

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) Carnegie Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Coded									
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Carnegie Library										
	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>Roll #</th> <th>Exp. #</th> <th>Facing</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Front 1</td> <td>26A</td> <td>N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rear 4</td> <td>10A</td> <td>NE</td> </tr> </table>	Roll #	Exp. #	Facing	Front 1	26A	N	Rear 4	10A	NE		
Roll #	Exp. #	Facing										
Front 1	26A	N										
Rear 4	10A	NE										

6. Specific Address or Location 52 West Lorain	17. Date(s) or Period 1908	17b. Alteration Date(s)	30. Foundation Material Stone
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 09-00-075-110-052	18. Style or Design Richardsonian Romanesque	High Style <input type="checkbox"/>	31. Wall Construction Stone Bearing
7. City or Village Oberlin	18a. Style of Addition or Element(s) Craftsman/Arts & Crafts	Elements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	32. Roof: Type Gable Pitch Moderate Material Clay Tile, Roman Tile
8. Site Plan with North Arrow	19. Architect or Engineer Patton & Miller, Chicago		33. No. Bays Front 15 Side 17
	19a. Design Sources		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Stone, Rock-Faced Ashlar
	20. Contractor or Builder George Feick, Sandusky		35. Plan Shape T-Shaped
9. U.T.M. Reference	21. Building Type or Plan Other Building		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Altered, Substantially
Zone Easting Northing	22. Original Use, if apparent College Library		37. Window Type(s) 1 over 1 Double-hung, Stained glass
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	23. Present Use College Admissions; Geology; Financial Aid		38. Bldg. Dims. 138 ft. X 169 ft.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object	24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		39. Endangered? No Explain:
11. On National Register ? Yes	25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Oberlin College		40. Chimney Placement No Chimney Observed
12. N.R. Potential ?	26. Property Acreage 1.666		41a. Distance from road
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No	27. Other Surveys in Which Included McQuillen (75)		41b. Frontage on road 138 ft.
14. Dist. Potential ? No	28. No. of Stories 3 and 1/2		
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local) NR: Oberlin College thematic nomination	29. Basement? Yes		
16. Thematic Association(s) Education: Parochial/Private: Higher			

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features
This symmetrical, split-faced ashlar, three-and one-half-story building, has a red tile, parapet-gabled roof, and Arts and Crafts design elements. The front façade has three parapet-gable dormers, with simplified Palladian windows, arranged above three, tall windows with top-mounted, paired, leaded-glass panes that are clear in the central expanse and colored in the surrounding panes. The double doors of the entrance are narrow, with arched glass panels. The entrance protrudes from the building, extending the entrance hall about ten feet. "Carnegie Library," is carved in the pseudo-gabled area above the main entrance; it is surrounded by buckeye leaves and crowned by doubled brackets. (cont.)

43. History and Significance
Carnegie Library was a gift of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, of New York. Mr. Carnegie made the gift after Cassie Chadwick used his name to defraud a local bank (Oberlin News-Tribune). The architects were Patton and Miller, of Chicago, and the building was constructed by Mr. George Feick, of Sandusky, Ohio. The total cost was \$155,600, of which Mr. Carnegie furnished \$150,000. Construction began in May, 1907 and the building was dedicated June 23, 1908, in connection with the celebration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the College (OC General Catalogue). When built, Carnegie Library provided a large reading room, offices, seminar rooms for each department, (cont.)

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)
This building is on State Route 511, a principal thoroughfare for traffic. It is across the street from Tappan Square, an open space in the middle of town.

45. Sources of Information
Lorain County Courthouse: Lorain County tax records. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files; General Catalogue of Oberlin College, 1908; "Our Common Center" database; Oberlin News-Tribune, 3/29/1935. Blodgett, Geoffrey. Oberlin Architecture College and Town: A Guide to its Social History. Oberlin College, 1985.

46. Prepared by M. Fedelchak-Harley; L. Preville
47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.
48. Date Recorded 9-18-2000
49. Revised by
50a. Date Revised
50b. Reviewed by

51. Condition of Property

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good/Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed/Burned
<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	Date _____

54. Farmstead Plan

52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

<input type="checkbox"/> Corn Crib or Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> Silo
<input type="checkbox"/> Smoke House	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring House	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice House
<input type="checkbox"/> Designed Landscape Features	<input type="checkbox"/> Privy	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s) _____

OAI Completed? _____

Archaeological Feature:	Observed	Expected on Basis of Archival Research
Well	No _____	No _____
Privy	No _____	No _____
Cistern	No _____	No _____
Foundation	No _____	No _____
Structural Rubble	No _____	No _____
Formal Trash Dump	No _____	No _____
Other _____	No _____	No _____

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

Single brackets appear along the main roof, and a stone belt course divides the first and second stories. The first floor has its original mosaic tile floor, and the stairways retain decorative metalwork that supports the milled bannisters. The rear of the building has four stories to compensate for the tall ceilings of the front. A large brick addition was added to the rear of the building, circa 1040.

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

a bibliographical library room, and a six-story stack room. "The Reading Girl," a sculpture in marble by American artist, Mr. J.C. Jackson, occupied a prominent place in the alcove; it was a gift Mr. Aaron Healy, of New York in 1885, and now it is in Mudd Library.

In the 1940s a large new addition was placed on the rear, but education needs made the building increasingly outmoded. In 1974 the college replaced Carnegie Library with the new Mudd Learning Center. The building continued to serve as the town's public library until 1990 when the public library moved to the former "Fazio's Grocery" on South Main (O.H.I.O. Resource Center). In 1981 the admissions office moved into the first floor (Blodgett). Today the once reading room on the second floor is used primarily for special events, such as wedding receptions, banquets, and meetings.

This building is significant for its history as a philanthropic gift to the college and community, and for its history of academic growth and expansion. The Carnegie Library was listed on the National Register as part of the Oberlin College thematic nomination in 1978. It was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin City Landmark in November of 1997.