

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

ENTERED MAY 01 2003
03000324

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Downtown Oberlin Historic District
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Roughly includes south side of W. & E. College St. (within 1 block of S. Main) and S. Main from College to approx. Vine St. n/a not for publication

city or town Oberlin n/a vicinity

state Ohio code OH county Lorain code 093 zip code 44074

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara Paven - Dept. Head - Planning, Inventory & Registration Date March 17, 2003
Signature of certifying official

Ohio Historic Preservation Office - OHPO -

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing and 5 rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total

Name of related multiple property listing - n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register - 1 (39 S. Main; Union School)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE: business, financial, retail; SOCIAL: meeting hall; GOVERNMENT: city hall, post office; EDUCATION: school; RECREATION: movie theater, art gallery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- same as historic functions but also: parking lots, unoccupied land

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Late Victorian: Queen Anne, Second Empire, Victorian Gothic, Late 19th/early 20th century; Commercial, Neo-Classical, Prairie; Modern Movement: Moderne, Art Deco, Tudor Revival, Commercial vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Foundation: stone; roof: asbestos shingles, slate, tar paper, standing seam metal; walls: brick, sandstone, wood siding, vitrolite

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Concrete and Fireproofing Co., G.S. Pay, Emelie Royce, T.H. Rowland, H.F. Smith, Mr. Walters, We & Kramer, W.A. Westervelt, P.G. Worcester

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Commerce

Period of Significance: 1860-1939

Significant Dates -n/a

Significant Person -n/a

Cultural Affiliation - n/a

Architect/Builder

George Bailey, John Berg, Walter Blythe, Bonsor Brothers, Bradstreet Stevens, H.G. Carpenter, John D. Carpenter, William Durand, Albert Gilchrist, A.J. DeKoning, Alfred Hahn, William Hobbs, S.S. Hobbs, George Jackson and George Broadwell, National

Downtown Oberlin Historic District

Lorain County, Ohio

Narrative Statement of Significance – see continuation sheets

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization/Oberlin Heritage Center, City of Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately 26 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
|---|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|----------|
| 1 | 17 | 397855E | 4571635N | 3 | 17 | 398165E | 4571405N |
| 2 | 17 | 398165E | 4571630N | 4 | 17 | 398035E | 4571335N |
| | | | | 5 | 17 | 397890E | 4571340N |

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia A. Murphy, Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. Executive Director (aided by volunteers Richard Holsworth, Carol Ganzel, Sarah MacLennan Kerr, Marlene Merrill, intern Laura Preville and others)

organization Oberlin Heritage Center/Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization (under contract with the City of Oberlin) date November 2002

street & number P.O. Box 0455 telephone 440-774-1700

city or town Oberlin state OH

zip code 44074-0455

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name multiple property owners - see attached list

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Located in a college town of 8,195 residents and college students in the center of Lorain County in northeast Ohio, approximately 35 miles southwest of Cleveland, the Downtown Oberlin Historic District is the central core of the community's business district. It contains a rich assortment of mid to late 19th and early 20th century, one to three story commercial buildings, two public buildings, and one school building. The district contains an almost continuous streetscape of small scale commercial structures along the south side of College Street which runs east and west, and along Main Street/State Route 58 which runs south from College Street to Vine Street. Two buildings behind the principal streets are also included. The district is roughly T-shaped, with College Street as the top bar of the T. The town follows a gridiron plan, with the central business district/historic district located just south and east of the town square, Tappan Square, a large college-owned public square that was originally the site of college buildings. (The buildings removed from the square in 1927 to create what was first known as College Park; the area was renamed Tappan Square in the 1940s to honor early college benefactors. It should be noted that this square was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965, and many of the college's historic buildings (none of which is located within the proposed Downtown Oberlin Historic District) were listed on the National Register through a multiple resource nomination in 1978.)

Most of the present structures in the proposed Oberlin Downtown Historic District were built for commercial use and have first floor storefronts. They were originally designed with second and third floor uses such as apartments, offices, and meeting rooms for social organizations. Commercial structures generally occupy the complete lot frontage, with facades abutting the sidewalks. There are alleys and parking areas behind most of the buildings where earlier there were some residences and business establishments such as livery stables, a dairy, etc. Two remaining structures recall the buildings which once stood mid-block behind College and Main streets: the Worcester Dairy on Carpenter Court and the Shurtleff/Monroe House that originally stood on College Place and was moved one-half block south to prevent demolition when the Oberlin Conservatory of Music was expanded in the 1960s; the house now sits behind the Oberlin Post Office at 73 ½ S. Professor Street.

The topography is flat. There are some street trees. Concrete flower planters, street lights, hitching posts and other streetscape and sidewalk enhancements date from the mid-1980s. To the north of the West College Street portion of the historic district is the Oberlin College campus. To the east and south of the district are residential neighborhoods. To the west of the South Main Street portion of the district is the Oberlin Heritage Center (a complex of historic sites open to the public), parking lots, the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and residential areas.

The nomination includes one building that is already listed on the National Register: Union School (now the New Union Center for the Arts) at 39 South Main Street. Of the total of 38 individual buildings, 33 contribute to the character of the district while five are non-contributing in character. The dates of construction of individual buildings span the time period from 1860 to 1939. There are several parking lots where buildings were razed; these are mentioned in conjunction with the adjacent buildings in the individual descriptions below.

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**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

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The district exemplifies a typical midwestern business district of the late 19th and early 20th century. It retains significant design integrity and architectural cohesion despite some storefront remodelings and intrusions such as parking lots. Some of the buildings are in need of maintenance and repair. Some clearance has occurred to make way for new construction, surface parking lots, and green space. Excellent examples of adaptive use within the district include the Union School (now the New Union Center for the Arts) and the Janby Gas Station (now Midas Muffler).

Building Inventory

Notes: Building numbers refer to attached Historic District Map.

There are three cases within the district where what appears to be one building was actually constructed in two parts with a unified facade. These are as follows (street address; building #):

5 to 13 W. College (#5, 6)

19-21 W. College (#8, 9)

5-13 S. Main St. (#15, 16)

Address: 18-22 Carpenter Court
Building #: 1
Historic Name: Worcester Dairy
Current Name: Kotok's Market (22 Carpenter Court)
Date Built: c. 1922
Architect: unknown
Contractor: unknown
Status: contributing
Photo #: 20

This one and two story stuccoed, flat roof building with Spanish terra cotta tile coping and metal casement windows housed a dairy for many years. It was completed by November 16, 1922 when the *Oberlin News* reported that J.D. Rader moved from his business from the south side of Carpenter Court to the north side of the street, which Mr. Worcester built as an addition to his dairy.

This is the only remaining historic building from Carpenter Court, which was once a busy inner block residential and commercial area directly west of South Main Street and south of West College Street. The other Carpenter Court buildings included two brick apartment buildings, a tea room, a dairy barn, a barbershop, and various workshops; all were demolished circa 1950 to create the off-street parking area that now surrounds this building. Earlier there were various livery stables in this area also. The street itself ran directly in front of this building, as shown on a 1933 Sanbo fire insurance map; it later was relocated further south, probably at the time of the construction of the surrounding parking lot in the 1950s.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

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Address: 17-21 East College Street
Building #: 2
Historic Name: Hobbs Block/Apollo Theater
Current Name: Apollo Theater, Manuel's Barber Shop, Ross Insurance
Date Built: 1903-1913
Architect: unknown
Contractor: William Hobbs
Status: contributing
Photo #: 13 (right side of photo)

This two story, tannish-brown pressed brick, flat-roof commercial building with a movie theater and two storefronts built of a sandstone date stone reading "19Hobbs13" to indicate that it was built by Oberlin resident William Dayton Hobbs in 1913. It may include portions of a 1903 structure, according to the Fred Maddock files. An early, long-time occupant was the Hobbs Restaurant and Bakery, which was located in the storefront east of the theater entrance from about 1903 to 1930.

The present owners of the Apollo, the Steel Family, have owned it since 1923. On May 11, 1928 the first "talkies" (motion pictures with sound) to be shown in Oberlin were played at this theater; a 1907 theater on the second floor of the Gibson Block on West College Street offered silent movies earlier. The first floor of the Apollo was remodeled in the 1930s to its present Art Moderne appearance with black vitrolite, aluminum, and plate glass. The movie theater has 77 seats and retains some Art Deco detailing, a marquee and a ticket booth.

