects from the construction of Carnegie Library in 1908 to the restoration of the Albert H. Johnson House in 1981 to the effort to save Peters Hall, the oldest building on campus, in the 1990s. An index (paper copy) for the *Alumni Magazine* exists, and it is maintained on 3" x 5" catalog cards by the Library's Department of Special Collections. Beginning with academic year 1992-1993, the index is only in electronic form to be found on the Oberlin Network.

[3] *Oberlin College Observer*, September, 1979-May, 1995, 1 Lf.

*Historical Note*

As its masthead declares, the *Oberlin College Observer* is "The Oberlin College Faculty and Staff Newspaper." Issued 18 times—or every other Thursday—during the academic year, the newspaper is published by the Office of Communications, and indexed by a student assistant. Begun in 1979 and with a new volume commencing each fall term, the serial is in its seventeenth volume in 1995-1996.



**"Spade Oration"**  
During the years 1887-1932, at Commencement time, the Senior Class planted ivy around college buildings. On occasion a man gave a "spade oration" and a woman an "ivy ode."

*Scope and Content*

The *Oberlin College Observer* index provides references for authors and for subjects. In studying the college's built environment, the researcher will want to search this index for secondary source material. Some significant headings are "Architecture, Oberlin," "Blodgett, Geoffrey," and "Buildings." Twenty-nine stories about Geoffrey Blodgett alone relate to Oberlin's built environment, reporting on books and speeches by him, comments on various buildings, and his selection for the Bandstand Design Competition Committee. Five articles written by Blodgett discuss the history of Oberlin's campus plans, the architect Cass Gilbert and President Henry Churchill King, and Finney Chapel. Of special importance is his "The Grand March of Oberlin Campus Plans" (May 11, 1995). Under the heading "Buildings" is a list of 50 stories on maintenance, renovations, openings, expansion, dedications, and sales. In a "see also" reference, the index suggests searching under the individual names of buildings, such as Carnegie and Peters.

[4] *Records of Buildings and Dedications*, 1834-1993, 1.25 Lf.

*Historical Note*

This artificial archives group largely consists of printed materials relating to general activities and events of Oberlin College from the period of its founding in 1834 to the present. It was designed in the late 1960s by William E. Bigglestone, Oberlin's first archivist, to control a variety of college publications and printed matter generated by campus-wide offices. The record group contains more than 20 record series. The Buildings and Dedications series is of interest.

*Scope and Content*

The Buildings and Dedications record group is a ready-made vertical file which integrates rudimentary architectural records and more general historical materials relative to Oberlin College structures, past and present. Initially a file created and maintained by the staff of the Oberlin College Office of the

Secretary, the Buildings and Dedications series consists of 52 folders organized around 46 Oberlin College buildings or structures. Individual folders contain dedicatory programs, both printed and manuscript material, documenting dedications of new buildings, formal openings of additions, laying of cornerstones, and similar events. In most folders materials also include an array of architectural drawings, such as site plans, floor plans, elevation views, seating plans, electrical and ventilation plans, and rudimentary real estate appraisal drawings. Additionally, information relative to a structure's social and architectural history is found here. Included are drafts of prepared remarks for dedications and dedication programs; newspaper clippings and articles from magazines and scholarly journals relative to an individual structure; photographs and/or artistic renderings; and limited information about a structure's architect. The Buildings File developed by the Oberlin College Office of the Secretary, also held at the Oberlin College Archives, is of great value in providing an overview of planning, construction, and dedication of respective campus buildings.

Folders are arranged chronologically by date of dedication.

## **RECORDS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Group 1)**

### **[5] Records of the Board of Trustees, 1833-1978, 44 l.f.**

#### *Administrative History*

The Oberlin College Board of Trustees first met on March 10, 1834, a month following the chartering of the Oberlin "Collegiate Institute" by the State of Ohio. Under the 1834 charter, or Act to Incorporate the Oberlin "Collegiate Institute," 12 persons were authorized to serve on the board of trustees, and the president of the College was made an ex officio member. In 1850, the charter was amended, changing the name of the institution to Oberlin College. The number of trustees increased in 1874 to 18 and in 1878 to 24, with four new trustees elected every year for six-year terms. Trustees are elected by the alumni, the board, and classes of recent graduates. Membership on the governing body of the College was expanded to 28 in 1970.

Article III of the Bylaws of Oberlin College, adopted in 1904, and as amended, authorizes the board of trustees to operate with constituent committees to fulfill its duties in the areas of trustee elections, development, personnel matters, property management, curricular changes, and campus buildings. Several committees and subcommittees—including Buildings and Grounds, Development, and Investment—were instrumental in the architectural developments of Oberlin College.

#### *Scope and Content*

The records of the board of trustees consist of the following ten record series: I. Charter and Bylaws (printed), 1903-1966; II. Minutes of Meetings of the Board, 1834-1974 (1834-1964 on microfilm); III. Document Files Supporting the Minutes of the Board, 1833-1968; IV. Prudential Committee Minutes, 1835-1962; V. Executive Committee Minutes, 1928-1967; and records regarding specific administrative committees. Included among the latter are series VI. Budget Committee Records, 1892-1959; VII. Development Committee Records, 1952-1960; VIII. Investment Committee Records, 1892-1973; IX. Presidential Search Committee Records, 1945-1975; and X. Records of Various Committees, 1903-1959.

Architectural records of interest are located in Series VII "Development Committee Records," and in Series VIII "Investment Committee Records." Additionally, references to various buildings and to commissioned architects, etc., can be located in the indexes for

the meetings of the board of trustees, 1834-1904, provided that the structure was contracted and/or completed during that period. The voluminous document files supporting the minutes are very useful. Archival materials here vary from color-coded maps of historic Oberlin College buildings, appraisals and estimates for repair and/or replacement of structures and facilities, rudimentary floor plans sketched on real estate appraisal sheets, site plans, and design/floor plans for properties located both at Oberlin College and around the City of Oberlin, Ohio, as well as like records for out-of-town properties (i.e., Canada Safeway stores) owned by Oberlin College.

The Development Committee records, 1958-1960, include a folder maintained by Walter K. Bailey (b. 1897, A.B. 1919), trustee and chairman from the committee's beginning in 1952. The folder includes information on income and endowment, descriptive summaries of college buildings (the Art Building Library, the Carnegie Library, and the new Conservatory of Music—where the Wright Laboratory/ Second Congregational Church in Oberlin once stood—with campus maps), academic building needs, capital needs, and data on growth, maintenance, budgets, and each academic building from Administration to Wright Zoological Laboratory. A statement of policy, found in this series, stipulated use of the budget for maintenance, but outside sources for larger projects. This series also houses architectural plans for the Conservatory of Music, the proposed General Science Building, and the Henry Churchill King Memorial Building/ Rice Hall. In the late 1950s, the Development Program sought funds of \$6-7 million to improve the physical plant; the last folder in this series documents the development and monetary surveys for these building funds.

Investment Committee records contain information about both local and out-of-town properties acquired by Oberlin College through either purchase or donation. Folders for Carpenter Apartments, the College Park Addition, the Currier house, Ellis Cottage (demolished in 1965), the Moore house, the Swift house, Thompson Cottage, and the Willmott house exist in this series. Included are appraisals, titles, deeds, escrow information, insurance contracts, correspondence and memoranda, real estate descriptions, maps, and floor plans. Income from rental and investment properties is reported in this series.

## **RECORDS OF THE PRESIDENTS (Group 2)**

### **[6] Papers of Charles G. Finney, 1817-1875, 5.6 l.f.**

#### *Historical Note*

Charles G. Finney (1792-1875), a noteworthy evangelist of the Second Great Awakening, stressed that each individual was fully responsible for his or her own salvation. Born in Warren, Connecticut, as a young man Finney taught school and studied law. In 1821, he underwent a religious conversion, leading to his ordination as a Presbyterian minister in 1824. Afterwards he began conducting revivals in many midwestern and eastern states (mostly in western and central New York's "Burned Over District"). In 1832, Finney became pastor of the Second Free Presbyterian Church in New York City. In 1836, after declaring himself a Congregationalist, Finney led the shift in Protestant theology and practice, beginning what some called "Oberlin Perfectionism."

In 1835, at the urging of the Tappan brothers, Finney was invited to establish the Theological Department at the Oberlin Collegiate Institute. Finney took up residence in Oberlin, becoming pastor of First Congregational Church, 1835-1872. He also served as Professor of Systematic Theology, 1835-1858; Professor of Pastoral Theology, 1835-1875; and on Oberlin's Board of Trustees, 1846-1851. In 1851, Finney succeeded Asa Mahan as

the president of Oberlin College, though he continued his evangelism. He resigned in August, 1865, and continued to write and publish religious tracts, intellectual commentaries, and criticisms.

### *Scope and Content*

Divided into nine record series, the Finney papers mainly consist of calendared incoming correspondence and business records. References to the Tabernacle Tent (1835-1846), often called the "Big Tent," are located in the *memoirs* of Charles G. Finney and in his correspondence from John Keep, Timothy L. Bacon, and others. No institutional records exist documenting Oberlin's earliest built environment as such. However, Finney's business records in series 7 do contain items of peripheral real estate/architectural interest regarding Oberlin's early land possessions. Typical business papers consist of land warrants and other assorted deeds, mortgage payments and cancellations, lease agreements, and land clearing contracts for the period 1837 to 1871. Significant among these records are land deeds, 1839-1843, for the Village of Oberlin; 1853-1854 business correspondence with Sophronia Brooks Hall regarding deeds and transfers of approximately 42 acres of land to the College; and a copy of the 1834 "Bill to Incorporate Oberlin Collegiate Institute." Also found among Finney's business papers is a rudimentary plot drawing of a zoned land parcel at Lorain and Professor Sts., n.d.

The Finney papers hold important architectural drawings, on one ca. 1841 linen sheet, of the First Church in Oberlin prepared by Boston architect Richard Bond. Included are detailed elevations of the stairs, pulpit, roof and steeple, as well as section drawings.

## **[7] Papers of James Harris Fairchild, 1817-1926, 1966, 12.7 1.f.**

### *Historical Note*

Educator James Harris Fairchild (1817-1902, A.B. 1838, B.D. 1841) was the third president of Oberlin College, 1866-1889, born in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. After graduating from Oberlin College, he was named professor of languages in 1842, beginning a teaching career that would span 55 years. During the tenure of Oberlin College President Charles G. Finney, Fairchild assumed a great many of the president's administrative duties, and was elected president of the College after Finney's 1865 resignation. When Fairchild resigned as professor of theology in 1898, he agreed to teach and write as professor emeritus until 1902; he also offered counsel to Oberlin College. During his 68-year association with Oberlin, Fairchild was a member of the Prudential Committee, 1847-1901, and the board of trustees, 1889-1901. As a local historian, he authored a number of works, including the 1883 book *Oberlin: The Colony and the College*.

During Fairchild's 23-year tenure as president of Oberlin, the College's assets increased to a value of one million dollars, and the faculty grew from 10 to 23 professors. Oberlin's architectural heritage grew significantly, and Fairchild saw the beginning of Oberlin's "Stone Age" of architectural design with the erection of the Conservatory of Music's first Warner Hall, 1884; as well as Peters Hall, 1885; Baldwin Cottage, 1886; and Talcott Hall, 1887. These "thick, chunky, and aggressively solid buildings," made of rough-textured Ohio sandstone and designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, were marked by a vertical thrust evident in their Gothic towers, bays, and tall windows. Fairchild's name is associated with the chapel in the Graduate School of Theology, designed by Cass Gilbert and erected in 1931.

## *Scope and Content*

The papers of James Harris Fairchild are organized into seven series. They mainly consist of personal and professional records, with a large bulk being the 7.9 l.f. of correspondence in series 1. All but two boxes of this correspondence, arranged chronologically, are described on a per item level in a six-volume indexed calendar series, prepared in 1955-1956; the uncalendared correspondence, primarily personal letters, 1819-1900, is held in series 2.

The architectural records relative to planning, funding, and individual architects, primarily in the form of incoming correspondence, are modest. The records located in series 1 are easily accessed by using the calendar index arranged by correspondent name. Covering the period ca. 1883 to 1889, significant correspondents and subject matter include the following: five letters, 1882-1888, discussing Warner Hall funding with Dr. Lucien C. Warner (d. 1925, A.B. 1865); an 1886 individual letter from Akron architects Weary and Kramer, designers of Peters, Baldwin, and Talcott halls (information is structure-specific); College donor Frederick Norton Finney, discussing a \$50,000 gift to Oberlin in 1888; and the Cleveland architectural firm of Coburn and Barnum (which later on designed Tank Hall, erected in 1896), discussing renovations to the Ladies' Society Hall (Sturges Hall), and the installation of a new organ. Some of the most meaningful correspondence is written by Charles G. Fairchild, the nephew of President Fairchild, who served as Oberlin's financial agent from 1882 to 1893 to raise funds for College buildings. These five correspondence items, 1882-1885, discuss Oberlin College building needs, Warner Hall building plans, Warner Hall funding with John D. Rockefeller, and the dedication of Spear Library-Laboratory.

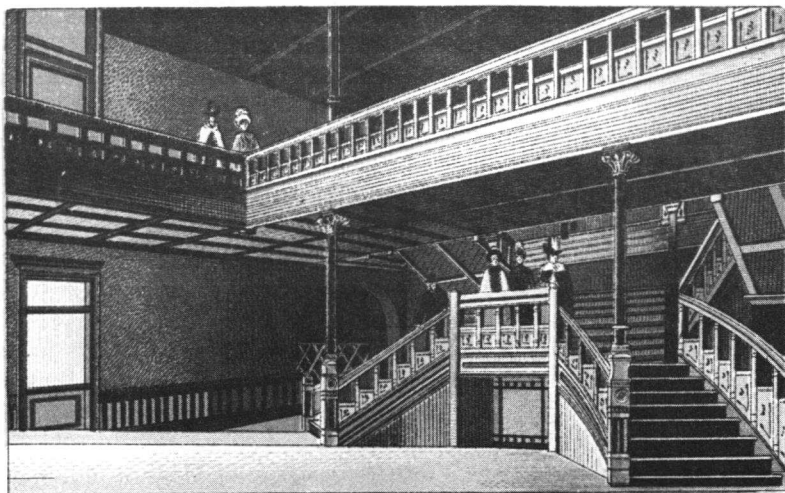
## **[8] Papers of Henry Churchill King, 1897-1934, 56.25 l.f.**

### *Historical Note*

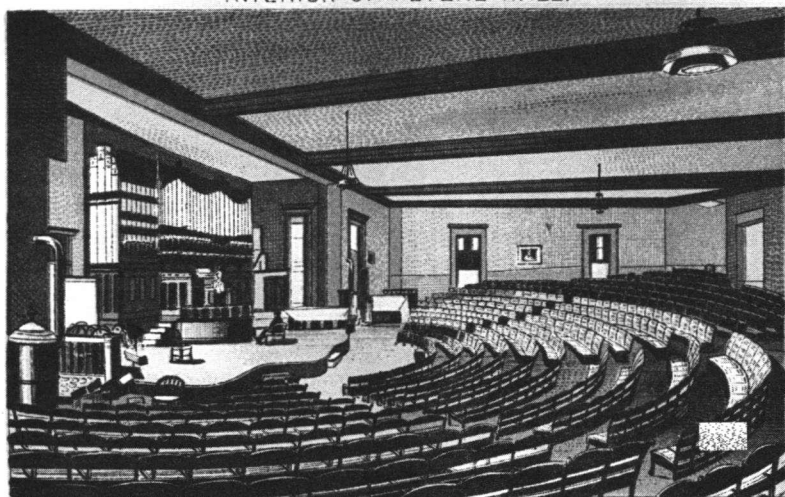
Henry Churchill King (1858-1934, A.B. 1879, B.D. 1882), theologian and teacher, was the sixth president of Oberlin College. After receiving his theological degree, he earned an A.M. from Harvard University in 1883, and, subsequently, a D.D. from the University of Berlin in 1894. King worked initially as a tutor in Oberlin's preparatory school beginning in 1879, then taught mathematics, philosophy, and theology. King served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for one year, 1901-1902, and, following the sudden death of President John Henry Barrows in 1902, was elected president of Oberlin College.

King's 25 years as Oberlin's president is notable for the substantial and enduring growth in Oberlin's built environment. Believing a creative link existed between intellectual and physical surroundings, in 1913 King wrote that "[i]t is no small part of the obligation which the college owes to its students to make their environment, as well as their courses, minister to a discriminating aesthetic taste. In its architecture and grounds, as well as in its courses in literature and music and art," he added, "the College hopes thus to meet the aesthetic needs of its students with increasing satisfaction." Soon after a 1903 fire destroyed the old chapel on Tappan Square, King sought resources to build a new chapel, but also for other needed structures, including a new Oberlin College library, an art museum, a men's social center, and an administration building. Over the next decade, King commissioned architect Cass Gilbert and the Olmsted Brothers, Boston landscape architects, to coordinate campus planning and building design; their commissions were advanced over the objections of College Treasurer James R. Severance and other Oberlin-commissioned architects, including Normand Patton and J.L. Silsbee.

According to Geoffrey Blodgett, the collaboration of President King, Gilbert, and the Olmsted Brothers produced a campus plan in a style that was "highly rectilinear...taking



INTERIOR OF PETERS HALL.



INTERIOR OF COLLEGE CHAPEL.

*Interiors of Peters Hall and College Chapel: from Souvenir of Oberlin, ca. 1890*

off from the square angles of Tappan Square.” The primary axis of this plan ran from the proposed (and eventual) site of Hall Auditorium, across the Square and through Silsbee’s Memorial Arch, to the location of what would be an unrealized Gilbert-designed Bell Tower. The plan called for the clearing of Tappan Square, and eventual demolition of Peters Hall. Significantly, the 1914 bequest of Charles Martin Hall, which represented the basis for the funding of the Sophronia Brooks Hall Auditorium, stipulated the clearing of Tappan Square and a Gilbert design for the structure. However, conflicts regarding both the style and function of the proposed auditorium went on well into the 1940s; by then, both King and Gilbert were deceased.

Even though not every element of the King-Gilbert “Grand Collaboration” saw fruition, the Gilbert-designed buildings became the dominant architectural motif on Oberlin’s campus during and immediately after King’s presidency. Exceptions were Normand Patton’s Carnegie Library, 1908, and Silsbee’s Men’s Building/Wilder Hall, 1910, buildings that in-



corporated the austere angles and rough exterior finishes of Oberlin's "Stone Age" structures. In contrast, Gilbert's Mediterranean and Renaissance-Classical structures employed rounded arches and colonnades, warm hues on smooth sandstone trimmed with red, and red terra cotta roof tiles. This style related well to the Ohio sandstone of Warner Gymnasium (1901)—which Gilbert cited as influential—and other tile-roofed buildings such as the Men's Building and Spear Library-Laboratory, while concurrently establishing a distinctive architectural élan. Elements of Gilbert's grand motif are consistently reflected in his designs for Finney Memorial Chapel, 1908, built on the site of the Finney House; the Cox Administration Building, 1915; Allen Memorial Art Museum, 1917; Allen Memorial Hospital, 1925; the Athletic Field Grandstand, 1925; and the Graduate School of Theology complex, 1931. Tellingly, every structure built during the King-Gilbert years was still extant and in use by the College in 1995.

### *Scope and Content*

Organized around nine record series, the Henry Churchill King papers document King's service to Oberlin College as teacher, preacher, administrator, and statesman. A calendar and index for King's professional correspondence are available.

Architectural researchers will want to consult the Series 1 "Professional Correspondence" files for extensive documentation, 1902-1927, of Oberlin's architectural history during King's administration. Items of architectural substance consist mainly of communication exchanges with notable architects, as well as with building fund donors, college officials, and influential trustees and alumni. The most significant individual collection of "architect" records includes three boxes of detailed correspondence with architect Cass Gilbert, 1903-1927, discussing campus planning, individual structures such as the Allen Memorial Art Museum, Allen Memorial Hospital, the Athletic Field and Grandstand, Cox Administration Building, Finney Chapel, and Gilbert's proposed design for Hall Auditorium and his grand Bell Tower. Also well represented within King's correspondence are the files of other architects associated with Oberlin. This group includes: two folders of correspondence with Boston landscape architects the Olmsted Brothers, discussing their work with Gilbert and other landscape issues, 1903-1916; a few letters, 1903-1905, from New York architect Arthur B. Jennings (1849-1927, architect of Warner Hall, 1885, and Rice Hall, 1910), which include drawing studies of proposed designs for Finney Chapel and Carnegie Library; two folders of materials from J.L. Silsbee regarding his ideas for campus planning, the construction of the Men's Building, and an addition for Talcott Hall, 1904-1912; Osborn Engineering Co. of Cleveland, Ohio, 1925, regarding Cass Gilbert's design for the Athletic Field Grandstand; and limited correspondence from the Chicago firm of Patton and Miller, 1905-1912, mainly discussing Carnegie Library planning and construction.

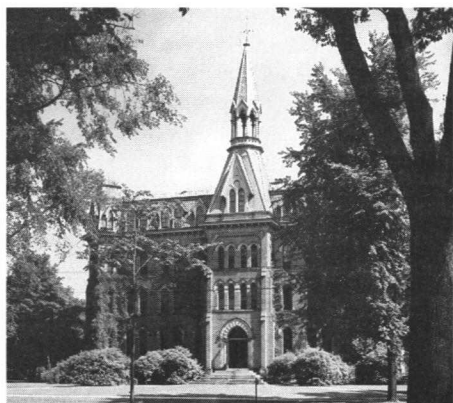
Series 1 also documents King's significant correspondence exchanges with influential trustees, alumni, college officials, and donors in architectural matters. Researchers will want to consult the following name files: Dr. Dudley P. Allen, namesake of the art museum and head of the Trustee Committee on Buildings and Grounds, 1902-1914, and his widow Elizabeth Severance Allen Prentiss, 1915-1917, three folders; Andrew Carnegie and his corporation, 1903-1927, which endowed Carnegie Library and Oberlin's general building fund; Clayton K. Fauver, Oberlin trustee and college counsel, regarding Gilbert's design plans and general business of the Trustee Committee on Location, Plans, and Design of College Buildings, 1908-1927; eight folders of significant correspondence with Charles Martin Hall, a portion of which discusses campus planning, 1903-1914; donor and former student Frederick Norton Finney whose three folders concern Gilbert's Finney

Chapel plans and subsequent renovations and embellishments, 1902-1916; Trustee and Hall estate executor Homer H. Johnson, regarding Gilbert's Auditorium design and other campus design issues, 1902-1926, five folders; and Trustee Irving W. Metcalf, discussing landscaping and the College's Building and Endowment funds, 1903-1927. The four folders of correspondence with Presidential Assistant William H. Bohn, although holding more modest architectural information, should also be consulted.

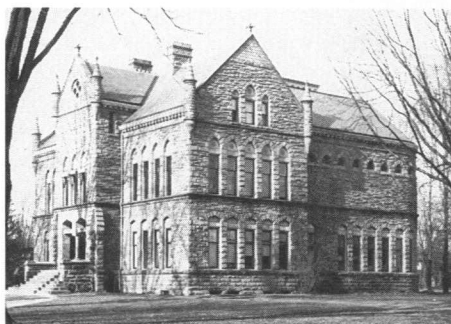
Other interesting correspondence files include: landscape architect and consultant Andrew Auten, 1903-1926, one folder; one letter dated May, 1915 to Mrs. S.E. Barrows (widow of King's predecessor John Henry Barrows) discussing development of the campus grounds; four folders of correspondence with William C. Cochran regarding building fund activities, donors, and architect costs for the Cox Administration Building and Finney Chapel, 1903 and 1910-1916; four folders of correspondence with Charles Finney Cox and Jacob D. Cox, discussing the Carnegie Library, Cox Administration Building, and Finney Chapel, 1903-1926; and one very descriptive item of correspondence from Helen G. Coburn, 1903, appealing to President King to sponsor the erection of a YMCA building in Oberlin.

One 20" x 25" plat map, ca. 1898, of King's subdivision of his lot is on file.

## FOUR CAMPUS STRUCTURES RAZED BETWEEN 1917 AND 1930



*Council Hall (1974-1930)*



*Spear Library-Laboratory (1885-1927)*



*Society Hall (1868-1917)*



*French Hall (1868-1927)  
ca. 1920*

## [9] Papers of Ernest Hatch Wilkins, 1927-1946, 65.6 l.f.

### *Biographical Note*

Born in Newton, Massachusetts, Ernest Hatch Wilkins (1880-1966) was educated at Amherst College (B.A. 1900, M.A. 1903) and Harvard University (Ph.D. 1910). He quickly established himself as an authority on Dante and Petrarch and as a promoter of international peace. After 15 years at the University of Chicago, 1912-1927, he was named Oberlin's seventh president. Over the next 20 years, Wilkins steered the College through the depression and one of its greatest periods of development.

Although the architectural legacy of Wilkins' tenure as president was critically restrained by the financial difficulties of the Great Depression and World War II, the campus did witness the erection of two new athletic facilities, a theological quadrangle, an addition to the Allen Memorial Art Museum, and the new Physics Building during his administration, and conceptual changes in the general campus plan. The most notable structure to be built was the long-planned Graduate School of Theology quadrangle (Bosworth Hall, Fairchild Chapel), designed by Cass Gilbert and dedicated in 1931. This was the architect's last significant contribution to Oberlin's built environment. The transformation from Mediterranean-style structures to Neo-Georgian Colonial, occurring during the Wilkins presidency, was a key design element in an unfulfilled campus plan, which sought to build a residential campus for men between W. Lorain St. and the athletic fields. Only one building from this plan, Noah Hall, designed by Charles W. Frank and dedicated in 1932, was completed. Burton Hall, completed in 1946, represented the finale of Neo-Georgian design on Oberlin's campus. Other notable structures completed during Wilkins administration include Crane Pool, 1931; the Clarence Ward-designed addition to the Allen Memorial Art Museum, 1937; Hales Gymnasium for Women, 1939, designed by Richard Kimball with assistance from Ward and William Hoskins Brown; and the 1942 Wright Physics Building (see also Lloyd William Taylor).

Other building initiatives struggled during this period, most notably the ongoing debate over the design and construction of Hall Auditorium, although Tappan Square was cleared of structures per the Charles Martin Hall bequest in 1927 with the demolition of Spear Library-Laboratory. A plan to construct a new science quadrangle, advocated by William Hoskins Brown and anchored by the Severance Chemical Laboratory on its southeast corner, also faced financing and design obstacles. A new science building had to wait until the post-war period to see realization.

### *Scope and Content*

Comprising 164 boxes and maintained in 11 record series, the papers of Ernest Hatch Wilkins consist largely of professional and academic correspondence, in addition to related administrative subject files. Of specific interest to the architectural researcher is the correspondence with architects, college personnel, and influential trustees (series 1). Also significant within Wilkins' papers are the records maintained in "Building Files" (series 9), and one box of materials regarding the Charles Martin Hall estate (series 12).

Arranged alphabetically, 85 boxes of correspondence and subject files in series 1 contain materials relative to architects who, whether or not officially contracted with Oberlin, communicated directly with President Wilkins, a significant trustee, or college personnel during the period 1927 to 1946. Three folders of materials for Cass Gilbert, 1910-1937, consisting of assorted correspondence regarding contractors and construction issues for the Graduate School of Theology, and Gilbert's proposals for Hall Auditorium and the Physics Building, are the most important. Also located here are board of

trustee meeting minutes, 1910-1912, a 1911 "Report of the Committee on the Location, Plans, and Construction of College Buildings" relative to Gilbert's possible appointment as College architect, a 1926 "Resumé of the Relation between the College and Cass Gilbert," as well as materials relative to Gilbert's estate that post-date his death in 1934.

Other architects and their representative correspondence files in series 1 include: one folder of materials for Richard Kimball, 1932-1944, regarding the addition to the Allen Memorial Art Museum, Hales Gymnasium, and Hall Auditorium, as well as a textual description of the "Duties of Consulting Architect at Oberlin College," n.d.; technical and business correspondence from Cincinnati architect Edward J. Schulte, 1940-1945, regarding the construction of the Wright Physics Building he designed; four items from Akron architect Charles W. Frank, 1928-1929, the Noah Hall architect credited with the design for the Men's Dormitory plan which never saw completion; and preliminary correspondence with the New York firm of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, discussing possible designs for Oberlin dormitories and Hall Auditorium, 1940-1946.

Some significant correspondents, such as college trustees, alumni/ae, and college personnel, whose functions directly or indirectly affected architectural activities at Oberlin, are also represented by materials in "Correspondence" (series 1). These include College Trustees Clayton K. Fauver, 1927-1942, and Lucien T. Warner (d. 1950, A.B. 1898), 1927-1946, Athletic Director Charles W. Savage, and Art Professors (and Architectural Designers) William Hoskins Brown and Clarence Ward.

Materials documenting subject-specific architectural projects at Oberlin are the "Building Files" (series 9). Comprising 2.9 l.f. of materials, they include an array of document and record types, such as trustee meeting notes and presentations, inter-office correspondence with faculty and Buildings and Grounds personnel, project cost surveys, and planning notes. Some important architect correspondence, not in series 1, is also located here. Moreover, in some instances, documents are accompanied by architectural plans and drawings. The most substantive collection of records within series 9 are those materials regarding Hall Auditorium. These records document the progression and phases of the Hall Auditorium project from ca. 1928 to 1943. They provide a detailed and comprehensive overview of architects consulted (including Cass Gilbert, Richard Kimball, and Eliel Saarinen), trustee and faculty statements and debates (especially that of C.K. Fauver, special representative in Hall Auditorium planning), Buildings and Grounds designer Robert R. Cutler's 1939 auditorium status report, and various acoustic and mechanical specifications. Of special interest are the 19 black and white photos of auditorium models rendered by architect Eliel Saarinen. These Hall Auditorium records, which are supplemented by the documents in series 12, include various legal documents, technical correspondence from Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, planning and budget notes, and President Wilkins' copy (#2) of the "Annals of the Auditorium," dated 1942. Covering the period 1914 to 1944, these materials represent some of the best documentation about the Hall Auditorium project.

Among the other significant subject materials in the "Building Files" (series 9) are: a 1927 blueprint of a "General Plan of the Oberlin Campus," prepared by Cass Gilbert (this item was removed to the maps and drawings case); preliminary working plans, a topographic study, and correspondence regarding a proposed outdoor theater designed by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, 1949; a preparatory study, trustee reports, and inter-office correspondence relative to the construction of a new central Heating Plant, 1940-1941; proposals, planning notes, and an architectural rendering, dated December, 1930, for a "Chinese Building" to hold the offices of the Shansi Memorial Association, 1923-1931; materials regarding the acquisition and storage of the "Chinese Temple" from the Chicago and New York World Fairs, 1941-1947; trustee minutes, contracts, and committee reports, in addi-

tion to correspondence materials, from architect Edward J. Schulte relative to the Wright Physics Building and other proposed Oberlin science facilities, as well as campus dormitories, 1940-1944; preliminary planning proposals and scattered architectural model photos from the firm of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon for the additions to Hales Gymnasium, Allen Memorial Hospital, Oberlin Inn, and campus dormitories, 1943-1946; and correspondence supplemented by two preliminary perspective drawings, ca. 1938, for Hales Gymnasium by architect Richard Kimball.

## **[10] Papers of William E. Stevenson, 1926-1961, 46.7 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

William Edwards Stevenson (1900-1985), Rhodes scholar, lawyer, educator, World War II veteran, diplomat, and Olympic gold medalist, was Oberlin's eighth president, serving from 1946 to 1959. Educated at Princeton University (A.B. 1922) and at Oxford University, Balliol College (B.A. in jurisprudence, 1925; M.A. 1928), he served as an assistant U.S. Attorney before entering private law practice. During World War II, Stevenson assisted in the coordination of Red Cross operations in England, North Africa, and Italy. He and his wife Eleanor "Bumpy" Stevenson (b. 1902), whom he married in 1926, were awarded Bronze Stars for their service. After leaving Oberlin, Stevenson served as U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines and later directed the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies. The dining hall on N. Professor St. (Stevenson Hall), named in his honor and designed by Charles Gwathmey (b. 1938), was dedicated in 1990.

Stevenson's presidency, the first after World War II, was notable for its development of the College's physical facilities. Jones Field House, 1949; the Oberlin Inn, 1954; and several new dormitory buildings (including Barrows and Dascomb halls, 1956) were completed during his administration. In addition, the new Conservatory of Music complex, the Kettering Hall of Science, and the King Humanities building were initiated, and College Library expansion plans, which led to the erection of Mudd Learning Center, were begun. Possibly the most significant architectural development of Stevenson's time at Oberlin, however, was the resolution of the decades-old dispute over the design and construction of Hall Auditorium (designed by Wallace K. Harrison and completed in 1953), and general agreement on architect Douglas Orr's general campus plan. The post-war/Stevenson years also began an era of architectural individuality on Oberlin's campus, exemplified by the contrasts of the functional, boxy simplicity of the Oberlin Inn and the flowing, melodramatic lines of Hall Auditorium. Despite the fact that Eldredge Snyder served as consulting architect to the College for much of this period, Oberlin's architecture was probably no longer chronologically uniform, except in its diversity of form and style.

### *Scope and Content*

The records of Oberlin College President William E. Stevenson, 1926-1961, are divided into five subgroups and numerous record series thereunder. Three of the subgroups hold important files: Subgroup I "Administrative Files of the Office of President," Subgroup II "Board of Trustees Records," and Subgroup III "Faculties, College Divisions, Programs, and Administrative Units." The value of the architectural records is likely to be found in the extensive documentation of Oberlin-commissioned architects and their project activities; debate and planning of building projects by college administrators, faculty and trustees; news clippings and press releases; and scattered graphic architectural materials, including

drawings, renderings, photos, and bound project proposals and specifications. Researchers will see that information on some campus structures and the architect is located in record series in several subgroups.

Information regarding the Charles Martin Hall estate (the funding base for the Hall Auditorium project) is in Subgroup I "Administrative Files of the Office of President," Series 8 "Subject Files." Covering the period 1946 to 1959, two folders of materials hold items relative to the Hall bequest to Oberlin College, including legal documents, notes, and trustee/executor reports. On the Hall provisions, researchers will also want to consult the faculty name files (Treasurer William P. Davis, 1946-1958) of series I in subgroup III.

Trustee meeting minutes, correspondence, and reports on construction costs and project status reports submitted to the Board of Trustees Building Committee are located in series 1 of subgroup II. These five files, 1946-1959, consist of administrative documents and correspondence relative to the Joint Committee of the Faculty and Trustees, and the Special Committee on the Oberlin Building Fund. Included are numerous references and items relative to the Joint Trustee and Faculty Committee approval of the Wallace K. Harrison-designed Hall Auditorium (with Eldredge Snyder as associate architect) and its physical design features, 1948; the installation of a Holtkamp Organ in the auditorium; discussion and approval of Snyder's plans for the Oberlin Inn; items regarding building additions to Hales Gymnasium and the auditorium, 1957; and planning debates and architect/contractor bid discussions for what became the King Building and the Kettering Hall of Science. The early planning proposals, 1946-1947, for an addition to the Severance Chemical Laboratory prepared by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon are also located here.

The most extensive and comprehensive architectural records within the Stevenson papers are filed in Subgroup III "Faculties, College Divisions, Programs, and Administrative Units (1945-1969)." Faculty meeting minutes documenting faculty planning considerations for a Hall Auditorium addition, and primary planning for the Kettering Science and King Humanities buildings, are in the faculty committee files of Series 1 "Faculties." Covering the years 1957 to 1959, these items, which incorporate the 1957 consultant report of architect Douglas Orr (see below), are notable for their discussion of campus planning relative to the proposed sites for the King Building. Treasurer William P. Davis' file, as noted above, contains useful information relating to the financing of construction projects and the College's purchase of properties in Oberlin.

