



OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

RPR Number:

1. No. LOR-02158-21		4. Present Name(s) John Frederick Oberlin Apartments		8-21 LOR-0215
2. County Lorain		5. Historic or Other Name(s) John Frederick Oberlin Apartments		
6. Specific Address or Location 138 South Main		19a. Design Sources		2. County Lorain
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 0900085113034		20. Contractor or Builder		
7. City or Village Oberlin		21. Building Type or Plan Other Building Type		4. Present or Historic Name(s) John Frederick Oberlin Apartments
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name: Oberlin 17 398003 4571451 Zone Easting Northing		22. Original Use, if apparent Apartment House		
10. Classification: Building		23. Present Use Apartment House		35. Plan Shape Rectangular
11. On National Register? NO		24. Ownership Public		
13. Part of Established Hist. Dist? NO		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority 1600 Kansas Ave. Lorain, OH, 44052		36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates: 17. Original/Most significant construct 17b.
15. Other Designation (NR or Local)		26. Property Acreage 4.8		
16. Thematic Associations: Apartment Building City and Regional Planning		27. Other Surveys		37. Window Type(s) 1 over 1 Plate Glass
17. Date(s) or Period 1965-1966		28. No. of Stories 5 - 10 stories		
18. Style Class and Design Dominant Modern Movements		29. Basement? Unknown		38. Building Dimensions 52' x 156'
18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)		30. Foundation Material Concrete slab		
19. Architect or Engineer Meathe Kessler & Associates		31. Wall Construction Metal/steel frame		39. Endangered? NO By What?
		32. Roof Type Flat Roof Material Unknown		
		33. No. of Bays 39 Side Bays 9		40. Chimney Placement Unknown
		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Brick Concrete		
				41. Distance from & Frontage on Road
				51. Condition of Property: Good/Fair
				52. Historic Outbuildings & Dependencies Structure Type Date Associated Activity
				53. Affiliated Inventory Numbers Historic (OHI) Archaeological (OAI)

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)
This five-story contemporary apartment building is Oberlin's largest multi-family residence, discounting area retirement facilities and college dormitories. The north elevation of this structure can be divided into four distinct segments, the first and third of which, counting from the left, are slightly recessed. There are two rectangular 'towers' that project above the roofline, one at the juncture between the second and third segments, and the other between the third and fourth segments. None of the towers have windows, but each tower is set off by a narrow line of windows to the left of the tower itself; in both towers, the window elements occur in stacked discrete units. On the first tower, each window unit comprises, from bottom to top, a metal panel, a hopper window, and a fixed window. On the second tower, the window units are composed of alternating metal panels and fixed windows. An entrance is set just to the west (right) of the first tower, and is a double door composed of plate glass in a metal frame, with a column of windows extending above it. This column of windows follows, from bottom up, the following sequence: metal panel, row of three hopper continued...

43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)
The John Frederick Oberlin Apartments were built in 1965 and finished in 1966. A tragic fire on February 21, 1960 on Lincoln Street that killed seven children prompted the city of Oberlin to examine the state of housing in the city and initiate a public housing construction project. This would include building forty-three single-story duplex and single family housing units in various areas around town, in addition to an apartment complex on South Main Street. The apartment complex, which was named John Frederick Oberlin Apartments, was intended for older couples and singles and was noted to cost \$650,000. The overall project was estimated to cost \$1.8 million. Groundbreaking for the building happened on March 22, 1965 and its public opening was held on August 12, 1966. Meathe Kessler

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)
This building is located on one of the busiest roads of Oberlin, on the southern edge of the commercial downtown. To the north of the building is Wright Park, which is situated along Plum Creek. Wright Park contains a brick and stone monument to soldiers of Oberlin. To the south is the building's parking lot and then Christ Episcopal Church.

45. Sources of Information
O-High Alumni, Internet, <http://www.oberlin-high.org>, Accessed December 2010; City Directories, Oberlin Heritage Center Resource Center; Holsworth, Pat. Oberlin Pioneer Database; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Gordon, Stephen C. 'How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory.' Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, 1992; McAlester, Virginia and Lee. 'A Field Guide to American Houses.' New York: Alfred K. Knopf Inc., 2000; 'Alumni Register: Graduates and Former Students, Teaching and Administrative continued...