Address: 23-27 East College Street
Building #: 3
Historic Name: Rowland Block
Current Name: Oberlin Cable Co-op
Date Built: 1906
Architect: unknown
Contractor: unknown
Status: contributing
Photo #: 13 (left side of photo)

This three story, flat-roof red-brick commercial building has a cornice level date plaque reading "Rowland 1906." The building has two first floor storefronts and a door leading to the upper floors. The second floor has five evenly spaced rectangular windows topped by a sandstone lintel belt course. The third floor has circular bullseye windows. Among the occupants of the building were a grocery store (to 1920), the Squeegee Rubber Company (1920-1923), and the Christian Science Church (1927 to 1940). The windows on the main façade appear to date ca. 1990 and were probably installed at the same time as the storefronts were remodeled.

To the east of this building at what was once 29 to 31 East College Street is a parking lot, the former site of a 2 ½ story wood-frame building that housed the Union Telegraph School (1873-1877), a residence (1878-1903), the Hotel Martinique (1904-1940s) and the Martin Inn (1945 until about 1970, when the building was demolished).

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

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Address: 35 East College Street
Building #: 4
Historic Name: The Bailey Block/Sedgeman Furniture and Undertaking; Schultz Furniture Store
Current Name: Pearson/Skuodas Residence & Art Studio
Date Built: 1927-1929
Architect: unknown
Contractor: George Bailey
Status: contributing
Photo #: 12

This two story, flat-roof, brick commercial building has two plate glass first floor storefronts divided by a central entrance. Its stepped parapet has a central date plaque that reads "G.H. Bailey, 1928." It was built on the site of the earlier wood-frame H.G. Carpenter House, which was destroyed by fire in 1926. In an Oberlin Oral History Project interview, Pat Stetson, daughter of George H. Bailey, recalled a story she had been told that occurred when the College was removing buildings from what is now Tappan Square, in accordance with benefactor Charles Martin Hall's wish "the story goes that my father bought a building that was called Spear Laboratory. I've been told – this would have been in 1927 ... no one seemed to be able to figure out how the building was going to be torn down and the story went that this little old Chevy, my father attached a chain and hook—and attached it to a very important part of the foundation drove across the campus, removing parts of the stone or brick foundation and the building toppled in... I do know that he hauled any brick or stone he was able to take, and took it across the street and built the building that is now Schultz furniture with it." From 1929 to about 1960 this was the home of the Sedgeman Furniture and Undertaking Parlors. Artists John Pearson and Audra Skuodas converted it to their studio and residence in the 1990s. All the 2nd floor windows were replaced with casement and fixed pane sash circa 1997. It is the easternmost building in the district.

Address: 5 and 11 to 13 West College Street
Building #s: 5 (5 W. College), 6 (11-13 W. College); two buildings behind one facade
Historic Name: Carpenter Block
Current Name: Java Zone, Herrick Jewelry, Ben Franklin/Mind Fair (east part)
Date Built: 1887-1890
Architect: Weary & Kramer (Akron)
Contractor: H.G. Carpenter
Status: contributing
Photo#: 9 (left side of photo)

The Carpenter Block is a two story Queen Anne style Victorian red pressed brick commercial building that consists of two buildings behind one facade. It is prominently situated at the southwest corner of College and Main Streets. The building had four first floor storefronts, the eastern one of which was known for a hundred years as the corner drug store (the last remaining downtown drug store, Revco, closed in the mid-1990s). In 1891 the occupants were Oberlin Pharmacy, The Oberlin Bank Company, E.H. Holter Jewelry Store, and August Straus Clothing and Tailoring. Long-time present occupants include Herrick Jewelry (since 1914, with a circa 1930s black vitrolite Moderne storefront) and the eastern part of the Ben Franklin Store which has a circa 1960 storefront (Ben Franklin was owned and operated by the Cochrane Family from 1935 to 2001 and has been operated since mid-2001 by Krista Long as Ben Franklin/Mind Fair.).

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**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

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Previously on this site was a wood-frame building built in 1833 and known as Oberlin Hall; it was the first college building, and it housed a boarding hall, chapel, recitation rooms, offices, professor residences, and lodging for 40 students; at the rear of the site was the college barn. Women's rights advocate Antoinette Brown Blackwell was among the many notables who attended college classes in Oberlin Hall.

Address: 15-17 West College Street
Building #: 7
Historic Name: Kinney & Reamer Dry Goods
Current Name: Ben Franklin (west part)/Carlyle Shop
Date Built: 1867
Architect:
Contractor: John D. Carpenter
Status: contributing
Photo#: 9 (middle of photo)

This two story brick building originally had a third floor which appears in an 1878 lithograph and a 1933 photograph. The date and reason for removal of the third floor are not known. The first occupant of the building was Kinney and Reamer Dry Goods, which was listed here for only one year – 1867. The western part of the Ben Franklin store has been located here for many years. Other previous first floor occupants have included groceries, drug stores, clothing shops, a bookstore, and a tailor shop. Second floor occupants included the Sherman Telegraph School (1870s), the Oberlin Business College (1880s), and a series of dentists' offices. Oberlin Lodge #380 occupied the third floor in the early 1870s. The storefront appears to date circa 1940 and has plate glass display windows flanking a recessed entrance.

Address: 19-21 West College Street
Building #s: 8 (19 W. College) and 9 (21 W. College); two buildings behind one facade
Historic Name: Simon Levy's Fancy Goods
Current Name: Foxgrape Café, Green Iguana gift shop
Date Built: 1860-1861
Architect: unknown
Builder: John D. Carpenter
Status: contributing
Photo #: 9 (middle/right side of photo)

This three story, brick commercial building has a fishscale slate-clad mansard roof with dormers. There are two circa 1970s era first floor storefronts, divided by a doorway leading to upper floor apartments. A variety of businesses have occupied the storefronts, including many grocers, Simon Levy's Fancy Goods (1877-1886), and the J.C. McLaughlin Bookstore (1878-1894). Upper floor tenants included the Western Union Telegraph Office (1886-1888), photographers' galleries (1917-1923), the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (1907-1919), and the Oberlin Y.M.C.A. This building is one of a number in the district that were constructed by John D. Carpenter, an Oberlin resident whose obituary appeared in the *Oberlin News*, August 28, 1906: "Long one of the leading men in the commercial life of the town, he will be greatly missed by his associates. Of unusual business ability, Mr. Carpenter amassed a large fortune and

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**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
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was, at the time of his death, probably the wealthiest man in Oberlin. He had large real estate holdings, both in the business and residence sections of the village. He had long been identified with the Oberlin Bank Company . . .”

Address: 23 West College Street
Building #: 10
Historic Name: Gibson Block
Current Name: Gibson's Bakery & Market
Date Built: 1905
Architect: unknown
Contractor: The Gibson Brothers
Status: contributing
Photo #: 9 (right side of photo)

This three story, brown pressed brick commercial building houses Oberlin's oldest family business, still owned by the descendants of the original owners who started their business as a sidewalk stand. Gibson's Art Moderne black vitrolite storefront was part of a 1940s remodel that included aluminum lettering and molding. The second floor of the main facade has been altered by the addition of a bay window clad in aluminum siding that appears to date circa 1970. A date plaque at the parapet level reads "1905 Gibson Block."

Address: 25 West College Street
Building #: 11
Historic Name: Post Office Block
Current Name: Smith's Home Furnishings and Floor Coverings
Date Built: 1865
Architect: unknown
Contractor: John D. Carpenter
Status: contributing
Photo #s: 9, 10

This three story, three bay, flat-roof commercial building has an altered wood-paneled storefront (ca. 1970), red brick the first and second stories and variegated brick on the third floor. The original building on this site was a wood-frame structure that served as the college's first carpenter shop. The present building housed the Oberlin Post Office from 1869 to 1886 and a drugstore from 1894 to 1948. The second floor housed the Oberlin Business College from 1872 to 1883, the mayor's office from 1884 to 1894, various attorney and real-estate offices, and a free kindergarten.