The largest concentration of architectural records is in Series 4 "Administrative Units (1946-1959)" of subgroup III. Amounting to 1.8 l.f., these documents chronicle the work of architects and building projects at Oberlin, and include voluminous correspondence and general architectural data, meeting notes and clippings, legal agreements, and assorted administrative memoranda between and among College officials and the corresponding architects. A limited number of site and floor plans are also available. Significant among these records are architect/subject files, which contain the following: two folders of miscellaneous items and correspondence regarding Wallace K. Harrison, architect (in collaboration with Snyder) for Hall Auditorium, 1948-1956; one folder of materials for consulting architect Douglas Orr, 1956-1959, including Orr's landmark February/March, 1957 report, "Oberlin College—Preliminary Survey of Problems I & II," which helped to resolve the issue of future campus site planning and the location of the King Humanities complex, as well as Orr's June, 1957, report to the college trustees; and four folders of materials for architect Snyder, 1946-1959, which cover his involvement with a variety of Oberlin building issues for this period, including Hall Auditorium, Fairchild and Harkness dormitories, the proposed Humanities Building (which Snyder suggested be located next to Carnegie Library), the Oberlin Inn, and general campus planning. Included among these records are materials pertaining to landscape architects William Eichstadt and Wayne Laverty, 1948-

1950, which feature a general site plan for the Women's Dormitories, as well as planting plans and correspondence with President Stevenson.

Series 4 contains other general building and construction project files of an administrative character. Record series consist of administrative meeting notes, trustee meeting minutes and reports regarding building projects, architect correspondence and support materials, and maintenance reports for extant structures. Most conspicuous among these records are 12 folders, 1947-1962, relative to the erection and addition to Hall Auditorium. Included is an early project rendering and site plan, ca. 1947, for the auditorium by Snyder (five bound pages), as well as news clippings, dedication materials, and support materials for the proposed addition to the auditorium, 1958-1959. Other notable individual items among these files are: a June, 1947 report by Snyder on "The Building Situation at Oberlin," held in the "Buildings, 1947-1949" folder; information and legal agreements regarding the World's Fair "Chinese Temple" purchased, stored, and subsequently transferred away by the College, 1943-1958; bound preliminary studies for Hall Auditorium, the Oberlin Inn, and the Women's Dormitory complex from Snyder, 1947-1951; rudimentary planning materials for Minoru Yamasaki's Conservatory of Music complex, 1958-1959; and detailed perspectives and renderings by Snyder of the Coeducation Centennial Memorial Gateway, 1949-1952. Materials are also available which document the installation and maintenance of the organs in Finney Chapel, Hall Auditorium, and Warner Hall, 1928-1953.

## **[11] Papers of Robert K. Carr, 1959-1975, 66.15 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Robert Kenneth Carr (1908-1979), a distinguished scholar of law and political science, served as Oberlin's ninth president from 1960 to 1970. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Carr was educated at Dartmouth College (A.B. 1929) and at Harvard University (A.M. 1930, Ph.D. 1935). Prior to his appointment as Oberlin's president in 1960, Carr taught at Dartmouth College and the University of Oklahoma. At Oberlin, Carr's presidency was marked by institutional change and marred by campus unrest over the Vietnam War and U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia. Campus demonstrations and calls for curriculum reform led to Carr's resignation in November, 1970. He returned to Oberlin in 1975 to teach constitutional law until his retirement in 1978, and was earlier recognized when the Carr Pool in the Jesse Philips Physical Education Center was named and dedicated in his honor.

During Carr's tenure as president, the College's physical plant saw substantial growth and modernization, with the construction of 15 new buildings and the renovation of older ones. Carr's ability to raise funds helped to secure \$15 million to finance the construction of a men's gymnasium for the Department of Athletics (Philips Physical Education Center, dedicated in 1971), and a new central library (Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center, completed in 1974). Other significant projects constructed during Carr's administration include the Kettering Hall of Science (dedicated 1961), the Conservatory of Music (dedicated 1964), and the multi-phased King Humanities Building (1966), the latter two designed by architect Minoru Yamasaki. In addition, residential life took on a new character as large dormitory complexes, such as North Hall (dedicated 1963) and South Hall (dedicated 1964), transformed student residential life. New dormitories—Barnard, Zechiel, and others—dedicated in 1968 and designed by the New York firm of Moore and Hutchins elaborated on this larger and utilitarian, albeit slightly impersonal, motif of size and function intended to balance the north and south sides of this large campus. Warner Hall, the old Conservatory of Music structure erected in the 1880s, was the most significant loss to the times. It was razed in October, 1964, to make way for the King Building. Oberlin's

built environment, much like its administrative and intellectual environment, underwent many changes and transformations during the 1960s.

### *Scope and Content*

Organized around six subgroups, the records of Oberlin College President Robert K. Carr, 1959-1975, occupy 66.15 l.f. Materials of architectural substance are found in Subgroup I "Administrative Files," Subgroup II "Files Relating to the Board of Trustees," Subgroup IV "Academic Departments, Administrative Offices, and Program Files," and Subgroup V "Student Life Files."

The annual reports in series 1 of the administrative files (subgroup 1) detail the administrative planning issues and phases of college building projects during the Carr and William E. Stevenson administrations. Included in the two folders, 1952-1969, are the bound reports received from the Buildings and Grounds Department. In addition to budget and building progress statements, researchers will find inter-office correspondence regarding the nature and scope of building projects, as well as scattered correspondence with trustees and donors relative to endowment campaigns for the College's building fund. The only significant architect correspondence in subgroup I is located in Series 9 "Name Files," consisting of one folder of communication with Conservatory of Music and King Building architect Minoru Yamasaki, 1960-1966.

Trustee meeting minutes, notes, agendas, correspondence, and cost itemizations for the period 1960 to 1968 are held in Subgroup II, Series 2 "Trustee Committees." Modest architectural materials are filed as "Trustee Building Committee (1960-68)" and "Faculty Building Committee (1961-1963)," and they mainly consist of items relative to the property maintained by the estate of Charles Martin Hall, including a plot plan; dormitory and faculty housing, 1965; and the expansion of the Oberlin Inn, 1966. The latter includes cost estimates and correspondence with Cleveland architect Joseph Ceruti and correspondence and planning materials regarding the construction of Philips Gymnasium, designed by Boston architect Hugh Stubbins. A limited number of items relative to the planning and construction of new dormitory facilities, 1961-1963, originate with the "Dormitory Committee" (series 2); however, the most substantial representation of dormitory planning and construction is filed under subgroup V (see below).

The most sizable body of architectural documentation is held in Series 2 "Administrative Offices, 1960-1970," of subgroup IV. Under the subheading of "Buildings and Grounds" (series 2), the voluminous architectural records consist of: architect planning materials, correspondence, consultant reports and conference minutes; notes and minutes relative to Trustee Buildings and Grounds, the Space Utilization, and the Faculty Buildings committees, including presentation materials, scattered architectural drawings, and voluminous inter-office correspondence, as well as maintenance reports, budget itemizations, and printed materials such as College-issued reports and news clippings.

Materials regarding the work of architects in series 2 of subgroup IV include listings of architects contacted for project bids, as well as reports of consulting architects such as Ralph E. Ellsworth '29, whose 1963 recommendation on College Library facilities helped College Library Director Eileen Thornton win approval for the construction of what became known as the Mudd Learning Center (now Mudd Center). Other significant items include: conference reports and correspondence with dormitory architects Moore and Hutchins, 1963-1967; news releases and correspondence with Oberlin Inn addition architectural firm Joseph Ceruti-Febo Associates, 1963-1967; and correspondence and a limited number of planning proposals for the new gym and library from architect Hugh Stubbins, 1963-1967. Some of the most important architectural materials located here document the work of Warner, Burns, Toan, and Lundy (WBTL), 1965-1966; included are the firm's propos-



als for the new library (and gymnasium), as well as 8x10 black and white photos of floor plans, site plans, HVAC plans, a cross-section drawing of the library, and a perspective of the front entranceway. Also found here are WBTL contracts, memoranda, and firm history and information. Other considerable materials for both Stubbins and WBTL are found in series 2 under the respective headings of "Men's Gym (1964-1970, 3 folders)" and "Library (1963-1970, 4 folders)." These sizable records include planning notes and preliminary program presentations, trustee committee notes, news clippings, architect and inter-office correspondence, budgets, and project status reports. Other files of significance, which contain architect correspondence and a limited number of drawings, planning materials, proposals, and project memoranda, include records for the addition to the Allen Memorial Art Museum, 1965-1970, and the King Building, 1955-1967. All other structures extant during the Carr administration are represented by files within series 2 of subgroup IV.

The most substantial holding of architectural materials documenting the planning and construction of dormitory facilities at Oberlin within this group is located in Series 7 "Student Services" of Subgroup V "Student Life Files." For example, two boxes of inter-office correspondence, administrative records, program and planning notes, dormitory architectural firm Moore and Hutchins conference reports and correspondence, maintenance reports, special Trustee Committee on Dormitories memoranda, and minor landscaping notes and plans are held in Subseries 3 "Housing," 1957-1969. Especially notable among these records is a folder of items documenting the naming of college dormitories, 1955-1963.

## **[12] Papers of Robert W. Fuller, 1960-1980, 19 l.f.**

### ***Biographical Note***

Robert Works Fuller (b. 1936) was the tenth president of Oberlin College, serving between 1970 and 1974. An educator, physicist, and social activist, he attended Oberlin on a Ford Foundation Early Entrance Scholarship from 1952 to 1955. Fuller left Oberlin without earning a degree to study physics at Princeton University. There, he earned two degrees in physics (an M.A. in 1959 and a Ph.D. in 1961). He received an honorary A.B. degree from Oberlin at the time of his inauguration.

Before coming to Oberlin College, Fuller taught at Columbia University, at Wesleyan University, and a science course for inner city youths in Seattle, Washington, where he was a Fellow of the Battelle Seattle Research Center. He was Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Physics at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut (1968-1970).

The architectural legacy of the Fuller years is to be understood primarily in terms of two large building projects completed: the Mudd Learning Center (now Mudd Center), 1974, and Philips Gymnasium, 1971. The planning of an addition to the Allen Memorial Art Museum, to be designed by Robert Venturi, was also approved during this time. The work of architectural consultants, such as Richard Dober, to evaluate the needs and efficient space utilization of Oberlin's buildings and grounds, is also to be noted. Finally, Professor of History Geoffrey Blodgett composed individual building histories to inform Fuller of Oberlin's aging but notable structures, such as Finney Chapel and Peters Hall.

### ***Scope and Content***

Organized into five subgroups, materials of architectural substance in Fuller's presidential records are located in Subgroup I "Administrative Files (1969-1975)," Subgroup II "Board of Trustees Records (1969-1975)," and Subgroup IV "Academic Departments, Programs, and Administrative Records (ca. 1960-1974)." Items mainly consist of Trustee planning commit-

tee notes and recommendations, reports of consulting architects regarding campus development and structural renovation, as well as general architectural materials regarding building projects proposed and/or enacted during Fuller's tenure as president, 1970-1974.

Items of peripheral architectural interest are held in the subject files of Subgroup I "Administrative Files of the Office of the President (1969-1975)." These materials, held in one folder per subject, document planning activities for the Hall Park property, 1970, as well as real estate control and transactions for the property of Oberlin Professor of Art Clarence Ward, 1952-1974.

More substantial architectural materials relative to administrative planning and regulation of building projects at Oberlin during Fuller's tenure are held in Series 4 "Planning and Development" of Subgroup II "Board of Trustees." Held in one carton and comprising 1.25 l.f. of reports and support materials for the Trustee Planning and Development Committee, 1972. Items include inter-office correspondence, memoranda, cost projections for on-going campus building projects, and a status report for the construction of Mudd Center.

More comprehensive materials documenting general buildings and grounds activities and projects are held in Series 2 "Administrative Units" of Subgroup IV "Academic Departments, Programs, and Administrative Units." Totaling 0.4 l.f., records consist of feasibility studies, building inventory summaries, notes and recommendations from the Space Utilization Advisory Committee, project and planning reports, and varied architect and inter-office correspondence relative to campus planning studies and individual building projects. The most substantive records held in this series document the proposed addition to the Allen Memorial Art Museum, 1972-1973, by the architectural firm of Venturi and Rauch, and the construction of the Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center, 1971-1973, designed by the New York firm of Warner, Burns, Toan, and Lundy. Also notable in this grouping are: notes of the Space Utilization Committee, 1972-1974, which include correspondence regarding the Dober Study of 1973 as well as copies of Oberlin architectural historian Geoffrey Blodgett's individual building histories for structures targeted for demolition, including Cox Administration Building, Finney Chapel, Peters Hall, Warner Hall, and Westervelt Hall; two folders of items regarding Hall Auditorium operation, maintenance, and renovation, 1971-1972; a brief history of the Holtkamp organ in Warner Concert Hall, 1970-1976; and dedication plans and materials for the Carr Pool. In addition, planning study proposals and discussions regarding the future use of Warner Gymnasium, 1970-1972, are located here. Moreover, comprehensive materials document the history and ongoing struggle to decide upon the use of Westervelt Hall, 1969-1975, which was eventually transferred to municipal ownership in 1976.

### **[13] Papers of Emil C. Danenberg, 1954-1983, 46.15 l.f.**

#### *Biographical Note*

Emil C. Danenberg (1917-1982) enjoyed a successful career as a concert pianist and as a professor of pianoforte before becoming Oberlin College's eleventh president. Educated at UCLA (A.B. 1942, A.M. 1944), Danenberg joined the faculty of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in 1944. Between 1970 and 1975, Professor Danenberg served as the acting dean and as dean of the Conservatory of Music. Subsequently, he served as president of Oberlin College from 1975 until ill health forced him to leave his office in September, 1981. James L. Powell, acting president for two years, was Danenberg's successor.

New construction at Oberlin was limited during Danenberg's tenure as president. One notable structure, the addition to the Allen Memorial Art Museum, designed by architect Robert Venturi and dedicated in January, 1977, was a subject discussed by persons in

and outside of Oberlin. The design received many critical architectural reviews for its bold yet indirect checkerboard augmentation of Cass Gilbert's original warm Mediterranean style. As president, Danenberg was active in the oversight of renovation and restoration proposals as well as other campus buildings and grounds projects.

### *Scope and Content*

The papers of Oberlin College President Emil C. Danenberg are organized into 13 record series. Records of architectural substance are filed in Series XII "General Files."

Comprising 30 folders of architecturally-based materials and spanning the period 1974 to 1982, Series XII "General Files" mainly consists of the following: inter-office correspondence, project budgets, board of trustee minutes and agendas, and planning notes from the Space Utilization Committee and the College's Planning and Construction Office; special inter-office correspondence regarding the formation of a "Standing Committee on College Architecture"; rudimentary plans for the rearrangement of office space in the Cox Administration Building and for proposed renovation and restoration of campus facilities such as the Carnegie Library, Mudd Center, the Oberlin Inn, and Warner Concert Hall; and architect correspondence from the firm of Venturi and Rauch of Philadelphia relative to the addition to the Allen Memorial Art Museum, as well as proposals to rehabilitate the studio domes located behind the art museum. All campus structures extant during Danenberg's presidential administration are represented in these files.

## **[14] Papers of S. Frederick Starr, 1983-1994, 76 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

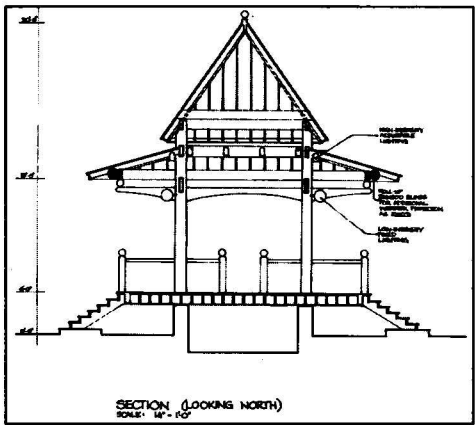
Academician, educator, and musician, S. Frederick Starr (b. 1940) served as Oberlin College's twelfth president (1983-1994). Starr was educated at Yale University (B.A. 1962), at King's College of Cambridge University (M.A. 1964), and at Princeton University (Ph.D. 1968). Many campus observers described Starr as a Renaissance man, whose interests and expertise covered such topics as architecture, archeology, music, and Soviet and Eastern European affairs.

Construction projects during Starr's presidency were primarily supported by \$17.5 million which was raised as part of an \$80 million capital campaign for Oberlin, the largest in the history of Oberlin College. New construction during Starr's administration included the Langston Hall addition, 1987; the Clark Bandstand, 1987; the Conservatory of Music Library addition, 1988; Stevenson Hall, 1989; Sperry Neuroscience Building, 1990; and the Heisman Field House, 1992. Starr's administration was not only preoccupied with new construction, but also with repairing and maintaining buildings in the college's physical plant, recognized as an important asset [*Oberlin College Observer*, 10/1/87]. Numerous other projects affecting Oberlin's physical and aesthetic appearance were proposed and completed during this era. Nine residence halls were renovated, as were Carnegie Library, Cox Administration Building, Finney Chapel, Warner Concert Hall, and Wilder Hall.

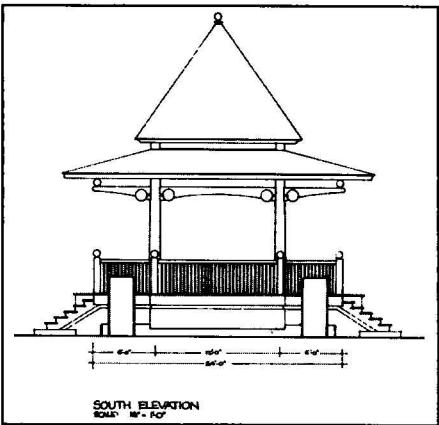
When S. Frederick Starr assumed the presidency of Oberlin College in 1983, Vice-President for Business and Finance Dayton Livingston oversaw facilities and operations management with the assistance of Joseph P. Metro, director of the physical plant. Promoted to the new position of associate vice-president for operations in 1984, Metro continued to direct the practical and financial aspects of facilities management under Livingston; Michael Getter, director of the physical plant, assisted him. No general faculty or advisory committees tended to the aesthetic decisions affecting Oberlin's built envi-

ronment. In 1986, to remedy this administrative oversight, Starr created an Architectural Review Committee. In 1988, with Livingston's retirement and a reorganization of business and financial functions, a new division for operations was created with Donna Raynsford as its vice-president. During this time, the board of trustees continued to exercise its influence over Oberlin's built environment through its own standing Buildings and Grounds Committee.

## CLARK BANDSTAND, 1985



Section (looking north)



South elevation



Designed by Julian S. Smith  
1985

## *Scope and Content*

The papers of S. Frederick Starr are arranged in 18 record series, consisting largely of budgetary files, correspondence, meeting minutes, and reports. Four of the 18 series contain files directly pertinent to Oberlin's built environment; these include Series VI. Committee Files, Series XI. Miscellaneous Files re: Divisions, Departments, and Administrative Units, Series XV. Special Initiatives & Project Files, and Series XVII. Subject Files. These files represent a mix of the original, information copy, and personally annotated documentation created and received by President Starr during his 11-year presidency. In most cases, they do not constitute complete documentation of a project or committee. Key correspondents include Michael Getter, Dayton Livingston, Joseph P. Metro, Donna Raynsford, and Grounds Department Manager Edward Thompson.

The "Board of Trustees" subseries of series VI contains Starr's papers relating to the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The by-law authorizing this body reads, "There shall be a committee on Buildings and Grounds which shall study and recommend to the Board programs and policies designed to meet the College's need for grounds, physical plant and equipment adequate to serve the purpose of the College." The committee endorsed projects ranging from new construction to the installation of water fountains.

Starr's Buildings and Grounds Committee records, 1983-1990, are dominated by developing plans for a North Campus dining hall/ social facility (Stevenson Hall). Records of this project relate to both process and product. Letters, memoranda, program documents, evaluations of architects' proposals, a chronology of planning the facility, and site plan blueprints reveal the goals, costs, requirements, and site considerations of the building. During this time, the committee was also involved with renovations of Carnegie Library, Cox Administration Building, Peters Hall, Severance Hall, the Student Union, Tank Hall, and Warner Concert Hall. This arm of the board was clearly guided by a desire to improve the function and appearance of buildings and of the entire campus. As its numerous financial reports demonstrate, the committee was also quite conscious of capital restraints.

Starr supplemented the practical and financial functions of the Facilities Planning and Construction Department and the Buildings and Grounds Committee with the more aesthetically-oriented duties of the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). Subseries 2 "General Faculty and College Faculty Committee Files" of series VI houses Starr's memorandum creating the ARC as an informal advisory group in 1986. Sporadic memoranda and meeting minutes document the ARC's activities through 1994.

In addition to the ARC, the "General Faculty and College Faculty Committee Files" subseries contains files on the Cox Renovation, the Facilities Accessibilities Needs, and the Natural Sciences Division committees. The Cox Renovation Committee file includes memoranda, correspondence, progress and subcommittee reports, office designs, and floor plans. In making plans for the administration building's infrastructure, conference room, offices, and public spaces between 1984 and 1985, the Cox Renovation Committee was preoccupied with both functional and aesthetic concerns. The Facilities Accessibilities Needs (FAN) Committee was created by President Starr in the spring of 1990 "to identify the present facilities accessible needs at Oberlin College, develop immediate and long-range action plans, and present findings and recommendations to the President and other appropriate personnel." Its first project was to make South Hall accessible. Considerations for cost, needs, and priorities are evident in the FAN Committee's memoranda, mission statement, progress reports, and findings and recommendations in the annual reports, 1990-1992. Finally, the records of the Natural Sciences Division Committee, 1990-1992, include correspondence, reports, a planning schedule, and the Natural Sciences Comprehensive Facilities Plan (Volumes I-III and Executive Summary) prepared by Earl R. Flansburgh & Associates, Inc.

This committee was charged with “comprehensive planning for science space needs” in light of inadequate facilities.

The Environmental Studies and Neuroscience & Biopsychology files in subseries 2 of series XI (concerning administrative units) contain items of interest to the architectural historian. The Environmental Studies Department folder includes a valuable memorandum stipulating the process of approval for new construction, written by Starr in response to Professor of Environmental Studies David Orr’s 1991 proposal for a new Environmental Studies Center. In seeking support for the center, Orr’s letters to Starr and to the College Dean discuss goals, needs, and possible locations for the building. The folder titled “Neuroscience & Biopsychology” contains some cursory treatment—in 1986 correspondence and a list of possible corporate sponsors—on the addition to Severance Hall.

Three administrative units, whose files are found in subseries 3 of series XI, relate to Oberlin’s built environment: the Library, Operations, and Physical Plant. A folder entitled “Conservatory Library” contains memoranda, a building program statement, cost estimates, correspondence with the architectural firm of Gunnar Birkerts, and plans for the 1988 dedication of the library’s addition. Files for the Operations Division are quite extensive, including 21 folders for individual building or maintenance projects. For the most part, these files are comprised of memoranda and correspondence, but also contain budgets, statements of accounts, floor plans, chronologies, Oberlin College News releases, reports, purchase orders, blueprints, site plans, meeting minutes, renovation and space studies, cost estimates, copies of press clippings, publicity brochures, and feasibility reports. From day-to-day maintenance to long-range planning, these files document operations activities, as they involved President Starr, since 1983. Folders relating to the physical plant, 1983-1992, document administrative changes in oversight as well as the actual routine maintenance, renovation, new construction, and management of rental properties.

Series X “Miscellaneous Correspondence with External Organizations” includes a subseries on local organizations. One folder of correspondence between Starr and officials of the City of Oberlin discusses the Oberlin Downtown Revitalization Project, tree planting, and parking. Documents from the Kendal at Oberlin project report on the College’s interest in quality architectural design, community development, and landscaping, 1989-1994. Finally, correspondence with the Oberlin Public Library details the College’s history with and support of the public library, notably in making space available in the Carnegie Building, and then in purchasing (from Arthur “Kenny” Clark) and donating the downtown Fisher-Fazio Building to the local library.

“Special Initiatives and Project Files” comprise series XV. Included here are folders on the Tappan Square Bandstand Competition, Condominium Project, and John Frederick Oberlin (JFO) Monument. Files relating to the Bandstand Competition, funded in part by an NEA grant, contain competition programs and poster, correspondence with an advisory committee and competition jurors, and site maps of Tappan Square. Several press releases and clippings publicized the design competition and *The Oberlin Book of Bandstands* (Preservation Press, 1987), edited by Starr to “encourage leading communities across the country to restore or build anew the bandstands that were once the focus of community life.” Correspondence, site information, and floor plans for the Oberlin Condominium Project date from 1985 to 1986. Never built, the project was to construct 16 units on college-owned land on Hollywood St. between Union and Maple. The bulk of a folder on the JFO Monument contains correspondence to and from Starr.

Series XVII “Subject Files” contains several folders of interest to architectural historians. These include the folders “Architecture,” with correspondence on various projects; “Co-Op Bookstore,” with newsletters and a report on major renovation; “Martin Luther King,” on the changes and budget at the old Vine Street Park; “H.H. K’ung,” with a series of

proposals for a campus memorial to K'ung. Other architectural subjects include: "Memorial Arch," with items discussing the memorial's meaning and possible addition of a new plaque; "Parking," on the five year plan for renovation; "Philips Business and Finance Center," pertaining to the proposal never implemented; and "Signage," with materials relating to the campaign for better directional signs for drivers to find Oberlin from highways.

### *Restrictions*

These records are presently restricted. Permission of the archivist is required.

## RECORDS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANTS (Group 3)

### *Administrative History*

In his 1902 inaugural address President Henry Churchill King outlined his intent to be an "educator" president who would primarily focus on Oberlin's educational, rather than its administrative, interests. Adhering to this wish, on November 16, 1904, the Office of Assistant to the President was created by act of the trustees. The president's assistant was not only "to cooperate with the President in strengthening and developing the college on every side," but also to maintain and enlarge "the friendly and supporting constituency of the college, and [to increase] its material resources." The assistant to the president was made an ex-officio member of the Prudential Committee, a member of the general faculty with the rank of professor, as well as a member of those committees immersed in the inner life of the campus in general. Thus, the administrative domain of the assistant to the president was broadly formulated. It included fund raising for the college, as well as the oversight and coordination of similar administrative functions such as alumni relations, appointments, buildings and grounds, campus development, divisions and departments, faculty and student committees, and the operations of campus services.

The records of the Office of Assistant to the President cover the period 1904 to 1974 through an aggregation of the papers of five presidential assistants and their tenures in that position: (Charles) Whiting Williams, 1904-1912; William F. Bohn, 1913-1944; Harold S. Wood, 1944-1948; Thomas Edward Harris, 1949-1953; and Bayley F. Mason, 1971-1974.

For the researcher investigating architectural records and related historical materials, the records of the Office of Assistant to the President, 1904-1974, document the inner workings of campus planning and development. Record series mainly consist of correspondence with architects and contracting firms; historical newspaper and journal articles related to specific college structures and commissioned architects; architectural drawings, floor plans and support materials (contracts, renovation studies and proposals, specifications, etc.) for Oberlin College buildings, both extant and subsequently razed; and the meeting notes, reports and recommendations of specific Oberlin College committees charged with selection of architects, building designs, and the solicitation and determination of project funding sources.

### [15] Papers of William F. Bohn, 1910-1953, 20.5 l.f.

#### *Biographical Note*

William Frederick Bohn (1878-1947, A.B. 1900, B.D. 1905, A.M. 1908) spent 50 years at Oberlin College, as a student and as an administrator, serving under presidents Henry

Churchill King and Ernest Hatch Wilkins. In this capacity, he raised funds for new buildings and scholarships, playing a key role in the Capital Campaign of 1923 and the Living Endowment Union. Active in Oberlin town affairs, he served as president of the Oberlin Village Improvement Society (predecessor to the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization), and as a trustee for the First Church in Oberlin. Of particular note was his service as a trustee for the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association, on which he was board chairman, 1929-1947. On retirement, Bohn was awarded the tenth Alumni Medal for notable service to Oberlin College.

### *Scope and Content*

The papers of William F. Bohn were re-arranged in 1991 into six series. Of particular interest to researchers are three file units in series I—"Buildings and Grounds," "Divisions and Departments," and "Topical"—and Series III "Correspondence." In the latter the chief correspondent is Oberlin College Architect Cass Gilbert.

Of the architectural records in series I, the most voluminous records are available in the Buildings and Grounds files, 1913-1934. Included are historical newspaper and journal articles related to specific College structures and architects; scattered architectural drawings, floor plans and support materials (contracts, renovation plans, studies and proposals, specifications, etc.) for Oberlin College buildings, both extant and subsequently razed; and the meeting notes, reports and recommendations of specific Oberlin College committees charged with selection of architects, building designs, and the solicitation and determination of project funding sources. Campus structures—either built or proposed—are well documented with clearly noted dates of coverage. These include the Allen Memorial Art Museum, 1915-1917; campus landscaping, 1904; the Cox Administration Building, 1913-1914; Crane Swimming Pool, ca. 1930; the Graduate School of Theology, ca. 1917-1920; Hall Auditorium, 1916-1932; the Men's Gymnasium (Warner), 1931; the Men's Campus, 1928-1930, to be built west of the Men's Building (Wilder Hall); Oberlin College dormitories, 1931-1934; Oberlin Inn, 1927-1939; and the Science Building, 1910-1931. Also located within this record series is a miscellany file, which holds correspondence from consulting architects Cass Gilbert (New York), the Olmsted Brothers (Boston), J.L. Silsbee (Chicago), and Charles W. Frank (Akron) for the period 1902-1913, as well as program floor plans, site plans, and photographs regarding campus planning, athletic fields, etc. The most significant materials, which include design and development drawings, site plans, and correspondence, are those files covering construction of the Hall Auditorium, the Men's Campus, and a proposed Science Building. Approximately 32 drawings, photos, maps, elevations, and other architectural renderings are located in these files and the miscellany file. Divisions and Departments, 1929-1930, holds general materials regarding Carnegie Library, Council Hall's demolition, and a full outline and proposal for the Graduate School of Theology. All include architectural renderings of the buildings. In topical files are materials relative to the Allen Memorial Hospital, and are represented mainly by bids for specifications and revisions in the construction plans, 1923-1924.

The "Correspondence" series consists of over 110 letters exchanged with College Architect Cass Gilbert (and his son) from the years 1914 to 1934. In illustrating the spectrum of Gilbert's involvement with Oberlin, the correspondence further documents final construction considerations for the Allen Memorial Art Museum, 1915-1918; plans and cost estimations for the Allen Memorial Hospital, 1921-1926; renovations to the Cox Administration Building, 1914; embellishments for Finney Chapel's rose window, 1919-1930; and development of plans for the Graduate School of Theology building group, 1918-1920. Some discussion exists on other topics, including campus planning; a history of Rockefeller gifts to Oberlin, 1895-1932; and a proposed grandstand for the Athletic Fields, 1920-1930.



## [16] Papers of (Charles) Whiting Williams

### *Biographical Note*

(Charles) Whiting Williams (1878-1975, A.B. 1899, M.A. 1909) was born in Shelby, Ohio. He continued his studies at the University of Berlin (1899-1900) and the University of Chicago (1900-1901), serving as Chicago's director of the Bureau of University Travel from 1901 to 1904. Williams returned to Oberlin to serve as the first assistant to the president from 1904 to 1912 under Henry Churchill King. Among his primary tasks was the raising of money for building and scholarships.

In 1912, Williams left Oberlin. Over the next three decades he was successful in reform and philanthropy movements, serving as the first executive secretary of the Federation of Charity and Philanthropy (now known as the Welfare Federation of Cleveland). Upon entering the private sector in 1917, he legally changed his name to Whiting Williams. After 1919, Williams pursued a career as a consultant in labor-management relations, and spent the greater part of his remaining life researching, speaking, and writing on these subjects.

### *Scope and Content*

Architectural records held in the papers of (Charles) Whiting Williams are limited mainly to Williams' correspondence with architects concerning Oberlin College building projects over the period 1905 to 1912. Documentation includes Williams' correspondence with New York architect Cass Gilbert, at which time the interior and exterior design, floor plans, and progress of Gilbert's Finney Chapel, 1905-1908, are detailed, as well as formal proposals for a comprehensive campus plan and a 300-foot clock tower, 1912. The tower became part of Gilbert's design for the campus and the Graduate School of Theology but was never built. The collection also includes correspondence with the Chicago firm of Patton and Miller, the architects who designed the Carnegie Library, 1908, discussing interior tablet designs and inscriptions (sketch included); correspondence, 1912, related to



*Architect J.L. Silsbee established a field office in the area in order to meet a growing business. His son, Ralph Silsbee, sits in the Elyria office in the 1940s. This operation would later become Clark and Post, Inc.  
Photo courtesy of Jack Clark.*

the construction of Keep Cottage, Normand Patton's last commission at Oberlin College, built on the site of the Reverend John Keep Home; and correspondence with Chicago architect J.L. Silsbee, 1907-1910, covering plans for additions and renovations for Talcott Hall, as well as communications concerning planning, revisions, development, and construction of the Men's Building (now called Wilder Hall), completed in 1911.

## [17] Papers of Harold S. Wood, 1944-1948, 2 l.f.

### *Biographical Note*

Harold S. Wood (1898-1989, A.B. 1923), unofficially the third assistant to the president (his title was vice-president), received his A.M. from The Ohio State University in 1937. Prior to his administrative appointment at Oberlin in 1944, Wood served in various directorships of athletic programs at both Ohio State and Ohio Wesleyan universities. At Oberlin, Wood worked under Presidents Ernest H. Wilkins and William E. Stevenson. Wood's duties centered on funds solicitation, mainly for the erection of new dormitories planned at Oberlin after World War II. Wood also served on the Shansi Memorial Association's Board of Trustees. Wood left Oberlin in June, 1948 to become vice-president at Beloit College.

### *Scope and Content*

The Wood papers consist of four record series. Of special interest are the materials found in Series II "Correspondence" and Series III "Buildings and Grounds." The majority of materials relative to Oberlin architecture in Series II "Correspondence" almost exclusively feature correspondence with New York architect Eldredge Snyder for the years 1947 to 1948. Subjects covered include design and program phase plans for a new Biology Building, the Botany-Zoology Building, and a women's dormitory (Fairchild or Harkness), and renovations to the Men's Building (Wilder Hall). Ten photographs of the presentation drawings for women's dormitory facilities are also held here. Some documents in this series report on the Hall Auditorium, the Oberlin Inn (which Snyder would eventually be commissioned to design), and renovations for Allen Memorial Hospital through the Federal Hospital Survey and Construction Act of 1946. Especially notable is a June, 1947 Campus Planning Report, which covers Finney Chapel, the Hall Auditorium, Oberlin Inn, the Men's Gymnasium (Warner), a Student Union, and women's dormitories. Snyder's architectural plans for the Oberlin Inn are extant.

Series III "Buildings and Grounds" contains other architectural resources: design and development materials—including an elevation, site plan, and photographs of mock-ups—for a proposed Athletic Field Gate designed by Snyder to serve as a memorial to Oberlin Alumni killed in World War II, 1948-1949; and six presentation drawings from the firm of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon relative to the proposed Science Building Group, 1946. This set includes renderings of foyers, main floor and exterior designs, and elevations of entranceways, main floor bays, exterior arcades and columns, and a first floor/foyer plan. Also included is the text for a memorial quadrangle and museum addition. Other materials include letters, texts of speeches, and programs for the dedication of Burton Hall, 1947, and planning commission notes, purchasing contracts, and correspondence regarding the construction in the late 1940s of the Jones Field House, named for George M. Jones, then secretary emeritus of Oberlin College.

