

OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 E. Hudson St. Columbus, Ohio 43211
614/297-2470



1. No.	2. County LOR	4. Present Name(s) Dascomb Hall		<input type="checkbox"/> Coded									
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr.		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Dascomb Hall											
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>Roll #</th> <th>Exp. #</th> <th>Facing</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Front 4</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W.Side 4</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Roll #	Exp. #	Facing	Front 4	2		W.Side 4	3				
Roll #	Exp. #	Facing											
Front 4	2												
W.Side 4	3												
6. Specific Address or Location 140 West College Street		17. Date(s) or Period 1956	17b. Alteration Date(s)	30. Foundation Material Unknown									
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 0900-085-106-065		18. Style or Design Modern Movement	High Style <input type="checkbox"/>	31. Wall Construction Concrete Block									
7. City or Village Oberlin If Rural, Township & Vicinity		18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)	Elements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	32. Roof: Type Flat Pitch Flat Material Unknown									
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		19. Architect or Engineer Potter, Tyler, Martin, and Roth (Cincinnati)	33. No. Bays Front 22 Side 6										
		19a. Design Sources Unknown	34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Brick, Flemish Bond										
		20. Contractor or Builder Unknown	35. Plan Shape Irregular										
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name		21. Building Type or Plan Other Building	36. Changes (Explain in #42) Unaltered										
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>Zone</th> <th>Easting</th> <th>Northing</th> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> </table>		Zone	Easting	Northing	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	22. Original Use, if apparent Dormitory	37. Window Type(s) Awning, also Fixed				
Zone	Easting	Northing											
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>											
10. <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object		23. Present Use Dormitory	38. Bldg. Dims. 137 x 281										
11. On National Register? No		24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	39. Endangered? No Explain:										
12. N.R. Potential? Yes		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Oberlin College 173 W. Lorain St. Oberlin OH 44074	40. Chimney Placement No Chimney Observed										
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No		26. Property Acreage unknown (irregular)	41a. Distance from road approx. 45'										
14. Dist. Potential? Yes		27. Other Surveys in Which Included No	41b. Frontage on road 410 ft.										
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)		28. No. of Stories 3											
16. Thematic Association(s) Private Education - College		29. Basement? No											
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features This dormitory was built with the austerity and efficiency of Modernism. The long, narrow building lies parallel to the street, and the main entry, a set of double doors with wide sidelights and a transom, is near the center of the south façade. On the left side of the entry, the wall is clad with panels of turquoise marble that bear the name "Dascomb" in metal letters. To the left of the marble is a row of seven large windows, covered by a continuous flat arch of concrete. A one-story dining hall projects from the north side of the building, and there are entries on its north and east sides. A side door projects from the west end of the south façade, a wheelchair ramp leads up to an entry on the east end of the building, and there is a loading dock for the (cont.)													
43. History and Significance Prior to 1950, most of Oberlin's students lived in large houses around town, some owned by the College, and others owned by individual landlords. Starting with the G.I. Bill and continuing with the Baby Boom, Oberlin's student body swelled in the years after World War Two, and the College's president, William Stevenson, decided to house this influx in large dormitories on campus. In Oberlin's own version of urban renewal, many wooden houses were torn down to make way for Dascomb Hall and its fraternal twin, Barrows Hall, both completed in 1956 (Oberlin Architecture). Dascomb is named for one of the wooden houses it replaced, (cont.)													
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) This building is located in a college campus setting, with a residential neighborhood located across the street. There are parking lots on the east and west sides of the building, and a campus quad is adjacent to the north. A cast iron fence surrounds a tree to the north of the building.													
45. Sources of Information Blodgett, Geoffrey. <i>Oberlin Architecture, College and Town: A Guide to its Social History</i> . Oberlin College, 1985. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin City Directories. Lorain County Courthouse, Auditor Property Records, 2001. Internet. http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor/index.shtml . Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files. O.H.I.O. Resource Center Files. Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pat Holsworth, Oberlin Pioneer Database. George Langelier, Interview, 3 December 2002. Geoffrey Blodgett, "The Grand March of Oberlin Campus Plans," 2000.													
			46. Prepared by H. Petersen, M. Franck, D. Musson, and O.H.I.O. Interns										
			47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.										
			48. Date Recorded 12/16/2002										
			49. Revised by										
			50a. Date Revised										
			50b. Reviewed by										

51. Condition of Property

- Excellent Ruin
 Good/Fair Destroyed/Burned
 Deteriorated Date _____

54. Farmstead Plan



52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

- Corn Crib or Shed Summer Kitchen Silo
 Smoke House Spring House Ice House
 Designed Landscape Features Privy Garage

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s) _____

OAI Completed? _____

Archaeological Feature:	Observed	Expected on Basis of Archival Research
Well	_____	_____
Privy	_____	_____
Cistern	_____	_____
Foundation	_____	_____
Structural Rubble	_____	_____
Formal Trash Dump	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

dining hall on the northwest corner of the building. The windows of the dorm rooms have stone slip sills, and two-story windows illuminate the stairwells. The cornice of the building is a very plain stone entablature.

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

and that house had been named for Dr. James Dascomb, the first doctor in Oberlin and one of the signers of the Oberlin Covenant in 1834 (Holsworth). Historian Geoffrey Blodgett pointed out that campus architecture was the main medium through which the student anger of the 1960s arrived on campus. Students reacted vocally against Dascomb and other expedient "slabs" of "sleeping and feeding space," and this protest soon took on other controversies, including the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War (Campus Plans). Fittingly, Dascomb went from being the impetus for protest to the vehicle of social change: During January 1969, with the approval of Dean of Students George Langelier, Dascomb became the first co-ed college dormitory in the United States (Langelier). The experiment was a success, and now almost all of Oberlin Colleges dormitories are co-ed. Today, students gather at Dascomb' s dining hall on weeknights for "Fourth Meal," a late-night snack served by the campus dining service.