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Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

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Address: 27 West College Street
Building #: 12
Historic Name: Westervelt Block; Wright & Parsons Grocery
Current Name: Tooo Chinoise Restaurant
Date Built: 1869
Architect: unknown
Contractor: W. A. Westervelt and Son
Status: contributing
Photo #: 10

This two story brick commercial building has an altered storefront (ca. 1950 with later modifications) and three bays on the second floor with segmental arched windows with keystones and stone sills. The parapet has brick corbelling and dentils with stone coping. The building was the long-time home of Wright and Parsons Grocery Store, a business that was established in 1898 and moved to this location in 1907, where it operated until 1940. It then became the J.H. Haylor Bookstore from 1941 to 1960, and today it houses a restaurant.

Address: 29 West College Street
Building #: 13
Historic Name: E.P. Johnson Dry Goods; Yocum Brothers Dry Goods
Current Name: Bead Paradise II
Date Built: 1900
Architect: unknown
Builder: Emelie Royce (later Mrs. A.G. Comings)
Status: contributing
Photo #: 10

This turn-of-the-century commercial building retains much of its original character. It was built to replace an earlier structure that was destroyed by fire in 1899, which had in turn replaced the original building on the site, the home of West College Street's principal developer, John D. Carpenter. The flat-roof, rectangular building now on the site was constructed with a first floor storefront and office and storage space on the second floor. The plate glass storefront has a recessed central entrance. The upper floor has two oriel windows and decorative brick detailing at the cornice level and around the windows. The building and storefront were renovated circa 1990.

Address: 37 West College Street
Building #: 14
Historic Name: Co-op Bookstore
Current Name: Oberlin Bookstore
Date Built: 1993
Architect: Integrated Architectural Services
Status: non-contributing (outside period of significance)
Photo #: 10 (right side of photo)

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**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

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This two story, brick Post Modern-style building was built to house the Oberlin Co-op Bookstore and was designed to be complementary in scale and materials to the historic buildings nearby. The previous building on the site, the Roy Block, housed the A.G. Comings Bookstore and later the Co-op Bookstore. The Oberlin Consumers' Co-operative was established in 1938 and declared bankruptcy in 1999. Today the bookstore is owned by Oberlin College and operates as Barnes and Noble. In 2002 the second floor is being converted to Conservatory offices and an entrance is being added on the west side.

Address: 5-13 South Main Street
Building #s: 15 (5, 9 & 11 S. Main), 16 (13 S. Main); two buildings behind one facade
Historic Name: Goodrich Block, Carter & Wood Hardware, Corner Bank Building
Current Name: First Merit Bank, Weia Teia Restaurant (9 S. Main), Aries Beauty Salon (11 S. Main)
John Cole Accounting (13 S. Main; with Oberlin Music on the 3rd floor)
Date Built: 1882
Architect: Walter Blythe (Cleveland)
Status: contributing
Photo #: 11

This prominently situated, three story brick commercial building at the southeast corner of Main and College has long been known as "the corner bank building." It was the first commercial building in Oberlin with an iron frame, and it was built following a disastrous fire on March 6, 1882 that destroyed the previous building on this site as well as buildings further south and east. Following the construction of this building, all downtown commercial buildings were built of masonry rather than wood-frame construction. The E.J. Goodrich Bookstore was among the first occupants of the ground floor storefronts, along with a hardware store, and, since 1904, a succession of banks in the corner unit. A portion of the original cast-iron storefront remains, with storefront piers embossed with the name of the manufacturer, the "Union Foundry Co., Cleved., O." Number 13 South Main was actually built as a separate structure, and the Carter and Wood Hardware Store there had Oberlin's first elevator, providing access to the three floors, basement, and gallery. Various hardware stores occupied this site from 1850 to 1976. All of the storefronts have been altered, probably during the period from about 1960 to the present.

Address: 15 South Main Street
Building #: 17
Historic Name: Carpenter/Burnett Building, Peoples' Bank
Current Name: Black River Cafe
Date Built: 1886 (incorporating parts of an earlier structure)
Architect:
Contractor: John D. Carpenter
Status: contributing
Photo #: 14

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**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
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This two-story structure incorporates parts of three buildings. At the time of the March 1882 fire the rear building was the frame home of Cornelius Burnett, an early African-American businessman who, with his wife, operated a barber and restaurant in the building on the front part of the lot, which was owned by John D. Carpenter. The front building was rebuilt in 1886, and the middle, one-story section was built sometime after 1886; it may have been the post-fire brick home of the Burnetts. The building was extensively remodeled by the Peoples' Banking Company, which was located here beginning in 1906. The storefront was rebuilt circa 1980.

Address: 16 South Main Street
Building #: 18
Historic Name: Morris Meat Market
Current Name: Campus Video; Ade's Place (lower level)
Date Built: 1888
Architect: unknown
Contractor: Bonsor Brothers (Lorain)
Status: contributing
Photo #s: 8, 7

This building was constructed in 1888 by Bonsor Brothers of Lorain. It was built to replace a structure that was destroyed by fire in 1882, which was a two story frame building owned by John Watson, a prominent African-American resident and one of the Oberlin-Wellington Rescuers of 1858. The present structure is a two story brick, Queen Anne style commercial building with a first floor storefront (altered circa 1970) and apartments on the upper floor. It adjoins the building at the southwest corner of Main and West College and is similar in detailing.

Address: 18 South Main Street
Building #: 19
Historic Name: Pettiford Bakery
Current Name: Subway Sandwich Shop
Date Built: 1930
Architect: unknown
Contractor: T. H. Rowland
Status: contributing
Photo #s: 8, 7

This one story variegated pressed-brick commercial building features a symmetrical façade with a round arched recessed entrance. Until the 1990s it accommodated two separate storefronts. The brick panels under the plate glass storefront windows appear to be a circa 1970 alteration. From 1923 until the 1980s one of the storefronts was the long-time home of a popular local business, Pettiford Bakery, owned and operated by a local African-American family.

Address: 19 South Main Street
Building #: 20
Historic Name: Standard Drug
Current Name: Ginko Gallery and Studios

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Date Built: 1939
Architect: unknown
Contractor: George Bailey
Status: contributing
Photo #: 15

This one story commercial building features a colored slate-tile roof and a central roof dormer, giving it a domestic flavor. Its plate glass storefront has a recessed, central entrance. The original interior design followed the specifications of the Standard Drugstore chain, the first tenant. It later was the Hess Pharmacy, then one of two downtown pharmacies within half a block of one another. Today no downtown pharmacies remain.

Address: 20 South Main Street
Building #: 21
Historic Name: G.S. Pay & Son Meat Market, Bevier's Dry Goods
Current Name: Edward Jones Investments
Date Built: 1903
Architect: unknown
Contractor: G.S. Pay
Status: contributing
Photo #s: 8, 7

This one story commercial building features thin, pressed Roman brick with fine mortar joints, three bullseye vents in parapet, and stone coping. The building served as a meat market for many years. The storefront has undergone some modifications and probably largely dates to about 1970.

Address: 21 South Main Street
Building #: 22
Historic Name: Westervelt Building
Current Name: Hammond Gorske Insurance & Sperry-Gorske Realty
Date Built: c. 1872
Architect: unknown
Contractor: unknown
Status: contributing
Photo #s: 14, 15 (right side)

Built after a fire that occurred in 1871, this building housed a meat market, a barber shop, the Red Lantern Pie Shop, and, beginning in 1927, the L.E. Burgner Real Estate and Insurance Office. It was purchased in 1948 by the Gorske Family, whose descendants operate the business today. The two story brick structure has a circa 1960 altered first floor storefront and segmental arched windows on the second floor. The shutters are an addition. The building did not sustain heavy damage in the fire of 1882 and was said to be the building that stopped the fire from destroying the east side of South Main Street.