## **[18] Papers of Thomas Edward Harris, 1949-1953, 0.8 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Thomas Edward Harris (1908-1990, A.B. 1933), a native of New Haven, Connecticut, arrived at Oberlin College in 1942 to serve as secretary to the Oberlin College Alumni Association. After serving in the U.S. Navy for two years, he resumed his post as Alumni Association secretary in 1945. He joined the Prudential Committee that same year, serving until his appointment as assistant to the president in 1949. Although his predecessor Harold S. Wood held the title of vice-president, the position was renamed and reclassified officially as assistant to the president by Oberlin College President William E. Stevenson. The position held the same responsibilities: fund raising for new Oberlin College buildings and scholarships. Harris served as assistant to the president until 1953, when he returned to his previous post as secretary to the Alumni Association.

### *Scope and Content*

The Harris collection of 0.8 l.f. consists of one series entitled "Name Files." Series I is divided into correspondence and subject files.

Although very limited, some materials of architectural significance are located in this group, specifically correspondence, 1950, from the architectural firm of Eldredge Snyder in box 1 discussing the new Fairchild House, which was built on the site of the old Fairchild and Kellogg houses; materials in box 2 relate to the naming and opening of the Jones Field House, 1949, which includes a photographic rendering of the exterior of the field house and an attached grandstand; and a brochure proposal for a Music Education Library to be located in Rice Hall, n.d. The back cover includes a preliminary floor plan.

## **[19] Papers of Bayley F. Mason, 1971-1974, 8.3 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Bayley Frederick Mason (b. 1929) was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, and graduated from Harvard University in 1951. Mason returned to Harvard in 1960 as the assistant manager of its medical school and rose through the ranks to become associate dean of the medical school in 1969. In 1971, Mason accepted the position of administrative vice-president at Oberlin College under President Robert W. Fuller. In building upon the responsibilities of past assistants to the president, Mason soon oversaw the full management of college resources, supervision of administrative operations of the business, development and public relations offices, and coordination of these posts with alumni affairs. In 1974, Mason left Oberlin to assume the post of vice-president of resources at Boston University.

### *Scope and Content*

The papers of Bayley F. Mason, measuring 8.3 l.f., consist of four series: I. Chronological Files of the Office of the Vice-President, II. General Files of the Office of the Vice-President, III. Miscellaneous Files Relating to Associations, and IV. Miscellaneous Files Relating to the Oberlin Community and Community Affairs.

Although the Mason record group covers a short period of time, 1971-1974, it is rich in architectural records. This documentation base, for example, reports on the acceleration in campus planning and the push for the revitalization and renovation of existing campus buildings. The collection also documents the institutional commitment to erect

new educational facilities. Of specific interest to architectural researchers are materials located in miscellaneous administrative files of series I and in Series II "General Files."

The miscellaneous administrative files contain the February, 1973 Campus Master Plan (The Dober Study), subtitled "Academic and Support Facilities at Oberlin College: Use, Conditions, Needs, and Recommendations." This study provides an analysis of space utilization, an environmental survey, and a study of academic and administrative space needs. Building profiles included are Allen Memorial Art Museum, Bosworth Hall, Carnegie Library, Cox Administration Building, Finney Chapel, Hales Gymnasium, Hall Auditorium, Kettering Hall, King Hall, Peters Hall, Philips Gymnasium, Rice Hall, Severance Hall, Warner Gymnasium, Westervelt Hall, Wilder Hall, and Wright Physics Laboratory. Also located in this section are "A Master Plan for Oberlin College," a March, 1973 student project which offered renovation and use proposals for aged but historic campus structures (roughly those mentioned above); planning documents for the renovation of Carnegie Library, including ten color-coded floor plans and a flow chart for campus planning and renovation; text copies of detailed historical descriptions written by Professor Geoffrey Blodgett from January/February, 1973, which describe the histories of Finney Chapel, Carnegie, Peters, Severance Chemical Laboratory, and Westervelt halls, with references to their corresponding architects, and building/student use schedules; materials and booklets from the Finney Chapel Renovation Conference, held in February, 1973; a Campus Master Plan study of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, January, 1973, which includes a site plan for facilities, recommendations for physical space use; comments from faculty and departmental administrators regarding the Dober Study and Oberlin Master Plan Group; and a survey of the operations and safety concerns of Oberlin College residence halls.

Series II "General Files" underscores the pre-planning, financial and developmental phase in the consideration of architectural commission appointment for Oberlin College's largest architectural projects of the 1970s. First, the series documents planning and development for the Houck Computing Center, 1970-1972, and the Mudd Learning Center, 1970-1973, through an aggregation of feasibility studies, cost projections, a chronology of construction schedules, and correspondence from the Mudd Center's main sponsor, the Mudd Foundation of Los Angeles, California. Among the architectural plans from the firm of Warner, Burns, Toan, and Lundy are five site plans and two photos for Mudd Center landscaping, 1970-1973, as well as a complete Oberlin College site map and campus plan from 1968, creator unknown.

This series also documents the funding, pre-planning, and architect selection process for the Allen Memorial Art Museum addition, 1972-1975. These records contain various architectural firms' correspondence and proposals, and include over 30 pages of rudimentary floor plans and 8 photographs, as well as the 1972-1973 search committee's own notes and correspondence. Records pertaining to the Intermuseum Conservation Association, 1973-1974, complement these materials, as do the materials and proposed floor plans and budget projections of the Philadelphia firm of Venturi and Rauch, 1973-1976, the commissioned architects for the museum addition. These records document selection processes, staffing concerns, cost estimates, and the program, schematic, design, development, and construction phases of the museum addition project. Materials also include the original contract for the museum addition and related notes and correspondence, 1972-1975. Moreover, this series also documents Oberlin College finance and business operations, which here includes real estate acquisitions and appraisals, 1971-1974, of a few campus and off-campus structures, most notably the Carnegie Library and the Clarence Ward House. Finally, Physical Plant files for a number of Oberlin College structures—mainly pertaining to maintenance—for the years 1971 to 1974 can be found here. Though limited, these records include renovation proposals and some preliminary drawings for the Conservatory of Mu-

sic, the Heating Plant, Philips Gymnasium, Warner Gymnasium, Westervelt Hall, Wilder Hall, and the historic brick house located at 145 W. Lorain St., today known as Daub House. The latter building houses conference services and campus dining.

## RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST (Group 4)

### [20] Records of the Office of the Provost, 1958-1995, 60 l.f.

#### *Administrative History*

The Office of the Provost of Oberlin College was created on June 6, 1960, by act of the board of trustees. Thurston E. Manning, at the time a member of the Department of Physics, was named the first provost, effective July 1, 1960. The provost often acted as the president's deputy in handling academic matters regarding the College of Arts and Sciences and the Conservatory of Music (from 1960 to 1966 the Graduate School of Theology was included in this group). Among the provost's responsibilities were institutional evaluation of distinct educational, planning, and development issues as well as making specific recommendations to the president, the faculty, and the board of trustees on campus-wide matters. Over the years, responsibility for the Offices of Admissions, the Allen Memorial Art Museum, the Bursar's Office, College Archives, Budget and Financing, the Computing Center, Financial Aid, External Grants and Sponsored Programs, the College Library, Planning and Research, and the Registrar also fell upon the provost at different times. On July 1, 1995, the Office of the Provost was abolished and removed from the administrative chart; its bureaucratic responsibilities were transferred to other divisional offices of the College. Throughout its 35-year history, the Office of the Provost was located in the Cox Administration Building.

#### *Scope and Content*

Organized around five subgroups, the records of the Office of the Provost form a substantial chronicle of architectural activity at Oberlin College from the early 1960s to the present. As the Division Head for the Art Museum, College Library, Computing Center, and several other administrative departments, the Office of the Provost maintained records (evidential and informational) documenting new building construction and renovation projects, in addition to lease, maintenance, and space-use information for existing campus and College-owned structures. Materials of architectural substance in this record group are held in Subgroup I "Administrative Offices/Departmental Units," Subgroup III "Governing Bodies and Committees," and Subgroup V "Administrative Records of the Provost (General)."

Architectural records in Subgroup I "Administrative Offices/Departmental Units" cover the Allen Memorial Art Museum (AMAM), 1961-1987, and the College Library director's office, 1958-1987. Museum-related items include annual departmental reports, 1971-1986, with operating budgets, staff reports, and files relating to building construction and maintenance issues; inter-office correspondence, 1972-1985, documenting grant requests, building design problems and final design approval, consultant reports, and the activities of the AMAM Architect Selection Committee, 1972; architectural drawings, although very limited, consist of site and floor plan photocopies of the Robert E. Venturi-designed addition to the AMAM, as well as a rudimentary site plan, n.d., for the temporary geodesic domes situated at the rear of the AMAM for exhibition and teaching space. College Library records, 1958-1987, consist of architectural items relating to the College Library (Carnegie and Mudd Center) and to the Conservatory of Music Library. These records include annual

departmental reports, architect correspondence, building construction budgets and schedules, inter-office memoranda, and assorted meeting minutes for ad hoc architectural planning committees. Of specific interest among these records are the planning and program notes of Library Director Eileen Thornton for the new College Library (Mudd Center), consultant reports by Ralph E. Ellsworth '29, staff building use and needs reports (for Carnegie and Mudd), a 70-page preliminary program from 1965 for the new Oberlin College Library, a history of the architectural firm of Warner, Burns, Toan, and Lundy (the designers of Mudd Center), photographs of Mudd Center, floor plans, site plans, section details, and a color rendering of Mudd's entrance.

Architectural records in Subgroup III "Governing Bodies and Committees" are located in Series 9 "Committee Files," and mainly consist of planning reports to the president's office and to the College Board of Trustees. Items include Building Committee reports, 1978-1985, a 1980 Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee Report, and materials documenting the activities of the Space Utilization Advisory Committee, 1973-1974. Found here are reviews of building maintenance histories and space needs, in addition to scattered floor plan proposals for campus athletic facilities, public and general use facilities, and college administrative and support facilities. Of special interest are copies, materials, and notes related to the two-volume "Long Range Planning Report for Campus and Residential Life" (June, 1985), which includes renovation-feasibility studies for Baldwin Cottage, Keep Cottage, Shurtleff Cottage, Talcott Hall, and Tank Hall, as well as specification and data schedules for the North Campus Dining/Social Hall (Stevenson Hall) and a copy of the Student Life Committee's "Cluster" proposal. Of importance are also the documents of the 1973-1974 Space Utilization Advisory Committee, which include copies of and materials for the "Master Plan for Oberlin College" (March, 1973), the Dober Study (February, 1973), and building histories for Carnegie Library, Finney Chapel, Peters Hall, Severance Chemical Laboratory, and Westervelt Hall written by Oberlin College Professor Geoffrey Blodgett (January/February, 1973).

Materials of architectural substance in Subgroup V "Administrative Records of the Provost (General)," are held in Series 3 "Buildings and Grounds Records," and Series 9 "Subject Files." Items in series 3 concern both renovation planning and the routine operation of all college structures and facilities, 1960-1995, and include a limited number of floor plans, architect correspondence, inter-office memoranda, program drafts and similar development materials. Especially well documented are records for the AMAM, 1970-1992; Carnegie Library, 1972-1994; the computer science lab at King Hall; Cox Administration Building renovation, 1976-1985; Finney Chapel renovation planning, 1974-1992; Hall Auditorium, 1971-1992; Mudd Center, 1968-1974; the Kettering Neuroscience Building addition, 1988-1994; the North Campus Dining Facility (Stevenson Hall), 1986-1990; Oberlin Inn renovation planning, 1967-1986; Peters Hall, 1967-1994; Philips Gymnasium, 1966-1975; and Westervelt Hall, 1969-1976. General buildings and grounds files in series 3 include plans for increased accessibility to facilities. The Office of the Associate Dean of Students devised the Oberlin College Transition Plan in 1978-1979 to comply with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act; this plan is a copy sent to the provost. The provost's office made more proposals for increased accessibility in 1992-1993. Series 9 "Subject Files" consists of special topic files. Items of peripheral architectural interest include site proposals, studies, planning documents, and news clippings relative to the Lorain County Airport, 1965-1981, as well as materials documenting the designation of Oberlin College as a National Historic Landmark, 1966-1985.

## RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (Group 5)

### [21] Records of the Office of the Secretary, 1834-1991, 90 l.f.

#### *Administrative History*

In 1899, a Board of Trustees Committee reported that the duties of the secretary-treasurer "exceeded the ability of a single officer." In recommending the creation of a new position to handle correspondence and to prepare notices of appointments and degrees conferred, keep records, and distribute catalogues and other publications, the committee also wanted the secretary to serve as an outside representative of the College and to do "broader work." George M. Jones (1870-1948), who was appointed as the first college secretary, served for four decades.

Under Jones, the Office of the Secretary (as per the 1904 Bylaws) revolved primarily around two functions: minute-taking and record-keeping for the Board of Trustees, the Prudential Committee, and General Faculty, and serving as chief statistician/historian for the College. Some responsibility existed for the college secretary in external affairs and public relations. His assistant, Donald M. Love (1894-1974), succeeded Jones and served as secretary from 1938 to 1962. Following Love's retirement, the responsibilities of this office were reduced considerably; and, from 1970 until 1983, this once-powerful position was made only part-time. Under President S. Frederick Starr, however, the corporate secretary returned to full-time status. In addition to secretarial duties, this officer assumed responsibility for conducting all campus elections, supervision and planning of commencement and special college events, and maintaining official college governance records. The secretary also assisted the president, preparing reports and correspondence as well as offering advice and support.

#### *Scope and Content*

Arranged around ten subgroups, the records of the Office of the Secretary, 1834-1991, pertain not only to the work of the board of trustees, but also include historical and administrative documents (or copies thereof) extant prior to this time. Before 1966, the secretary's office was the unofficial archivist of Oberlin College. Rich in substance and comprehensive in scope, these records chronicle the administrative history of many of Oberlin College's institutional, operational and supervisory bodies and committees (e.g., the Board of Trustees, the Prudential Committee, the Executive Committee, faculty councils, and varied student organizations), in addition to the College's academic divisions. Six subgroups hold records of architectural interest: Subgroup I "Administrative Records (General)," Subgroup II "Administrative Records of Department and Units," Subgroup III "Records of the Board of Trustees," Subgroup V "Athletics," Subgroup IX "Historical Files," and Subgroup X "Miscellaneous Personal and Real Property Records."

The records extensively document Oberlin's administrative oversight of the planning and construction phases of architectural projects from the late nineteenth-century up through the 1960s; in addition, the maintenance and use of campus structures and properties for this period are also covered. These architectural records are largely found in Subgroup I "Administrative Records (General)" under two separate record series: "Building and Property Files" (3.95 l.f.) and "Committee Files" (5.4 l.f.).

For an even broader picture of standard architectural planning and history at Oberlin, readers will want to consult the "Building and Property Files." Spanning the period from ca. 1875 to the 1960s, these materials sometimes predate the actual construction of the building by many decades. Records consist of architectural correspondence, textual cop-

ies and references to annual reports and meeting minutes of both administrative boards and special committees (Board of Trustees, Prudential Committee, the Committee on Location, Plans, and Construction of Campus Buildings, etc.), architectural drawings, project programs, historic news clippings, funding and financing reports, essays and articles, and dedication materials for almost every Oberlin building or property extant during this era. Structures and facilities, which are especially well documented, include the Allen Memorial Art Museum, 1875-1931; the Allen Memorial Hospital; the Hall Park properties (the Arboretum), 1903-1968; Carnegie Library, 1900-1963; Dill Field and Athletic Field for Men, and Savage Stadium, 1913-1960; Finney Chapel, 1908-1955; Hall Auditorium, 1928-1961; the Science (Kettering) and Academic (King) buildings, 1935-1966; Oberlin Inn, 1938-1966; Plant Services buildings, 1910-1955; Tappan Square, 1841-1957; and Wright Laboratory of Physics, 1917-1963. Notable architects represented in these records—with correspondence, plans, and committee minute references—include Cass Gilbert, Cass Gilbert, Jr., Wallace K. Harrison, the Olmsted Brothers, Eldredge Snyder, the firm of Walker and Weeks, and Clarence Ward. This series is especially strong in its coverage of plans and debates for campus landscape architecture and grounds planning in relation to the Hall Park properties at the southern end of campus and to the campus proper, 1903-1968. Related items include the architect's correspondence, topographical sketches, and administrative discussions of landscape architects for hire and their respective campus plans.

For items of specific architectural interest, the "General Files" of subgroup 1 hold materials within pertinent subject categories. Held in multiple folders, subjects include "Architects," 1925-1960; "Oberlin Architecture," 1938-1958; miscellaneous building needs and repair reports, 1924-1958; "Landscape Architects," 1903-1958; campus development; and dormitory facilities, 1919-1965. Notes, citations, and minutes for trustee and various committee meetings are located here, in addition to some architectural correspondence, most notably files for the commissioned landscape architect work of the Olmsted Brothers, 1903, 1913; Andrew Auten, 1909; Gordon Cooper, 1938; and Beatrix Farrand, 1939-1955. Cooper received \$2,000 and Farrand \$1,100 to plant trees in and around the arboretum and the golf course. The entrance structure for the Charles Martin Hall Arboretum on Morgan St., built in 1953 after some delay, was designed by Eldredge Snyder in 1953. Thus, landscape architecture and planning records are well represented, along with materials relative to campus dormitories and support facilities, 1930-1957.

Documents relating to the work performed by consulting architects in regard to various college structures and facilities, 1928-1957, are in Series 4 "Committee Files." Records mainly consist of architectural plans, drawings, Board of Trustee/Prudential Committee minutes and debate, as well as correspondence relative to the "Location, Plans, and Construction of College Buildings." In addition to trustee minutes, citations, and reports, extensive photostat samples of floor plans and architectural renderings are included. Arranged chronologically, records document planning debates for the women's swimming facilities (Crane Pool), the Graduate School of Theology, Hall Auditorium, the Men's Club building, Oberlin Inn, and the Wright Physics Building. Notable items include six photostats of Cass Gilbert's plans for the Hall Auditorium and committee discussion thereof, ca. 1931, as well as notes and minutes regarding the selection, employment, and duties of consulting architects Richard Kimball, 1937-1943; the firm of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon; and architect Eldredge Snyder, 1944-1957. Also located here are pertinent miscellaneous committee reports, 1912-1939, including reports for the Special Committee on the Use of the (proposed) Hall Auditorium, 1924, and for the Committee on Oberlin Inn, 1930-1954. An index kept by the Office of the Secretary for these specific subjects is included.

Records documenting the financial bequest and estate of Charles Martin Hall date from 1914 to 1967. They are maintained in the development files of Series 2 "Administra-



tive Offices" in Subgroup II "Administrative Records of Departments and Offices." Principally historical in content, materials include an Annual Report of President Henry Churchill King, 1914-1915; Prudential Committee minutes and Treasurer Reports on the Hall bequest, 1925-1939; and historic news clippings and articles regarding Hall's life, his bequest to Oberlin, the clearing of Tappan Square in 1927, and commemorative monuments honoring Hall and his mother, Sophronia Brooks Hall, the namesake of Oberlin's Hall Auditorium. Especially notable are materials that document the work of the Prudential Committee and the board of trustees regarding Hall's bequest, and subsequent planning for the Hall Auditorium, its design, and permanent location. Additional items of related interest include the Annual Report of 1914-1915, which reports on campus planning (with references to Cass Gilbert, et. al.), as well as correspondence to and from Homer H. Johnson, Class of 1885, a primary legal executor of Hall's estate and a member of Oberlin's Board of Trustees.

The activities of the Trustee Committee on Location, Plans, and Construction of College Buildings are documented in Subgroup III "Records of the Board of Trustees," Series 4 "Committee Files." Held in nine folders and arranged chronologically for the period 1903 to 1958, these records consist of committee minutes, notes, and related correspondence of the Board of Trustees and the General Faculty Committee regarding campus building projects, planning, and funding. Notable among these items is correspondence from President King to College Trustees Irving W. Metcalf, Homer H. Johnson, and Dudley P. Allen dating from 1903 to 1914. These letters discuss campus planning, properties adjacent to Dill Field, possible locations for the Cox Administration building, and College property purchases for plots adjacent to campus north of W. Lorain St., east of Main St., and the Frost property on N. Professor St. Also included are an introductory history of the Trustee Committee on Location, Plans, and Construction; materials describing Cass Gilbert's 1912 appointment to and connection with Oberlin College; committee votes on proposals for campus planning and specific buildings erected (or not); and the appointment of the New York firm of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon as the College's consulting architects in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and their subsequent replacement by Richard Kimball. An index compiled by the secretary's office for these materials is available within these records.

Information relative to Hall Auditorium, 1931-1948, includes notes and stipulations of the will of Charles Martin Hall, histories of the Hall Auditorium Fund and Hall Auditorium "Plans and Problems," and use and program requirements for the facility. Most notable among these items, however, are the "Annals of the Auditorium," a chronicle of the auditorium's checkered planning history first compiled by President Ernest Hatch Wilkins' office in 1942, and supplemented regularly until 1948. The "Annals" and their support materials report on the arduous process of architect and design review and selection, as well as issues relative to Hall's bequest for the auditorium's erection and for the Oberlin campus in general.

Construction files relating to the Oberlin football field and stadium, 1910-1929, are held in the stadium correspondence of Subgroup V "Athletics." Items mainly consist of correspondence regarding the funding and construction of Galpin Field, 1913-1914, and Savage Stadium, 1924-1925. College "Bulletins #1 and #2" present an outline of the plans for the field and stadium facilities, a ca. 1903 site plan by the Olmsted Brothers, landscape architects, and a reproduction of a ca. 1913 architectural rendering entitled "Bird's Eye View of the Oberlin Athletic Grounds" by Cass Gilbert. Stadium materials also include printed information regarding Stadium funding and planning, including "Stadium Facts, Figures, Needs," and "The New Athletic Field Project for Oberlin College." These items consist of reproductions of a stadium cross-section and deck plans issued by Osborn Engineering Co.—with assistance from Cass Gilbert—as well as a folder of Osborn Engi-

neering correspondence with the College, 1925-1926. Other notable correspondents in series 2 include Trustees Lucien T. Warner and Dudley P. Allen, as well as Athletic Director Charles W. Savage.

Records documenting Oberlin's campus and many college structures (some no longer standing) are held in the subject files of Subgroup IX "Historical File." In addition to copies of and citations for Prudential Committee and Board of Trustee minutes, materials for "Buildings 1902-1952" include itemized summaries of historic cornerstone contents for the following structures: Bosworth Hall (1930), Burton Hall (1946), the Hall Auditorium (1952), the Memorial Arch (1902), Noah Hall (1932), Severance Chemical Laboratory (1900), Talcott Hall (1886), and Theological Hall (1871). Also included here is a letter from architect Franz Warner regarding the 1927 demolition of Spear Library-Laboratory. Materials relative to Hall Auditorium include College Secretary Donald M. Love's "Summary of Development of Hall Auditorium, 1946-1952," an excellent textual analysis of the ritualized nature of planning and design approval for the controversial auditorium. Other architectural records relate to the Chinese Temple, 1943-1963; the First Church in Oberlin, 1920-1955; "Oberlin Landmarks, 1928-1932"; and "Oberlin Village and City, 1930-1960." This documentation includes an 18-part "Landmarks of Early Oberlin" series by Oberlin Professor William H. Chapin, published in the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* from 1929 through 1930, and similar historical studies from the late 1920s and early 1930s. Materials regarding the City of Oberlin include the College's notes and minutes (from the Prudential Committee and Board of Trustees) for the Village Improvement Society, 1930-1962, and from the Oberlin Historical Society. Notable among these items is a record of correspondence between President King and architect Cass Gilbert, 1914-1921; copies of the President's Annual Reports, 1914-1917, regarding town and college planning; materials documenting an Oberlin Civic Center project, Hall Auditorium, and improvements to Plum Creek; and studies of Oberlin College trees and landscaping, 1900-1955. Additional miscellaneous historical files in this series include varied essays, sketches, and news clippings regarding campus surveying, development, and use, 1929-1959. Of special interest is a ten-page chronological history of the campus's built environment from 1832 to 1967. Series 7 "Artifacts" holds the contents of the Warner Hall cornerstone, opened in 1964 upon the demolition of Warner Hall. An itemized listing is available.

The Office of the Secretary at Oberlin College also created a 5" x 8" index card file relative to all campus structures extant from ca. the 1870s to the 1960s. Stored in one box, these several hundred cards contain clippings from Oberlin College catalogues relative to a structure's basic architectural history, brief historical addenda where noted, and numerous citations for Board of Trustees, Prudential Committee, Executive Committee, and General Faculty meeting minutes.

Finally, the personal and real property records in subgroup X, which represents a 1995 accession to the record group, contain realty information dating from 1835 to 1966. One series holds the agreements, contracts, and leases for building renovations or rentals. Contracts with architects are also included. The "Deeds and Property Files" series contains the abstracts, correspondence, deeds, and titles associated with college-owned properties. This series of approximately 150 folders documents the ownership history of numerous houses and building sites in Oberlin, Ohio.

## RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND FINANCE (Group 6)

[22] Records of the Office of Business and Finance, 1927-1988,  
132.55 l.f.

### *Administrative History*

In 1954, President William E. Stevenson established the position of business manager, appointing Lewis R. Tower (1904-1993) as the unit's first director. The business manager's duties included the administration of such non-academic support offices of the College as the Buildings and Grounds Department and the Residences and Dining Halls unit, along with supervision of all purchasing and accounting. The new Business Office also absorbed some of the traditional responsibilities of the treasurer of the College and of the Buildings and Grounds director.

During Tower's tenure as business manager, Oberlin's physical plant was expanded and renovated. The Business Office supervised program planning and financial arrangements, and oversaw the work of contractors. From 1954 to 1971, 13 dormitories and 15 other campus structures were constructed or received significant renovations and additions. Tower also supervised site properties, conducted the negotiations for purchase and sale of college property, and assisted in a variety of town projects.

In 1971, Dayton Livingston succeeded Tower as director of the renamed—and slightly reconfigured—Finance and Business Operations Office. By 1976, the unit was known as the Office of Business and Finance. As the president's representative to the Board of Trustees' Investment Committee, the now "vice-president" of business and finance served as a non-voting member. Upon the retirement of the college treasurer in 1984, the vice-president became secretary of this committee. When Livingston left the vice-presidency in 1988, that office was eliminated. Its investment responsibilities were transferred to the new treasurer, and all other non-academic functions to the new Division of Operations and to the Office of the Provost.

### *Scope and Content*

Organized into seven subgroups and spanning the period 1927-1988, the records of the Office of Business and Finance report on the respective areas of responsibility and administrative functions of the Oberlin College Business Manager and its successor office, the vice-president for business and finance. Since these officers coordinated the Buildings and Grounds and Residence/Dining Halls departments, extensive architectural records detailing Oberlin's built environment are found here. Documents range from a facility's working drawings and floor plans, inter-office and architectural correspondence, project specifications and program planning materials, and assorted memoranda, to a comprehensive photographic record of building and property construction, maintenance, and renovation. Also included are administrative notes, annual reports, and assorted committee minutes. Five subgroups hold records relating to Oberlin's architectural heritage: Subgroup I "Administrative Records of the Vice-President for Business and Finance," Subgroup II "Administrative Records of the Vice-President for Business and Finance (General)," Subgroup V "Buildings and Grounds," Subgroup VI "Committee Files," and Subgroup VII "Organizations and Associations."

Minutes, correspondence, and subject-based reports of various board of trustee committees can be found in the minutes of miscellaneous committees of Series 1 "Board of

Trustee Files" (subgroup D). Individual subject files document the activities of the Trustee Buildings and Grounds Committee, 1969-1971, and include financing projections and construction contract stipulations for the Mudd Center and Philips Gymnasium. Also found here are the Trustee Planning and Development Committee notes and memoranda, 1981-1986, detailing project planning, the authorization of design studies, itemized budget analysis. These documents apply to renovation projects at Baldwin and Talcott halls, expansion of the Conservatory of Music Library by architect Gunnar Birkerts, and preliminary discussion of plans for the North Campus Dining Hall (Stevenson Hall) by Charles Gwathmey.

As subgroup II documents the vice-president's responsibilities as the College's chief business officer, itemized building budget and operating schedules and pertinent real estate documents are available. Monthly budgeting schedules for the period 1970 to 1985, including inter-office correspondence and maintenance expenditures for each Oberlin facility, are located in the buildings and grounds budgets of Series 2 "Budgetary Records." Also found in this subgroup are miscellaneous real estate documents, held in Series 5 "Contracts, Leases, and Real Estate Files" for the period 1969-1985. Documentation, amounting to more than 3 l.f., in series 5 includes contracts and leases for the Oberlin Golf Club, the Oberlin Public Library, and the Intermuseum Conservation Association, as well as some scattered architectural drawings for out-of-town properties held by Oberlin College. Records regarding investment properties that were once or are currently owned by Oberlin College, occasionally accompanied by plot plans, are included.

Perhaps the most complete collection of architectural records in the Oberlin College Archives is found in Subgroup V "Buildings and Grounds." Totalling 23.4 l.f., this group includes the following types of records: bound annual reports of the Department of Buildings and Grounds; extensive building and project files, many of which include project planning documents, photocopies (and some blue line prints) of working drawings, floor plans, elevations, artistic renderings of Oberlin buildings and facilities, and scattered architectural correspondence; information and correspondence files for architects; and an extensive photographic record of many Oberlin buildings under construction and/or renovation from the 1930s to the 1970s.

Bound annual reports of the Department of Buildings and Grounds, 1937-1965 and 1967-1968, are in subgroup V. These reports, initiated by Buildings Superintendent Lester Ries, consist of the following: budget and purchase itemizations; detailed maintenance reports of College facilities; grounds and planting reports documenting landscaping work on the athletic fields, the Oberlin campus, the "Historic Elm," and the Hall Arboretum/Ladies Grove; and miscellaneous topics such as rental properties, dormitory and building use graphs, and blue print storage. Beginning with the 1946-1947 report, a special section on "New Construction" is presented, which incorporates detailed descriptions of building costs, a structure's architects and contractors, specific construction incidents and events, technical and mechanical notes, and employment charts. These reports average 75 pages each.

Topics less specific to architects and buildings, but of architectural character, can be found in Series 2 "General Files" of subgroup V. These records, though modest in volume, contain information regarding building and grounds financing and planning for the period 1972 to 1988. Subject files include building costs comparisons, maintenance reports, rental fees and usage rates, physical plant administration, and building program reports covering the status of renovations and new projects for the late 1980s.

The largest and most comprehensive set of architectural materials in subgroup V is held in Series 3 "Buildings (Business and Finance Office Files)." Materials consist of an alphabetical listing of files by location and/or structure name, and generally concern on-campus renovation and construction projects, or off-campus construction projects initiated or planned by the College. The materials total nearly 15 l.f. and span the period 1928 to 1987. Of value are

the architectural correspondence and inter-office memoranda, scattered architectural drawings (floor plans, elevations, and renderings, either photocopied or larger working drawings), cost projections, feasibility studies, planning and program documents, specification manuals, and items pertaining to peripheral matters such as interior design, landscape design, and standard maintenance inspection reports. Subject files—abundant and well-documented—are significant. Included are architect files (1953 to 1968), which include references to architect Eldredge Snyder (Oberlin Inn), consulting architect Philip Johnson—head of the New York firm of Philip Johnson Associates—for the years 1959-1963, Oberlin College architects Herk Visnapuu and Robert Gaede (1957), the Cincinnati firm of Potter, Tyler, Martin, and Roth (Barrows and Dascomb, 1956), the New York firm of Moore and Hutchins (Bailey and Zechiel, 1968), and an 11-page Business Office rating of architects from 1957. Subject files also exist for Hall Auditorium, 1958-1978; renovation records for Rice Hall and the Student Union at Wilder Hall; and long-range planning materials for expansion of Warner Center and Hall Auditorium, 1978-1990. Interspersed throughout these files are landscaping memoranda and correspondence. Of special note are the 1899 construction contracts for the Severance Chemical Laboratory from the office of Chicago architect Howard Van Doren Shaw. These contracts include handwritten construction specifications and cost itemizations; they constitute some of the oldest architectural records extant at the archives. Real estate documents also exist relative to the College Park subdivision (a.k.a. Shipherd Circle) for the period 1949-1955, including survey maps, covenants, plot plans, and site improvement information.

The most voluminous files of this series are available for the following: the Kettering Science Complex, 1952-1962, whose records include an exhaustive record of initial planning by the New York firm of Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill, their subsequent replacement by the The Austin Company of Cleveland, as well as detailed landscaping records; King Building files, 1945-1966, which include documents pertaining to architect Minoru Yamasaki and consulting architects Douglas Orr and Eldredge Snyder; Oberlin Inn, 1953-1985, which includes plans and specifications for an addition designed by Cleveland architect Joseph Ceruti; and Oberlin's residence halls, 1940-1969. A multitude of construction photographs is included.

An extensive photographic and design record for Oberlin College structures and properties for the years 1928 to 1983, maintained by Buildings and Grounds Office Manager Gladys Kruk, is held in Series 4 "Buildings (Physical Plant Department Files)" of subgroup V. Comprising 7.25 l.f. and organized alphabetically by structure or place name, architectural materials are represented by several media: an extensive array of photocopied floor plans, elevations, and renderings; 8" x 10" black and white subject photographs; and miniature black and white snapshots detailing maintenance work. Although one box consists primarily of academic floor plans for all campus structures extant 1928 to 1983, these plans are reproduced in the individual subject files, which also hold a sampling of architectural and/or landscaping correspondence. In addition, some subject files hold unique items of architectural interest. These include but are not limited to the following: extensive plans, documents, and photos of the Hall Arboretum, 1938-1942, and the Ladies Grove, 1937-1944; Hall Auditorium, 1932-1966; an array of campus structure and aerial photographs, 1933-1954; planning documents, site plans, elevations, and working drawings for the geodesic domes built behind the Allen Memorial Art Museum, 1971; information regarding the old and new heating plants, 1938-1955, and the Service Building, 1948-1969; photo and textual documentation of the Historic Elm, 1923-1945; a comprehensive history and analysis of Peters Hall, 1938-1974; copies of the original Weary and Kramer floor plans for Shurtleff Cottage, ca. 1892; and floor and seating plans for the old Warner Hall, 1938-1962, with color snapshots of its demolition in 1964.

Files and reports incorporating information from the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Planning and Development Committee (on which the vice-president for busi-

ness and finance served) for the period 1954 to 1988 are located in Subgroup VI "Committee Files." These materials mainly consist of inter-office correspondence from the Office of Business and Finance, but are augmented by budget schedules for building projects, program summaries, scattered landscaping reports, maintenance and operation reports, and meeting minutes of the subject committees, which include discussion of renovation plans for campus facilities. A preliminary study and rudimentary site plans, 1985-1986, for an unbuilt Oberlin Condominium Project are also found here.