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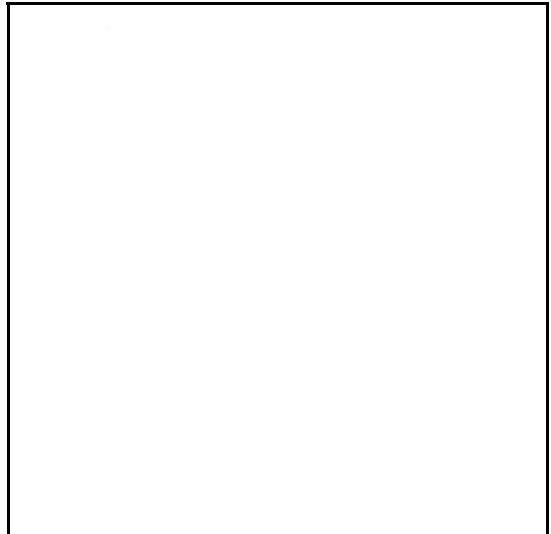
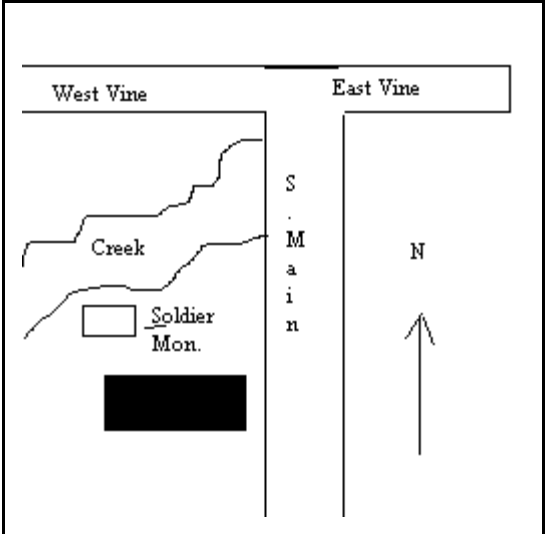
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8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan :



Door Selection:
Three or more

Door Position:

Orientation:
Lateral axis

Symmetry:
Bilateral asymmetry

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #:



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42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)

windows, single rectangular fixed window. The door opens onto an outdoor picnic area with a small brick wall, filling the space in front of the third segment. Presumably, the narrow 1/1 double hung windows, all of which above the first story slightly project and have 4-layer, stepped, brick lug sills and 1-layer projecting brick surrounds, correlate with housing units. They are not placed in regular groupings. The bricks in the surrounds are the same color and type as those used in the wall. The 1/1 double hung windows in the first story are recessed and are placed over rectangular metal panels, making a single window unit about a story in height. Larger recessed panel windows, composed of a central plate glass window flanked by columns of two smaller panes of glass, all above a single rectangular metal element, occur only in the first story and presumably open into lounge or common areas. A broad belt course encircles the building at the juncture of the first and second stories. The east elevation can be divided into a north and a south segment, with the north segment slightly recessed. There are no windows on the first floor of this elevation except at the join between the north and south segments, where there is a narrow recessed area filled with a column, almost to the height of the building, of alternating metal and hopper window elements. There are comparatively few windows visible on this elevation. In metal letters, on the lower left area of this elevation, is the legend 'John Frederick Oberlin Homes.' Viewed from the south elevation, the building can again be divided into four segments, with the first and third segments projecting toward the south. The towers visible on the north elevation have their mates on this elevation, with one at the join between the first and second segments, and another at the join between the second and third segments. The random window groupings and belt course also resemble the north elevation. There are four pedestrian entrances coming from the parking lot on this side of the building, plus a probable loading dock/delivery bay. The doors are varied: some are like the north entrance, of plate glass; others are of metal. Two of the doors are under flat-roofed predominantly-brick hoods.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

& Associates were architects for the complex. The committee that chose them wanted the building to have 'distinction in appearance.' The John F. Oberlin Apartments have always been owned by the Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority. Mrs. Georgia Williams served as manager in 1970. As of 2010 the building is listed as having 51 apartments, both efficiency and 1-bedroom. There is also a community room, exercise center, laundry facilities, elevators, and a computer lab.

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

45. Sources (Con't)

Staff, (1833-1960).' Oberlin: Oberlin College, 1961; Lorain County Auditor Property Record, Internet, <http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor/index.shtml>, Accessed December 2010; Blodgett, Geoffrey. 'Oberlin Architecture.' Oberlin: Oberlin College, 1990, 217-218; Lorain metropolitan Housing Authority, 'PHA Site Locations,' website, www.lmha.org/publichousing/phasite.htm, Accessed 11/2010; 'Public Housing Bids Way Above Estimates,' Oberlin News-Tribune, October 29, 1964; 'Lincoln Street Fire That Killed Seven Children Shocked OberlinàAnd Then What?,' Oberlin News-Tribune, February 25, 1965; 'New Apartment Building,' photo and caption, Oberlin News-Tribune, November 25, 1965; 'New Apartment Building,' photos, Oberlin News-Tribune, June 23, 1966;' '73 of 105 Public Housing Unites Assigned, None is Occupied Yet,' Oberlin New-Tribune, July 14, 1966; 'Move in Day for Public Housing May Be Next Week for First Families,' Oberlin News-Tribune, July 28, 1966; 'Public Tours, Dedication Set Tomorrow at High-Rise,' Oberlin News-Tribune, August 11, 1966; 'JFO Homes, High-Rise Dedicated, Few Go on Tours, More Are Promised,' Oberlin News-Tribune, August 25, 1966.