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Address: 23 South Main Street
Building #: 23
Historic Name: Severy & Sage Grocery
Current Name: Campus Cleaners
Date Built: 1874
Architect: unknown
Contractor: W.A. Westervelt
Status: non-contributing
Photo #s: 14 (right side), 16

This two-story building was built to replace an earlier structure that was destroyed by fire in 1871. The original facade remains behind the circa 1950s aluminum remodeling. Removal of this circa 1950s curtain wall would enhance the character of the historic district. The building housed a grocery, bakery, and restaurant. From 1941 to the 1950s it was the home of the Oberlin Consumers' Co-operative. The Oberlin Consumers' Co-operative sprang from a discussion group of professors and students who developed a buying club to purchase toilet articles and cosmetics, a contract laundry service, and a student book exchange in 1938. In 1940 it was incorporated under the laws of Ohio and open to both college and community residents. Among other projects, the Oberlin Consumers' Co-operative was responsible for establishing a grocery store and the Co-op Bookstore (see 37 W. College Street). It was instrumental in forming the cooperative dining establishments that continue to function today through the Oberlin Student Cooperative Association.

Address: 24 South Main Street
Building #: 24
Historic Name: Marie DeFrance Millinery Shop; Minute Lunch
Current Name: Workshop Gallery & Framing Store
Date Built: 1902
Architect: unknown
Contractor: T. H. Rowland
Status: contributing
Photo #: 8 (left side), 7

This very narrow, two story building features roman brick, though all but the brick parapet are covered in inappropriate wood siding that would appear to date from circa 1970. It was originally the home of Marie DeFrance's Millinery Store, an African-American, woman-owned business which was in operation for approximately 35 years. It was then a restaurant for over fifty years.

Address: 26 South Main Street
Building #: 25
Historic Name: Gilchrist Building; Watson's Hardware
Current Name: Watson's Hardware; The Molyneaux Building
Date Built: 1898
Architect: unknown
Contractor: Albert Gilchrist
Status: contributing

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Photo #s: 5 (right side), 7 (left side)

This 1874 building was extensively rebuilt following a fire in January 1898. It is now a three story brick commercial structure with a first floor storefront and apartments and shops on the upper floors. It has been home to hardware stores operated by several proprietors for over 130 years. The building was extensively remodeled in 1946 by Mr. Watson's son-in-law, Mr. Molyneaux and the present storefront would appear to date from that time. It is the only surviving business in the same building in Oberlin today that was in existence in 1900.

Address: 27-29 South Main Street
Building #: 26
Historic Name: M.H. Streator & Sons Groceries, Books & Dry Goods; F.A. Hart Furniture
Current Name: 27 = Matrix Games, 29 = Dave's Army Navy Store
Date Built: 1874
Architect: unknown
Contractor: unknown
Status: contributing
Photo #s: 16, 14 (right side)

This two story brick building was originally constructed as two separate structures divided by an alley. In 1911 H.F. Smith purchased both properties; and in 1927 the alley was enclosed by an addition connecting the two buildings. Many different businesses have occupied the site, including a furniture store, a grocer, and Stofan's Photography Studio. Though the first floor storefronts have been somewhat altered circa 1960, the upper floor retains its segmental arched brick window hoods and corbelled brick cornicework. There is a circa 1960 metal awning over the southernmost storefront.

Address: 30 South Main Street
Building #: 27
Historic Name: Mason's Restaurant
Current Name: The Feve Restaurant & Bar
Date Built: 1898; 1923
Architect: unknown
Contractor: S.S. Hobbs (1923 major remodeling)
Status: contributing
Photo #s: 6

This two story variegated tan brick structure has a circa 1970 altered first floor storefront, paired rectangular window on the second floor, and a date plaque reading "1920" in the parapet level. The building long housed a series of restaurants and billiard halls. Owners of the two earlier buildings that stood on the site were African-American businessmen R.N. Rankin and Joseph Mason. Their buildings were destroyed by fires in 1870 and 1898.

Address: 31 South Main Street
Building #: 28
Historic Name: W.T. Champe's Barbershop
Current Name: Stitch-by-Stitch

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Date Built: 1927
Architect: unknown
Contractor: H.F. Smith
Status: contributing
Photo #: 16 (right side)

This very narrow, small one story brick structure has housed various service and retail businesses over the years. It ends the row of adjoining late 19th century commercial buildings on the east side of South Main Street.

Address: 32 South Main Street
Building #: 29
Historic Name: Rowland Drug Store
Current Name: The Copy Shop
Date Built: c. 1883
Architect: unknown
Contractor: unknown
Status: contributing
Photo #s: 6 (middle), 5

A 1911 photograph shows that this three story brick structure once featured an elaborate cornice above the second floor, topped by a slate mansard roof. Today its design is much plainer, with double hung windows on the upper floor. Its first floor storefront housed a pharmacy from 1883 to the 1930s, with residences on the upper floors. To the south of this building is a vacant lot (34 S. Main Street). The building underwent some renovations in the 1990s which included storefront modifications and paint removal on the masonry (it appears to have been sandblasted).

Address: 38-42 South Main Street
Building #: 30
Historic Name: Oberlin Steam Laundry, Oberlin Grange Hall
Current Name: Oberlin News-Tribune, Modern Beauty Shop, Downtown Pizza
Date Built: Circa 1877 (north); 1895 (south)
Architect: unknown
Contractor: John D. Carpenter
Status: contributing
Photo #s: 5, 6 (left side)

This two story Victorian brick commercial building has three first floor storefronts divided by brick piers. Detailing includes Queen Anne double-hung windows with colored glass panes around a central expanse of glass, and brick herringbone patterning within the segmental arches above the second floor windows. The building was built in two phases, the northern half in about 1877, and the two southern sections were added in 1895. The Oberlin Grange met the second floor from 1919 until circa 1970. The present storefronts appear to date circa 1980.

Address: 39 South Main Street
Building #: 31
Historic Name: Union School, Westervelt Hall

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Current Name: New Union Center for the Arts
Date Built: 1874
Architect: Walter Blythe (Cleveland)
Contractor: John Berg
Status: contributing (Listed on the National Register in 1973)
Photo #: 17

This three story, brick Victorian Gothic style building was built as Oberlin's public school. It originally housed all twelve grades and later became Oberlin High School, a function it served until 1923. It then became an Oberlin College classroom building known as Westervelt Hall, and it served this function until 1961. After being threatened with demolition and sitting vacant, the building underwent some extensive renovations by then-owner A.H. Clark in the 1980s. In 1995 it was purchased by The Nord Family Foundation, which undertook a major renovation to adapt it for use as the New Union Center for the Arts. The architectural firm for the renovation was Clark and Post (Lorain). The original bell tower was removed in 1940. A reproduction of the original bell tower and replica bell were installed in 1997 as a community project of the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization. The original belltower was made of wood and slate; the reproduction is made of aluminum and microzinc, with detailing as close as possible to the historic photographs.

Address: 49 South Main Street
Building #: 32
Historic Name: Peoples Banking Company
Current Name: AAA Ohio Motorists Association
Date Built: 1958
Architect: unknown
Contractor: unknown
Status: non-contributing (outside the period of significance of the district)
No photo

This one story brick and wood building opened on May 5, 1958, as the Peoples' Banking Company. Reflective of its era, it features a 1950s modern design. Home to a succession of banks, it became the home of the AAA Ohio Motorists Association in the late 1990s. The building is flanked by alleys. The previous building on the site, the Beckwith Block housed the Oberlin Business College and the post office.

Address: 51-53 South Main Street
Building #: 33
Historic Name: Hobbs Block/Rex Theater
Current Name: Tappan Square Cleaners/Records/Tattoos
Date Built: 1914
Architect: unknown
Contractor: S.S. Hobbs
Status: contributing
Photo #: 18

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This two story brick commercial building has a one story rear addition. Its main facade has two storefronts, fixed glass aluminum windows, and a recessed entrance. There are stone belt courses above and below the second floor windows and a date plaque at the parapet level reading "S.S. Hobbs, 1914." The building originally housed the Rex Theater (south half) and later a bowling alley. The northern storefront housed the *Oberlin Tribune* from 1914 to 1931 and the the Oberlin laundry, with the second floor housing classrooms for the Oberlin School of Commerce/Oberlin Business College. The building was once connected to the now-raised Beckwith Block to the north by a second floor enclosed bridge. The storefronts have been altered extensively and now are topped by an inappropriate hipped canopy that dates circa 2000.