Oberlin College's influence, and specifically that of the Office of Business and Finance, on Oberlin town government and planning is reflected in the architectural records held in Series 2 "Oberlin Community, 1953-1988" of Subgroup VII "Organizations and Associations." Comprising nearly 2 l.f., records consist of planning documents and proposals for a 1957-1958 Central Business District Study and a separate 1961 Oberlin Business District Study; notes and materials for Oberlin's City Council regarding zoning and planning, 1954-1970; development plans for an Oberlin City recreation facility at Hall Park, 1959-1970; notes, memoranda, inter-office correspondence, stipulations of use documents, and photocopied floor plans, 1947-1990, for the Oberlin Public Library housed at the College's Carnegie Library; and lease information, land use inventories, and plot plans for the Oberlin Golf Club, 1965-1985. Also located here are deeds, titles, correspondence, committee reports, plot plans, and renovation plans for Westervelt Hall, originally the home of Oberlin High School, covering the period 1955 to 1977. After facing the prospect of demolition for many years despite local advocacy for its preservation, Westervelt was transferred to City proprietorship in March of 1976. In 1995 the Nord Family Foundation purchased this property from Arthur "Kenny" Clark of Oberlin to create an arts center for Lorain County. [Oberlin *News Tribune*, April 25, 1995]

## **RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE TREASURER (Group 7)**

### **[23] Records of the Office of the Treasurer, 1822-1950, 50 l.f.**

#### *Administrative History*

The first Oberlin College Treasurer was appointed in 1834. Over the subsequent six decades, this officer also served as college secretary (or corresponding secretary) to the board of trustees. In addition to preparing the board's correspondence, the treasurer maintained records of donations, expenditures, fees collected, loans, and scholarships. The treasurer also managed the College's investments and property, including buildings and grounds. In 1899, the board of trustees created the Office of the Secretary, separating its clerical responsibilities from those duties of the treasurer.

Over the next century, functional responsibility for Oberlin College's buildings and grounds would change administrative hands a number of times. These functions were sometimes carried out in several administrative departments. Between 1904 and 1955, the College Treasurer managed all matters of property activity. This responsibility was passed onto Business Manager Lewis R. Tower, who was in office from 1955 to 1971. After several name changes, the title ultimately became the Office of Vice-President of Business and Finance. Reporting directly to the president, this newly expanded office held responsibility for the old functions of the treasurer and the Investment Committee. In the administrative reorganization of 1989 the functions of the treasurer were once again directed at managing the investments and property assets of the College. In 1995, these duties fell to a vice-president of finance.

## *Scope and Content*

The records of the Office of the Treasurer contain much information pertinent to the study of the architectural history of Oberlin. Record series, consisting of ledgers and accounts, report on the funding of several early college dormitories. The record group contains information on the estate of Charles Martin Hall which include his specifications and restrictions against the building of further structures upon Tappan Square, as outlined in his will. A "Book of Donations" documents the use of Colonial Hall as a residence for students, ca. 1837. The most interesting information to be gleaned from the Records of the Treasurer is to be found in the large correspondence series, which holds extensive communication between Oberlin's architects and its financial officers. Document holdings of key correspondents are reported in alphabetical order below.

## *Correspondence*

### **I. Andrew Auten (Correspondence file: Arnold E. - Bolabandorf)**

Landscape architect Andrew Auten sent five letters to the College between 1895 and 1907. The last two discuss a project of Auten's with a group of students to plant shrubbery around several college buildings for the cost of \$50.

### **II. F.N. Finney (Correspondence File )**

This file contains 31 letters to and from Frederick Norton Finney and Oberlin College treasurers between 1885 and 1903. Letters from 1886 and 1903 discuss the construction of Finney Chapel: its placement and its funding, the feasibility of keeping the Finney Homestead versus demolishing it, and Finney's own view of its architect.

### **III. William G. Frost (Correspondence File: Frampton, John R. - Frost, Wm. G.)**

Forty-five letters, 1878-1905, to and from William G. Frost outline his work as a fund raiser for the College and his personal financial relationship with the institution. Two sections of correspondence are of special interest. In 1886, Frost was able to secure \$50,000 from the Peters family for the reconstruction of Ladies Hall after fire damage. Information about the need for the hall's furnishings and the request for other building funds is also noted. From 1896 to 1902, Frost attempted to sell his private residence in Oberlin, located at 27 N. Professor St. The property and its final sale to the College are described in detail.

### **IV. Cass Gilbert (Correspondence File: Geach, Wm. - Glover, C.M.)**

This group contains two letters written by architect Cass Gilbert to the Oberlin College treasurer in the summer of 1907. Both letters concern money owed to George Feick, the contractor of Finney Chapel.

### **V. Patton, Fisher & Miller, Architects (Correspondence File: Patton, Fisher & Miller, Architects)**

This file contains 13 letters, 1884-1906, sent to Oberlin College officials by architect Normand S. Patton of Chicago, who was affiliated with the architectural firms (Randall & Patton; Patton & Fisher; Patton, Fisher & Miller; and Patton & Miller). The earliest correspondence, 1884-1886, asks that Patton be kept in mind as a potential architect for Oberlin's new library and replacement for the burnt out Ladies Hall. The letters from 1900 describe the rebuilding of Lord Cottage following a fire, including descriptions of the building's second and third floors and a proposal for better fire protection and escape. The cost, billing, and available endowment funds connected with Carnegie Library are discussed in the letters of 1906.

VI. Richard G. Peters

R.G. Peters, an Oberlin College benefactor of Manistee, Michigan, owned the R.G. Peters Salt and Lumber Company that manufactured lumber, shingles, and salt, and dealt in general merchandise. This one-time Oberlin College student, now timber king, provided funds to restore Second Ladies Hall and to build Peters Hall in 1886. His 82 letters, 1883-1907, document his 25-year relationship—including financial donations—with Oberlin through Giles W. Shurtleff, J.B.T. Marsh, William G. Frost, George B. Kimball, and James R. Severance. Peters' philanthropy, along with that of steamship owner Captain Alva Bradley, made the bulky Peters Hall a reality.

VII. J.L. Silsbee (Correspondence File: J.L. Silsbee)

This file contains 60 letters and one sketch of the Oberlin College campus, 1902-1907, between the Chicago architect J.L. Silsbee and Oberlin College officials.

The largest body of correspondence concerns the Memorial Arch located on the western edge of Tappan Square. Letters from 1902-1903 detail the monument's design, appearance, cost and the contractors and artisans employed on the project. There is extensive discussion of the text and tablets and the debate among the arch's planners over this issue. The later letters discuss Silsbee's interest in the plan and layout of the college campus, and his interest to complete further work for Oberlin College.

VIII. Weary and Kramer (Correspondence File: Weary and Kramer)

The correspondence file for the architectural firm of Weary and Kramer (Akron, Ohio) contains 55 letters, 1884-1895. This file consists primarily of incoming correspondence to College officials (e.g., Charles G. Fairchild, J.B.T. Marsh, and Gen. G.W. Shurtleff), along with a few bills and receipts for various expenses. Buildings covered include Baldwin Cottage, Lord Cottage, Peters Hall (referred to as the Recitation or Observatory Hall), Spear Library-Laboratory, Talcott Hall (also called Ladies or Boarding Hall), and the private home of Gen. Giles W. Shurtleff. Topics in this correspondence include building plans and designs, interior and exterior decoration, billing and payment procedures, and changes within the architectural staff. Of special interest are letters, 1885-1895, discussing the interior of Peters Hall, including its heating system, oak ceilings, and cost overruns; letters concerning the College's stance on the appearance and construction costs of its buildings; an outline of the Gothic character of Spear Library-Laboratory with descriptions and price estimates for the building's lights and windows, 1884; and detailed descriptions, 1892, of the original intended appearance of Lord Cottage and the Shurtleff home. Also of interest is the mention of the use of local contractors and carpenters who were involved in the construction of Baldwin and Lord cottages, 1892-1893.

## **RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER (Group 8)**

### **[24] Records of the Office of the Controller (Bursar's Office Additions), 1835-1994, 14 l.f.**

#### *Administrative History*

The duties and responsibilities of the Offices of the Bursar, the Controller, and the Treasurer have an intermingled past at Oberlin College. The Office of the Controller was



created in 1958, causing some confusion as to the distinction between the assigned functions of the controller and the treasurer. In a September 2, 1958 memorandum, President William E. Stevenson clarified the matter by making the controller responsible for general accounting procedures, including paying bills, reviewing proposed budgetary changes and transfers, preparing and distributing periodic departmental operating statements, and reconciling accounts with departmental records. The controller's office was first filled by Arthur L. Cotton from 1958 to 1975. Richard B. Comstock served between 1975 and 1993, and Ronald Watts succeeded him in 1994. Since the office's inception, the controller reported to the president, vice-president for business and finance, the provost (1988-1995), and the vice-president of finance (1995- ) since the office's inception.

The bursar's office was created in 1984, when Treasurer Roger S. Cooper left his position. Rather than filling the treasurer's position immediately, Assistant Treasurer Barbara Pitts was appointed bursar. Pitts held that post until retiring in 1991. The responsibilities of the bursar's office were assumed by a Student Accounts unit.

### *Scope and Content*

The third series of the controller's office records contains hundreds of folders relating to the built environment of Oberlin, Ohio. This series, "Bursar/Treasurer's Files," is arranged in five subseries: 1. Subject Files, 2. Remittance Information Forms, 3. Capital Venture Properties, 4. Retained Income and Prospective Gifts, and 5. Properties. Except for the second subseries, all relate to Oberlin's built environment. Applicable records address architecture largely from a financial standpoint and not from an aesthetic one.

There are more than 150 folders in Subseries 1 "Subject Files" that are pertinent to Oberlin's built environment. The series is arranged alphabetically by folder title, including specific properties acquired by Oberlin College through either donation, bequest, or purchase. Occasionally, the folder title is named for the person from whom the property was acquired. Documents in the folders include deeds, leases, mortgages, and titles.

The 25 folders in Subseries 3 "Capital Venture Properties," are filled with memoranda marking the donation of property to Oberlin College. The original promissory notes are occasionally attached to the memoranda, sent by the controller's office to the bursar for safekeeping.

While most files in Subseries 4 "Retained Income and Prospective Gifts" concern monetary donations placed in trust, some are building trust funds. Allen Memorial Hospital, Barnard Hall, and Hall Auditorium are three campus buildings whose trust fund records appear in this collection.

Property files created and maintained by the treasurer's office are to be found in Subseries 5 "Properties." Included are purchase invoices, correspondence and memoranda, land deeds and titles, and leases. These documents are useful in identifying title, property values, and the amounts for which they were sold or rented. Land deeds and titles give a description outlining the boundaries of the said property. Like the records in subseries 1, these files document the acquisition and handling of the properties by Oberlin College. Oberlin College acquired properties largely located on the city's core streets: Cedar, College Park Lots, College, College Pl., Elm, Elmwood, Forest, Lorain, Main, Morgan, Pleasant, Professor, Willard Court, and Woodland.

### *Restrictions*

Some records will require the permission of the archivist, or of the controller, to be used.

## **RECORDS OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (Group 9)**

### **[25] Records of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 1903-1988, 130 l.f.**

#### *Administrative History*

In 1904, Oberlin College President Henry Churchill King reported to the board of trustees that a distinct head of the College of Arts and Sciences was needed to unify each department and to give the faculty attention the president was unable to give. In 1906, the board granted his request, naming Charles E. St. John, a member of the Physics Department, as the first Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The dean was to preside over the system of councils which governed Oberlin College and to chair each department council, each of which were to be responsible for departmental budgets. In 1910, the responsibilities of the dean were set and included studying the problems of college education and keeping abreast of the general progress in the field; primary responsibility for carrying out all policies and regulations adopted by the departmental faculty and council; and recording significant data concerning the scholarship, life and interests of the student body. These duties remain to this day.

#### *Scope and Content*

The main body of architectural information in this record group deals with administrative and social history and is contained in Subgroup II "Administrative Records." Series 2 "Budgetary and Fiscal Records" holds general information on the budgets and expenses for living in college-owned housing and private boarding houses for the years 1917 to 1956. There is a significant amount of information on Oberlin's housing and dining cooperatives. Included are a preliminary draft plan and budget for the first cooperative house on campus; a statement from the Co-op Building Committee; and information on cooperative dormitory buildings including the proposed building of a women's dormitory. Series 4 "Files of Other Administrative Units" contains a report on the Venturi and Rauch addition to the Allen Memorial Art Museum. Series 8 holds separate subject files containing budgets, reports, and sketches on several college buildings including: Allen Memorial Hospital, Hales Gymnasium, Hall Auditorium, Mudd Learning Center, Severance Hall, the Skating Rink, and a proposed recitation hall dating from the early 1930s.

### **[26] Records of the Allen Memorial Art Museum, 1899-1992, 58 l.f.**

#### *Administrative History*

Before the erection of the Allen Memorial Art Museum (AMAM) building in 1916-1917, the College's studio art classes were held in French Hall, 1867-1885, and in Society Hall, 1885-1917. A handful of classes was offered through the Department of Drawing and Painting, called the School of Art from 1888 to 1896, and then the Department of Fine Arts after 1912. In 1995, the Department of Art offered nearly 50 courses that served over 1,000 students.

In the 1890s Professor Adelia A. Field Johnston advocated the construction of an art building and museum space. A growing art collection, notably the receipt of a number of handsome acquisitions from the Olney Collection, occasioned the need for the building.

The site of Stewart Hall, torn down in 1915, and an adjacent lot belonging to the College provided a location for the Allen Art Building. The June, 1917, opening of the new Dudley Peter Allen Memorial Art Building, designed by Cass Gilbert and funded by Elisabeth Severance Allen Prentiss (Dudley P. Allen's widow), gave a large boost to developing a standard program for art collection and education. The structure provided housing for major art acquisitions, adequate exhibition space, a library of books and slides for students and faculty, as well as classroom and studio space. Constructed of buff sandstone with red sandstone panels and a heraldic frieze supported by rose colored marble columns, the AMAM is a prime example of Gilbert's penchant for Renaissance and Romanesque styles. The building is adorned with a red tile roof, and features an open, colonnaded cloister joining the museum to a single-story studio building to the rear. In 1937 a new classroom, office, and studio wing designed by Clarence Ward was added to the art building, while the library moved to the entire second floor of the museum.

Over the next three decades the Museum provided a home for the patronage of donors such as Elisabeth Severance Allen Prentiss, R.T. Miller, Jr. (A.B. 1891), and other connoisseurs of art. By mid-century the AMAM was among the finest art museums affiliated with a liberal arts college. In 1952, the Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA), housed in space provided by the Art Department, was founded as the nation's first cooperative art conservation laboratory.

Spatial needs for education, exhibitions, the museum's permanent collection, and the ICA created the need for another addition by 1970. The AMAM addition, designed by Robert Venturi and John Rauch, was dedicated in January, 1977. Employing Venturi's self-described style of post-modern "messy vitality," the Addition integrates itself with Gilbert's "Beaux-Arts" structure, sharing roof lines and sandstone shades, but is distinguished by its checkerboard facade and multiple levels. It increased museum exhibit space by 50 percent with the installation of the Ruth Coates Roush floor (first level), the Clarence Ward Art Library, and the Ellen H. Johnson Gallery of Modern Art.

### *Scope and Content*

Organized around six subgroups—I. Administration, II. Exhibit Files, III. Publications and Publicity, IV. Clarence Ward Records, V. Associations, Organizations and Conferences, and VI. Art Department—the most relevant records are found in five record series of subgroup I. These series are Series 2 "Director's Correspondence," Series 4 "Other Correspondence," Series 11 "Buildings and Grounds Records," Series 13 "Topical Files," and Series 14 "Art Building Construction Papers." Documents here detail the administrative, developmental, and design history of the museum complex, specifically those records relating to its construction in 1916-1917, the 1937 Clarence Ward-designed annex, and the 1977 Robert Venturi and John Rauch addition. The assorted papers, 1916-1949, of Professor Clarence Ward document his career as an artist and architectural designer during and after his tenure as director of the museum. Notable among his correspondents are architects Cass Gilbert, Richard Kimball, and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Among Museum Director Ward's correspondence in subgroup I are 21 letters, 1917-1933, to and from AMAM architect Cass Gilbert. These letters document Gilbert's involvement in final construction details for the museum. (See also series 14 noted below.) Correspondence relative to Gilbert's plans for Hall Auditorium is also filed here due to Ward's consultations on the building's design. Series 4 of subgroup 1 also contains the incoming correspondence, 1936-1937, of architect Richard Kimball, who designed Hales Memorial Gymnasium for Women. Dedicated in 1939, Ward and William Hoskins Brown contributed to the design for Hales, as well.

Less significant in volume is the correspondence of architect Frank Lloyd Wright, 1922-1924. These records in series 2 mainly report on a Japanese print materials exhibition held at the AMAM, and on an architectural monograph regarding works in the Museum's permanent collection.

Series 11 "Building and Grounds Records," 1936-1937 and 1964-1982, contains materials relative to the construction of the 1937 Art Museum Annex designed by Clarence Ward, the 1977 Venturi and Rauch addition, as well as a few items regarding 1953 design plans for Hall Auditorium. Included in these seven boxes are Ward's correspondence, 1936-1937, with faculty committees and contractors, detailed construction reports, design considerations, newspaper and magazine inquiries and articles regarding the 1937 annex, and Trustee and Art Faculty Committee meeting notes. Ward's 1936-1937 memoranda concerning revisions and specification changes, three photographs documenting the 1937 construction, and a 15" x 25.5" color-coded tracing paper design study of the floor plans of the proposed auditorium (n.d.) are also found here. Of special significance is the 1936-1937 correspondence regarding Ward's status as an architect as qualified by the Ohio Board of Examiners of Architects.

Later items to be found in series 11 document the design and planning phase for the controversial AMAM addition, 1969-1977, by Venturi and Rauch. These documents mainly report on budget itemizations and project funds, 1970-1974; detailed HVAC specification booklets and addenda, 1974-1975; planning meeting minutes between the architects and the development committee, 1972-1976; and an undated historical timeline of the "Allen Memorial Art Museum at Oberlin College." Not to be overlooked is the 1966 needs analysis report for the museum, the 1969 preliminary design ideas and floor plans as submitted by other architects, the 1973-1974 tentative design and construction schedules, and the ca. 1973 preliminary floor plan submitted by Robert Venturi for staff review. Some researchers may find the voluminous correspondence with the architectural firm of Venturi and Rauch, 1970-1985, helpful in general ways. Materials also consist of booklets for the museum addition's January, 1977, dedication, an architect's vision statement, and the remarks regarding the museum complex's design and development phase. In a clippings file one will find magazine, architectural journal, and newspaper articles that cover the 1977 addition from local, national, and international publications, 1976-1983. Biographical materials also exist here for Ward, Ellen H. Johnson (d. 1992), Hazel Barker King (d. 1960), and Wolfgang Stechow (d. 1974).

For those interested in how this large building, rich in Renaissance associations and arrangements, has withstood time, there are assorted maintenance reports. Included also are detailed 24" x 36" diazo-print plans for the 1982-1983 roof repair and loading-dock enclosure projects, diazo-print site plans/revision elevations (also 24" x 36") for handicap modification and further roof repair, 1978-1980, and reports documenting the March, 1980 "Humidity Crisis." Facility program notes, correspondence, and information, 1973-1974, from the Intermuseum Conservation Association, headquartered in the Art Building complex, are located in series 11 as well.

In Series 13 "Topical Files" is one folder labeled "Architecture in Oberlin (1979-1982)." Consisting of published historical articles about College architecture by Oberlin History Professor Geoffrey Blodgett, this series also includes memoranda concerning architect consultation and the formation of a "Standing Committee on Campus Architecture" (1981).

In 1990 the College Archives received the construction files of the original building from the registrar of the Allen Memorial Art Museum. Somewhat badly deteriorated, these files required preservation photocopying in order to replace original documents with photocopies; exceptions were made when a document included a penciled drawing(s). Series 14 "Art Building Construction Papers, 1915-16" is significant in that it specifically

reports on the work of Cass Gilbert and George Richardson Harlow, who supervised the construction of the AMAM. The latter's correspondence and memoranda, which provides a first-hand glimpse into the minute details of the construction process, is the final series to be reported on from subgroup I.

Of peripheral art and architectural interest are museum exhibition materials arranged chronologically within subgroup II, Series 1 "AMAM Exhibits." Specifically, this series documents three exhibitions of architectural content: "Wallace K. Harrison Buildings," November, 1953-February, 1954; "Forty Under Forty: Young Talent in Architecture," April, 1968; and the "Clarence Ward Memorial Exhibition," January-February, 1974. These files contain collections of exhibition catalogues and publicity, museum registrar's planning correspondence, technical notes, and external reviews. The Ward exhibit featured the artist's photographic collection of French Gothic Architecture, mostly gathered in the 1930s on European trips with Oberlin College Photographer Arthur E. Princehorn (b. 1904). The exhibit for Wallace K. Harrison—the architect who designed Hall Auditorium in 1953—displayed photos and drawings for Harrison's more notable designs, such as the United Nations Secretariat Building in New York City.

Finally, from the series of "Bulletins" published by AMAM, researchers will want to consult Christine Dyer, et al, eds., "Building Utopia: Oberlin Architecture, 1833-1893," *Allen Memorial Art Museum Bulletin* 16 (1983-1984): 1-72.

## **[27] Records of the Department of Physical Education, 1886-1989, 81.7 l.f.**

### *Administrative History*

The fundamental principle of physical education at Oberlin College—which sought "education through both the mind and the body"—pre-dated the construction of Oberlin's first Men's Gymnasium in 1861. Protestant minister John Jay Shipherd, one of the College's founders, defined the principal objective of a manual labor program as one that would augment "health, bodily, mental and moral, the student's support; and the formation of industrious and economical habits." Appropriately, the need for athletic facilities grew as manual labor gave way to rudimentary gymnastic exercises after the Civil War period, and then to formal physical education programs by the 1880s. By the early and middle 20th-century, physical education at Oberlin would evolve in its own right, requiring the continued construction and expansion of facilities for individual male and female students and intercollegiate athletic teams.

In 1861, the College's Student Gymnasium Association presided over the construction of the first Men's Gymnasium, which was torn down in 1867 to provide space for Society Hall; in 1873 the same group erected the second Men's Gymnasium. In 1877, the College assumed direction of the gymnasium and required all students to participate in gymnastic exercise, excepting those who performed two hours of manual labor per day. The first formal program of physical education at Oberlin began in 1885, when the College employed Delphine Hanna, M.D. (1854-1941) to coordinate health training and exercise for the College's female students. Calisthenics were held, unsupervised, in Ladies Hall and Music Hall. In 1881, a small 29' x 44' gymnasium-type exercise space was added to the side of Ladies Hall. John D. Rockefeller donated an adjacent skating rink in 1895. Before she retired in 1920, Hanna taught an array of classes for male and female students. She developed a physical education departmental major by 1901; and, she was the first woman in the United States to hold a college professorship in physical education.

During the late 19th-century, team sports at Oberlin such as baseball, football, and basketball began to flourish with the general expansion of all college athletics. With this growth came the need for expanded facilities. In 1901, Warner Gymnasium, designed by Chicago architect Normand Patton, was erected for the Men's Physical Education Department replacing the 1873 structure (second Men's Gymnasium). Built of Ohio sandstone, it was erected on the site of the older gymnasium, and stood three stories high with an attic. The main gymnasium was on the second floor, with a running track suspended from the roof. In addition, the basement provided ball cages and handball courts. Oberlin's first indoor intercollegiate competition was held at Warner in 1902. An addition to the north end of the building was added in 1911.

Following Charles W. Savage's appointment as director of athletics in 1905, a new phase in Oberlin athletic facility construction and use began. During Savage's tenure as director (1905-1918, 1920-1935), Oberlin College erected and dedicated both the Stadium Grandstand designed by Cass Gilbert and Galpin Field by 1925, and constructed Crane Pool in 1931. The pool was designed by Oberlin graduate Claude W. Stedman (1887-1962, A.B. 1908) of the Cleveland firm Walker & Weeks. Although built primarily for the Women's Physical Education Department, Oberlin's male students were allowed partial use of the Crane Pool. This represents, perhaps, the College's first co-educational athletic facility, as the men established a varsity swim team within a year and shared near-regular use of it thereafter.

Oberlin College purchased Dickinson Field, named for benefactor Julia A. Dickinson, to provide an area for women's intramural sports in 1908. The first Dickinson House at 166 W. College St., also purchased in 1908, served as a field house until it was torn down in 1924. The second Dickinson House at 166 W. Lorain St. functioned as a field house for women between 1924 and 1931. When Gertrude Moulton, M.D. (1880-1964), was named director of the Women's Physical Education Department, she lobbied for, and received, a women's athletic facility with the building of Hales Gymnasium in 1938. It was initially designed by Oberlin professors Clarence Ward and William Hoskins Brown, although the final construction design of Hales was supervised by New York architect Richard Kimball. Built of Indiana limestone, Hales reflects a modernist functionalism complemented by a classical symmetry. Some regard it, however, as an example of the influence of airplane hangars on gymnasium designs. In 1958, a bowling alley designed by Oberlin graduate Herk Visnapuu (b. 1920, A.B. 1950) was added to the eastern edge of the structure.

The need for athletic facilities continued into, and extended beyond, the 1940s. The Jones Field House, a war surplus building erected in Oberlin in 1948, was a former World War II navy drill hall in Camp Perry, Virginia. New York architect Eldredge Snyder, who supervised its adaptation to an athletic facility, added the lobby and team locker rooms, even connecting the Field House to the Stadium. A mobile wooden floor covered the Field House's dirt floor, and with stands to seat 1,800, the Jones Field House hosted Oberlin's basketball games from 1948 to 1971. Demand for athletic space at the Field House, Hales Gymnasium, and Warner—now a relic by modern athletic facility standards—led to calls for a new facility. By 1963, Physical Education Chairman Lysle K. Butler '25 convinced President Robert K. Carr of the necessity for replacing Warner Gymnasium; the architectural firm Hugh Stubbins & Associates of Boston was commissioned to consult on the planning program and for the final design. This planning led to the Jesse Philips Physical Education Center, dedicated in 1971. It provided a cornucopia of athletic usages, including squash and handball courts, new swimming facilities, and a large multipurpose playing space for basketball, volleyball, and tennis. To encourage participation in intramural indoor team sports, moveable stands were included in the design. Philips also included new offices for the athletic faculty, training rooms, and a physiology laboratory.

Although the facade of rectangular brick columns and dark glass windows nicely suited the campus' architectural environment, planning for the two-story, 115,000 square foot building was short-sighted. It included only limited space for women's lockers and showers, even as the Women's Physical Education Department merged with the Men's Department in 1969 and soon fielded its own varsity intercollegiate sports teams. Architectural planning did not anticipate Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972, which mandated opportunity of access for female athletes and sports teams. Even though organized athletics and physical education at Oberlin College was started by a woman and intended for women, over time the pattern of facilities development was skewed towards men's sports and athletic competition.

The most recent athletic facility to be erected at Oberlin is the John W. Heisman Field House, dedicated in October, 1992. The facility houses four tennis courts and a 200-meter NCAA-regulation running track, and is large enough for the soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey teams to hold practice indoors in the case of inclement weather. Designed by Spellman Farmer of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the building was constructed by the Schirmer Construction Company. Located just west of Philips Gymnasium, the Field House complements Philips with a repetitive exterior design of brickwork and angled columns.

### *Scope and Content*

Spanning the years 1886 to 1989, and organized around eight subgroups, the records of the Physical Education Department document the evolution of physical training programs for men and women at Oberlin College. Included in this record are files relating to the design, construction and expansion of campus physical education facilities. Materials holding architectural information are primarily found in Subgroup I "Administrative Files," and Subgroup VI "Department of Physical Education for Women."

Architectural records in Subgroup I "Administrative Files" are located in Series 3 "Correspondence" and Series 10 "Facilities and Equipment." Arranged chronologically, architectural correspondence consists of 14 letters, 1913, to and from New York architect Cass Gilbert, and 10 letters, 1912-1914, to and from the Olmsted Brothers, landscape architects from Boston. Both sets of correspondence emanate from the office of Athletic Director C.W. Savage. The files relate to the proposed Oberlin College Grandstand and enlarged athletic fields. Gilbert's correspondence documents the transfer of sketches and plans specifically for the Grandstand adjacent to the stadium, while the Olmsted Brothers correspondence details technical design considerations for the athletic fields surrounding the Grandstand.

Materials in Series 10 "Facilities and Equipment," 1889-1973, report on athletic facilities construction and maintenance. They consist of working drawings and architectural perspectives, program notes and floor plans, as well as cost estimates, proposals and prospectuses detailing departmental program needs for the new facilities. Physical education facilities discussed here include the Crane Pool for Women, 1931; Jones Field House, 1948; the Oberlin Skating Rink, ca. 1928; Oberlin College tennis courts, ca. 1931; Philips Gymnasium, 1971; the Stadium and Athletic Field, 1925; and Warner Gymnasium, 1901. Also found within these records are miscellaneous newspaper and magazine clippings relative to the construction of these facilities, as well as scattered correspondence with Boston architect Hugh Stubbins, who designed Philips Gymnasium. Many drawings, the bulk of which are assorted blueprints, 1913-1947, are unique.

Architectural records held in Subgroup VI "Department of Physical Education for Women" consist of assorted correspondence, topographical surveys, proposals, prospectuses, budget itemizations, and an array of working drawings and blueprints, most relative to the 1939 construction of the Hales Gymnasium when Gertrude Moulton was director of women's

athletics. Correspondence includes communication with architect Richard Kimball, 1937-1938, who supervised the construction of Hales Gymnasium; a 1924 letter from Cass Gilbert relative to sketches of a new field house; and a 1927 letter of unknown authorship detailing the needs of a new women's facility. Records also include information and correspondence relative to construction materials, a booklet complete with floor plans documenting proposals for the "Women's Gymnasium and Women's Building," and 1914-1931 plans for improvements to Galpin Field and the Rockefeller Skating Rink. Of some significance are the 19 copies of plans and drawings for Hales Gymnasium, 1936-1938, completed by Oberlin professors William Hoskins Brown and Clarence Ward, which include detailed floor plans, exterior perspectives, transverse sections, and material schedules. In addition, photos of the groundbreaking for Hales on August 9, 1938, as well as miscellaneous construction views, are located in Subgroup VIII "Non-Print Media," Series 1 "Photographs."

## RECORDS OF THE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC (Group 10)

### [28] Records of the Conservatory of Music, 1841-1991, 144.5 l.f.

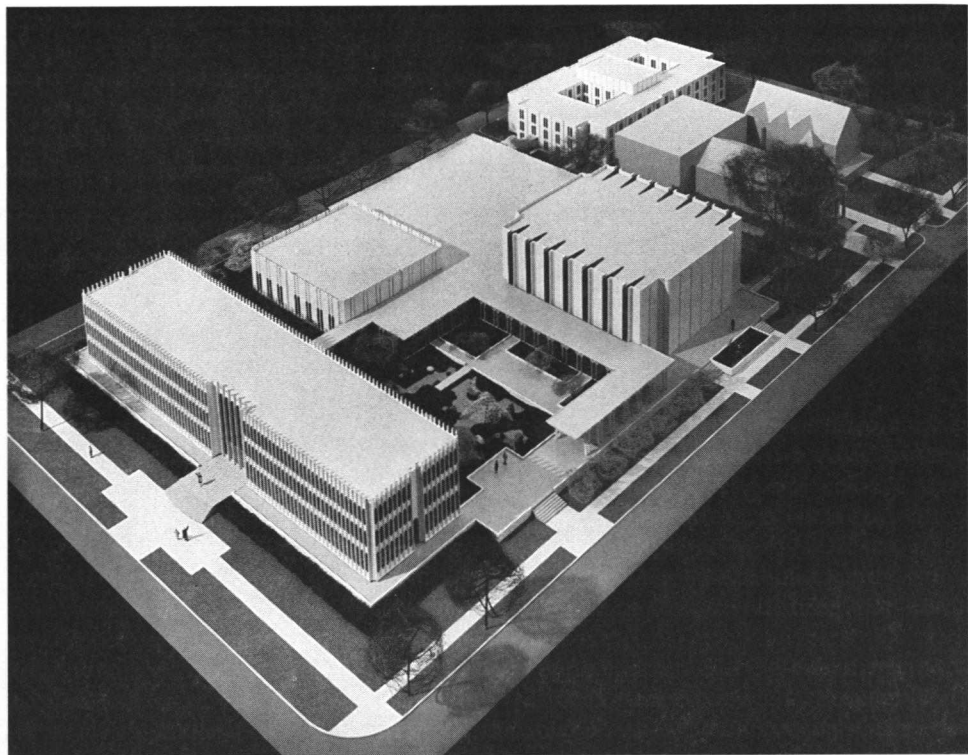
#### *Administrative History*

Formally established in 1867, the Conservatory of Music is a division of Oberlin College. The history of music education and performance at Oberlin dates from 1840 with the creation of an Oberlin Musical Association (today called the Musical Union) and, in 1855, a Department of Instructional Music followed. In 1865, Oberlin College instructors John Paul Morgan (1841-1879) and George Whipple Steele opened the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Although organized as financially separate and independent of Oberlin College, within a year the Conservatory affiliated itself with the College.

The architectural history associated with the development of the field of music at Oberlin begins with the construction of a Music Hall in 1842. The one-story frame building, measuring 30' x 50' and located on the present site of Baldwin Cottage, was used primarily by the College choir and literary societies. Music students also attended classes and recitals in the Old College Chapel and Tappan Hall, both located on Tappan Square. In the 1860s, Music Hall was moved adjacent to the Second Ladies Hall and converted into a women's gymnasium, only to be destroyed by fire in 1880. After a decade of making use of the second floor of Comings Bookstore and various rooms on campus, the College purchased the Mahan-Morgan House, on the northwest corner of W. College and Professor Sts., for music-related activities. In 1883, this house was torn down, and Warner Hall was erected on the site and dedicated in 1884. It was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style by New York architect A.B. Jennings with funding from Dr. and Mrs. Lucien C. Warner. Warner Hall was one of the first buildings in the nation developed exclusively for instruction in music.

To this main music building, Oberlin added significant performance and education facilities after 1900. When architect Cass Gilbert designed Finney Chapel (built 1907-1908) for worship services, he was also aware of the need for choir performances and incorporated this element into his design. A new organ designed by E.M. Skinner of Boston was installed in 1915. To remedy the shortage of space for the Conservatory of Music's instructional programs, Rice Memorial Hall was constructed in 1909-1910. It was named for former Conservatory Director Fenelon B. Rice (d. 1901) and his wife Helen and designed by architect Arthur B. Jennings in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Located adjacent to Warner Hall, Rice Hall stood four stories high and contained six large lecture rooms, numerous studios, and over 100 practice rooms. Although intended for exclusive





*New Oberlin Conservatory of Music architectural model prepared by Minoru Yamasaki and Associates (Detroit) ca. 1964*

Conservatory of Music use, rooms in Warner and Rice Halls were eventually shared with classes of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Warner Hall was razed in 1964 to make room for the King Building group. Rice Hall was renovated and converted in 1962-1963 for use as a faculty and academic classroom annex as part of the King Building project.

By the 1950s, the Conservatory of Music faculty and administration sought to replace the outdated Warner and Rice halls with new facilities for its programs in order to meet modern principles of musical instruction. The holdings of the Conservatory's music library were spread among the College Library, the Gehrkens Music Education Library in the basement of Rice Hall, and its own library in Warner Hall. Consolidation of these resources led to the construction of a new Conservatory of Music complex, designed by Detroit architect Minoru Yamasaki and dedicated in October, 1964. Located on the southeast corner of W. College and Professor Sts. (kitty-corner from the old site of Warner Hall), the new Conservatory complex encloses a courtyard and reflecting pool. Surrounding buildings include Bibbins Hall (facing W. College St. and Tappan Square), the main teaching, administrative and faculty office unit; the Central Unit, which houses the Conservatory Library, classrooms and equipment storage facilities; Robertson Hall, named for former Conservatory Director David Robertson (1911-1961)—a prime force behind the drive for new facilities—serves as a practice building; and Warner Concert Hall, which opens onto S. Professor St. and houses a grand 44-stop Flentrop organ. The Conservatory of Music's exterior design is of steel-reinforced quartz-aggregate facades. Although aesthetically beautiful, the complex suffers from interior design flaws which have challenged school administrators with a continuous stream of acoustical and structural design renovations. A 10,000

square-foot addition to the Conservatory's library, designed by Gunnar Birkerts and overlooking S. Professor St., was completed and dedicated in September, 1988.

