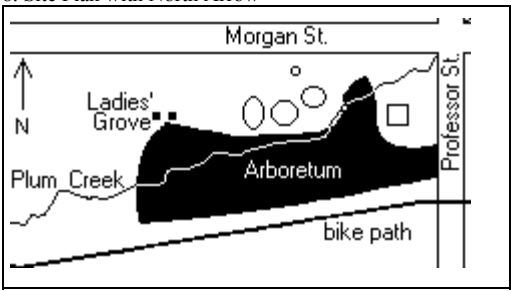


# OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 E. Hudson St.  
Columbus, OH 43211  
614/298-2000



1. No. <b>LOR-1884-21</b>		2. County <b>Lorain</b>		4. Present Name(s) <b>Oberlin Arboretum</b>		1 No <b>LOR-1884-21</b>
3. Location of Negatives <b>O.H.I.O.</b>				5. Historic or Other Name(s) <b>Ladies' Grove</b>		
Roll No. <b>7</b>		Picture No.(s) <b>6,7,8,9,10</b>				
6. Specific Address or Location <b>216 S. Professor</b>				16. Thematic Associations: <b>ARTS AND RECREATION, Golf, Public Spaces</b>		28. No. of Stories
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number <b>0900095101027</b>				17. Date(s) or Period <b>1892</b>		29. Basement?
7. City or Village <b>Oberlin</b>				18. Style or Design High Style Elements		30. Foundation Material
8. Site Plan with North Arrow 				18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)		31. Wall Construction
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name: <b>Oberlin</b> <b>17 397393 4571118</b> Zone Easting Northing				19. Architect or Engineer		32. Roof Type Roof Material
10. Classification: <b>Site</b>				19a. Design Sources		33. No. of Bays Side Bays
11. On National Register?				20. Contractor or Builder		34. Exterior Wall Material(s)
13. Part of Established Hist. Dist?				21. Building Type or Plan		35. Plan Shape
15. Other Designation (NR or Local)				22. Original Use, if apparent <b>Natural Feature, ,</b>		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Addition Altered Moved
				23. Present Use <b>Natural Feature, ,</b>		37. Window Type(s)
				24. Ownership <b>Private</b>		38. Building Dimensions
				25. Owner's Name & Address, if known <b>Oberlin College</b>		39. Endangered? By What?
				26. Property Acreage <b>unknown</b>		40. Chimney Placement
				27. Other Surveys		41. Distance from & Frontage on Road
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)						
A log fence and gate are located on the Professor St. entrance into the Arboretum. Two small stone pillars hold up the wood gate. Several dirt/gravel paths are located in the arboretum, while a cinder path leads the way into the arboretum from Professor St. The cinder path branches into several other cinder and grass paths. The main path dead-ends into an unfinished amphitheater, consisting only of a grassy hill. A fire pit is located at the continued...						
43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)						
The Oberlin Arboretum got its start when OC purchased the 17 acre 'Ladies' Grove' in 1892, hoping to turn the patch of virgin woods into a nature preserve (Ponzetti 1-4). Wealthy OC alum Charles Martin Hall bought much of the property surrounding the grove & bordered by professor St, Morgan St, Pyle-South Amherst Road, & the NYC railroad tracks (now a bike path) in order to realize a full-fledged arboretum. One of these properties included the Rebecca A Johnson house, which is still used for continued...						
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)						
The arboretum is located between the streets of Professor and Morgan, the bike path and the golf course. About seventy acres of land encompass the park. The arboretum is filled with many different trees and plants; it is a haven for animals and people.						
45. Sources of Information						
City Directories, O.H.I.O Resource Center.; Gordon, Stephen C, 'How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory,' Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, 1992.; 'Lucy Stone Walk-a-thon,' Internet, <a href="http://www.oberlin.edu/external/EOG/LucyStonewalk-a-thonTour/LucyStoneTour.html">http://www.oberlin.edu/external/EOG/LucyStonewalk-a-thonTour/LucyStoneTour.html</a> , Accessed 2004.; 'Oberlin News,' continued...						
46. Prepared By: <b>Clark, Surovy, Tomazic, Tuohy</b>		47. Organization: <b>O.H.I.O./ Oberlin Heritage Center</b>		48. Date Recorded: <b>08/02/2004</b>		

1 No  
**LOR-1884-21**

2 County  
**Lorain**

4 Present or Historic Name(s)  
**Oberlin Arboretum**

6 Specific Address or Location  
**216 S. Professor**

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51. Condition of Property: <b>No Selection</b> 52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies  53. Affiliated OAI Site Numbers  <hr/> Door Selection:  Door Position:  Orientation:  Symmetry:  <hr/> FOR OHPO USE: 49. Revised By:  50a. Date Revised:  50b. Reviewed by:  RPR Number:	54. Farmstead Plan <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 250px; width: 100%;"></div>
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*42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)*

bottom of the amphitheater. Stone sitting is located around the built-in fire pit. A dirt path leads to a bridge, which crosses Plum Creek. The bridge has concrete footings and is made of steel that has rusted. Wood planks line the floor, while a wire cable held up by small steel poles acts as a handrail. A stone stairway located to the east of the bridge leads up to the reservoirs, which are city property. No buildings can be found in the arboretum, however two pillars form an entrance off of Morgan St. The pillars are made of stone and mortared together with a clay mixture and are marked with the words, 'Ladies Grove'. They stand about eight feet tall and each has lower sections that extend out about ten feet. Smaller pillars are located at the ends and are only about three or four feet tall. Each of the pillars and extensions contain stone tops.

*43. History and Significance (Con't)*

student housing (Ponzetti 8-9). This land probably also included Kinsman Rd, a small residential street that disappears from the City Directories about this time. There is currently a cinder path in approximately the same area. Hall presented the properties, 77 acres total, to OC soon before his death in 1914. In his will, Hall left a fund to maintain the property & outlined his hopes for the Arboretum, which were essentially that it would remain free of buildings & athletic fields & be developed as a tree & bird sanctuary for both the town & OC (Ponzetti 8-9). The will has been a source of contention ever since. For example, the College has gone to court in the past because it leases a large chunk of Hall's purchase to the private Oberlin Golf Club. Consequently, the Arboretum encompasses only about sixty acres of the roughly one hundred originally planned. Other controversies have included plans to create a public pool & recreation area around the reservoir in the 1960's &, recently, the College's failed attempt to build new dorms behind Johnson House (Ponzetti 25-32). There have been numerous small improvements over the last century including various

*44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (Con't)*

*45. Sources (Con't)*

15 April 1898: 1.; Ponzetti, Jeanne M & Jeffrey Pence, 'A Social History: College & Community Use of the Oberlin Arboretum,' Mellon Research Grant, Oberlin College, 1987.; McAlester, Virginia and Lee, 'A Field Guide to American Houses,' Alfred K. Knopf Inc., New York, 2000.; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.; Blodgett, Jane.; Lothrop, Richard.; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.; Gordon, Stephen C.

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3. Location of Negatives **O.H.I.O.**

4. Present Name(s)  
**Oberlin Arboretum**

Roll No.                      Picture No.(s)

**7**                                **6,7,8,9,10**

5. Historic or Other Name(s)  
**Ladies' Grove**

L<sup>No</sup>  
**LOR-1884-21**