Address: 56 South Main Street
Building #: 34
Historic Name: Oberlin Telephone Exchange Building
Current Name: Verizon Communications
Date Built: 1910 with later additions (ca. 1940; 1965)
Architect: unknown
Contractor: unknown
Status: non-contributing (altered)
Photo #: 4

By 1880, Oberlinians were trying to obtain telephone service between Oberlin and Elyria (Phillips, p. 138); a private company offered phone service until it failed in 1887. In 1895 the Oberlin Telephone Company was incorporated and in 1896 opened its exchange, with 82 patrons (Phillips, p. 171). The present building was constructed on South Main Street in 1910. The August 26, 1910 edition of the *Oberlin Tribune* boasted about the equipment of this new building, noting that its switchboard would be "the best of any in the state." It reported, "The telephone building is very neat in appearance and has been so arranged as to give operators and electricians a chance to work without interfering with one another and without being molested by the public." The new technology included a "central energy system which could be away with having to turn the crank and there is no chance of being disconnected before a person is through talking. When a subscriber does not get his party the operator is informed [sic] by an electric light signal and she will ring again without having to ask questions." The simple neoclassical-style building originally had a business office and rooms for operators and equipment on the first floor, with workshop and storage facilities in the basement. The original building retains ornate stone engaged columns and pediment over the main entrance. Many of the original windows have been filled with brick. There is a circa 1940 addition to the north side and circa 1965 additions at the back of the lot and to the south of the original building. There is a large parking lot on the north side of the building.

Address: 68 South Main Street
Building #: 35
Historic Name: Oberlin Post Office
Current Name: Oberlin Post Office
Date Built: 1934
Architect: Alfred Hahn (Toledo)
Contractor: A. J. DeKoning (Kalamazoo, Michigan)
Status: contributing (D.O.E., September 1985)
Photo #: 3

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The December 1, 1932 issue of the local *News Tribune* reported that the federal government was taking bids for the construction of the new Oberlin Post Office. It noted that: "The building will be constructed of pressed brick with sandstone facing and will be modern in furnishings and equipment. The building will add greatly to the appearance of the business district and will undoubtedly bring about further improvement and expansion of business on South Main Street." This finely detailed, one story, nearly symmetrical building features a neo-classical design. The central block flanked by smaller side wings. The building is set back from the street, with a lawn in front. The interior retains nearly all of its original woodwork and marble paneling. The building was dedicated in August 1933. A disabled access ramp was added to the main façade circa 1998. An Ohio Historic Preservation Office letter dated September 15, 1982 notes that "This handsome building, in the Neo-Classical style, also possesses excellent scale, detailing, and proportions. Although the Neo-Classical style, or variations thereon, are relatively common in Ohio, this design is unique for this size of building in a relatively small community."

Before the present Oberlin Post Office building was constructed, the town's post office was located in a variety of rental locations within other downtown commercial buildings. Its location was probably determined by the postmaster at the time. To the south of the post office is a green space (80 S. Main Street) which was the previous site of an automobile repair garage and frozen food locker plant built circa 1920, remodeled into the Oberlin Community Center Building in the 1960s, and razed in 1997 due to structural problems.

Address: 69 South Main Street
Building #: 36
Historic Name: Oberlin Town Hall and Fire Department
Current Name: Old City Hall (city offices)
Date Built: 1919-1920
Architect: Mr. Walters (Cleveland) [probably George Charles Walters]
Contractor: National Concrete & Fireproofing Co. and other Cleveland contractors
Status: contributing
Photo #: 19

Little press coverage accompanied the planning and construction of this building, even though the town's newspaper editor, Mr. Phillips, was mayor at the time. The city moved its offices into the building in January 1920 after selling the previous town hall on North Main Street to Oberlin College (making way for eventual construction of Hall Auditorium). The new building originally accommodated the city's fire department (north side of the first floor), the city clerk and other offices (south side of first floor), and the council chamber and mayor's office (second floor), the offices and laboratory of the waterworks superintendent, the office of the clerk of Russia Township, and others. The brown brick building, which cost approximately \$40,000 to build, features a simple, Prairie-style inspired design. The *Oberlin News* reported on May 28, 1919 that the council wished to use stone for the building's trim rather than terra cotta, as the terra cotta had to be custom-made and could delay construction. This building served as city hall until the present city hall building to the south opened in 1977. This building has undergone some interior and exterior renovations in the past years, including installing historically inappropriate fixed pane first floor windows and a glass entrance door on the main façade. The fire department moved to its present building on South Main Street in 1976. To the north of the building 69 S. Main Street is the Oberlin Public Library parking lot; to the south of the building at 69 South Main Street is the entrance to the city hall parking lot, and south of that is the new city hall building.

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Address: 82-86 South Main Street
Building #: 37
Historic Name: Klermund Ford (1934); Twinings Ford
Current Name: The Bridge Technology Center, Mandarin Restaurant, Perpetual Garage Sale Store
Date Built: 1929
Architect: unknown
Contractor: P.G. Worcester (Oberlin)
Status: non-contributing
Photo #: 2

This simple one story building was built to house Henry G. Klermund's Ford dealership, which opened for business on July 1, 1929. The planned construction of it and the Janby Oil Company was noted by the *Oberlin News* (2/7/1929): "Two building programs of some magnitude from a small town viewpoint will help in the employment situation in Oberlin this week." All of the construction on the Klermund Ford Building was done by Oberlin men, the *Oberlin News* reported on Feb. 14, 1929, and it included "the latest improvements for the handling of work economically" and was "a model for the transaction of business." The 60' wide by 165' long building cost more than \$50,000 to construct, and its grand opening on September 14, 1929 included flowers for the ladies, small gifts for the children, and a dance on the floor of the new building. It featured a display room, office and stock room, and service area.

Mr. Klermund previously worked as the manager of Schmauch Brothers Ford Garage, located in a building that once stood north of this property. The August 30, 1922 newspaper reported his marriage to Marian Worcester, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Worcester of College Place, a street near the Worcester Dairy on Carpenter Court (see 18-22 Carpenter Court, above). The building was later used as a bowling alley and as the Oberlin Consumers' Co-operative Hardware Store before being converted to use as a restaurant and other retail establishments, circa 1985. In November of 1929, Mr. Klermund bought Schmauch Brothers (*Oberlin News*, Sept. 12, 1929).

The brick main facade features two large storefront windows, flanking a central entrance, with cement globes atop the corner piers; inappropriate vinyl siding now covers the facade. The south side wall is clad in inappropriate vinyl siding. The north side wall is of unpainted, glazed hollowcore block construction. Consideration should be given to removing the vinyl siding to enhance the building's historic character.

Address: 90 South Main Street (corner of West Vine Street)
Building #: 38
Historic Name: Janby Gas & Oil
Current Name: Midas Muffler
Date Built: 1930
Architect: William Durand (Oberlin)
Contractor: George Jackson & George Broadwell
Status: contributing
Photo #: 1

The plans to construct The Janby Gas and Oil Building were announced in the February 7, 1929 *News-Tribune*, though construction was not completed until 1930. It was noted that this filling station would be "one of the finest and most

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complete in this section of the state.” Oberlin’s first modern gas station, the one story building features a Tudor Revival design, with simulated half-timbering in the gable ends of the roof. According to the current owner, when the building was constructed it was the only canopied gas station between Pittsburgh and Detroit. The service bay wing on the west side, along Vine Street, is a later addition. Before building this structure, proprietors George Jackson and George Broadwell operated a taxi stand and then a filling station on North Main Street (where Hall Auditorium is today). The name “J and B” was selected based on the owners’ last names and this quickly became “Janby.” The Janby Oil Company was built on the site of a number of previous transportation-related businesses, including a livery station and also a former blacksmith shop and a planning mill. Janby also sold Goodrich tires. George Broadwell remained with the business until his death in 1945. His widow Lucinda Broadwell and Hartley and Dorothy Broadwell then took over the business, together with George Jackson, with the women doing the record keeping and Hartley Broadwell serving as manager. In 1963 the business was sold to Independent Oil, which continued to operate it as a filling station until 1982. It was purchased by Barry Jones in 1982. He handsomely and sensitively adapted the gas station for use as a Midas Muffler shop, with a rental space on the north side currently occupied by a beauty salon.