### *Scope and Content*

Organized in 15 series and dating from 1841 to 1991, the records of the Conservatory of Music document the development of music education at the college in addition to the expansion of facilities to support the program's students, faculty, resources and performances. Architectural records, 1928-1991, are held in Series XI "Buildings, Grounds, and Musical Equipment Files." Also extant are numerous photographic files of Conservatory buildings. These images, primarily of the Conservatory of Music's construction and dedication, 1961-1989, are found in Series XV "Photographs and Postcards."

Architectural records in Subseries 1 "Buildings and Grounds," of Series XI "Buildings, Grounds, and Musical Equipment Files" cover the period 1940 to 1991. Included are not only Conservatory of Music buildings, but also Oberlin structures which have hosted Conservatory performances. Consisting of approximately 80 architectural drawings (mostly blue line prints, but also some sepia prints and photostats), architectural plans include images for the Conservatory of Music complex, 1957-1987; the Conservatory of Music Library addition, 1987-1988; Rice Hall, 1940; Sturges Hall, 1940; old Warner Hall, 1940; and the new Warner Concert Hall, 1959-1985. Architectural plans for renovations and additions to existing buildings—namely, Fairchild Chapel, 1980-1986; Finney Chapel, 1974-1988; and Hall Auditorium, 1991—are also part of this subseries. These representations include working drawings of floor plans, architectural renderings and elevations, as well as specification and section details for the Conservatory of Music's structural, mechanical, and electrical features. This series includes architects' reports, correspondence, program notes and bound specification manuals; acoustical reports, reverberation studies, and recommendations by acoustical architects; academic and staff program "building requirements" for the new design of the Conservatory of Music complex, 1957-1960; work orders, internal memos, invoices, planning notes, work and finish schedules, and financial support documents, 1959-1987.

Correspondence, although retained primarily in files marked by the architects' names, is also scattered among the subject and building files in subseries 1 of series XI. Notable correspondents include Clarence Ward, 1944; the architectural firm of Minoru Yamasaki, designer of the Conservatory of Music complex, 1957-1965; the firm of Bolt, Baranek, and Newman, acoustical engineers for Warner Concert Hall and the Conservatory's other performance and practice facilities, 1959-1971; acoustical expert R.L. Kirkegaard, 1979-1983; and the Lorain firm of Clark and Post, Inc., 1981-1985, who led the design and acoustical renovation of Warner Concert Hall. Other prominent materials found here are three original specification manuals, 1986-1987, for the Conservatory of Music Library addition by Birkerts, as well as a 12-page report to the board of trustees. The June, 1957 report from New York architect Douglas Orr presents a detailed proposal for campus building development that includes cost itemizations and a four-phase progressive site plan for the Oberlin campus. Ten design drawings of the 44-Stop Flentrop Organ, 1961-1971, now housed in Warner Concert Hall, are also available.

Items of visual interest in Series XV "Photographs and Postcards" are located in Subseries 2 "Building and Construction Photos." Items consist of over 500 black and white images of the construction phases, dedication ceremonies, and special architectural features of the Conservatory of Music complex, 1961-1989. Extant is a historical "Conservatory Ensembles, Buildings and Grounds, Scrapbook (1955)," which features some images of the facilities at old Warner Hall; in addition, architectural renderings and photographs exist of other "modern" schools of music from around the nation, ca. 1955.

A December, 1993 oral history interview of architect Gunnar Birkerts, conducted on behalf of the Frank Lloyd Wright Archives at Taliesin West in Arizona, is held in RG 37 "Motion Picture and Tape Recordings." The interview makes references to Birkerts' background, training, architectural philosophy, and contemporary projects. Usage restrictions apply.

## **RECORDS OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY (Group 11)**

### **[29] Records of the Graduate School of Theology, 1833-1966, 27.5 lf.**

#### *Administrative History*

The Theological Department was conceived by founders of the Oberlin Collegiate Institute who hoped to spread their Perfectionist gospel throughout the Western Reserve and the Mississippi River Valley. In the fall of 1835, students at Lane Seminary in Cincinnati rebelled against the trustees who tried to curb their antislavery agitation. When students and several faculty members threatened to leave, John Jay Shipherd invited them to come to Oberlin. With financial support from the Tappan brothers (Arthur and Lewis), a theological faculty including Professor John Morgan (1802-1884), Lane Trustee Asa Mahan (1799-1889), and evangelist Charles Grandison Finney (1792-1875) was formed. This founding occurred on the condition that the College admit students "irrespective of color," that Oberlin respect students' freedom of speech, and that Oberlin "not interfere in the regulation of the school." As theological education evolved at Oberlin College, the department was also called the Oberlin Theological Seminary and renamed the Graduate School of Theology in 1916. Until 1903, the president of Oberlin College also served as head of the Seminary.

During the 1866-1889 presidency of James Harris Fairchild, funds were raised from local Congregational churches and other sources to support the Seminary, curriculum expansion, and construction of its first permanent home, Council Hall. Architect Walter Blythe of Cleveland designed the neo-Gothic structure located on the north side of Tappan Square, next to the former home of Oberlin founder John Jay Shipherd. Council Hall housed the Theological Seminary until it was torn down in 1930.

Under President Henry Churchill King, Edward Increase Bosworth (1861-1927) was appointed the first Dean of the Theological Seminary. During the tenure of Bosworth (1903-1923) and of his successor Thomas Wesley Graham (1923-1948), Oberlin's missionary education and theological curriculum of pastoral psychology, management, and fieldwork was expanded. This led in 1930 to the construction of the Graduate School of Theology Quadrangle. Using a ca. 1903 bequest from Mrs. D. Willis James and a 1927 \$400,000 contribution from the John D. Rockefeller family, College Architect Cass Gilbert designed the new seminary complex for the site of the recently razed Council Hall. At the time of the dedication in October, 1931, the quadrangle provided divinity students with their own small campus setting, complete with chapel, library, classrooms, faculty offices, dining hall, and gymnasium. Bosworth Hall fronted Tappan Square to the north and featured a central Romanesque tower. Fairchild Chapel projected northward from Bosworth into the courtyard. Shipherd Hall enclosed the building group on the north side, with red brick dormitories bordering the courtyard on the east and west sides. Limestone colonnades connect these buildings to Bosworth. The capitals of the West Colonnade, described by Oberlin College Professor Geoffrey Blodgett as a "rare effort to relate architectural ornament to the local past," feature carved faces of notable Oberlin persons (e.g., Henry C.

King, Edward I. Bosworth, Kemper Fullerton, James Harris Fairchild). In 1959, ornate stained glass windows, designed by Henry Lee Willet, were added to embellish Fairchild Chapel.

In 1954, under Dean Leonard Albert Stidley (1898-1958), Oberlin's Graduate School of Theology (GST) assumed responsibility for Cleveland's Schauffler College of Religious and Social Work. Nevertheless, Oberlin's program was unable to compete with prominent inter-denominational seminaries in the East for quality seminary students. Increasingly, the GST program and students were isolated from the rest of Oberlin's student body. In June, 1965, the Oberlin College Board of Trustees voted to close the Graduate School of Theology, which subsequently merged with the Vanderbilt Divinity School and moved its operations to Nashville, Tennessee. The theological quadrangle thereafter served as a facility for other college functions.

### *Scope and Content*

The architectural records contained in the Graduate School of Theology group provide information relating to the history of the decades-long planning, construction, and final embellishment phases for the GST Quadrangle. Relevant materials concerning Council Hall and the GST Quadrangle are located in Subgroup 1 "Administrative Files," specifically in Series V "Correspondence of the Deans, 1896-1945, 1960-1963," Subseries 2 "Correspondence of Dean Thomas W. Graham," and in Series X "Buildings and Grounds Files, 1871-1874, 1904-1963." In addition, architectural drawings of the GST Quadrangle by Cass Gilbert are available under a separate inventory.

Of the architectural materials relative to the GST held in Subgroup 1 "Administrative Files," the most significant files are labeled "Seminary Building Program, 1913-1931." A few materials post-date the 1930s. Holdings consist of the following: GST pre-planning, financial needs, design development notes, and correspondence reporting on the work of architect Cass Gilbert, 1915-1920; a blue-line print "Preliminary Specification Booklet" dated June, 1920; a blueprint of a campus plan and town plan, n.d.; blueprint furnishing specifications for the GST dormitory buildings, 1931, which include design drawings of tables, chairs, cabinets, desks, and sofas; a photostat of a "Proposed Landscaping Site Plan" with a planting key, executed by the Department of Buildings and Grounds for the GST, 1943; and a rudimentary floor plan for a renovation study of room space, equipment, furniture, and storage space. Also located here are contemporary newspaper and magazine articles pertaining to the design, construction, and opening of the Graduate School of Theology, 1927-1931; assorted administrative notes regarding the building fund, 1927, and minutes of the board of trustees, 1929; faculty suggestions for the building program phase of GST development and planning; and dedication notes and correspondence with distinguished guests, 1931.

Readers will also want to consult the "Buildings and Grounds Files, 1871-1874, 1904-1963," found in subgroup 1, series X. The bulk of materials cover the period from the late 1940s to the early 1960s. Consisting of ten folders, the files include remodeling plans for Fairchild Chapel, with sepia-supported work drawings for a basement plan for Bosworth Hall, 1953-1954; design and development drawings for Fairchild Chapel, with six elevations of the chapel altar, as well as section details of the chapel floor plan and a sepia-supported presentation drawing of the chapel entrance, 1956-1958; a blueprint for "Alterations to the Chapel Building," a "Framing Plan" for the 3rd floor mezzanine, and a stair elevation, 1952. Additionally, researchers will find floor plans for the arrangement of furnishings and lockers, and a development drawing of a first floor plan for the "Remodeling of Bosworth Hall" for the re-design of office space, 1952-1954; a design/development site plan (sepia-supported) for the renovation of the GST, which includes color-coded placement of new dry wall and masonry, as well as an elevation of the front steps of Bosworth

Hall, n.d.; correspondence and materials regarding the Fairchild Chapel organ, including an original layout/elevation of the organ and tonal specifications for its installation, and later materials on the condition and re-furbishing of the organ, 1929-1931 and 1956-1963; copious materials on the five chancel windows in Fairchild Chapel, including correspondence, contracts, and miscellaneous documents regarding funding issues and stained glass artist/designer Henry Lee Willet of Philadelphia, PA, 1949-1960; photographs, site plans, and other planning documents for the installation of the sculptured heads which adorn the capitals on the West Colonnade of the GST, 1955-1962; a morning devotion program which provides a detailed map/guide to the location of chapel statuettes, chapel windows, and the west colonnade, 1947; and design drawings for renovation of the basement, first and second floors of Bosworth, 1940. Other informative resources in this series include newspaper articles regarding the plans, construction, and dedication of the quadrangle, 1919 and 1929-1931; an 1874 Council Hall dedication booklet and invitation featuring a woodcut print of the building; a journal for Council Hall occupants; numerous but scattered clippings regarding the Rockefeller gift of \$400,000 to the GST building fund, 1927-1929; and a scrapbook of news clippings documenting the erection of the GST Quadrangle, 1929-1934, which also features original black and white snapshots of the many different phases of the quadrangle's construction and embellishment.

## **RECORDS OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS (Group 12)**

### **[30] Records of the Dean of Students, 1928-1990, 228.25 1f.**

#### *Administrative History*

The Office of the Dean of Students was created by the board of trustees in 1964 in response to findings developed in a 1961 trustee report, which proposed changes to simplify and improve Oberlin College's administration. Previously, student affairs was the responsibility of the principal (for women until 1894), the excusing officer (for men until 1895), and the dean of men and the dean of women in the twentieth century. The dean of students, reporting to the president, directs and coordinates all offices concerned with student services. In order to create functional rather than gender-oriented job divisions, the offices of dean of men and dean of women were eliminated in 1971. Bernard S. Adams was dean of students between 1964 and 1966; George E. Langelier, his successor, served as dean between 1966 and 1989.

The Office of the Dean of Students merged with the Office of Student Support Services on January 1, 1990. Patrick Penn headed this new division as dean of student life and services between 1990 and 1995. His office was responsible for coordinating student life and support services, along with ensuring the timely graduation of all enrolled students. Charlene Cole '74 replaced Penn as dean of student life and services in July, 1995.

#### *Scope and Content*

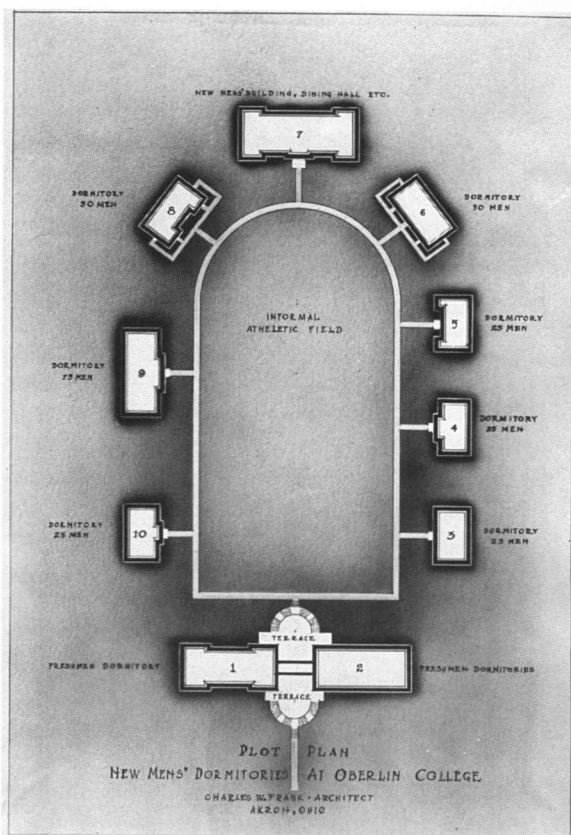
Organized into eight subgroups, each with several series, the records date from 1928 to 1995. Three subgroups, I. Administrative Records, V. Student Union, and VI. Housing and Dining, are especially useful in studying the architectural history of Oberlin College. For the researcher interested in cooperatives, dining facilities, dormitories, and the student union (Wilder Hall), this collection is not to be missed.

The records from the Dean of Students' office are most valuable in revealing the importance of the campus' physical environment to students' educational, political, recre-

ational, and social activities. Records explore the relationship between architecture and philosophy, psychology, values, and quality of life. The desire for a sense of community, harmony, utility, and comfort is repeated throughout these papers.

The first subgroup, "Administrative Files," contains some folders that relate tangentially to Oberlin architecture. The dean of students was involved in the campus' built environment only in ways that directly affected student life. Thus, when housing is discussed in this office's annual reports and by various committees, such as Institutional Research and Space Allocation, architecture is only important as a facilitator or an obstacle to programs and policies. For example, students wanted dormitories to promote "studying, thinking, and sharing," according to the 1974 Institutional Research Committee report. Physical arrangements, such as noise-reducing carpeting and new kitchenettes, were means to those ends. Structural changes to facilities were also important to the Committee for Interests of the Physically Disabled to promote accessibility. Other valuable committee files include those of the Subcommittee on Dorms and Housing, 1968, and the Living and Learning Committee, 1971. Various other folders in "General Files" have a similar philosophical and utilitarian approach to Oberlin's built environment.

While one is likely to find mention of the facilities in sections of the Student Union annual reports, the bulk of architectural information in subgroup V is in Series 3 "Student Union Committees," and in Series 4 "Wilder Hall." As early as 1955, students suggested converting the Men's Building, or Wilder Hall, into a student union. In 1956, the Student Union Committee was formed to plan and establish this building. This group considered finances, facilities, government, and the philosophy and purpose of student unions at other campuses when making recommendations. For instance, the folders relating to Wilder Hall detail the planning and activities—including budgets, floor plans, and plans for the snack bar—surrounding Oberlin's student union. In 1990-1991, the main lounge of Wilder Hall was renovated after several years of planning with input from the Architectural Review Committee and from architectural firm Van Dijk, Johnson and Partners, Cleveland, Ohio. One planning binder, 1987-1991, contains budgetary information, correspondence, meeting minutes, and negotiations with architects and construction personnel regarding this project. Also included are copies of 50 architectural drawings of Wilder Hall by J.L. Silsbee,



*The Bosworth Plan of 1928, which would have placed men's dormitories in a quadrangle, included an informal athletic field*

1905; six by J.A.B., 1944; and eight by J. Sondles, 1955. Duplicate drawings exist for the Silsbee blueprints of Wilder Hall.

From the details of dormitory decor to long-term planning, subgroup VI documents housing and dining at Oberlin College from the perspective of the students and their deans. Included are series of annual reports, budget records, committee papers, correspondence, dormitory files, building administration and use files, building maintenance and renovation files, and feneral files. The administration and use series, and the maintenance-renovation files, detail the relationship between architecture and functionalism at particular buildings. Occupying about 8 l.f., these records primarily document a wide range of renovation and construction activity in the 1970s and 1980s, but also include material on the refinishing of Dascomb and Barrows. In 1985, an \$11 million bond issue made possible dormitory renovations—including 1986 improvements to Baldwin Cottage and to Talcott, North, and Tank halls—and the construction of the North Campus dining/ social facility (Stevenson Hall). Files in this collection include information gathered before the bond's approval. For example, the Building Audit of 1984 describes and evaluates individual dormitories' foundations, internal supports, HVAC systems, windows, and other structural features. Similarly, a Facilities Notebook compiled by the Housing and Dining Halls Office between 1983 and 1985 provides the maintenance history, special building characteristics, floor plans, renovation needs ranking, custodial questionnaire, and dormitory facts for every dormitory from Allencroft to Zechiel. Meanwhile, the dean of students office was actively planning improvements to the dining program, culminating in the opening of Stevenson Hall in 1989.

The correspondence, planning documents, meeting minutes, reports, facilities evaluations, cost projections, budgets, and floor plans in the records of the dean of students are rich in information on housing and dining facilities, and on the student union, at Oberlin College.

## **RECORDS OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS (Group 14)**

### **[31] Records of the Architectural Review Committee, 1986-1995, 0.5 l.f.**

#### *Administrative History*

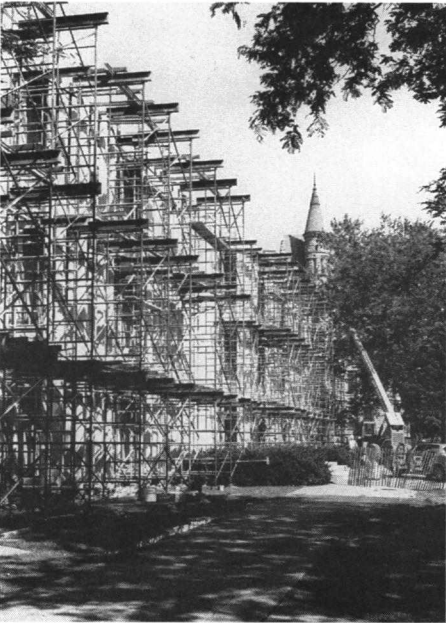
The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) is not an official committee of Oberlin College's General Faculty, but rather an informal advisory committee established by the 12th president. President S. Frederick Starr created an Architect Selection Committee in the fall of 1985 to assist in the planning for the North Campus dining & social facility (Stevenson Hall). In an August 19, 1986 memorandum to committee members, Starr requested that the group "continue to function informally as an architectural advisory group." He listed the following functions: "to review the programs for all major buildings on campus, to offer advice and comment regarding proposed architects, and to consult with architects regarding the basic conception of major building projects at Oberlin." He planned for the group, renamed the Architectural Review Committee, to work informally.

Starr's initial appointees include Paul Arnold '40, emeritus professor of art; Geoffrey Blodgett '53, professor of history; William Chiego, director of the Allen Memorial Art Museum; Michael Getter, director of the Physical Plant; Herbert W. Kaatz '58, trustee; Dayton Livingston, vice-president for business and finance; Joseph P. Metro, associate vice-president for operations; Eric Nord, trustee; and John Pearson, professor of art. Though a member himself, Starr seldom attended the committee meetings after 1989. President Nancy S.

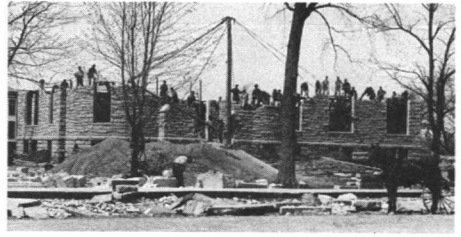
## CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION PROJECTS



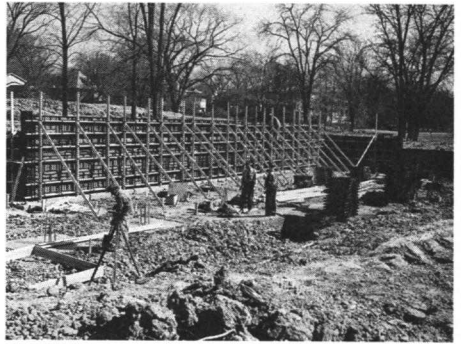
*Workmen from John W. Winterich Co. of Cleveland installing stained glass windows designed by Henry Lee Willett in chancel of Fairchild Chapel.  
1959*



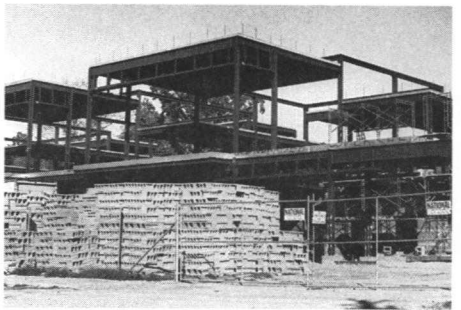
*King Building renovation, 1995  
During the summer, workers labor on scaffolding to reinforce the King Building's weakened spandrels.*



*Warner Hall, 1884  
Conservatory of Music  
ca. 1884*



*New Men's Dormitory, or Burton Hall,  
constructed in 1946*



*Stevenson Hall, constructed in 1989*



Dye continued the work of this group. Donna M. Raynsford, the new vice-president for operations, replaced Starr as chair of the ARC in 1989. Because the ARC is an unofficial committee, the Student Appointments Committee was unable to appoint students to it. In its first few years, some students sat on the committee to provide input, but without the right to vote. Students no longer serve on the ARC.

The ARC provides recommendations for almost any project that affects the aesthetics of Oberlin's built environment, including building renovations, paint colors, murals, memorial plaques, landscaping, windows, signage, kiosks, bulletin boards, benches, steps and entrances, parking lots, and student art projects. The committee works closely with the Oberlin College President, Board of Trustees, and the Facilities Planning and Construction Department of the Office of the Vice-President for Operations. The ARC has also been involved with projects in the town of Oberlin, most notably the design of Kendal at Oberlin, a retirement community.

### *Scope and Content*

The Architectural Review Committee records consist of seven files arranged chronologically. One file folder labeled "ARC History" contains items of special interest and dating from before 1989, such as copies of appointment letters to committee members. Other folders contain meeting documents (proposals, confirmation notices, minutes), correspondence, memoranda, cost estimates, budgets, invoices for food or equipment, and drawings. ARC activities documented include reviewing bids, estimates, and architects' proposals; approving plans and designs; endorsing further study; and making recommendations to the college administration. These records also reflect the ARC's interest in the small aesthetic details of Oberlin, from the awnings to be installed at the Oberlin Inn to the Warner Gymnasium window trim color.

The ARC's projects and considerations include the following:

1989: Harkness Bowl restoration, Kettering addition and parking lot, Bibbins Hall artwork, North Campus dining facility (including photo murals), Oberlin Inn renovation, K'ung Memorial, Herb Garden, campus sidewalk modifications, renovations of the South Hall dining facility, Oberlin Inn awnings, Kettering Neuroscience addition, Wilder Porch landscaping, Baldwin and Talcott landscaping, Oberlin Inn shade beds, Campus Landscaping Master Plan (proposed by Edward Thompson)

1990: Finney Chapel rose window project, Finney Chapel patio restoration, Finney Chapel balcony supports, Kettering garden, Conservatory of Music bench, Mudd Center roof dish antenna, Bosworth Portico/ Clyde Holbrook Memorial, Campus Landscaping Master Plan, Allen Memorial Art Museum landscaping, Heisman Field House, and Stevenson Hall

1991: signage and memorial plaques for Stevenson Hall, design consultation for Kendal at Oberlin project, Fairchild Chapel, Finney Chapel rose window, Oberlin Inn signage

1992: Oberlin Inn Club Room renovation, site selection for flower plantings, Wright Physics renovation

1993: selection of potential architectural engineers for renovation of portions of the Carnegie Building, Peters Hall, Rice, and King (soliciting proposals, interviewing firms, considering presentations, and final recommendation); Hall Auditorium interior color changes and ramp modification to entry steps, replacement of concrete steps at south entrance to Rice Hall, Peter Pindar Pease Memorial, Green Circle plantings, John Frederick Oberlin Monument

1994: John Frederick Oberlin Monument, Kiosk student design competition, review design issues on Peters renovation, Rice steps design, Warner Gymnasium window trim color, Wilder sidewalks, President's bulletin board (Director of Communications Al Moran and K. Scott Alberts '95 designed the bulletin board in order to create a forum for students wanting to speak their minds to President Nancy S. Dye).

1995: Kettering breezeway mural, Wilder Hall East Patio concept, Memorial Arch Chinese Plaques, review of student art projects, Tappan Square benches, Rice Hall sidewalk, Ruth Robbins Kiosk, Wright landscaping, Third Federal Savings addition to Inn stores, "Nuts and Bolts" kiosk

## **[32] Records of the John Frederick Oberlin Monument, 1991-1995, 0.2 l.f.**

### *Historical Note*

Erecting a John Frederick Oberlin Monument on the campus in 1995 involved a confluence of several administrative, financial, and creative forces. In the mid-1980s, alumnus Robert S. Hunt (1917-1990, A.B. 1939; A.M. in History, Harvard University, 1940; J.D., Yale University, 1947) expressed interest in honoring the namesake of the city and the college of Oberlin after visiting Oberlin's church and home in Alsace, France. This Chicago attorney, emeritus professor of the University of Washington School of Law, and active donor to his alma mater began raising funds for the J.F. Oberlin Monument. When Hunt died, his friends wanted to see the project to completion.

Beginning in 1993, the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) comprised of Oberlin College faculty, staff, and trustees became involved in the project to build a monument to its namesake. Paul B. Arnold '40, George R. Bent II '52, Geoffrey Blodgett '53, Dewey Ganzel, Herbert W. Kaatz '58, Anne Moore, John Pearson, Donna Raynsford, Robert Scheren, and S. Frederick Starr served on the ARC. This committee works in conjunction with the Facilities Planning & Construction Department, which is administered by the vice-president for operations. In addition to overseeing a number of departments, this division is operationally responsible for Oberlin College campus' 32 academic support buildings, 19 residence halls, athletic fields, an arboretum, the Oberlin Inn, and a number of lesser buildings on the core campus of 440 acres.

President S. Frederick Starr intended the monument to the school's namesake, an effort to keep Oberlin from becoming a forgotten figure, to be dedicated at the 20th anniversary meeting of the John Frederick Oberlin Society. This organization, the first gift club in the history of Oberlin College, first met January 18, 1974. It is designed to encourage major gifts, preferably unrestricted, for the college's current operations. With the J.F. Oberlin Monument project still in its planning stage, the site was dedicated without a monument at the John Frederick Oberlin Society's meeting of May 6, 1994.

The ARC had several considerations to discuss at its eight meetings about the J.F. Oberlin Monument: cost, design, choice of a site, wording of the inscription, and the form of Oberlin's name (French, German, or Anglicized). One of the two original components of the memorial structure, a steel profile of Oberlin designed by Professor of Art John Pearson at approximately 9' x 10' in dimension, was eliminated due to overall cost. The other component—a burgundy granite, rectangular-shaped monument bearing an adaptation of an illusory design used by Oberlin for counseling and an inscription—was ultimately chosen. Designed by Emeritus Professor of Fine Arts Paul B. Arnold, the monument was built at a cost of about \$25,000.

Some controversy surrounded the commission of two employees of Oberlin College as designers of the monument. Oberlin College art and art history professors charged President Starr with impropriety and secrecy, especially since both Pearson and Arnold served on the ARC. Alumni and faculty became involved in still another debate over the form of Oberlin's name to be inscribed on the monument. Oberlin was born in the Alsace region of France, an area that was claimed by both France and Germany, thus making unclear whether his name should read "Johann Friedrich" (German form), "Jean-Frederic" (French form), or "John Frederick" (Anglicized form). In the end, proponents of "John Frederick Oberlin" prevailed.

After controversy and delays, the J.F. Oberlin Monument was placed at the southeast corner of Wilder Hall with little fanfare in May, 1995. The final design bears the name John Frederick Oberlin (1740-1825) in gold-leaf lettering and an illusory bird/ flower design. Its inscription reads: "Oberlin, pastor of Waldersbach in Alsace, France, for whom Oberlin College was named, used the original of the optical curiosity above for pastoral counseling. His simple message - that people of diverse perspectives can live in friendship with one another - lies at the heart of the aspirations of this college." It also bears the lines "erected 1994" and "Friends of Robert S. Hunt, '39."

### *Scope and Content*

This file, at this writing still in the vice-president for operations' office, contains full documentation tracing the creation, construction, and several controversies surrounding the placement of a John Frederick Oberlin Monument on the campus of Oberlin College. Included are drawings, memoranda, cost estimates, meeting minutes and confirmation notices, correspondence, articles, and copies of the monument's inscription. Of interest are letters from Claudette Hunt, widow of Robert S. Hunt, and from the monument's designer Paul B. Arnold. The progress and decisions made by the Architectural Review Committee are reported in its meetings' minutes. Articles from the *Oberlin Review*, the *Oberlin College Observer*, and even a clipping from the *New York Times* cover the finalization of plans and ultimately, the monument's placement near Wilder Hall. Lastly, the researcher will find cursory coverage on the John Frederick Oberlin Society itself, as well as on the disagreements and controversies surrounding the project to erect a monument to Oberlin College's namesake.

## **[33] Microfilm Index of Documents: Buildings and Other Construction Projects of Oberlin College, 1982 (revision), 0.2 l.f.**

### *Historical Note*

Compiled by Steven Landau '82 in 1980 (revised 1982), the 102-page "Microfilm Index of Documents for Buildings and Other Construction Projects of Oberlin College" provides intellectual access to the drawings of campus and other College-owned buildings. Landau was an Oberlin College student when he compiled this index for the Department of Buildings and Grounds. A second set of the microfilm and accompanying index is in the possession of the Facilities Planning and Construction Office.

### *Scope and Content*

This comprehensive volume contains an "index of specifications," a list of "contents," "construction office field sketches," and individual entries. In the latter each architectural

rendering is numbered and identified by name, and is organized alphabetically by building, accompanied by the name of the architect. Listings for each building include the architectural, structural, mechanical, and electrical drawings, summarized by the total number of pages (drawings) for that structure. Of special note are the 22 site maps (linen plats), totaling 27 pages, on 35 mm microfilm. The aperture cards and microfiche jackets, which document more than 3,300 architectural plans of buildings and other construction projects at Oberlin College, duplicate but also supplement the original materials reported in subgroup V of the records of the vice-president of business and finance (entry 22).

### **[34] Facilities Planning and Construction Office Files, Special Note, ca. 1886-1995, 350 l.f.**

#### *Administrative History*

The Facilities Planning and Construction Office, administratively a unit of the Operations Division, is located in the Service Building, 173 W. Lorain St., with the physical plant and human resources offices. The "Microfilm Index of Documents for Buildings and Other Construction Projects of Oberlin College" compiled by Steven Landau '82 for the Department of Buildings and Grounds provides a record of the holdings of the Facilities Planning and Construction Office up to 1982. Since that date, no additional microfilming of construction project documents has occurred. Consequently, this office remains the primary source for all construction projects—new, or renovations—between the years of 1982 and 1995.

#### *Scope and Content*

The Facilities Planning and Construction Office maintains records of all changes to the built environment of Oberlin College, including new construction, renovation, and basic maintenance. Records include both project files and flat files with blueprints.

Presently, the Facilities Planning and Construction Office maintains 125 drawers, or approximately 250 l.f. of project files. While these drawers are labeled, the file units are project rather than building-oriented; as a result, the researcher seeking information on a particular building must be persistent in finding all applicable records.

Blueprints—in mylar, vellum, and xeroxed formats—are stored in almost 100 flat-file cases. Included are reproductions and originals of site maps, field sketches, as-built drawings, shop drawings, and site plans for the Oberlin College buildings and grounds.

This office inherited the "Drawing Files, Miscellaneous (Archives)," 1984-1989, of Grounds Manager Edward Thompson. Most of these landscape architecture-based records are in machine-readable form and need to be read on Computer Assisted Design.

#### *Restrictions*

These records are presently restricted. Permission of the Facilities Planning and Construction Office is required. Access to these records is also by appointment only.

## RECORDS OF THE OBERLIN SHANSI MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION (Group 15)

[35] Records of the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association, 1890-1991, 45 lf.

### *Historical Note*

The Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association (OSMA), founded in 1908, is a private foundation housed on the Oberlin College campus. It is governed by a board of trustees, administered by an executive director, and has a student committee. OSMA's purpose is to foster international respect and understanding through educational exchange with Asia.

### *Scope and Content*

The architectural records of the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association contain a collection of blueprints, drawings, and rubbings of both the school and mission compound at Taiku and Fen Chow-fu, Tunghai University, and the proposed Shansi building that was to be built on the Oberlin campus. There are four architectural records for the Fen Chow-fu Mission compound, ranging in size from 22" x 16 3/4" to 44" x 16 1/2" and including an undated sketch on tissue paper; a sketch of the West City Wall on tissue paper, dated July 1, 1910; an undated layout of the grounds showing City Walls; and another undated layout plan showing the West City Walls. The four architectural records for the Taiku campus range from 8 1/2" x 20" to 20" x 28" and include a positive photostat of the general plans designed by architect Henry Killam Murphy, October 8, 1929; four copies of rubbings of revised general plans also by Murphy and dated March 21, 1931; the blueprint of the proposed Hawley Administration Building, designed by architect J. Van Wie Bergamini, October 27, 1917; and two tissue paper sketches of the compound, one undated and the

other ca. 1910. The architectural plans for a student union at Tunghai University, Taiwan, were designed by architects at the firm I.M. Pei and Associates, July 10, 1958. Also included in the Shansi Memorial architectural records is an elevation plan for the proposed Shansi Building at Oberlin done by Murphy in December, 1930. Important related materials are to be found in the President Ernest H. Wilkins papers, box 109, in folder labeled, "Chinese Building"; the Autograph File, folder 2 for a sketch of the floor plan for proposed Shansi Building; and a Spring, 1991 *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* article on the Shansi Memorial Association and the Memorial Arch.



*"Neath the Arch": 1908, Hi-O-Hi, page 141*

## RECORDS OF THE OBERLIN COLLEGE LIBRARY (Group 16)

### [36] Records of the Oberlin College Library, 1815-1995, 67.9 l.f.

#### *Administrative History*

Since its establishment in 1833, the College Library has operated from several different buildings. The first room for book storage was located in Oberlin Hall. From 1855 to 1867, a room in the old chapel on the southwest corner of Tappan Square, served the same purpose. During this period, with an ever-growing collection of books and increased student use—as reflected in the development of separate libraries by campus literary societies—the College sought more space for its holdings. In 1868, with the erection of Society Hall, space was provided on the upper floor for both college and literary society libraries. Spear Library-Laboratory was built in 1884-1885. Designed by Akron architects Weary and Kramer, the three-story gothic structure measured 70' x 70' and was situated on Tappan Square. It also housed the Departments of Natural History and Biology. It was razed in the fall of 1927 under terms of the will of Charles Martin Hall, which stipulated that the square be cleared of buildings as a provision for the school to receive his substantial bequeath.

