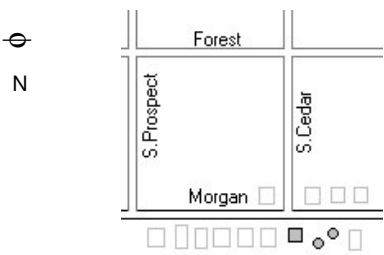



OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

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



1. No.	2. County LOR	4. Present Name(s) Old Water Works	<input type="checkbox"/> Coded
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Oberlin Reservoir and Pumping Well; City Water Works	
	Roll # Exp. # Facing		
	Rear 2 16A N		
	Front 4 18A S		

6. Specific Address or Location 205 Morgan Street	17. Date(s) or Period 1893	17b. Alteration Date(s)	30. Foundation Material Stone
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 09-00-095-101-018	18. Style or Design Vernacular	High Style <input type="checkbox"/>	31. Wall Construction Brick Bearing
7. City or Village Oberlin	18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)	Elements <input type="checkbox"/>	32. Roof: Type Gable Pitch Moderate Material Composite Shingle
8. Site Plan with North Arrow	19. Architect or Engineer		33. No. Bays Front 3 Side 6
	19a. Design Sources		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Brick, Common/American Bond
9. U.T.M. Reference	20. Contractor or Builder		35. Plan Shape Rectangular, (outbuildings-Circular)
Zone Easting Northing	21. Building Type or Plan Other Building		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Altered
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	22. Original Use, if apparent Water Works		37. Window Type(s) Altered
10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object	23. Present Use Vacant/Not-in-use		38. Bldg. Dims. 30 ft. X 76 ft.
11. On National Register? No	24. Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private		39. Endangered? No Explain:
12. N.R. Potential? Yes	25. Owner's Name & Address, if known The City of Oberlin 85 South Main Street Oberlin OH 44074		40. Chimney Placement No Chimney Observed
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No	26. Property Acreage 8.89		41a. Distance from road
14. Dist. Potential? Yes	27. Other Surveys in Which Included McQuillin (76)		41b. Frontage on road 30 ft.
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)	28. No. of Stories 2		
16. Thematic Association(s) Manuf. Utilities: Water & Sanitation & Public Spaces	29. Basement? No		

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features
This site consists of a one-and one-half-story, gable roof, brick building, two round stone structures, a grass field, a sandstone block well-house and a reservoir. These structures once functioned as the Waterworks of Oberlin. The building has mostly boarded window openings with segmental arches and stone sills. The building's north face has three original one-over-one, double-hung windows, two on each side of the main entrance and one above it. The double doors of the front entrance are boarded and blocked by a wooden sign that identifies the building as "City of Oberlin Water Dept." Other entrances, located on the east and west sides, are also permanently closed. The rear-gable wall has been partially coated with more than one layer of paint. (cont.)

43. History and Significance
In April 1886 Oberlin voters approved a \$50,000 bond for construction of a water works. Three men were elected to the water board, J. Steele, A. Wright, and E. Regal. Their first duty was to select a source of water supply. After investigation into three water supplies, Plum Creek, Black River and Vermilion River, it was determined that the east branch of the Vermilion River provided the best and most even water supply, it was officially adopted as the city water source on September 24th. Chemistry Professor F. F. Jewett had performed the water analysis that was part of the selection. By May of 1888 right-of-ways, had been purchased from fourteen Kipton property owners; (cont.)

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)
The Waterworks are located on a quiet residential street. They provide public walking, fishing and celebration space. They also provide close proximity to a bicycle path and the college Arboretum. This residential area has many well-maintained historic homes.

45. Sources of Information
Lorain County Courthouse: Lorain County tax records. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files. Oberlin College Archives: Record Group: Oberlin City; 31/5; Box 1. Russ Bimber Interview 12/00.

46. Prepared by M. Fedelchak-Harley; L. Preville
47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.
48. Date Recorded 10-13-2000
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	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Privy	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Cistern	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Foundation	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Structural Rubble	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Formal Trash Dump	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Other _____	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>

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

This building once had a tall, brick, ventilation stack on its west side and metal vent stacks along the roof's center ridge line. The short, round, stone structure east of the main building is a platform with an approximate diameter of 26 ft. accessible by a flight of stairs. It is a later structure with the date "1912" engraved in the stone. The exterior wall stands about 10 ft. tall and has four boarded, circular window bays, distributed evenly around the perimeter. A second flight of stairs leads to an inaccessible basement area. The tallest, round, stone structure has a diameter of approximately 13 ft. and is about 50 ft. tall. It has a flat roof, a boarded, arched window and a door on the south side, and a boarded oculus on the north side. This tower once supported a large cylindrical water tank with conical roof that nearly doubled its present height. Behind the structures there was a large depression with an outer ring of stone blocks, which served as a holding pond. This is now a low grassy field. A larger pond remains beyond the grassy field. To the east a sandstone filtration well-house sits on a lower field. The buildings are vacant.

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

the price was \$839. In November Philip Sullivan from Fremont, Ohio, was selected to build the conduit line from the Vermilion River to this site, the Oberlin Reservoir and Pumping Well. Throughout 1886 and 1887 members of the water board traveled to Cincinnati, Holyoke, Mass., and other towns to examine their water systems. In January 1887 Doerzbach & Drucker were selected to build the pumping station with stack, and Buffalo East Iron was selected to furnish pipe for the water mains. In March 60 hydrants were purchased from Philadelphia, and water gates from Cleveland, Ohio. By May of 1887, thirteen months after the election, mains were laid on West St. (now Cedar) from Forest to Lorain; on College St. from West to Professor; on Elm St. from West to Professor; and Morgan St. from West to Prospect. In November the water flow was tested, rules for tapping the water line were published, and the license fee was set at \$5.00. H.L. Hulbert was appointed Water Commissioner, and the water board office was opened at 9 West College Street. By Jan. 1888 the system was determined to work. In 1891 there was a public demand for sewage treatment. In 1892 a bond for \$12,000 was passed for a trunk sewer and a sewer farm; Oberlin College contributed \$1,500. In 1893 the board advertised for bids to construct a stone tower 40 ft. high and 20 ft. in diameter, with a steel tank 30 ft. high and 18 ft. in diameter. The tower and tank were completed by summer and the system rapidly expanded from that time onward. Soon there were water mains and sewage lines all over town (OC Archives). The well-house for filtration was designed by A.E. Kimberly, assistant engineer for the State Board of Health (OC Archives). In 1903 a calcium carbonate (lime-soda ash) water-softening system designed by Chemistry Professor F. F. Jewett was installed; this was the first such system in the nation (Bimber). In 1925 the State of Ohio Department of Health approved a plan to resolve the low water pressure problems caused by twenty-two years of water softening and the resulting encrustation of pumps and mains. (OC Archives). After more than 70 years of service, a dwindling water flow from the Kipton Reservoir led to construction of a new reservoir and pumping system on Parsons Road in 1960 (Bimber).

The Water Works site is significant due to its record of municipal action in response to public demand and need. A newly elected water board selected a water source, built the needed structures and established fees and procedures. The plant's lime and soda ash softening system was nationally and internationally recognized as a state of the art system; it was the first of its kind. When twenty years later problems arose the water board was able to resolve them with an approved plan. The Waterworks was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin City Landmark in September of 1975.