Downtown Oberlin Historic District

Property List/Building Numbers & Contributing and Non-Contributing Buildings

The district includes 38 buildings of which 33 are rated contributing and 5 are rated non-contributing due to alteration or due to having been built outside the period of significance of the district. As previously noted, there are three cases within the district where what appears to be one building was actually constructed in two parts with a unified façade. These are as follows (street address, building #): 5-13 W. College Street (#5, 6), 19-21 W. College Street (#8, 9), and 5-13 S. Main Street (#15, 16)

Carpenter Court

1. 18-22 Carpenter Court Contributing

College Street

2. 17-21 E. College St. Contributing
3. 23-27 E. College St. Contributing
4. 35 E. College St. Contributing
5. 5 W. College St. Contributing (shares façade with #6)
6. 11-13 W. College St. Contributing (shares façade with #5)
7. 15-17 W. College Street Contributing
8. 19 W. College Street Contributing (shares façade with #9)
9. 21 W. College Street Contributing (shares façade with #8)
10. 23 W. College St. Contributing
11. 25 W. College St. Contributing
12. 27 W. College St. Contributing
13. 29 W. College St. Contributing
14. 37 W. College St. Non-contributing

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Main Street

| | | |
|-----|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 15. | 5-11 S. Main Street | Contributing (shares façade with #16) |
| 16. | 13 S. Main Street | Contributing (shares façade with #15) |
| 17. | 15 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 18. | 16 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 19. | 18 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 20. | 19 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 21. | 20 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 22. | 21 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 23. | 23 S. Main St. | Non-contributing |
| 24. | 24 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 25. | 26 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 26. | 27-29 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 27. | 30 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 28. | 31 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 29. | 32 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 30. | 38-42 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 31. | 39 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 32. | 49 S. Main St. | Non-contributing |
| 33. | 51-53 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 34. | 56 S. Main St. | Non-contributing |
| 35. | 68 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 36. | 69 S. Main St. | Contributing |
| 37. | 82-86 S. Main St. | Non-contributing |
| 38. | 90 S. Main St. | Contributing |

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Statement of Significance

The Downtown Oberlin Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C because it represents the commercial and civic development of this northern Ohio collegiate town; and for its collection of buildings that represent the various architectural styles popular during Oberlin's period of greatest growth and prosperity from the mid-19th to the mid-20th centuries. The downtown area is directly south and southeast of Tappan Square, a large open green space owned by Oberlin College and enjoyed by college students and the community. Many of the buildings in the district were built and owned by the town's prominent business and civic leaders. Main and College streets have served as the town and college's primary business district since 1833 when the college and town were founded and the area has also served as a center of commerce for the surrounding central Lorain County rural community. Main and College streets have also always served as important transportation routes (Main Street is State Route 58 and College Street connects to State Route 511). The architecture of the district is varied, though much of it is of brick construction. The buildings remaining today were originally used for retail businesses, a dairy, a gas station, a post office, the city hall and fire station, two theaters, schools, offices, banks, fraternal halls, an auto showroom, and more. Many of the buildings in the district typify vernacular commercial architecture of the time period, and incorporate elements of high styles such as the Victorian Gothic, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, and Art Moderne. Though storefront alterations exist, most of the buildings retain considerable design integrity and the ensemble typifies a late 19th/early 20th century small Ohio town business district. The district is important for its central role in the development of the town of Oberlin, with significant commercial, governmental, and educational buildings that date from 1860 to 1939. It is also of interest for its associations with the college and community's important roles in various 19th and early 20th century reform movements including the anti-slavery movement, moral reform, African-American rights, women's rights, suffrage, temperance, and progressive era community improvement.

Founding of the Town and College

Oberlin is located in the Western Reserve area of Ohio. The town was founded as the Oberlin Colony by Elyria Pastor John Jay Shipherd (1802-1844) and his friend Rev. Philo Stewart (1798-1868), who had served as a missionary to the Choctaws of Mississippi. They purchased a plot of swampy land upon which to found the "Oberlin Collegiate Institute," a manual-labor school. In 1832 they traveled to what was to become Oberlin and talked about the community they would found. This talk took place under an elm tree near what is now the northwest corner of College and Main streets (and the southeast corner of what today is Tappan Square; now the Oberlin College National Historic Landmark), across the street from the proposed downtown historic district. They set a tone of "Christian Perfectionism" that would later influence the town's early growth (Fletcher, p. 118). Shipherd and Stewart, both trained as ministers, wished for a pure devotion to God through hard work and simple living as dictated by the Congregational Church of Connecticut. They named their community after John Frederick Oberlin (1740-1826), a European minister and educator from the Alsace region. Many of the early colonists farmed the land and went to the small college that became a training ground for missionaries and teachers who went throughout the world. In 1846 the village was incorporated, and in 1850 the name of the college was changed from Oberlin Collegiate Institute to Oberlin College. Many early students paid their tuition by providing manual labor, and although the requirement for manual labor did not last long, "Learning and Labor" became the motto of the institution.

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Charles Finney

The community's great religious leader following its founders was revivalist Charles Grandison Finney (1792-1875), the country's leading evangelist whose reputation spread as far as Great Britain. He left a thriving church in New York to come to Oberlin in 1835 to head the theological seminary and lead First Church, located one block north of the historic district, across Tappan Square. First Church was the largest building west of the Allegheny Mountains when it was built in 1844 (according to the 1908 General Catalog for Oberlin College); it is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was the only church in the community until the 1860s. Finney became the president of the college in 1850 and remained in Oberlin until his death in 1875. Finney advocated temperance, among other causes, and some of his supporters and students at the college adhered to the Graham diet, advocated by Sylvester Graham (1795-1851). It was a vegetarian diet emphasizing bread made with graham flour and water.

Abolition, the Underground Railroad, and Civil Rights

In 1835 a group known as the "Lane Rebels" was banned from Lane Seminary in Cincinnati for discussing abolitionist issues. Many of them came to Oberlin with financial backing from the Tappan Brothers of New York and joined the school to develop the Theological Seminary (Fletcher, p. 177). The Lane Rebels helped to set the first precedent in Oberlin for accepting persons of color into the institute, and the college soon became known as a leader in the education of African Americans and women.

The college attracted many noted abolitionists who studied there and settled in the community, such as James Monroe (1821-1898) and John Mercer Langston (1829-1897). Monroe was an Oberlin College graduate and later became a professor at the college and a Republican member of Congress; his home is located in the proposed historic district (573 1/2 S. Professor Street). Langston, a graduate of the college and the theological seminary, became the first African-American elected to public office in the country when he was elected clerk of Brownhelm Township in 1855. He also was secretary of the Oberlin school board and instrumental in getting Oberlin to join the Ohio Common School system. He later became the first African-American lawyer in the West, served as Oberlin's first Black town councilman, and served as a U.S. Congressman from Virginia after the Civil War. His home at 207 East College Street is a National Historic Landmark.

Oberlin College also attracted many well known abolitionists and other reformers and leaders to visit the community and give public addresses. These included Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Abby Kelley and Stephen Foster. This tradition continues today, and well-known reformers who have spoken in the community in recent decades include Martin Luther King, Andrew Young and Bishop Desmond Tutu, to name a few.

Oberlin became one of the major stops of the Underground Railroad and a hotbed of the abolitionist movement. Nat Brandt's book, *The Town That Started The Civil War* (1991), tells the story of the Oberlin-Wellington Slave Rescue in 1858, one of the precipitating events that led the nation to Civil War. The home of one of the rescuers, Wilson Bruce Evans, a freeborn African-American cabinet maker, is located at 33 East Vine Street near the proposed historic district and is now a National Historic Landmark.

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Two African-American Oberlinians participated in John Brown's Raid at Harper's Ferry on October 18, 1859: Lewis Sheridan Leary and John A. Copeland, Jr. They were joined by Shields Green, an African-American who had worked for Frederick Douglass and sometimes is identified as an Oberlinian. Lewis Sheridan Leary was wounded in the raid and died the next day. John Copeland and Shields Green were captured with John Brown and were hanged on December 1859. A monument erected to their memory at the cemetery in the mid-1860s today stands in Oberlin's Martin Luther King Park on East Vine Street, one-half block from the proposed historic district.

Many Oberlinians served in the Civil War. Among them were General Giles W. Shurtleff whose post-Civil War home adjacent to the proposed historic district at 73 ½ S. Professor Street (now part of the Oberlin Heritage Center), and Wilson Bruce Evans, an African-American whose home on East Vine Street, just southeast of the historic district, is now a National Historic Landmark, as well as several members of the U.S. Colored Troops whose names are inscribed on the Soldiers/War Memorial monument located in Wright Park, across West Vine Street from the Janby Oil Building (now Midas Muffler), at the southern end of the proposed historic district.