During the tenure of Azariah Smith Root, the College's first professional librarian, library holdings and facilities saw dramatic growth and expansion. Under Root's four decades of directorship, library holdings increased from about 14,000 books and pamphlets in 1887 to over 500,000 items in 1927. In addition, Root increased library hours and established new rules for lending to students to increase academic and scholarly use. By 1923, more than 1,000 patrons used the library each day.

Perhaps Root's most substantial accomplishment was in the planning, fund-raising, and supervision of the construction of Carnegie Library from 1905 to 1908. Root campaigned, as early as 1903, for a new library building. He developed his own program for the structure's design and use (an unprecedented initiative for a librarian of his era), and he offered to provide public library services to the Oberlin community. Funding for the library totaling \$125,000 came through from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in 1906, with the stipulation that Oberlin provide an additional \$100,000. The college hired Normand Patton (1852-1915) of the Chicago firm Patton and Miller as the architect for the new library. Patton, also credited with the design for Warner Gymnasium, worked closely with Root, whose main priorities were that the structure be fireproof and designed for "economy of administration," with "suitable light and ventilation." Dedicated in June, 1908, the Carnegie Library was constructed of Amherst sandstone, facing Tappan Square from the north. The four-story structure housed classrooms and work rooms on the first floor, while the second floor contained staff offices, work rooms, and a large 132' x 48' reading room extending across the entire front of the building. The third and fourth floors housed seminar rooms, while each floor had stack floors adjoined on the east side of the building. In 1940-1941, the College erected a \$250,000 addition, designed by Oberlin College Superintendent of Construction Robert R. Cutler, with input from Library Director Julian Fowler. In 1947, the Oberlin Public Library, previously staffed by college employees for the community's use, officially incorporated and was operated jointly by the city and by Oberlin College until 1977. After the College Library's move to the Mudd Center in 1974, Carnegie began to house several college administrative offices. Carnegie remained the site of the Oberlin Public Library until 1990.

Eileen Thornton (b. 1909), who succeeded Fowler as college librarian in 1956, continued the development of the library's collection, improved library services, and established

several branch libraries. Included among the latter are the Science Library in Kettering Hall (1961), and a separate College Archives in Bosworth Hall. Officially named the Class of 1904 Science Library, this branch brought together collections from the Botany, Chemistry, and Zoology laboratories, and select items from the Carnegie Library. The Science Library occupies the east wing of Kettering Hall and is managed by a departmental librarian.

Thornton's most significant achievement, however, was her support and advocacy of a new multi-resource library which culminated in the erection of the Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center on the west edge of Wilder Bowl from 1971 to 1974. Backed by consultant Ralph E. Ellsworth's report on the deficiencies of Carnegie and the modern library's need for utilization of non-print, electronic, and multi-media resources, Thornton won tentative approval from the board of trustees in 1967. In 1970, a \$2.75 million grant from the Seeley G. Mudd Foundation of Los Angeles, California, assured project funding. The New York architectural firm of Warner, Burns, Toan, and Lundy, engaged as early as 1965 for design proposals, was commissioned as project architects. The Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center, dedicated in May, 1974, and costing over \$10 million, provided nearly 140,000 square feet of usage space on five levels and a capacity for almost 700,000 books and assorted periodicals, non-print media, special collections, and a computing center. In 1989, Librarian William A. Moffet changed its official name to the Mudd Center.

After 1974, construction of new library facilities was limited. A \$1.6 million, 10,000 square foot addition to the Conservatory of Music Library, designed by architect Gunnar Birkerts, was dedicated in September, 1988. Renovations on Carnegie Library continued into the 1990s. As of 1995, the Oberlin College Library held 1,873,697 books, periodicals, microfilm reels, sound recordings, and other assorted media and documents.

### *Scope and Content*

Arranged around six subgroups and spanning the period 1815 to 1995, the Library's records document the on-going management and collection of information resources for faculty, student, and community use, as well as the erection and expansion of physical facilities to house them. Included among these materials are architectural records relating to the issues of initial conception, design, construction, and expansion of Oberlin's library facilities. This group documents the evolution and history of the major library construction projects: Carnegie Library (1908), its 1940 addition, and the Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center (1974). Architectural materials are located primarily in Subgroup III "Building Files, Construction and Architecture." The files of the Science Library in Kettering Hall, dating from 1958 to 1988, appear in Subgroup II "Library Departments and Programs." In addition, informative histories of the various phases of administration and facilities of the Oberlin College Library and Oberlin Public Library are filed in Subgroup V "Historical Files."

Records of architectural significance in Subgroup III "Building Files, Construction and Architecture," are held in Series 1 "Carnegie Library" (1.0 l.f.), and Series 2 "Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center" (6.25 l.f.). Arranged by subject, records pertaining to Carnegie Library span the years 1905 to 1990. They document the 1906-1908 erection of the Normand Patton-designed structure, the 1940 addition and related renovations to Carnegie, and subsequent building use, space, security, storage, maintenance, and long-range planning issues, mostly from the period 1964 to 1989. Included are some professional and administrative correspondence of Library Director Azariah S. Root, 1887-1927, most notably Root's unprecedented planning program for Carnegie, ca. 1905, and his many studies and analyses of the structure's space, usage, and maintenance needs, 1907-1913. The bulk of Root's correspondence with architect Patton relating to architectural issues is held with Root's papers (see entry 64).

Further records relative to Carnegie Library document the growth of the College Library as an institution in need of new space and restoration of facilities. The later Carnegie materials cover pre- and post-1940 addition and renovation planning, design, construction, and maintenance issues, 1930-1941 and 1964-1989. Documents include correspondence with consulting architects like Richard Kimball, 1938-1939; planning documents; funding proposals; and news clippings; and architectural drawings (blue-line prints) in the form of floor plans emanating from on-going renovation studies for both the Oberlin College Library and the Oberlin Public Library, 1940, 1954, 1973, and 1984. Of particular interest among these documents are records pertaining to the transfer of the administrative functions and book collections of the College Library to the Mudd Center. Subsequent College facility use of Carnegie, and issues related to the housing of the Oberlin Public Library within Carnegie Library, are also detailed.

Series 2 of subgroup 3 contains documentation on the "Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center/Mudd Center," which was built "to provide an efficient and flexible home for the general learning resources of the Oberlin campus." Spanning the period 1956 to 1990, it holds extensive materials that document early planning, program phase development, design, construction, and equipping of the Mudd Center, as well as its continued administration and maintenance. Arranged alphabetically by subject, the 15 boxes of records in this series include site maps, surveys, working drawings (mostly blue-line prints) and 8" x 10" glosses of floor plans, elevations, section details, and ca. 50 artistic renderings (both in color and black and white) of Mudd's facilities. These renderings include each level of the structure and specific library departments such as circulation, reserve, the staff lounge, scholar studies, and Mudd's exterior design. These records, though sometimes held under specific subject headings, are also duplicated and intermingled throughout the series. Other documents are similarly arranged: the correspondence and planning documents emanating from the office of Library Director Eileen Thornton, 1956-1971, and materials related to the New York firm of Warner, Burns, Toan and Lundy (WBTL), whose architects designed Mudd Center. WBTL documents include correspondence, 1966-1974; project bulletins; a 1600-page project manual and subsequent addenda; specifications; meeting minutes about ten working drawings (blue-line prints) of project revisions, 1973-1974; and other miscellaneous materials, 1965-1975. Other documents of interest include a chronology of library planning, 1971; various feasibility analyses, 1965-1971; itemized budgets and consultant reports, 1963-1971; computer center use and design considerations, 1966-1978; 23 glosses of landscaping surveys and site details, n.d.; and proposals for project funding from the Seeley G. Mudd Foundation of Los Angeles, California, 1970-1973. Also included are campus location and construction debates among student, faculty, and trustee committees.

The records of the Science Library in Kettering Hall, which was dedicated in 1961, date between 1958 and 1988. Planning documents, in the form of memoranda between College Librarian Eileen Thornton and President William E. Stevenson, Business Manager Lewis R. Tower, and various science department professors, discuss the needs, goals, and resources envisioned for the construction of the new Science Library. Before the The Austin Company drafted architectural and mechanical drawings, Thornton identified space needs for books and periodicals, reader stations, halls, stairwells, restrooms, entrances, growth of the collection, shelving sizes, lighting, and heating and ventilation systems. Thornton also corresponded with College Trustee Frank Van Cleef and with Ernest B. Chamberlain, both of the Class of 1904. Their class contributed funds for the Science Library. Among the records included here are drawings and floorplans of the library, photographs from the dedication, and copies of the dedication speeches. Although reports, memoranda, and meeting minutes from the years



of the library's operation after 1962 are contained in these files, they focus less on physical facilities as such.

Manuscript materials of peripheral interest are held in the five series of Subgroup V "Historical Files," including written historical studies of Oberlin College Library and the Oberlin Public Library's institutional histories, artifacts, news clippings from 1938 to 1987, and a limited assortment of photographs. Series 3 "Autograph File" contains letters by Oberlin personalities and well-known figures, arranged alphabetically. In-house indexes of these letters are available, enabling the researcher to search chronological and alphabetical lists for references to Oberlin's built environment.

Architectural materials which document erection and renovation of the Conservatory of Music Library, spanning the period 1956-1989, are held in subgroup II, series 1, Subseries 6 "Conservatory Library." The 38 folders consist mostly of planning documents; correspondence with architects Minoru Yamasaki, 1956-1979, and Gunnar Birkerts, 1985-1989; and oversized photographs, 1987-1988, of the renovation/addition project.

A list of the architectural drawings of Carnegie Library and the Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center (now Mudd Center) appears on a separate inventory.

## **RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS (Group 18)**

### **[37] Records of the Office of Communications, 1923-1992, 79 l.f.**

#### *Administrative History*

The records of the Office of Communications and its predecessor bodies cover a wide range of events and topics relating to Oberlin College and community. During the 19th century, Oberlin made sporadic attempts to provide coverage of college events to area newspapers. It was not until 1908 that these efforts were consolidated through the formation of the Faculty Committee on Newspaper Correspondence, renamed the News Bureau Committee in 1914. The board of trustees created a Publicity Bureau in 1928. In 1930 the first full-time assistant was assigned to the News Bureau, and in 1936, Allen Bailey '36 was named as secretary of the Publicity Bureau. He served in this position until 1942. With help from student assistants sponsored by the Works Progress Administration and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, during the 1930s, Bailey developed and organized clipping and photograph files for the bureau. As the Publicity Office continued to expand in size and activity, it was reorganized as its own administrative entity, the Public Relations Office, in 1952. From this point on, the department assumed a larger role in the preparation and production of college publications. During the 1970s, the office focused on Oberlin's need to attract undergraduates through the dissemination of its published materials. In 1983, the college communications and public relations entities were consolidated as the Office of Communications that reported to the Office of the Secretary. The program occupied a house at 153 W. Lorain St. In 1995, the Office of Communications managed the college news service and college relations offices, and also housed the program units for graphic design, the college photographer, the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, and the *Observer*. The director reported to the vice-president of development and alumni affairs.

#### *Scope and Content*

The records of the Office of Communications, existing in both textual and non-textual formats, document the life of Oberlin College from 1923 to the present. Items of architec-

tural substance in this record group are held almost exclusively in Subgroup I "Textual Files." Architectural records are retained primarily in the alphabetically-arranged Series 5 "Subject Files" and grouped within the Buildings & Grounds/Development files, although a limited number of architectural materials are also held in Series 9 "Publicity Files." The bulk of these combined records, 1932-1964, consists of scattered planning documents, specifications, work orders, building use proposals, photostats of architectural drawings, floor plans, and historical materials (such as news clippings and official press releases) as related to specific Oberlin structures. Notable among these items are textual descriptions of construction and renovations to some of Oberlin's more celebrated 20th-century building projects, such as the Allen Memorial Art Museum, 1938-1961; Hales Gymnasium, 1937-1957; Wright Laboratory of Physics, 1941-1949; and the Kettering Hall of Science, 1955-1962. In addition, there are promotional documents such as dedication booklets, manuscripts of dedication remarks, national newspaper and magazine clippings, and biographical materials relative to a structure's architect, including Wallace K. Harrison, designer of Hall Auditorium, 1953, and Minoru Yamasaki, the designer of Warner Concert Hall, 1963, and of the Conservatory of Music, 1964.

Smaller construction projects, such as the John Herbert Nichols Gateway, 1952-1956, and old Barrows Hall, 1954-1963, are also found in subgroup I. Most significant among the printed materials are a definitive, though not exhaustive, "Summary of Campus Architectural Styles," n.d., by Charles Parkhurst and a collection of news clippings relative to the funding of Oberlin building projects.

Subgroup II of this record group consists of non-textual media such as audio recordings and photographic slides. Series 1 holds audio tapes of dedication speeches, including orations by architects, college officials, and distinguished guests. Recordings include dedication programs for the Kettering Hall of Science in 1961, Warner Concert Hall in 1963, the Conservatory of Music in 1964, the King Building in 1966, Philips Gymnasium in 1971, the Robert K. Carr Pool in Philips Gymnasium in 1972, the Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center in 1974, and the Venturi addition to the Allen Memorial Art Museum in 1977. Series 2 consists of photographic slides of a limited number of campus structures and areas, including the Allen Memorial Art Museum, academic buildings, the Oberlin Arboretum, the Memorial Arch, Tappan Square, the town of Oberlin, and Wilder Hall/Wilder Bowl.

## **RECORDS OF STUDENT LIFE (Group 19)**

### **Records of Student Life, 1889-1994, 30 l.f.**

#### *Administrative Note*

The Student Life records form an artificial record group containing documentation relating to many aspects of campus student life. Included in this group are records of student publications, student organizations and committees, honorary societies, the Mock Convention, the radio station (WOBC), student scrapbooks and diaries, and student papers. The most pertinent information relating to the built environment and student life is located in series titled "Residences" and "Student Papers," respectively. Pictures of these residences and other campus and town buildings are found as illustrations in the *Hi-O-Hi*, the Oberlin College yearbook.

### **[38] The Hi-O-Hi, 1889-1994**

Oberlin College yearbooks at the archives date from 1889 to 1994. The earliest editions of the *Hi-O-Hi* contain drawings of buildings' interiors and exteriors. Of course, later yearbooks have a smattering of photographs of local architecture, administration and other campus buildings, boarding houses, and dormitories throughout their pages. The 1920 volume, for example, includes 17 consecutive pages of "Campus Scenes." The 1940 edition has aerial views of Oberlin at both the front and the back. Drawn maps of "Women's Campus" and "Men's Campus" appear in the 1952 *Hi-O-Hi*. Finally, the 1993 yearbook includes a wry, two-page spread "If you could be a building in Oberlin, what would you be?" with photographs and students' responses.

### **[39] Records of Residences, 1890-1939**

This record group contains documentation on student residences, including information on student life within various college dormitories and private boarding houses from the 1890s to the 1930s. Baldwin Cottage, Dascomb Cottage, Delta Lodge, Keep Cottage, Klinefelter's boarding house, Lord Cottage, Second Ladies Hall, and Talcott Hall are all represented. Documents include expense ledgers, resident lists, memos on student life and behavior, party invitations and programs, newsletters, and house scrapbooks.

### **[40] Scrapbooks and Diaries, 1839-1989**

Of approximately 100 scrapbooks and diaries in this record group, more than 30 provide a useful supplement to the photograph collection by predating the employment of the first college photographer hired in 1917. The scrapbooks contain programs, photographs, postcards, clippings, and other memorabilia relating to athletic events, the campus, commencement, concerts, and student life. Chronicling the creator's years as a student, they also provide unique early images of the Oberlin built environment. For example, the Class of 1910 scrapbook holds a photograph of E. College and Main Sts. in 1909, and other images of the cornerstone laying for either Wilder or Rice Hall. Many scrapbooks exist outside this record group—especially with personal papers—where they remain an integral part of those collections.

### **[41] Student Papers, 1969-1994**

Over the years students' classroom papers, covering a variety of topics in Oberlin architecture, were collected by the College Archives. From 1969 to 1994, students wrote papers on Barrows House, Carnegie Library, the Jewett House (73 S. Professor St.), the Oberlin Arboretum, the Oberlin Post Office, Peters Hall, Second Ladies Hall, Tappan Square, and the Warner Gymnasium. Issues of historic preservation, landscape architecture and campus design, the Co-op system, community and college building projects, and the residences of women were also researched. For example, Steven McQuillin wrote "An Architectural Analysis of Peters Hall and Proposals for Future Use" in 1974; and Fay Anne Beilis wrote a 1995 seminar paper titled "The Pre-Preservation History of Oberlin College: A Glimpse at Why There Are so Few 19th Century Buildings on Campus." The nearly 100 papers in this series, however, do not represent all of those produced at Oberlin College.

## RECORDS OF THE OBERLIN FILE (Group 21)

### [42] Records of the Oberlin File, 1823-1995, 8.2 l.f.

#### *Historical Note*

The Oberlin File consists of historical material received piecemeal and from sources that do not fit into existing groups. The contents of these files lack organic relationships except in the broadest sense, and they run the gamut from manuscripts to printed or otherwise duplicated materials. Included are letters, essays, poetry, notes, memoranda, legal documents, articles, speeches, clippings, tracts, reports, and drawings.

#### *Scope and Content Note*

The Oberlin File is a disparate collection whose contents include genealogical records and family histories, letters, lectures and addresses, miscellany, newspapers and periodicals, deeds and other legal documents, writings by Oberlinians, and writings about Oberlin. For example, an 1834 field survey of Oberlin is located with the deeds and other legal and historical documents. Writings by Oberlinians include *The Swamp That Was Different: A Brief History of Oberlin Land-Use* (1985) and "Talcott Attic History" (1991). Writings about Oberlin include "A Patchwork Guide to Oberlin: The Oberlin Quilt" (1976) and "A 'Spacious, Commodious and Comfortable Place to Speak': Charles G. Finney's Revolution in Church Architecture" (1994). The researcher seeking information on Oberlin's built environment is advised to view the full alphabetical listing of items in this group of Oberliniana because these files contain references to land deeds, buildings, and so forth. An in-house index is available.

## RECORDS OF THE OBERLIN KINDERGARTEN-PRIMARY TRAINING SCHOOL (Group 24)

### [43] Records of the Oberlin Kindergarten-Primary Training School, 1894-1933, 5.8 l.f.

#### *Administrative History*

The Oberlin Kindergarten Training School (OKTS) was founded in 1894 for the purpose of instructing young women to teach kindergarten according to the methods of German educator Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852). The Oberlin Kindergarten Association, a group of 13 women, developed plans for the school, drew up a constitution, hired the first teacher, and organized several free kindergartens in Oberlin Village where OKTS students could fulfill practice teaching requirements. Over a 39 year period, the school had three principals: Belle Goodman (1894-1895), Bertha Emeline Montgomery (1895-1915), and Clara May (1915-1932). Under May's leadership, the school acquired five dormitory buildings, increased its enrollment, and placed its graduates in kindergartens throughout the world. In 1916, the introduction of the novel Montessori method by Clara May at the Centennial Kindergarten in Oberlin led to curricular additions in primary education; the name of the school was changed to the Oberlin Kindergarten-Primary Training School in 1927. In 1932, the school's two-year course of instruction came into conflict with a new state law mandating four years of preparation for teachers. Since the school could not afford to

comply with the law, it ceased to operate independently and merged with the Department of Education of Oberlin College. At that date, the College acquired training school property, including the Metcalf house and the "Orchard Laboratory," both at 128 Forest St.; the Goodrich house, 125 Elm St.; the Burroughs house, 117 Elm St.; May Cottage, 108 Elm St.; the Squire house, 100 Elm St.; and Webster Hall, 51 S. Professor St. According to an *Observer* article [December 11, 1980, p. 3], Oberlin College desperately needed these properties to house its women students.

### *Scope and Content*

Series I "Operating Records" contains the administrative files and financial records of the OKTS, 1894-1933. Included are the minutes of staff and board of trustees meetings, correspondence, and annual reports. The treasurer's correspondence discusses the 1920 purchase of the Carpenter House and Wright Inn, 145 Elm St., to board students, and the funds needed to repair the Centennial Building. The board minutes, 1929-1933, mark the discontinuance of kindergarten at the Pleasant Street School in 1930, and the closing of Webster Hall dormitory in 1931; they also provide information on the Building Fund. More complete documentation of the Centennial Building Fund Drive, 1914-1932, are with the financial records of series I. These papers describe the building and grounds of the newly-purchased Goodrich property, 125 Elm St., the funds required to establish a permanent home for the school, and the 1932 merger with Oberlin College. Two blueprints, 1926, are also included.

## **PAPERS OF OTHER INDIVIDUALS (Group 30)**

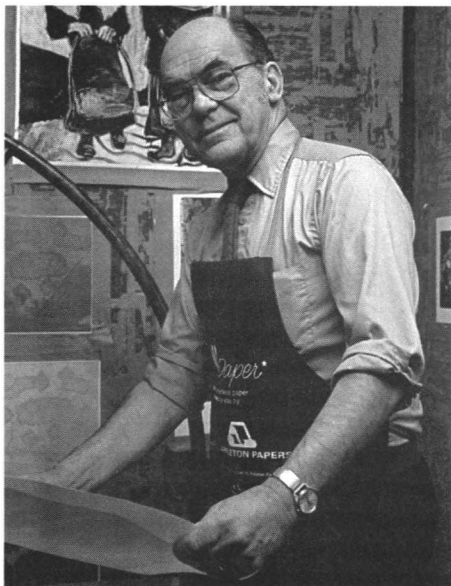
### **[44] Papers of Paul B. Arnold, 1985-1987, 0.1 l.f.**

#### *Biographical Note*

Emeritus professor of art and artist Paul B. Arnold (b. 1918, A.B. 1940, M.A. 1941) was born and raised in China. He received a second advanced degree, an M.F.A., from the University of Minnesota in 1955. At Oberlin, Arnold was a Fine Arts instructor and professor between 1941 and 1985; he served as acting chairman of the Department of Art, 1967-1968, and as chairman, 1970-1979. His years of teaching were interrupted by service in the U.S. Army between 1942 and 1946.

Although his specialty is in the art of Japanese woodcut printing, Arnold's artistic and civic work have contributed to the built environment of the City of Oberlin. He received two public commissions, and he executed two mural designs in Oberlin. These projects include the design and execution of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Monument, Martin Luther King, Jr., Park in 1987; the design and supervision of the Wellington Rescue Monument, Martin Luther King, Jr., Park in 1990; and murals in the Administration Building, Gilford Instrument Laboratories in 1971, and the Student Union in 1973. More recently, Arnold designed the John Frederick Oberlin Monument, installed southeast of Wilder Hall in May of 1995. The Oberlin monument stands over seven feet, and is made of burgundy granite with a 14-inch-square adaptation of an illusory design, used by Oberlin for counseling purposes, engraved on black African marble. President S. Frederick Starr's Architectural Review Committee, of which Arnold was a member, met several times to discuss the design and location of the monument. Arnold's service extended to the City of Oberlin Zoning Board of Appeals, 1955-1957; City of Oberlin Planning Commission, 1955-1963, Vice Chairman, 1959, 1968, and Chairman, 1960-1961, 1963-1965; and the Oberlin City Council, 1968-1969.

## ARTIST CONTRIBUTES TO LOCAL ARCHITECTURE



*Paul Arnold, Emeritus Professor of Art  
ca. 1980s*



*Oberlin Wellington Rescue Monument  
Designed by Paul Arnold, 1990*



*John Frederick Oberlin Monument (Mock-up)  
Designed by Paul Arnold, 1994*



*Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Monument  
Designed by Paul Arnold, 1987*

### *Scope and Content*

The Paul B. Arnold papers contain several files concerning the Martin Luther King, Jr., monument and park. Correspondence, memoranda, and Oberlin City Council meeting minutes recommend plans to improve the East Vine Street Park and rename it the Martin Luther King, Jr., Park. These improvements ultimately entailed removing a deteriorated spiral-shaped sculpture and re-erecting it on a new site, erecting the brick memorial designed by Arnold, constructing the Memorial Terrace, constructing the interior walk, and planting trees and plants. Color photographs within the Arnold papers document the construction of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Monument. Development plans, drawings, and cost estimates appear in these files.

While the records associated with the Martin Luther King, Jr., Park are more exhaustive, the Oberlin College Archives holds other items documenting Paul Arnold's designs. Arnold's drawing of the 1937 Coeducation Centennial Memorial Gateway commemorating the entrance of women into college education graces the cover of the repository's "Women's History Guide." A sketch and photographs of the Wellington Rescue monument appear in RG 32 "Photographs." The archives also holds a triangular-shaped model of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Monument (measuring 17" by 6" x 5" x 5").

## **[45] Papers of Frederick B. Artz, 1894-1983, 2.4 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Frederick Binkerd Artz (1894-1983, A.B. 1916) was an Oberlin College professor of history. After joining the U.S. Army Ambulance Camp in 1917, he served in France until the end of World War I. Thereafter, he enrolled at the University of Toulouse where he studied until 1919. Returning to the United States, Artz earned his graduate degrees in history at Harvard University (M.A. 1920, Ph.D. 1924). He taught courses in European intellectual history at Oberlin College for 37 years, from 1924 to 1961. In 1936, Artz was named full professor, and he served as chairman of the Department of History from 1949 to 1957.

During his years at Oberlin, Artz is believed to have taught over 7,500 Oberlin students, approximately 85 of whom went on to earn graduate degrees in history. His impressive collection of 10,000 rare books, maps, and manuscripts, donated to the Allen Memorial Art Museum and Oberlin College libraries on his death, was gathered largely during his travels abroad. Artz's donation of over 140 highly illustrated volumes on architecture and landscape gardening dating from the 16th through the 19th centuries is currently housed in the Special Collections of the Art and Main libraries. Throughout his distinguished career, Artz was active in the historical profession as a member of several professional societies, and he authored 11 books and numerous articles.

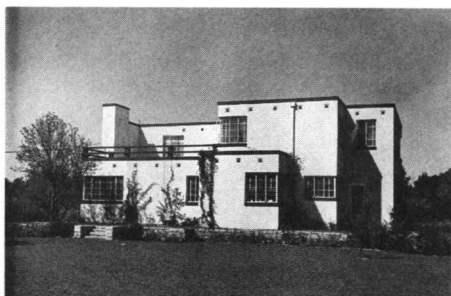
### *Scope and Content*

In 1940, Frederick B. Artz designed a spacious home at 157 N. Professor St. in which to display his library, antiques, and objets d'art. Photographs of this house are filed in series V of the Frederick B. Artz papers. These images are in both black and white and in color. Some photographs document the construction of the house, others show details of interiors. They are numerous, and date from 1940, 1960, 1963, and 1971.

## ARCHITECTURAL STYLES OF OBERLIN HOUSES



*Andrews House (1893)  
195 Forest St.  
Architect unknown  
Queen Anne style*



*Cerf House (1937)  
373 Edgemoor  
William Hoskins Brown, architect  
Modern International Style*



*Kinney House (1911)  
265 W. College St.  
J.L. Silsbee, architect  
Prairie School*



*President's House (1920)  
154 Forest St.  
Clarence Ward, architect  
Neo-Georgian*

### [46] Papers of Werner Hermann Bromund, 1875-1978, 0.4 l.f.

#### *Biographical Note*

Werner H. Bromund (b. 1909; S.B., University of Chicago, 1932; A.M., Oberlin College, 1935; Ph.D., New York University, 1942) taught in the Chemistry Department at Oberlin College from 1937 to 1975. During his long career in a distinguished academic department, Bromund contributed to institutional teaching, research, and service. His interest in the history of Oberlin's Chemistry Department led him to become a collector of publications and other memorabilia from several of his predecessors in the department.

#### *Scope and Content*

A single item in the collection of Bromund papers relates to the architecture of Oberlin, Ohio. George Feick & Co. submitted a bid to Frank F. Jewett for the Severance Chemical Laboratory. The original bid, dated July 19, 1899, is included in this collection.



## [47] Papers of William Hoskins Brown, 1932-1940, 0.2 l.f.

### *Biographical Note*

William Hoskins Brown (1910-1976) attended Oberlin College from 1927 to 1929. He received the B.Arch. in 1933 and the M.Arch. in 1942 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). From 1933 to 1940, he was an instructor in fine arts at Oberlin, specializing in watercolors and pencil sketches. In 1937, "Bill," as he was known to Oberlin students, married Josephine Liffing Peirce (d. 1975, A.M. 1935).

While a student at Oberlin, Brown developed his taste and skills for architecture. He collaborated with Professor Clarence Ward, serving as the designer and as the draftsman for the preliminary drawings for the new Women's Gymnasium (Hales Memorial Gymnasium for Women). While working for consulting architect Richard Kimball, he participated in the preliminary architectural, structural, and mechanical drawings for the physical education unit for women.

In 1937, Brown brought the "Modern" style of functional residential architecture to Oberlin. His style fostered "internal convenience" of family traffic patterns, airy ventilation, natural lighting, and domestic privacy over "external show." Brown was the architect for the residences of Professor Frederick B. Artz on 157 N. Professor St., Professor Raymond Cerf on 373 Edgemoor, William Seaman '24 on 158 S. Cedar St., Lysle K. Butler on 322 Morgan St., and Dr. Frank Vincent on 290 Morgan St. He also designed the "memorial wall" to veterans of the Civil and First World wars that is located in Wright Park at the corner of S. Main and Vine. He and his students painted murals in the old Varsity Restaurant, in the "Rec" Hall, and in the Art Building.

After Brown became a registered architect in 1938, he left Oberlin for MIT, where he taught from 1941 to 1976. A record of his architectural work in the Greater Boston Area is located at the Institute Archives of MIT.

Brown was a well-respected practicing and teaching architect. He was the recipient of the A.I.A. "Award of Merit" for the 100 Memorial Drive Apartments in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was the author of numerous articles in professional journals and books in the U.S. and abroad. Of special interest is the conference he conducted on "planning a modern residence," which was nationally broadcast and originated in the studios of WCLE in Cleveland. [Oberlin College Broadcast, Feb. 4, 1939, 5 pg.]

### *Scope and Content*

Consisting of nine folders, the records mainly represent Brown's working files for his practice in Ohio, 1938-1940. Included are project files for the residences of Frederick B. Artz in Oberlin, Clayton S. Ellsworth in Wooster, the First Congregational Church in Medina, and the Trinity Evangelical & Reformed Church in Wadsworth, Ohio. Files typically contain agreements, contracts, correspondence, instructions to bidders, invoices, proposals, and specification documents relating to architectural services rendered. Of some significance are Brown's oversized drawings for Oberlin residences, plus his plot plan for the northwest corner of S. Prospect and Morgan Sts. Two files are labeled "Miscellany," 1939 and n.d., and "Teaching Materials," 1939-1940 and n.d. Negative files of approximately 30 images exist for the Oberlin residences and Dairy Service Company, and the Wooster residence. Photographic prints of all sizes also exist for the above, plus the Allen Art Building (1937 addition), Gymnasium for Women, and other structures. Except for the Allen Art Building (1937 addition) photographs, no textual records exist for Brown's possible participation in the 1937 renovation. Several photos are of an art class taught by Instructor Brown, and others are not identified. These records were separated in 1982 from the Institute Archives of MIT.

## **[48] Papers of Lysle K. Butler, 1903-1973, 0.75 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Lysle K. Butler (1903-1973, A.B. 1925) received advanced degrees at Columbia University (A.M. 1928) and at The Ohio State University (Ph.D. 1947). He served on the physical education faculty at Oberlin College from 1930 to 1970. During those years, Butler was the football coach between 1930 and 1957, basketball coach for 11 years, tennis coach for 20 years, and the chairman of men's physical education between 1955 and 1969.

### *Scope and Content*

The Lysle K. Butler collection contains an accordion file marked "Gym Construction." The five folders within concern the construction of Philips Gymnasium, built in 1971. Relevant papers include essays on physical education at Oberlin; planning documents listing the goals, procedures, philosophies and principles, size and other requirements for indoor activity areas; enrollment figures for the college between 1960 and 1967; semester physical education schedules for students who had a two year requirement to receive an A.B. degree; floor plans of the building designed by Hugh Stubbins & Associates of Boston; correspondence with Jesse Philips (d. 1995, A.B. 1937), the one million dollar donor for whom the building was named; and news bulletins in Oberlin College publications like the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, April, 1970, which reported on the planned construction of the new building. These papers date from preplanning and planning activities in the 1960s to building construction in 1971.

## **[49] Papers of Jephtha J. Carrell, 1963-1994 (bulk 1983-1994), 4.5 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Jephtha J. Carrell (b. 1923) is a resident of Oberlin, Ohio, who has both worked and volunteered for several non-profit organizations. As president of the Kendal at Oberlin Community Board, he contributed to planning the Society of Friends' continuing care retirement center from its inception in 1987 through its opening in 1993. Carrell was executive director of Nordson Foundation, a local philanthropic foundation, from 1979 until his retirement in 1989. He was also a member of the Oberlin Community Improvement Corporation (O.C.I.C.), a not-for-profit agency for the city's industrial, commercial, distribution, and research development established in 1977.

### *Scope and Content*

The papers of Jephtha J. Carrell are divided into four subgroups; the first two, the Oberlin Retirement Community (Kendal at Oberlin) and the O.C.I.C., are relevant to the City of Oberlin's built environment. Included in the former are meeting agenda and minutes, press releases, planning documents, budgets, the charter of incorporation, application information, correspondence, and floor and site plans. Information about the retirement community's location, financing, planning, policy, architect William Dorsky Associates of Cleveland, and project development exists in these papers, dating from 1987 to 1994. Its values statement includes a section on physical design, but the bulk of documents are in a single folder on designing the facility and choosing the architect.

O.C.I.C. minutes, annual reports, budgets, and correspondence discuss several issues impacting Oberlin's built environment. The O.C.I.C. is involved in planning the city's utilities, land use, zoning, industry, and housing, and in promoting community businesses.

In the early 1990s, it developed an Industrial Park Master Plan, a land sale agreement with Oberlin College, and a Facade Loan Program. In 1991, Schultz Furniture on E. College St., Oberlin Apothecary, Inc. on W. College St., and John Cole Accounting on S. Main St. took advantage of these low-interest loans to improve both facades and signage.

## **[50] Papers of Ernest B. Chamberlain, 1904-1969, 0.75 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Ernest B. Chamberlain (d. 1972, A.B. 1904, M.A. 1906, B.D. 1910) served as the president of the Class of 1904. As such, he was involved with the development office in raising funds for Oberlin College. The Class of 1904 donated both the John H. Barrows portrait, 1958, and the Science Library in Kettering Hall, 1961, to its alma mater.

### *Scope and Content*

The Ernest B. Chamberlain papers contain the files created when Chamberlain was the president of the Class of 1904. Alphabetic correspondence files include letters written for fund-raising activities for the Class of 1904 Science Library. Together with classmates George Reuben Brown and Frank Van Cleef (also a trustee of Oberlin College), Chamberlain spearheaded his class' donation of this departmental library, housed in the east wing of the Kettering Hall of Science. The library was dedicated on October 21, 1961, immediately following the building's dedication. At this ceremony, Chamberlain made a speech that summarized the history of the site since 1904. Articles and photographs from Kettering's dedication were published in "Oberlin Tomorrow," vol. 2, no. 2, 1961.