The town has had a relatively large percentage of African-American residents since the pre-Civil War era. In 1856 a visitor to the community, William C. Nell, reported that there were "cabinet makers, house contractors and builders, carpenters, blacksmiths, stucco workers, masons, coach trimmers and harness makers, upholsterers, bookmakers, grocers, farmers -- all black" (cited by Cheek, p. 285). In 1867, a visitor reported that "we saw white and black men doing business together. They shook hands, conversed, discussed, and bartered precisely as though they had all been one color" (cited by Cheek, p. 285).

In 1860, the town had 2,115 residents (422 Black). In 1900 the town's population was 4082 (641 'negroes'). By 1940, the town had 4,305 residents (897 Black). In 1980 there were 8,660 residents (2,167 Black). In 2000 there were 8,195 residents and of these 71% were Caucasian, 24% African-American and 5% Asian and other ethnic groups.

Among the most noted African-American downtown business owners were ex-slave John Watson who owned a grocery store on Main Street in the 1850s, Marie DeFrance, who was born in New Orleans in 1874, attended the Conservatory in 1892-1893 and was a milliner on South Main Street from the 1890s to 1926, and the Clarence Pettiford Family who owned a bakery on South Main Street, which opened in 1923, was a very popular establishment for several decades.

Women's Reform and Voting Rights

The Oberlin Collegiate Institute, opened in 1833 (renamed Oberlin College in 1850), was the first four-year institution in the country to admit women and counted some notable women's rights advocates among its graduates although the majority of Oberlin women lived quite circumscribed lives as students, teachers, wives, and mothers. The college and community of Oberlin became known as a center of women's reform work. Women's participation in abolitionism honed their skills as organizers (and sometimes even as public speakers) and led them to recognize their own needs, as women, to attain more equal rights. Later the focus shifted to suffrage, temperance, and civil rights, both for women and for African-Americans, continuing a tradition of activism and reform that has permeated Oberlin's history.

A sampling of the many notable women who attended the college includes:

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Antoinette Brown Blackwell (1825-1921) studied in Oberlin from 1846 to 1850. She studied theology even though her family and many at the college opposed it, and she went on to attend many women's rights conventions, with Bible in hand. She became the first woman ordained as a protestant minister in the United States.

Sarah Margru Kinson Green was one of the famous captives of the Amistad. After the trial, the Amistad Africans remained in the United States while abolitionists raised money to return them to Africa. Sarah was sent to Oberlin to be educated and she lived with a local missionary family. Years later she returned to Africa as a missionary.

Edmonia Lewis (1845-ca. 1915) was an African American who attended the college from 1859-1862 and later became a prominent sculptor.

Mary Jane Patterson (1840-1992) became the first African-American woman in the country to receive a college degree when she graduated from Oberlin College in 1862.

Lucy Stone (1818-1893) studied in Oberlin from 1843 to 1847. She stated at one point that "Men came to Oberlin for various reasons. . . women, because they had nowhere else to go." (Hardesty, p. 31). On August 1, 1846 Stone gave a speech at a community celebration of the anniversary of the end of slavery in the West Indies, and she was promptly scolded by the college's Ladies Board for speaking in public (Hardesty, p. 74). Stone served as secretary-treasurer of the local Moral Reform Society. She later headed the American Women's Suffrage Association and was the editor of *The Woman's Journal*.

Alice Mead Swing (1859-1944), an 1879 Oberlin College graduate, became the first woman on the Oberlin School Board in 1895 and was among the first women to serve on any school board in the State of Ohio.

Mary Church Terrell, an African-American who graduated from Oberlin College in 1884, became an ardent advocate of civil rights and women's rights. During World War I she joined other suffragists who picketed in front of the White House. In the 1940s and 1950s she worked to eliminate segregation by picketing stores in Washington, D.C., leading to a June 8, 1953 United States Supreme Court ruling that racial segregation was against the law in Washington, D.C. She was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Several women owned business establishments, including Marie DeFrance, an African-American woman who operated a millinery shop at 24 South Main Street in the first three decades of the 20th century. Mary Patterson Leary (widow of Lewis Leary who participated in John Brown's Harper's Ferry raid) worked as a milliner in Oberlin before the Civil War.

The Temperance Movement

Oberlin was important in the early history of the temperance movement. The Oberlin Covenant, signed by the first residents, included the statement:

"That we may have time and health for the Lord's service, we will eat only plain and wholesome food, renouncing all habits, and especially the smoking and chewing of tobacco, unless it is necessary as a medicine, and deny ourselves

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strong and unnecessary drinks, even tea and coffee, as far as practicable, and everything expensive that is simply calculated to gratify appetite." Teetotaling was largely taken for granted among the student body, but nonetheless, Oberlin Temperance Society was formed in 1834, probably the first of many temperance groups that were active in community. In 1854, Minerva Dayton Penfield, the wife of a college professor (the second Mrs. Henry Cowles), presided at a temperance convention in Columbus (Hardesty, p. 73). The Oberlin Temperance League, founded among the college students and young people of the town in 1863, convinced 350 people by 1865 to sign the pledge "to not, taste not, handle not." (Fletcher, p. 340). Though few saloons existed, various druggists sold liquor for medicinal purposes at various times, sometimes leading to protests by the local temperance advocates.

The Oberlin Temperance Alliance was founded in 1876 with the goal of suppressing the saloons. One of the largest temperance groups in town was the Ohio Anti-Saloon League, which was formed in Oberlin in 1893 and became a national organization headquartered in Westerville, Ohio.

Dancing, card playing, and using tobacco were forbidden for college students, and few in the community partook of these activities either. Very few commercial establishments sold "intoxicants" in Oberlin over the years. Most that were on the outskirts of town, and several that tried were quickly dissuaded from doing so. "Twice when buildings were secured and bars were opened, violence was resorted to under cover of darkness, by persons unknown, however, and without the approbation of the worthier portion of the community. Once the windows were smashed in and also the heads of the liquor kegs, and once the saloon-to-be was demolished and removed so completely that no sign was left it had ever existed. But this is not the normal Oberlin way of doing things." (Leonard, p. 307). In 1897 there was considerable commotion when people in town learned that a distinguished college professor, Frank Fanning Jewett, made root beer that had been permitted to stand for three weeks and had an alcoholic content of 3.3 per cent (Phillips 174; The Jewett House at 73 S. Professor is near the proposed historic district and is a National Register site.).

Though liquor was sometimes sold at establishments on the outskirts of the community, Oberlin remained a dry town until the mid-1980s, when the Oberlin College Inn obtained permission to sell liquor. Other than a handful of establishments that served beer, serving alcohol was not permitted in the town's downtown business district (other than at the Oberlin Inn) until the 1990s, when voters approved several referendums allowing some restaurants to serve alcohol.

Progressive Era Community Improvement

Along with many communities around the country, Oberlin was inspired by turn-of-the-century City Beautiful ideals. In 1903, a group of prominent citizens formed the Oberlin Village Improvement Society (a predecessor organization to today's Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization/Oberlin Heritage Center) to beautify the town, improve the morals of its residents and make it a cleaner and healthier place to live. Among the Village Improvement Society's projects were making the downtown area and its shops more pleasant and encouraging planting of trees and flowers throughout Oberlin. Adelia Field Johnston spearheaded the efforts to improve the business district, focusing particularly on the alleys behind the commercial buildings on West College Street and Main Street, and to encouraging development of a park system in the town. Frances Gulick Jewett championed the cause of public hygiene and launched a campaign to solve the town's garbage dilemma while her husband Frank Fanning Jewett advocated for a modern water treatment

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system. (Their home at 73 S. Professor Street is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is open for tour as part of the Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O.)