The 1904 Class Files contain transcripts of speeches made by Chamberlain, Van Cleef, Brown, and College Librarian Eileen Thornton. These speeches describe the building, a memorial plaque designed by Charles W. Grimm naming all living members of the Class of 1904, and the library's interior. The researcher will find more records about the Class of 1904 Science Library in RG 16 "Library," Series II "Library Departments and Programs."

## **[51] Papers of Robert S. Fletcher, 1831-1958, 8.1 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Robert S. Fletcher (1900-1959, A.B. 1920) was a history professor at Oberlin College. He received his graduate education at Harvard University (A.M. 1923, Ph.D. 1938). Between his graduation from Oberlin College and his return to that institution as an assistant professor of history in 1927, Fletcher worked as an assistant in history at Harvard, 1923-1924; as an instructor in history at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; as an associate economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1925-1926; and as an assistant professor of history at Tufts University, 1926-1927.

During his first 15 years at Oberlin, Fletcher's main focus was to compile, write, and edit his monumental history of Oberlin College, which began as his doctoral dissertation at Harvard University. In 1943, Fletcher's two-volume *A History of Oberlin College, From its Foundation Through the Civil War* was published. Fletcher also published numerous articles about Oberlin's early history and related topics, especially western history, in professional journals. Fletcher was also a frequent and willing speaker, giving assembly talks and addresses on early Oberlin before Alumni groups, learned societies, and civic and community groups. During his lifetime Fletcher was a trustee of the Ohioana Library

Association, second vice-president of the Lorain County Historical Society, and a member of numerous state and national historical associations.

### *Scope and Content*

In this collection comprised mostly of copies of original documents, references to the built environment of Oberlin, Ohio, are few and far between. A file on Tappan Square in series II discusses its name, which is an unofficial designation probably resulting from the construction of Tappan Hall on the site in 1835-1836. A letter dated August 11, 1837 from Trustee Nathan P. Fletcher (d. 1855) in series III reveals concern for the disrepair of the boarding house and of Tappan Hall's cupola and roof, especially in light of upcoming commencement and anniversary celebrations.

A typescript copy of the history of LaGrange County, Indiana, in series III describes the Congregational Church at Ontario, built in 1854, from the interior pulpit, choir loft, chandeliers, lamps, doors, and seating capacity to its exterior design. Its facade, columns, white wood boards, and belfry were patterned from old New England churches. This church was associated with the Oberlin Collegiate Institute of Ohio, since the founder of Ontario and the LaGrange Collegiate Institute, Nathan Jenks, was a convert of revivalist Charles G. Finney, Oberlin's second president.

Series IV "Nontextual Records" of the Robert S. Fletcher papers contains lantern slides and photographs used in the author's history of Oberlin College; these boxes also contain some images that were not used in the 1943 publication. For more discussion of the architecture of Oberlin by Fletcher, researchers are likely to find in the various manuscript sources third-party references to buildings constructed during the first three decades of the existence of Oberlin College ("Collegiate Institute" before 1850) in his two-volume history.

## **[52] Papers of Karl W. Gehrkens, 1900-1975, 0.5 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Karl Wilson Gehrkens (1882-1975, A.B. 1905, A.M. 1912) was an author and a music teacher at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music. As an undergraduate, he took classes in education and psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences, and in organ and theory in the Conservatory of Music. He taught music in the public schools of the Village of Oberlin until 1907, when he was recruited by the Conservatory of Music as Teacher of Public School Music. During his 35 years of service, Gehrkens pioneered public school music education at the Conservatory and set national standards for training music teachers. Gehrkens wrote and edited several books in the fields of music and music education, retiring from teaching in 1942 at age 60.

### *Scope and Content*

Series IV "Photographs" of the Karl W. Gehrkens Papers contains four folders of images Gehrkens took as a student at Oberlin College between 1900 and 1905. All black-and-white photographs are mounted on a matte frame, and some have inscriptions handwritten on the back. Four photographs are exterior views and eight are interior views of Shurtleff Cottage, 159 S. Professor St., where Gehrkens lived for almost five years. The series of photographs also includes an exterior view of Stewart Hall, where Gehrkens' wife, Ruth Grey Bedford, lived.

## **[53] Papers of Karl F. Geiser, 1906-1951, 1.5 l.f.**

### ***Biographical Note***

Karl F. Geiser (1869-1951), who received his Ph.D. in 1900 from Yale University and did post-doctoral work at the University of Berlin in 1905-1906, was head of the Political Science Department at Oberlin College from 1903 to 1934. He was recruited to form a Political Science Department, and was its sole member until 1925. In addition to teaching, Geiser served as a consultant to governments, including Berlin, Germany. Geiser was forced into retirement in 1934, supposedly for holding pro-German views. Four years later, in 1938, he was awarded the Order of Merit of the German Eagle, first class, by Adolf Hitler. For more biographical detail, see Geoffrey Blodgett, "Professor Geiser: Politically Correct," *Oberlin College Observer* 15 (April 11, 1991).

### ***Scope and Content***

The Karl F. Geiser negatives collection includes images of the Geiser family and friends. The negatives also record both exterior and interior views of the Geiser homes at 140 Morgan St., 1908; 83 S. Cedar St., 1911; 83 Elmwood St., 1912; and then 337 Reamer Pl. The negatives recording the Reamer Pl. home, which he and his wife Florence built around 1920, are extensive. The images show construction, gardens, and interior furnishings.

The collection also provides a visual documentation of Oberlin College. There are photographs dated 1909 of Finney Chapel, Carnegie Library, Peters Hall, and Baldwin Cottage soon after construction. Scenes of Oberlin, such as the Arboretum and the Golf Course taken in 1909 and in 1911, are also included.

Boxes 1 and 2 contain the glass negatives. Box 3 contains the film negatives, prints, and an undated letter to John Hartman identifying ten photographs Geiser used in an article on "municipal government in Germany."

## **[54] Papers of the Gerrish Family, 1786-1940, 6.75 l.f.**

### ***Biographical Note***

The Gerrish Family papers contain information about three generations of an Oberlin family. The greatest concentration of documentation falls between the years of 1880 to 1938 and is concerned primarily with William Blanchard Gerrish (1863-1939, B.A. 1886). He was the village civil engineer from 1888 to 1908. Under his directorship, Oberlin installed the first municipal lime-soda water softening plant in the United States, as well as a municipal sewer system.

### ***Scope and Content***

W.B. Gerrish's collected papers include extensive information on the water works, sewage system, city streets, and electric light company in Oberlin. A book of clippings, 1888-1895, deals exclusively with these subjects. Three volumes of letter-press copy books, 1889-1903, contain correspondence on these same subjects, as well as on surveys of the Village of Oberlin, 1891. There are also sketches of plots of land and mechanical drawings, 1891-1894, and notes to the architect J.L. Silsbee in reference to the Memorial Arch, 1902-1903. A correspondence file contains 59 letters and 6 sketches from Silsbee and stone contractor E. Heldmaier, 1902-1903, directed to Gerrish. This correspondence discusses drainage, masonry, and billing questions surrounding the arch. A memorandum outlining specifications for the masonry and foundations is also included.

## **[55] Papers of Cass Gilbert, 1908-1931, 0.5 l.f.**

### ***Biographical Note***

Cass Gilbert (1859-1934) was Oberlin College's general architect from 1912 until his death. Born in Zanesville, Ohio, Gilbert grew up in Minneapolis, where he worked as a carpenter's helper and a draftsman. Following one year of study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1878-1879, and a year in Europe, 1880, Gilbert worked as a draftsman in the New York City architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White. He started his own independent practice in St. Paul, Minnesota, in late 1882. His style, employing classical, Romanesque, Gothic, and eclectic designs and embellishments, is best represented by the Woolworth Building in New York City (a 66-story skyscraper built in 1911-1913 that remained the tallest building in the world until 1930), and by the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C., 1935.

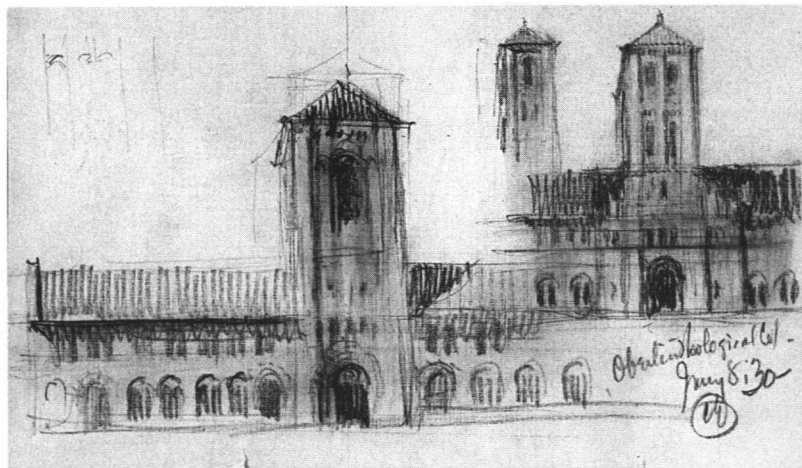
Commissioned by Oberlin as early as 1903 to design Finney Chapel, Gilbert was appointed general architect for the College in 1912 by President Henry Churchill King (an influential Gilbert supporter) and the board of trustees. Gilbert's vision for Oberlin College reflected "decorous poise. . . drawn from inspirations in the European past." Alumnus Charles Martin Hall required that the College clear Tappan Square of all buildings, and maintain this open space, in order to receive his substantial 1914 bequest. Incorporating this stipulation into his plan, Gilbert proposed what Geoffrey Blodgett calls a "highly rectilinear plan, with long sight lines across the empty square and through Memorial Arch, enclosed on the block west of the square by a dense cluster of buildings connected by curving arcades." Gilbert designed the following Oberlin structures: Allen Memorial Art Museum (AMAM), 1917; Allen Memorial Hospital, 1925; Bosworth Hall and the Graduate School of Theology, also known as the Quadrangle, 1931; the Cox Administration Building, 1915; and Finney Chapel, 1908. Gilbert also executed numerous studies for campus building plans.

At least five institutions of higher education honored Cass Gilbert with honorary degrees. Among them was Oberlin College, which awarded Gilbert an LL.D. degree in 1917, the year the AMAM was dedicated.

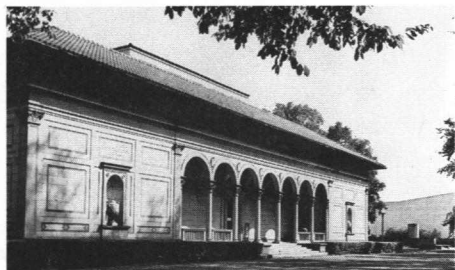
### ***Scope and Content***

The Cass Gilbert papers include architectural plans—floor plans, site plans, renderings, elevations, and shop drawings—for most of his projects. Also held are specification indices for the Allen Memorial Art Museum, 1915; correspondence concerning numerous proposals and pending projects at Oberlin College, 1903-1934; newspaper articles and academic studies about Gilbert, 1904, 1968, 1977, 1980, and 1982; and reference notes to Gilbert holdings at other repositories. Gilbert-related material is found in the maps and drawings cases, as well as in other collections noted below. A separate inventory of Gilbert's oversized materials is available. More extensive records with Gilbert correspondence are located in the records of Oberlin College Presidents and with records of Assistants to the Presidents. Copies of articles and obituaries on Gilbert, portrait photographs, and a letter explaining his choice as a recipient of an honorary LL.D. degree from Oberlin College are included in the group of alumni records.

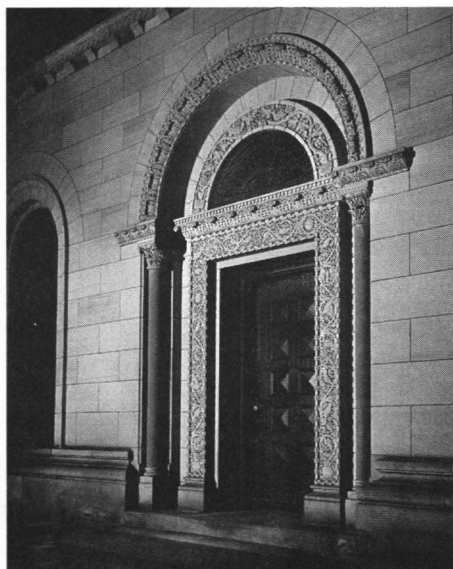
# ARCHITECTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF CASS GILBERT



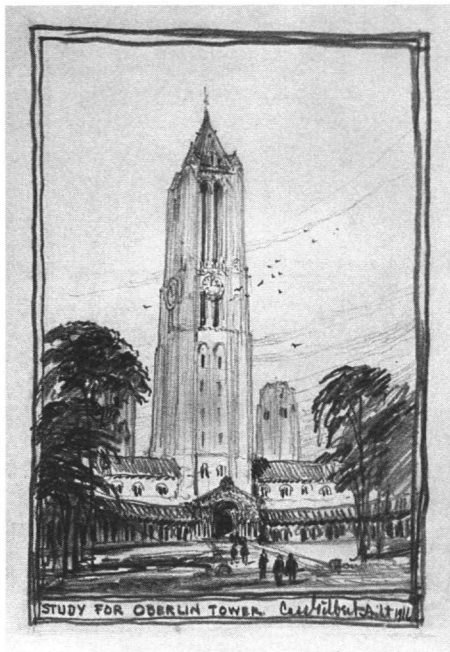
*Original pencil drawing, Theological Quadrangle, 1931*  
 Courtesy of Allen Memorial Art Museum



*Dudley P. Allen Art Museum, 1917*



*Cox Administration Building, 1915*



*Original pencil drawing, 1916*  
*Study for Oberlin Tower*  
 Courtesy of Allen Memorial Art Museum

## **[56] Papers of Alfred A. Hahn, 1932-1934, 0.8 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Alfred A. Hahn (1890-1964) was a Toledo, Ohio, architect and a founder of the Hahn and Hayes architectural firm. He designed the United States Post Office at Oberlin, which opened for public use on S. Main St. on May 1, 1934. The contract for the erection of a new post office stood at a cost of \$85,000. Hahn's son, Alfred A. Hahn, Jr., a Toledo architect who became a partner in the firm in 1940, deposited this collection of drawings of the post office with the Oberlin College Archives.

### *Scope and Content*

The Hahn papers, mainly consisting of drawings, 1933-1934, include the following architectural materials relative to the Oberlin Post Office: originals and photostats of floor plans, a dedication plaque, and a site plan. Also located here is a bound set of drawings on tracing paper, including one of the dedication plaque, a site plan, a basement plan, a first floor plan, a front elevation plan, the right side elevation plan, and a longitudinal section plan. On unbound tracing paper are two drawings of dedication plaques. Also included are a detail of a splash course lintel, a section drawing of the front stair, and a blueprint of a section detail of the location of support beams.

For a history of the Oberlin post offices, readers should consult the note on page 64 in Wilbur A. Phillips, *Oberlin Colony: The Story of a Century* (Oberlin, 1993).

## **[57] Papers of Charles Martin Hall, 1882-1895, 10 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Charles Martin Hall (1863-1914, A.B. 1885) was a chemist, manufacturer, and Oberlin College benefactor, famed for inventing the electrolytic process of manufacturing aluminum. Oberlin College awarded him the honorary A.M. in 1893, and an honorary LL.D. in 1910. In 1911, he was awarded the prestigious Perkins Medal for outstanding achievement in applied chemistry. He was a member of the Oberlin College Board of Trustees from 1905 to 1914.

In his Oberlin, Ohio, woodshed on February 23, 1886, Hall invented "The Process of Reducing Aluminum by Electrolysis," according to his patent application. In 1888, Hall, with the assistance of noted metallurgist Captain Alfred E. Hunt (1855-1899) and Arthur Vining Davis (1867-1962), formed the Pittsburgh Reduction Company. Within months, the pilot plant in Pittsburgh produced pure aluminum. New plants were established, and the company's name became the Aluminum Company of America in 1907, later shortened to ALCOA. The success of ALCOA permitted Hall to pursue his interests in music and art.

Before Hall's death, the sum total of his gifts to his alma mater approached \$200,000. Hall's generosity was superseded by a \$10 million bequest to Oberlin College given in his will, dated November 1, 1914. Terms of his will had a great impact on the built environment of town and campus. In addition to rugs, porcelains, and paintings, Hall left all his land in town—about 130 acres purchased over several decades with Irving W. Metcalf acting as Hall's agent—to the College. Land south and west of S. Professor and Morgan Sts. (the old Rebecca A. Johnson, Alfred B. Evans, Flora Maria Reed, and Clarissa C. Maltby properties), 50 acres on E. Lorain St., and lots on Plum Creek comprised the 130 acre total. Hall intended these lands to be used for an arboretum, and to remain undeveloped for public enjoyment. To assist the conversion of the Plum Creek lots into a public parkway,



Hall bequeathed \$5,000 to the Village Improvement Society of Oberlin. For more on the land bequests, see the 1987 paper "A Social History: College and Community Use of the Oberlin Arboretum" by students Jeanne M. Ponzetti and Jeffrey Pence.

Hall also bequeathed a \$200,000 endowment to care for the campus, and \$600,000 to construct and endow the Sophronia Brooks Hall Auditorium as a memorial to his mother. His stipulation that one-third of his residuary estate be given to Oberlin College only under certain conditions was perhaps most influential, however. He required that the land known then as the College campus (Tappan Square today) be "free of buildings or structures, for college or other use, except such as may be purely ornamental. . ." Oberlin College removed all structures from this land and has since maintained it as an open space.



*Charles Martin Hall  
Oberlin College alumnus and benefactor  
Statue, Charles Martin Hall  
entrance, Science Library  
1936*

### *Scope and Content*

While the bulk of the Charles Martin Hall papers relates to the company and legal battles of ALCOA, a biographical series and some photographs document aspects of the town's built environment. Memorial tributes in the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, February, 1915, discuss the implications of Hall's bequest on campus development, and new lands near the Arboretum, around Plum Creek, and on E. Lorain St. Hall's papers also include information about his will and the will itself. A list of all of Hall's gifts to Oberlin College since 1900 documents his donations to the endowment, and the nearly \$25,000 given for campus improvements, 1912-1914. Also, accompanying the will is a speech made by F.O. Grover at the Annual Alumni Meeting, June, 1915. Entitled "Mr. Hall's Gift and the Oberlin Beautiful," the talk outlines the legacies of Arthur Tappan and of Professor Adelia A.F. Johnston on the town's built environment, and the more recent contribution by Hall.

Series VII "Photographs" contains several images of the Hall House, the woodshed where Hall made his discovery, and the bronze plaque erected in 1930 in his honor.

## **[58] Papers of Frances J. Hosford, 1925-1935, 1 Lf.**

### *Biographical Note*

Frances J. Hosford (1853-1937, A.B. 1891, A.M. 1896) was a professor, administrator, and Oberlin historian. At Oberlin, she became a tutor, an instructor, and then an associate professor of Latin, first in the Oberlin Academy and then in the College. Hosford also

served as the dean of academy women and as assistant dean of college women, 1911-1920. She published *Father Shipberd's Magna Carta, A Century of Coeducation in Oberlin College* in 1937, and wrote numerous articles on institutional and local history for the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*.

### *Scope and Content*

Hosford's records consist mainly of correspondence and research materials for articles on Oberlin history for the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, 1927-1933. Significant correspondence details historic structures around Oberlin's campus and in the village proper, including Baldwin Cottage, Old Dascomb Hall, the old Fairchild House, First Church, and early Oberlin homes. Notable correspondents include Trustees William B. Gerrish, 1930-1932, and Edward Steele.

## **[59] Papers of Ellen H. Johnson, 1933-1994, 4.5 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Ellen Hulda Elizabeth Johnson (1910-1992, A.B. 1935, M.A. 1935) was the Oberlin College Art Librarian, 1939-1948, and a member of the Fine Arts Department faculty, 1948-1977. Johnson taught introductory art history courses that became so popular—sometimes attracting over 400 students—that class was held in Hall Auditorium rather than the Art Building. In addition to her teaching, Johnson was an active writer, curator, and collector of art. She authored nearly 100 articles and essays, and three books. She had many requests from around the world to curate shows, and she helped organize numerous shows at the Allen Memorial Art Museum (AMAM) at Oberlin College. So valued was her contribution in forming the post-war collection, serving on its Purchase Committee, and assisting in exhibitions and fundraising, that she was named honorary curator of modern art in 1973.

Johnson's personal art collection contained more than 14,000 objects, some 300 of which she bequeathed to the AMAM. Many of the works were gifts from artists with whom she had developed a friendship through her writing and teaching. The works were displayed in the Frank Lloyd Wright house, built in 1950, which she purchased in 1968 and lovingly restored. She arranged for the house to become the guest quarters of the College upon her death.

Her retirement from Oberlin in June, 1977, was celebrated with the announcement of a multi-million dollar expansion of the AMAM for the Ellen H. Johnson Gallery of Modern Art. This addition was designed by architect Robert Venturi.

### *Scope and Content*

The Ellen H. Johnson papers are organized in seven series, two of which contain architectural information about the Frank Lloyd Wright house (now called the Weltzheimer-Johnson Frank Lloyd Wright house) and the AMAM addition. Series I "Biographical Files" includes an estate folder with Johnson's agreement with Oberlin College concerning the Wright house. Outlined are stipulations for the maintenance, preservation, restoration, rent, budget and costs, use, and changes of structure or furnishing. This August 9, 1980, agreement also designated Athena Tacha, professor of art, as the house's consultant-curator, and Chloe Hamilton Young (1927-1985, A.B. 1948, M.A. 1950) as her deputy. For more information relative to the house, researchers should see the papers of Athena Tacha.

Information about the AMAM addition is found in series I and in Series V "Miscellaneous Files." Included are folders on the Ellen H. Johnson Gallery of Modern Art with the

1969 document, "The Revised Program for Additions and Remodeling of Art Building and Allen Memorial Art Museum," and publicity announcements, fundraising items, and a 1977 dedication program.

## **[60] Papers of Adelia A.F. Johnston, 1863-1974, 0.3 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Adelia A. Field Johnston (1837-1910), an important figure of late 19th-century Oberlin, received the literary degree from Oberlin in 1856. She married James M. Johnston in 1859, but became a widow in 1862. Following teaching appointments in Tennessee and Ohio, she returned to Oberlin in 1870 to become principal of the Women's Department, on the condition she be allowed to teach. Johnston was the first ladies' principal—and indeed the first woman at Oberlin—to insist on and to receive membership on the faculty. She served the College as ladies' principal/dean of women until 1900, and as professor of medieval history until 1907. Her courses in art history and in architecture were very popular. One of her major contributions to the town of Oberlin was the organization of the Oberlin Village Improvement Society, which built parks and campaigned to keep the town clean. Barbara Christen, in *City Beautiful in a Small Town: The Early History of the Village Improvement Society in Oberlin* (Lorain County Historical Society, 1994), reports on Johnston's achievements in this area.

### *Scope and Content*

The documentation on Johnston's efforts to establish parks in Oberlin is uneven. Included in this manuscript group are an undated note marking Johnston's intention to donate the old Gas Works property on Vine St., a 1909 letter from Augusta B. Squire concerning use of properties on Vine St. and billboards on Lorain and Main Sts., and a 1909 letter from Frank B. Carpenter expressing lukewarm interest in donating land for a park. Still another undated letter from W.L. Saxton concerns his willingness to donate land near Plum Creek for a public park.

A printed pamphlet "Extracts from Life of Adelia A.F. Johnston" by Harriet L. Keller includes the story of how, in 1889, Mrs. Lord gave Johnston a \$10,000 check to build Lord Cottage. Built in 1892, Lord Cottage was the last of the "Great Building Period" begun with Sturges Hall in 1883.

Travel accounts, 1888 and ca. 1906, of Johnston's trips to Spain, Norway, London, Algeria, and Ceylon highlight some international architecture. An eight-page typed transcript of a lecture on "Art and Civilization" highlights distinct architectural styles of classic civilizations from ancient and modern world history.

## **[61] Papers of Fred H. "Tip" Maddock, 1839-1950, 0.7 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Fred H. "Tip" Maddock (1874-1951) was born in Lake Breeze (now Sheffield), Ohio. An amateur historian, Maddock ran a news agency and was a local agent for the Cleveland-Berea-Elyria and Oberlin traction line (the Cleveland Southwestern Interurban Railroad). During his lifetime, Maddock gathered information on the citizens and businesses relating to the town of Oberlin.

### *Scope and Content*

The Maddock papers are a rich resource for information about the early business sector of downtown Oberlin. Lists, notes, and short essays give information on the history of the building, businesses, and business owners along Oberlin's main streets. Included in the discussion of Oberlin's early urban life are details on roads, utilities, and natural disasters. The complete history of the old Centennial Hall (built in 1876 at 235 S. Main St.) is given special attention. Additionally, essays exist on several of the earliest college buildings including: old Chemistry Laboratory (Cabinet Hall), Cincinnati Hall (or "Slab Hall", First Ladies Hall, French Hall, Oberlin Hall, the old Chapel, Second Ladies Hall, Society Hall, and Tappan Hall.

## **[62] Papers of James C. McCullough, 1911-1948, 1.25 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

James Caldwell McCullough (1884-1963) taught chemistry at Oberlin for 42 years, and served on college committees including the Building Committee. Born in Mansfield, Ohio, McCullough received his B.S. from Case Institute of Applied Science in 1906; he later received an M.S. from that institution and did further graduate work at the University of Chicago. After a year with the Dow Chemical Company, McCullough came to Oberlin in 1907 as an instructor of chemistry. By 1926, he was a full professor, specializing in physical chemistry and laboratory experimentation. McCullough also was active in the Oberlin community, working with the Oberlin Relief Program during the Great Depression; serving on the Oberlin Village Council for 12 years, acting as both vice-chairman and chairman; and serving a short stint as a police judge. McCullough retired in 1949.

### *Scope and Content*

The papers of Professor James C. McCullough hold modest historical value for the architectural researcher. Although his projects did not see immediate fruition, the papers are informative as examples of planning documents utilized in the program phase of design conception. Records mainly consist of meeting note transcripts from an ad hoc College Building Committee, for which McCullough served as an acoustical and equipment consultant. Covering the period 1929-1930, documents include an eight-page textual description of building use and funding for the proposed Oberlin College Auditorium, constructed in 1953 as Hall Auditorium; two architectural drawing photostats of the Eastman School of Music Auditorium in Rochester, NY; meeting notes; and four floor plan photostats and planning documents detailing proposed renovation projects for the Men's Building (Wilder Hall).

Miscellaneous architectural drawings exist within this group for the following structures: the James Brand House ca. 1928, the Men's Building in 1930, the Graduate School of Theology, Bosworth Quadrangle, and proposed freshman dormitories. Also found here are large photostats of Cass Gilbert's ca. 1931 plans for the proposed Oberlin College Auditorium.

## **[63] Papers of Irving W. Metcalf, 1877-1937, 2.5 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Irving Wight Metcalf (1855-1938, A.B. 1878, B.D. 1881) was born in Bangor, Maine. As a minister, Metcalf served Congregational churches in Columbus and Cleveland, and was

superintendent of the Congregational City Mission from 1894 to 1897. He resigned his pastorate in 1897, and after a brief period of business activity in Kansas, returned to Ohio as a bank director and estate executor in 1899. Metcalf acted as the intermediary for the Charles Martin Hall property purchases, many of which became the basis for Hall's bequest to Oberlin College following Hall's death in 1914. An active temperance crusader, Metcalf also served on the Oberlin College Board of Trustees.

### *Scope and Content*

Organized into six series, records of architectural interest are held mainly in Series 1 "Correspondence," and Series 2 "Charles Martin Hall Property Records." Notable items in series 1 include 1900 correspondence with President John Henry Barrows regarding building fund endowments, and a 1905 letter defending the integrity of large building fund donations to Oberlin from industrialist John D. Rockefeller. Series 2 also holds significant correspondence, 1901-1917, discussing the Charles Martin Hall properties and their ultimate bequest to Oberlin College.

## **[64] Papers of Azariah Smith Root, 1881-1930, 7.1 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Born in Middlefield, Massachusetts, Azariah Smith Root (1862-1927, A.B. 1884, M.A. 1887) was Oberlin College's first professional librarian, a position he held from 1887 until his death. After his Oberlin education, he studied law at Boston University. He returned to Oberlin in 1885 to work as a cataloger in the College Library, leaving the next year for study at Harvard University Law School, and returning to Oberlin in 1887. In 1890, at the young age of 25, he was made professor of bibliography, specializing in the history of printing and illustration.

At the time of Root's appointment, Oberlin's library held 14,274 volumes; at his death, the library's holdings numbered over 500,000, with yearly purchases nearly equaling the number of books in the original library. He assisted in the design of Carnegie Library (completed in 1908), and he made it more accessible to the citizens of Oberlin by including a children's room and a high school reading room.

Root was involved in numerous organizations and committees. He was a member of the Prudential and Investment committees of the Board of Trustees of Oberlin College, and was a member of the Executive Committee in charge of the president's duties. He was a board member of the Oberlin School District, a trustee of First Congregational Church in Oberlin, director of the Telephone Company, and president of the Oberlin Village Improvement Society.

### *Scope and Content*

The papers of Azariah Smith Root largely focus on his personal and professional life. Of architectural interest is information pertaining to Carnegie Library found in his files relating to faculty and community service. Over 300 documents make up the body of information on the planning and construction of Oberlin's second library facility. Root's correspondence with the architects Patton and Miller, engineer Richard Kimball, and builder George Feick are contained in this group. Letters, questionnaires, contracts, and estimates discuss nearly every aspect of the building process from site planning and interior decoration to the proper storage of books and the need for adequate lighting. Also contained in this group are references to Cass Gilbert's Finney Chapel.

Another important body of documentation, in files relating to faculty and community service, deals with the construction of Keep Cottage. Extensive correspondence again details most aspects of the building and design process. Other building files in the series contain information on the Cox Administration Building, First Church in Oberlin, Talcott Hall, and Wilder Hall.

## **[65] Papers of Thomas F. Root, 1955-1994, 0.2 l.f.**

### *Historical Note*

Thomas F. Root (b. 1923) of Plymouth, Ohio, was a ceramics engineer, salesman, and pilot and aerial photographer. He learned to fly an airplane at the Mansfield Airport in 1939, and subsequently owned a series of small planes. From 1966 until his retirement in 1994, Root ran his own business, Tom Root Air Photos, Inc. His principal clients included the American Shipbuilding Company, Denison and Oberlin colleges, General Electric, Timken, Ford, General Motors, and many field tilling contractors. Root's concentration is on single photo verticals for field tilling operations, zoning, and single views of entire towns. Many of his aerial pictures documented newsworthy events; some were distributed to the national media.

### *Scope and Content*

The papers of Thomas F. Root include both biographical information and aerial photographs and negatives of Oberlin College taken between 1955 and 1994. Images are both black and white and in color. They show the campus in its entirety, but also include details of the football field and stadium, downtown Oberlin, Hall Auditorium and the Oberlin Inn, and the Parsons Road reservoir.

## **[66] Papers of Giles W. and Mary Burton Shurtleff, 1846-1930, 2.7 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Giles Waldo Shurtleff (1831-1904, A.B. 1859) married Mary E. Burton (1836-1924), formerly a student at Mount Holyoke Seminary in 1858-1859 and a graduate from the Lake Erie Female Seminary in 1860. During the Civil War, Shurtleff served as captain of Company C of the 7th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry; he was taken prisoner for a year between August of 1861 and August of 1862, and then served under General O.B. Wilcox of the 9th Army Corps at Fredericksburg. His final Civil War service was as a lieutenant colonel of black troops recruited in Ohio and designated the 5th U.S. Colored Troops.

After the Civil War, Shurtleff returned to Oberlin to become a professor of Latin and Greek, 1866-1887, and he also held the College positions of financial secretary, 1873-1874; secretary and treasurer, 1887-1893; and member of the board of trustees, 1894-1904. He served the community as its mayor (1868), on the village council, on the executive committee of the Temperance Alliance, and as president of the Board of Commerce and of the Village Improvement Society. He is known to have built a number of houses in the village.

### *Scope and Content*

The Giles W. and Mary Burton Shurtleff papers contain correspondence, memoranda, and essays pertinent to the architecture and landscape of Oberlin, Ohio. In series I, a letter

from Shurtleff to his wife, dated July 2, 1880, discusses "Hatch's proposal" for additions to the Ladies Hall for a gymnasium, music rooms, rooms for domestics, and more rooms for young ladies. Addressing the Oberlin College Trustees in an 1877 memorandum, Shurtleff reports having raised \$1,430 for Finney Memorial Chapel, thus making total building pledges stand at \$4,625. In a similar document, dated January 26, 1886, Shurtleff mentions the spring term fund raising activities for College Hall.

Series VII, Subseries 1 "Writings of Giles Shurtleff," contains a more complete narrative of Giles Shurtleff's concern for the visual appearance of Oberlin. In one ca. 1899 document, he reports the year's activities of the Oberlin Board of Commerce, specifically discussing the Orphans' Home on E. College St., new brick pavement and roads, and beautification of streets, parks, and lawns "under the supervision of a competent landscape architect." An essay on trees and shrubs provides Shurtleff with a forum to air his opinions on improving the Oberlin landscape.

While these items of concern to the study of the Oberlin built environment within the Shurtleff collection are neither fully developed nor numerous, they do contain references that contribute to a larger understanding of the town's development.

## **[67] Papers of A. Clair Siddall, 1928-1988, 1 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Alcines Clair Siddall (1897-1980) received his A.B. from Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio, in 1919 and his M.D. from Western Reserve Medical School, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1922. After serving as a medical missionary in China for nine years, 1923-1932, Siddall moved to Oberlin, Ohio, to practice medicine. He was in private practice until 1962, when he and six other doctors founded the Oberlin Clinic. Upon his retirement from the clinic in 1972, the A.C. Siddall Educational Fund was established in conjunction with the general endowment fund of the Allen Memorial Hospital. Siddall is known for his many publications, his research on the history of medical practices in Oberlin, and his leadership in the 1957 Lorain County program for the early detection of cancer in women.

### *Scope and Content*

Series IV "Photographs" contains 1907 images of Oberlin's first hospital, which was established by the Oberlin Hospital Association at 21 S. Cedar St. One is an interior of an operating room, the second shows the building's exterior. As of 1976, the structure stood as a private home. This collection also houses photographs of Allen Memorial Hospital, both before and after its renovation, and one of James Dascomb's residence at 227 S. Professor St. All photographs in this collection are black and white.

## **[68] Papers of Athena Tacha, 1995, 0.1 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Athena Tacha (b. 1936) is a professor of art at Oberlin College, and was the curator of modern art for the Allen Memorial Art Museum between 1963 and 1973. She received M.A. degrees from both the National Academy of Fine Arts, Athens, Greece (1959), and from Oberlin College (1961), then she earned her Ph.D. at the Sorbonne, University of Paris, France (1963). As an artist and art historian, Tacha's work has been exhibited around the United States in both individual and group shows, and is in the permanent collections

of museums from the Allen Memorial Art Museum to the National Collection of Fine Arts in Washington, D.C. She has been most active in public art since the mid-1970s, and has executed 30 public commissions won in competitions throughout the United States. In 1980, fellow art professor Ellen H. Johnson designated Tacha as the consultant-curator of the Weltzheimer-Johnson Frank Lloyd Wright house, Oberlin, Ohio.

### *Scope and Content*

The Oberlin College Archives holds a manuscript of Athena Tacha's article "Frank Lloyd Wright at Oberlin: The Story of the Weltzheimer/ Johnson House." This article was published in the Allen Memorial Art Museum *Bulletin*. [vol. XLIX, no. 1, 1995] It provides a thorough history of the house, from Wright's philosophical goals to restoration work performed by Ellen H. Johnson. Its eight chapters include "A Model Usonian and the Role of a Taliesin Fellow," "The Weltzheimers' Commission," "Construction under FLLW Apprentice Ted Bower," "Furnishings and Landscaping," "Living in the House," "Ellen H. Johnson's Ownership and Restoration," "Re-landscaping," and "Visiting the House." Several primary documents, such as letters from Frank Lloyd Wright and written commentaries by the house's residents, are central to the text. For more information relative to the house, researchers should see the papers of Ellen H. Johnson and of Frank Lloyd Wright.

## **[69] Papers of Lloyd W. and Esther Bliss Taylor, 1905-1980, 8.3 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Lloyd W. Taylor (1893-1948) was a professor of physics and head of Oberlin's Physics Department from 1924 until his death in 1948. Born in Pittsfield, Maine, he received his B.S. from Grinnell College in 1914, served in the U.S. Army in Panama from 1917 to 1919, and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1922. He came to Oberlin in 1924 to head the Physics Department as a full professor. He authored many books, and his academic efforts helped to establish Oberlin as a premier undergraduate program in physics. He was instrumental in the planning and construction of the \$400,000 Orville and Wilbur Wright Physics Building and Laboratory, completed in 1943.

### *Scope and Content*

The papers of Lloyd W. and Esther B. Taylor are organized into two subgroups and hold limited architectural records. Located in Subgroup I "Lloyd W. Taylor," Series I "Correspondence," are letters relating to his position as professor and head of the Physics Department. This correspondence includes numerous references to the "new Physics Building." Documents of particular interest include a pamphlet on the Physics Building, October, 1941; interior photos of the new building; and a February, 1944, letter describing it. Taylor's correspondence files, 1931-1948, include letters from Carl Kinsley and Vern O. Knudsen discussing the building design and the construction process; and the correspondence with L.B. Walton—held in the Beatty B. Williams folder—details the early planning proposals for the Physics Building. Taylor's correspondence also includes 1944 inter-office memoranda from Oberlin College Buildings and Grounds Director Lester Ries.

Physics Building floor plans are held in the buildings and grounds files. Drawings consist of a ground floor plan, a first floor plan, a second floor plan, as well as a listing of rooms in the structure and their dimensions. Included among these items are a range of photographs of the building's various stages of construction. A January, 1943, *Oberlin Review* article describes the Physics Building in detail.



## **[70] Papers of Clarence Ward, 1917-1969, 0.3 l.f.**

### *Biographical Note*

Clarence Ward (1884-1973) was a professor of the history and appreciation of art for Oberlin College and the director of the Allen Memorial Art Museum (AMAM) from 1917 until 1948. Educated at Princeton University (A.B. 1905, M.A. 1906, Ph.D. 1914), he taught at Rutgers University before coming to Oberlin. He was interested in the study of architecture, particularly that of French cathedrals and New England churches. He helped establish and design the building of the East Oberlin Community Church, and served as that congregation's pastor. Ward was the architect for the President's House and the interior decorator for Noah Hall, and contributed to the designs of Hales Gymnasium (see entry for the Physical Education Department), and the 1937 addition to the AMAM. The Clarence Ward Art Library, part of the 1977 AMAM addition, is named in his honor.

### *Scope and Content*

Clarence Ward's personal papers contain much information about churches around the Midwest and New England, for which he was an architectural consultant. Of special interest are two letters from Oberlin College President Ernest Hatch Wilkins congratulating Ward on the interior of Noah Hall. Two letters from the architect Charles Frederick Cellarius comment on Ward's proposals for a new art building.

Files relating to the work of Clarence Ward are also found in the files of the AMAM, subgroup IV, series 1-3. They consist of correspondence, 1923-1941 and 1971-1985; materials regarding the East Oberlin Community Church, 1930-1943; transparencies of the Ward Library, n.d.; an audio record of a 1959 Ward interview discussing the erection of the museum in 1916-1917; biographical items; and two drafts of Ward's 240-page manuscript on Gothic architecture.

## **[71] Papers of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1947-1985, 0.25 l.f.**

### *Historical Note*

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959), internationally acclaimed architect famous for his use of organic and prairie style architectural design, was commissioned by Margaret and Charles Weltzheimer in 1947 to build a Usonian house on their three acre Morgan St. lot in Oberlin. Wright never came to Oberlin, sending an apprentice—Ted Bower from his Arizona firm Taliesin West—to oversee construction, which began in 1948. Due to financial difficulties, the house was not completed until 1951.

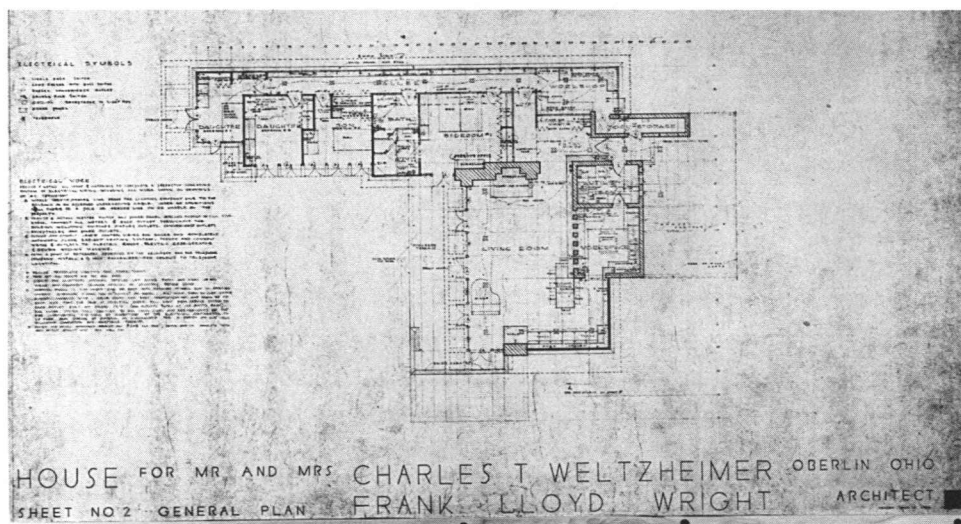
In 1956 the structure was sold to Wayne Lint, who sold it to William Gaeuman the following year. Gaeuman proceeded to make changes to the house, many unalterable, in an attempt to "modernize" it. When Oberlin art professor Ellen H. Johnson bought the house in 1968, she researched its initial construction, restoring it to its original state while she continued to live there. Johnson willed the house to Oberlin College, which it acquired in 1993. A restoration trust was given by Ruth Roush. Under a 1994 \$108,000 grant from the GAR Foundation of Akron, a restoration of the Weltzheimer-Johnson Frank Lloyd Wright house began in 1995.

## *Scope and Content*

Three folders and a set of blueprints make up the architectural materials for the Frank Lloyd Wright file. These folders consist of documents dating between 1947 and 1985. Correspondence from the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation to the Weltzheimers, 1947-1953, is included in one folder. The letters are predominately brief responses made by either Wright or his secretary, Eugene Messalink, to questions that were posed by the Weltzheimers. An array of articles written about the Morgan St. property are held in the other two folders. A 1972 article by Acting Chairman of the Department of Art Kenneth W. Severens (b. 1936) provides a comprehensive and descriptive study of the house. Recollections by Kristen Weltzheimer of living in the Frank Lloyd Wright house are also held in this file.

Architectural drawings consist of six 24" x 42" blue prints, showing floor plans, elevations, section details, and HVAC specifications, as well as finishing instructions and furniture schedules. Landscape plans also exist. There are two sheets of furniture plans, one 21 1/2" x 16" and the other 28" x 27 1/2". Copies of the roof framing plan, millwork detail, and two sheets of the furniture plans are on polyester medium; the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation possesses the preliminary house plans. Professor of Art Athena Tacha has an initial set of blue prints, and the Allen Memorial Art Museum has a revised set of ammonia prints that vary slightly from the revised blue prints held in the College Archives. A set of the house's blueprints is also found on one roll of microfilm at the archives.

A December, 1993, oral history interview of architect Gunnar Birkerts, conducted on behalf of the Frank Lloyd Wright Archives at Taliesin West in Arizona, is held in the record group of motion picture and tape recordings. The interview makes references to Wright's, as well as to Birkerts', architectural careers. Usage restrictions apply.



*FLWright House: Collection of the Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College  
Gift of Harry Hunsicker, 1981*

## RECORDS OF THE OBERLIN COMMUNITY (Group 31)

RG 31, the files of the Oberlin Community, contains 20 separate file units pertaining to organizations within the City of Oberlin. Six of these file groups hold records of significant architectural value.

### **[72] Records of First and Second Congregational Church, 1834-1993, 26.15 l.f.**

#### *Historical Note*

The development of First and Second Congregational Churches reflect the nature of the development of Oberlin itself. Long the largest church in the Western Reserve, the First Congregational Church of Oberlin (now First Church in Oberlin) was completed in 1845. Designed with a Greek Revival edifice by Boston architect Richard Bond, it was intended to fulfill specifications set by the church's evangelical leader, Charles Grandison Finney. Each aspect of the design plans was voted upon and approved by the Church Building Committee. Financial realities and frugality determined the final appearance of First Church, its size smaller than originally planned and the circular seating plan requested by Finney dismissed entirely. Fourteen months and nearly \$12,000 after groundbreaking, the church was completed through donated labor and materials. By 1860, it had grown to over 1500 members plus college students. The large size of the congregation led to the voluntary withdrawal of 103 members, who then established Second Congregational Church. The two congregations continued to meet together for Sunday School, with services for Second Congregational Church held first in the college chapel, then later in its own meeting house, completed in 1870. In 1920, the two congregations reunited and took the name First Church in Oberlin. Heavily involved in the progressive reform and missionary movements long associated with Oberlin, First Church has been from its start a source of moral and ideological influence within the community.

#### *Scope and Content*

The records of First and Second Congregational Church trace the building history of the two structures from 1836 to 1979. Contained within this group are copies of the original deeds of 1836; outlines for the building needs for the church after reunification in 1920; and a large number of mortgage papers, reports, bills and maintenance information from throughout the last two centuries. Of special interest are plans for the renovation of the James Brand House; reports of a property line dispute with Oberlin College; and letters from the architect Charles S. Schneider, 1925, proposing the movement and radical remodeling of First Church. Eight sketches of floor plans and sewer connections, as well as three survey blue prints are also present. Subsequent alterations or changes to the property (First Church in Oberlin) over the next five decades, are documented here and there.

### **[73] Records of Miscellaneous Churches, 3 l.f.**

#### *Scope and Content*

The records contained in this group attest to Oberlin's religious diversity. Within this collection is information about six different churches, including architectural information for four.

Sacred Heart Church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and Rust Methodist Church are all represented by illustrated histories and news clippings. Information about First United Methodist is more in-depth. Deeds, scrapbooks, ledgers, and letters describe the church's history from the 1860s through the next 100 years. Of special interest are the board of trustee minutes beginning in 1869; a 1927 map with the proposed placement of the church; and the minutes of the Church Building Committee containing letters from the architect Gene Zaugg, contracts, estimates, and donor information for a building project in the 1960s.

## **[74] Oberlin Community Miscellaneous Records, 6 l.f.**

### *Scope and Content*

The records of miscellaneous organizations in Oberlin and surrounding areas are contained in this record group. Here one can find information on Westwood Cemetery, including maps and the minutes of the Oberlin Cemetery Association, 1861-1912. The College Archives holds the 1864 map of Westwood Cemetery, measuring 51" x 42", designed and laid out by H.B. Allen. The minutes of the Oberlin Housing Committee, 1958, are present and contain ordinances, reports, and survey data for this group which sought to establish minimum housing standards for Oberlin's residential areas. A large number of items deal with Oberlin's churches. Christ Episcopal Church, East Oberlin Community Church, First Baptist Church, the Assembly of God, Christ Temple Church, and the Christian and Missionary Alliance are all well represented by church generated histories and news clippings. The group also contains Mortgage Ledgers for the Village of Oberlin dating from the 1880s, a 1963 report on Dutch Elm disease submitted to the Oberlin City Council by the Tree Committee, and Lorain County Regional Planning Commission reports from 1956-1967.

## **[75] Records of Oberlin City, 1858-1990, 41 l.f.**

### *Administrative History*

The Village of Oberlin was established in 1833 as an ideal settlement governed by religious and secular constructs. It was incorporated as a village in 1846, and until the 1890s, village positions were determined by a town caucus, with all members of the community gathering together to make nominations and to cast votes at one time. This system, which allowed minors and non-citizens to vote and made voting more than once a possibility, was abandoned at the suggestion of the village council in 1897. From the early 1920s until the mid-1950s, the Village of Oberlin was governed by a five-member village council, each member serving two-year terms. A village manager was responsible for administering the local government. In 1951, Oberlin became a city. A charter passed in 1956 outlined the role of the city manager, strengthened the Civil Service Commission, created an administrative board for Allen Memorial Hospital, made elections non-partisan, and put as much responsibility in the hands of the City Council as possible. Oberlin is currently governed by a seven-member council which appoints the majority of government administrators and upper level civil servants. Provisions advanced by a charter review committee were adopted by the electorate in the fall of 1994.

### *Scope and Content*

This record group contains a vast amount of information reflecting the services and functions of Oberlin city government. It contains files on City Ordinances, 1893-1981; the

Planning Commission; Parks; Building Permits; Real Estate Values, 1910-1916; Housing Inspection Records; City and Telephone Directories, 1883-1988; the Tree Committee; the Zoning Board of Appeals; and the Public Utilities Commission. City Council Minutes, 1878-1995, are a trove of information on ordinances and proposals, various municipal committees, and plans for improvement. Public utilities, zoning, and city streets are discussed. Also in the council minutes are discussions of Allen Memorial Hospital, the Ice Rink, and Westervelt Hall. The issue of historic preservation is given attention in the Historic Preservation Commission records and reports, minutes, and correspondence. A list of Oberlin buildings on the National Register of Historic Places is present, as is information relating to the controversy surrounding the 1990 effort to prevent the demolition of the 1889 Gasholder House. Photos of the Gasholder House and details of early street lights are also present. Not to be overlooked are also the files relating to the Open Space and Conservation Commission, 1975-1980, and the Open Space and Visual Environment Committee, its successor body.

## **[76] Records of the Oberlin Public Schools, 1838-1970, 4 l.f.**

### *Historical Note*

The first primary school classes in Oberlin—attended by more than 20 children—were taught in what was at first a department of the Oberlin Collegiate Institute by Miss Eliza Branch (Mrs. George Clark), just months after the founding of the community. In 1834, control over the school was given to the town and the first Oberlin School District was organized. From the start, the issue of proper facilities was of great concern. A shop in town was the first “school building” until the colonists agreed to raise the \$200 needed for a proper structure. A one-room school house went up in 1837 just down the street from First Congregational Church, but its student body quickly outgrew the facility (see the records of the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization). By 1842, 224 students aged 4 through 21 were enrolled in primary school. Nearly every empty room and shop in town was used to hold the overflow from the building put up just five years before. Ten years later, in 1851, the two-story Cabinet Hall was constructed on Professor St., just west of Tappan Square, but still there was not enough room for all of the students in this expanding community.

In 1860, the Union School District—which included Russia Township—was organized, and over 800 students of all races attended classes. Ever-increasing enrollment and related financial troubles plagued the school system for the next several decades. Still, the community managed to raise enough money to build new schools, among them the New Union School, built in 1874, and two schools built in 1886-1887 on Prospect St. and on Pleasant St. Additions were added to these buildings in 1910 and in 1911. Following World War I, the school board purchased an army barrack and placed it behind the high school building to be used as a manual training building. In 1923, a new high school was begun on North Main St. The Federal Public Works Administration funded a \$75,000 arts building on the south side of the high school in 1936. In 1955, Eastwood Elementary School was built. The next decade saw the “old” high school on North Main become the Oberlin Junior High School (now Langston Middle School), and in 1979, the old structures at Prospect and Pleasant were razed and a new elementary school soon went up at the Prospect site. In 1995, the Oberlin School District covered an area of 47 square miles, including the City of Oberlin and portions of New Russia, Carlisle, Pittsfield, and Amherst townships. Students attend school in four buildings: Eastwood Elementary School (grades K-2), Prospect Elementary School (3-5), Langston Middle School (6-8), and Oberlin High School (9-12).

### *Scope and Content*

This group contains mostly statistical information, as early as 1880, on the number of schools and students, costs, and tax information. An illustrated pamphlet on the Arts and Industries Building, constructed in 1936, is present, as are 21 architects' plans. These plans include floor plans and an encapsulated rendering, n.d., by the architects Patton and Miller; elevations and floor plans by Tim Bosworth, n.d.; and a rendering of a proposed high school building by Eliel Saarinen, 1941.

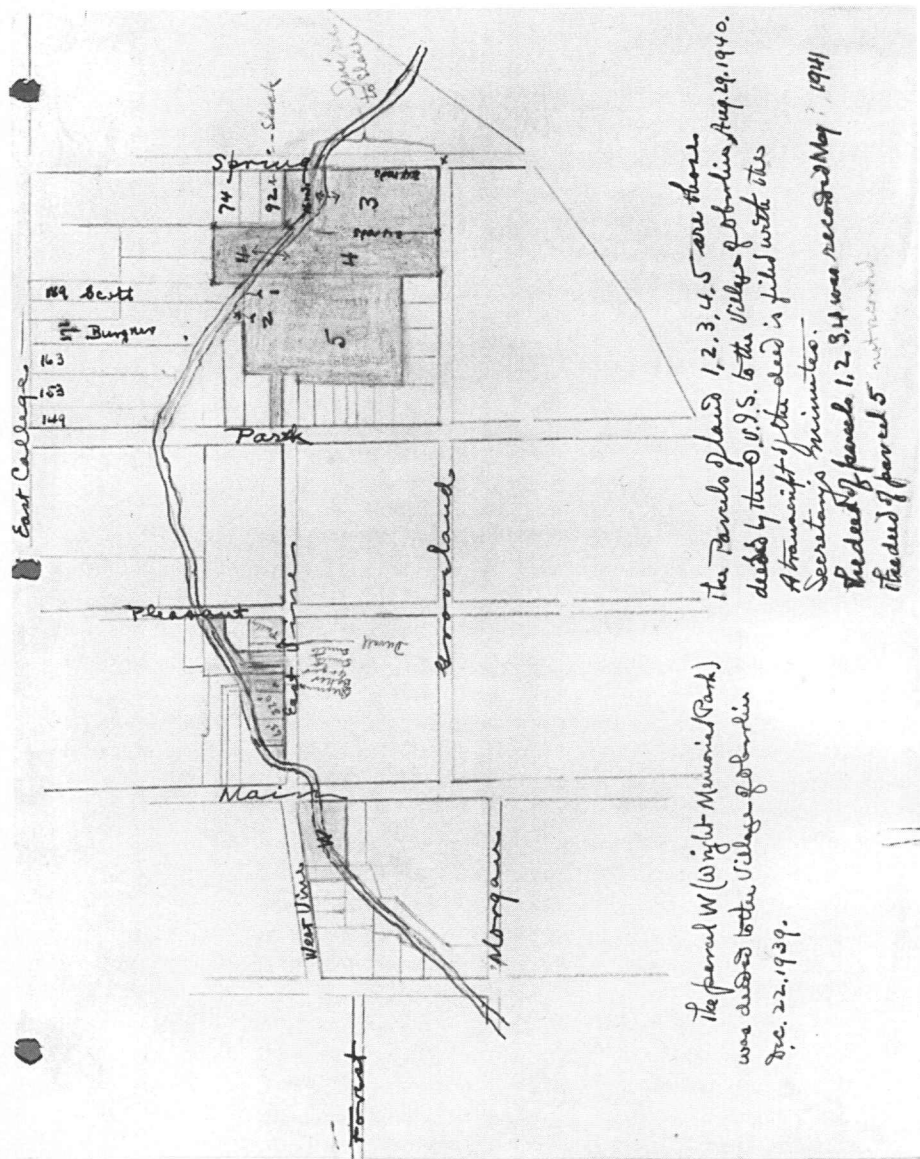
## **[77] Records of the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization, 1903-1994, 6.5 l.f.**

### *Historical Note*

The Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization (O.H.I.O.) formed in 1964 with the merger of the Oberlin Village Improvement Society (organized in 1903 by Adelia A. Field Johnston with support from Charles Martin Hall) and the Oberlin Historical Society (established in 1960 as a result of attempts to save the Little Red School House and the James Monroe House from demolition). Governed by an 18-member board of trustees, O.H.I.O.'s purpose is to "maintain and operate the historically significant sites, structures, artifacts, records and reproductions, along with promoting the community center's charitable and literary activities...." Presently, O.H.I.O. administers the Burrell-King House, 315 E. College St.; the Jewett House, 73 S. Professor St.; the Little Red School House, 73 1/2 S. Professor St.; the James Monroe House, 73 1/2 S. Professor St.; and the Oberlin Community Center Building, 80 S. Main St.

### *Scope and Content*

This record group contains documents from the present O.H.I.O. and its predecessor organizations. Oberlin Park Board records, 1911-1915, detail plans for the Oberlin park system, with letters and reports from landscape architect Andrew Auten, progress reports, clippings, and nine hand-drawn and printed maps of park properties. The next large body of documentation dates from the 1960s and details the preservation attempts for the Little Red School House and the James Monroe House. Proposed plans for a memorial to Charles Martin Hall are also present. Information on each of O.H.I.O.'s properties—excluding the Burrell-King House—is comprised of histories, maintenance reports, clippings, deeds, usage descriptions, and pamphlets. Board minutes, 1965-1989, cover all aspects of the use and care of the properties. Particularly useful is the Monroe House documentation, including letters from the architectural firm of Clark and Post, "memories" of the early use and inhabitants of the house, and six floor plans. A large number of black and white and color photographs of O.H.I.O. properties are present, as well as a 1918 image of Main Street Oberlin and views of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Finally, researchers will want to consult a 41-page CAP assessment report (July, 1994), which offers a description and condition of the building sites and each building. Included is an O.H.I.O. Master Plan.



The parcels of land 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 are those  
 deeded by the O.P.S. to the Village of Oberlin Aug 29, 1940.  
 A transcript of the deed is filed with the  
 Secretary's minutes.  
 The deed of parcels 1, 2, 3, 4 was recorded May 7, 1941  
 The deed of parcel 5 not recorded

The parcel W (Wright Memorial Park)  
 was deeded to the Village of Oberlin  
 Dec. 22, 1939.

Wright Memorial Park  
 Oberlin College deeded several parcels of land, along Plum Creek

## PHOTOGRAPHS AND NEGATIVES (Group 32)

### [78] Photographs and Negatives, 1848-1995, 250,000 items

#### *Historical Note*

Oberlin College had no formal publicist until James H. Ross was hired to submit occasional Oberlin news items to eastern papers during the administration of President John Henry Barrows (1847-1902). Subsequently, the Faculty Committee; the News Bureau Committee, 1914-1929; the Publicity Bureau, 1929-1952; the Public Relations Office, 1952-1984; and the Office of Communications, beginning in 1984, functioned as publicity agents for Oberlin College.

The paid position of college photographer was created in 1917. The role of the photographer was to portray campus events, organizations, and faculty and students. Pictures were used in the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* and in calendars produced by the College. Arthur Ludwig Princehorn (1870-1931), the first photographer, held the post until his death. He was assisted by his son Arthur E. ("Pinky") Princehorn (b. 1904), who took over following his father's death and served until 1969. Some of their successors include Robert H. Stillwell (b. 1945), S. Joan Anderson, John Seyfried, Edsel Little, John Corriveau, and Rick Sherlock.

#### *Scope and Content*

Consisting of approximately 250,000 items, the Oberlin College Archives' photograph collection contains images that date from 1848 to 1995. Included are black and white and color prints, negatives, glass plate negatives, daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, slides, transparencies, and contact sheets of various standard sizes. Augmented over many years, the photograph collection is an excellent visual source documenting Oberlin's built environment. The images document phases of construction, exteriors and interiors, landscaping, monuments, streets, and so forth.

Archivist William E. Bigglestone formed RG 32 as the central location for photographic material, combining still images from a variety of sources. The Oberlin College Archives' unpublished, spiral-bound "Guide to Photographs, Negatives, and Other Visual Materials in the Oberlin College Archives" lists the photographic holdings in groups. Of those pertinent to Oberlin's built environment, some images are housed in a vertical file (two steel cases), and others are boxed and shelved. Photographic subject files in RG 32 are essentially from the old working files of the Office of Communications.

RG 32/2 "Miscellaneous Photos, ca. 1930s - 1950s," contains photographs that are boxed and shelved. This category includes a small assortment of folders applicable to architecture, from dining halls to the Veterans Trailer Camp, ca. 1945.

In the "Buildings" category, RG 32/4, are photographs of 80 college and non-college buildings, with both exterior and interior views. This series contains a full range of structures from the Administration Building to the Wilbur and Orville Wright Laboratory of Physics. Included are views of some buildings that have long since been torn down, such as those on Tappan Square prior to 1928. Photographs of individual dormitories are filed in steel cabinets alphabetically under the heading "dormitories." The photograph collection also includes a ca. 1961 scrapbook containing more than 20 pages of drawings and photographs of the Kulas Organ Center, located in Robertson Hall of the Conservatory of Music. Elevation, floor, and site plans by architect Minoru Yamasaki highlight the Kulas Recital Hall; photograph subjects include architectural models, interiors, exteriors, aerial views, and construction progress. While most building photographs are housed in RG 32,



others are filed within an associated institutional record group. For example, the Conservatory of Music prints are located in RG 10.

RG 32/5, the "Subjects" category of photographs, is arranged alphabetically by folder title in two steel cabinets. While some of these images are of buildings like the presidents' houses, others are of smaller details of Oberlin's built environment, such as the Chinese Bell, classrooms and students' rooms, and memorials and monuments. Interiors of Finney Chapel, First Church, the old gymnasium, and several tents are depicted in the 27 folders that provide a visual chronicle of the Mock Convention, 1908-1968. Still other folders house visual items clearly intended for artistic display; the researcher will find these photographic essays under the headings "44074 Exhibit" and "Pictorial Memories of Oberlin." Folders of interest to an architectural historian include: Aerial Views of Campus (4 folders); Arboretum; Architect's Prints - rejected models; Architect's Drawings, Men's and Women's Dormitories, Conservatory of Music, Misc.; Bandstand; Chapel Services; Chinese Bell; Class Rooms (2 folders); Floods in Oberlin; 44074 Exhibit; Galpin Field; Grave Stones; Hall (Charles M.) Statue; Haskell, Katharine Wright Memorial Fountain; Houses - Historic, Presidential, Unidentified; Little Red School House; Maps; Memorials, Monuments, etc.; Mock Convention; Monroe House; Oberlin College ca. 1890; Oberlin (City of) Views; Oberlin Kindergarten-Primary Training School; Oberlin Community - Children's Home, Missionary Home, Street, Skylines, Views; *Pictorial Memories of Oberlin* (Rotary Club); Published Photos; Rocks, Boulders on the Oberlin College Campus; Soldiers' Monument (designed by Charles H. Churchill); Student Rooms; Tabernacle Tent (for Oberlin Revival); Trees.

Finally, the photograph collection at the Oberlin College Archives contains many negatives. The Princehorns are responsible for 48 boxes of these negatives; Karl F. Geiser (see the papers of Karl F. Geiser) contributed three boxes. Two other boxes contain negatives solely of buildings, and 21 boxes of glass plate negatives house over 100 individual images of buildings and monuments. Among the more unique glass plate negatives are those of the Finney Chapel in 1908 and 1910, the Memorial Arch in 1915, Peters Hall in 1890, Wilder Hall in 1930, and Bridge Construction of Hales Gymnasium, ca. 1937 (latter two in box 21).

## POSTCARDS (Group 36)

### [79] Postcards, ca. 1890-1995, 1.5 l.f.

#### *Historical Note*

The nucleus of the postcard collection, dating from the early 1900s, originates with the acquisition of the John G. Olmstead papers in 1967 and in 1973. Since then, miscellaneous postcards from other sources were added as received. There are postal card series or subseries in quite a number of other personal papers collections where the cards form an integral part of those collections.

#### *Scope and Content*

The bulk of postcards are either picture cards or occasion cards, but others fit neither category. Picture postcards are arranged by location: states, cities within states, foreign. Occasion cards are organized under the headings of Babies, Birthdays, Christmas, Easter, Halloween, New Years, St. Patrick's Day, Thanksgiving, and Valentines. Approximately 500 postcards depict views of Oberlin, including campus scenes, churches and tabernacles, commencement scenes, dormitories, houses, the Memorial Arch, the Oberlin Inn, Oberlin College buildings, streets, storms, and the town of Oberlin. Images are both black and

white and in color. Many images of buildings and street scenes predate the employment of a college photographer; thus, these postcards are valuable for providing unique views of Oberlin before 1917.

## MOTION PICTURES AND TAPE RECORDINGS (Group 37)

[80] Motion Pictures, Tape Recordings, and Video Recordings, 1928-1995, 34 l.f.

### *Historical Note*

This record group contains films of various reel sizes produced by Oberlin College, made both for promotional use and historical record. Tape and video recordings are also included.

### *Scope and Content*

Approximately ten films, 1927-1957, deal with subjects that can be specifically linked to architectural history. Within these ten films are views and details of buildings that can be divided into three main subjects: structures that are no longer standing, dormitories and housing, and present college buildings. From the first category are scenes of the old Chemistry Laboratory, Second Congregational Church, Spear Library-Laboratory, Warner Conservatory, and the Zoology Laboratory. Dormitories and housing depictions include: Burton, Dascomb, Elmwood House, Fairchild, the Goodrich House, Harkness, the Men's dormitory complex, and unnamed private boarding houses. Present college and community buildings include Allen Memorial Art Museum, Allen Memorial Hospital, Bosworth Hall, Carnegie Library, Cox Administration Building, Crane Pool, Finney Chapel, First Church, Hall Auditorium, the Memorial Arch, Peters Hall, Severance Chemical Laboratory, Westervelt Hall, and Wright Physics Laboratory.

In the video tape collection, three productions document Oberlin's architectural history. Their titles are "The Dedication of the William A. Moffett Auditorium" (May 6, 1995); "How Buildings Tell the Story" by Geoffrey Blodgett (October 8, 1995), and "The Oberlin Experience" (1993?). The latter video is a production of the Office of Conference Services.

## PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND OTHER FRAMED ITEMS (Group 40)

[81] Paintings, Drawings, and Other Framed Items, 1836-1994, 240 items

### *Historical Note*

Several artists and photographers have created artistic renderings of Oberlin since its earliest days. The paintings, drawings, and other framed items capture images of the town and campus. Some items are more interpretive or abstract than others.

### *Scope and Content*

This record group includes some framed photographs, and both originals and prints of pencil sketches, woodblock prints, etchings, and drawings. Four items exist documenting

the campus of the "Collegiate Institute" before 1850. They are: Thirza Skinner Pelton's watercolor and stencil of Tappan Hall, 1836; Margaret Drake Penfield's oil on board of Tappan Hall, ca. 1838-1841; H. Alonzo Pease's watercolor and ink titled "A Partial View of Oberlin," 1838; and Henry Howe's wood engraving with color pencil of "The Meeting-house, Tappan Square and Oberlin Institute Buildings," 1846.

An alphabetical inventory of framed items lists images, ca. 1840-1910, of the City of Oberlin and of Oberlin College campus buildings. Unframed items include more than 50 etchings, 1912-1936, by Julia G. Severance (1877-1972) on postcards and for college calendars; woodblock prints of Finney Chapel and of the Memorial Arch, 1933, by Edward D. McDowell; and six pencil sketches of Oberlin buildings completed in 1987 by Ivy E. Starr (b. 1909), the mother of President S. Frederick Starr. Kate Emlen Chamberlin executed a color print of Finney Chapel, which was used on the invitation for the inauguration of President Nancy S. Dye, in 1994. Also from 1994 are copies of Paul B. Arnold's four drawings of "The Hickories," the Lorain County Historical Society building, located at 509 Washington Ave., Elyria, Ohio.

The work of Canadian architect Julian S. Smith (A.B. 1969) appears in both the framed and unframed categories of drawings. He completed 22 original drawings and prints of campus buildings, ca. 1970, perhaps for the alumni office. Smith's design for the Oberlin Bandstand Competition was selected in 1985; the Clark Bandstand was erected in 1987. Drawings for this design—which include a site plan, a location plan, a cross section, two elevations, and a rendering of the final structure—are amongst the archives' framed drawings.

## RECORDS OF THE OBERLIN COLLEGE ARCHIVES (Group 41)

### [82] Records of the Oberlin College Archives, 1966-1995, 22 l.f.

#### *Administrative Note*

The Oberlin College Archives was founded in 1966. Dedicated in 1974 to the memory of Miss Margaret Morfoot (d. 1972), its vault is located on the fourth floor of the Mudd Center in room 420. The records of the Oberlin College Archives hold documentation accumulated by Oberlin College's two archivists—William E. Bigglestone, 1966-1986, and Roland M. Baumann, 1987-present—and the Oberliniana acquired by college librarians over a century.

#### *Scope and Content*

Subgroup II, Series 15 "Publications and Special Project Files" contains collected historical materials pertaining to the Memorial Arch, gathered for a special display about the 1902 monument prepared by the archives staff in 1990. The contents of this file consist of photocopies gleaned from other archival sources. Included are articles from newspapers and campus publications, essays written on various topics concerning the arch, a chronology of events surrounding the arch's placement on the Oberlin College campus, and a number of letters and opinion pieces. Of special interest are copies of letters from Judson Smith, corresponding secretary for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, pertaining to the funding, appearance, and dedication of the arch. Collected contemporary viewpoints, including 1990 student comments placed on the bulletin board,

about the arch point to the controversy surrounding the monument and how this landscape structure is understood historically by the Oberlin community.

## **ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS (Group 53)**

### **[83] Architectural Records, 1900-1992, 140 items**

#### *Historical Note*

Architectural records are placed in this artificial group of miscellaneous drawings and renderings when oversized items are received by the College Archives outside of official transfers, or when they fall outside deeds of gifts for personal papers.

#### *Scope and Content*

Blueprints, sketches, and other oversized renderings of Oberlin buildings, landscape, and utilities are stored in 50 drawers of flat file cases. The architectural record cases contain several drawings that are not associated with any other record groups held at the Oberlin College Archives. These renderings include 61 pages of blueprints, n.d., by Howard, Needles, Tammen, and Bergendorff for the Air Route Traffic Control Center; 31 pages, 1969, of the apartments on College and S. Park Sts. by Kleeva J. Kekst; sketches for the Oberlin Bandstand Competition, ca. 1985; an improvement site map and blueprints, 1950, for the College Park Addition by T.W. Laundon; blueprints, 1991, for the Gasholder House by Stanley Mathews; and 11 pages of blueprints, 1969, of the General Telephone Company building. Also included are 20 pages of blueprints, 1971, of the Gilford Instruments Laboratory by Damon, Worley, Cady, and Kirk; blueprints, 1912, of the Johnston Park Playground by Andrew Auten; blueprints of the Village of Oberlin gas mains for the Oberlin Gas and Electric Company; 2 pages of blueprints and a sketch, n.d., of the Oberlin Stand Pipe tower built in 1893 for the Variety Iron Works Company; and finally, a sketch, 1960, of the water treatment and distribution systems for the Water Treatment Plant.

# Index

Note: Numbers assigned to names and subjects refer to the entry number and not to a given page number. When the index number appears in bold face (e.g., Gilbert, Cass, **55**), it references the principal entry, or group of institutional records or personal papers bearing the name. All other numbers relate to entries where this item is referenced.

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