Commercial Development

Most of the first commercial buildings in the town were very simple wood-frame structures in keeping with plain living in accordance with the original terms of the Oberlin covenant among those who initially settled in the community. Some of the early buildings combined commercial uses and college functions. The first wood-frame commercial structures were destroyed by fire or torn down and were gradually replaced with more substantial brick structures, many of which remain standing in the historic district today. The town's business district originally extended further north along North Main Street than it does today. This area is now occupied by the Oberlin College Inn, and Oberlin College's Hall Auditorium and Allen Memorial Art Museum. Across the street from the West College Street part of the historic district is Tappan Square, now the heart of the college campus and Oberlin's town square. It was originally the site of many early college buildings. In accordance with the terms of the will of Oberlin alumnus Charles Martin Hall (who developed the process for commercially manufacturing aluminum, founded ALCOA, and left much of his fortune to the college), the buildings on the square were cleared in 1927. Across the street from the East College Street part of the historic district is the Oberlin Inn, a 1950s building that occupies the site of several earlier hotels.

The commercial establishments located in the buildings that remain in the district today historically catered to local residents, college students, and the surrounding agricultural community. They included dry-goods stores, furniture stores, undertakers, hardware stores, an art gallery, jewelers, shoe stores, meat markets, grocery stores, printing offices, restaurants, hotels, pharmacies, and book stores. Some businesses, such as the Gibson's Bakery and Grocery, now at West College Street, began as sidewalk stands and later moved to their own buildings.

Downtown Oberlin has been a community gathering place and site of many parades, festivals, and special events. Recreational opportunities were provided by business establishments such as the Rex Theater (razed), the Apollo Theater, the Hobbs Restaurant, the Minute Lunch, bowling alleys, etc. Various social, fraternal, and civic organizations have met in buildings within the district over the years. For example, the Knights of Pythias met on the upper floors of the Westervelt Building in the mid-1890s (Maddock K of P files), and the Oberlin Grange occupied 38-42 South Main Street.

A brief comparison of the community's businesses in 1860, 1935, and 2001 reveals trends experienced by many long-established business districts. In 1860, the *Oberlin News*, reported that "There are at present three general mercantile establishments besides one exclusive dry goods and clothing store, two exclusive book stores, four shoe stores, one jewelry and fancy store, three merchant tailors, five family groceries, a flour store, three meat markets, one stove and shop, two steam flouring mills, one saw mill, one planing mill and sash factory, one carriage factory, two cabinet shops, two harness shops, two livery stables, two hotels and two restaurants. Besides these there are lawyears [sic], practitioners, dentists, dagueroeotypers, printers, book binders, and barbers. In short all things required to make a good village excepting a grog shop are to be found in Oberlin." The *Oberlin News-Tribune* (March 29, 1935) quoted this and noted "In 1860 a greater portion of the population kept their own cows. At the present time seven dairies are active here. The listing of a dime delivery [in 1860] brings home the fact that seventy-five years ago the householder did his own delivering, generally on foot. Dentists at present are about in proportion as they were in 1860. Dry goods store

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and drug stores have not increased greatly in number. Dry cleaners have developed since those old days. Three florists have replaced the two of 1860. Frigidaire dealers were unknown in those days. Groceries are not more numerous per capita than they were when *The News* was first published [in 1860]. Oil and gas stations were in the old days unknown while half a dozen or more now flourish. Physicians are more numerous. Real estate and insurance offices have grown in number while restaurants have more than held their own. Two variety stores in 1935 conduct a kind of business little known in small villages in 1860." By the year 2002, the historic business district was suffering from competition with shopping malls, big-box retailers, and Internet shopping. There are more restaurants, and in recent years the voters repealed Oberlin's dry status, so that some restaurants now serve wine and beer. Some first floor storefront spaces historically occupied by retailers are now homes to service-oriented businesses, such as an investment broker, tax service, realtor, insurance business, etc. There are no longer any grocery stores other than Gibson's Bakery and no pharmacies within the central business district in 2002. The community's banks, including various financial institutions that have occupied the "Corner Bank Building" at the southeast corner of College and Main Streets, have long been located in the downtown and remain there today.

Architecture

The devastating series of fires that destroyed much of the downtown beginning in the mid-1860s on through 1898 led the shift from wood frame to masonry construction for nearly all commercial buildings in the city. The newer, more substantial masonry structures that were erected in the business district exemplified prevailing architectural tastes of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The buildings within the proposed historic district are primarily commercial vernacular structures built by local builders although there are a handful of notable examples of architect-designed high style buildings, most notably the Queen Anne Carpenter Block/5-13 W. College Street (Weary & Kramer, Akron), the Victorian Gothic Union School/39 S. Main Street (Walter Blythe, Cleveland), the Victorian Commercial Goodrich Block/Corner Bank Building/5-13 S. Main Street (Walter Blythe, Cleveland) and the Neo-Classical Oberlin Post Office/68 S. Main Street (Alfred Hahn/Toledo). The buildings within the district combine elements that demonstrate the influence of a number of architectural styles, including Victorian Commercial, Queen Anne, Second Empire, Victorian Gothic, Late 19th/Early 20th Century Commercial; Modern Moderne, Neo-Classical, Art Deco and Tudor Revival. In most cases, the buildings within the district are the only remaining examples of these styles in Oberlin. Examples of some of the stylistic influences within the district are: **Victorian Gothic** (39 S. Main Street/Building #31), **Victorian Commercial** (5-13 S. Main Street/Building #11, 15 S. Main Street/Building #17, 21 S. Main Street/Building #22, 27-29 S. Main Street/Building #26, 30 S. Main Street/Building #27, 32 S. Main Street/Building #29, and 38-42 S. Main Street/Building #30), **Queen Anne** (5-13 W. College Street/Building #s 5, 6, 16 S. Main Street/Building #18), **Second Empire** (19-21 W. College Street), **Late 19th/Early 20th Century Commercial** (23-27 E. College/Building #3, 17-21 E. College Street/Building 2 and 35 E. College Street/Building #4), **Art Moderne/Art Deco** (Storefronts and marquees of 17-21 E. College Street/Building #2, Storefront of 7 W. College Street/Building #s 5, 6, and the Storefront of 23 W. College Street/Building #10), **Commercial Vernacular** (15-17 W. College Street, 23 W. College Street/Building #11, 25 West College Street/Building #11, 27 W. College Street/Building #12, 29 W. College Street/Building #13, 20 S. Main Street/Building #21, 26 S. Main Street/Building #25, 51-53 S. Main Street/Building #33, and 82-86 S. Main Street/Building #37), **Prairie** (69 S. Main Street/Building #36), **Neo-Classical** (18 S. Main Street/Building #19, 56 S. Main Street/Building #34, and 68 S. Main Street/Building #35), and **Tudor Revival** (90 S. Main Street/Building 38).

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Also of note are several examples of sensitive, adaptive use of historic structures, including the conversion of the Union School Building into the New Union Center for the Arts by the Nord Family Foundation in the 1990s (39 S. Main Street/Building #31) and the re-use of the Janby Oil Gas Station as Midas Muffler (90 S. Main Street/Building #38) that was undertaken by owners Barry and Linda Jones in the early 1980s.

Education

The first college buildings were located along the south side of today's West College Street; most notably, Oberlin Hall stood near the present southwest corner of Main and College within the proposed historic district. None of the pre-Civil War college buildings survive.

Several private and business colleges and schools were located within the proposed historic district, including Oberlin Penmanship and Telegraph Schools, the Union Business Institute, Oberlin Business College, the Sheridan and Hilman Telegraph School, and others. Their proprietors no doubt capitalized upon Oberlin's reputation as a fine place to obtain an education.

The town's first public school, a one-room schoolhouse, was built in 1836-1837 near the present site of First Church (1844, listed on the National Register), across the square from the proposed historic district. The one-room school has been moved several times and is now part of the Oberlin Heritage Center located near the proposed district at 73 1/2 South Professor Street. As school facilities were limited, some public school classes met in rented rooms in the upper floors of the downtown business buildings in the mid-to-late 19th century. The town's public school, Union School, a Victorian Gothic building was constructed on South Main Street in 1874 and served as the town's public high school until 1923. (See 39 S. Main Street).

Industry

Oberlin had few industrial and manufacturing businesses. There were some small industries located along South Main Street near Plum Creek and along Mill Street (renamed Vine Street in 1889) near the southern edge of the proposed historic district. These included carriage, furniture and leather goods manufacturers and a grist mill, lumber mill, and steam mill (*Oberlin News-Tribune*, March 29, 1935). One such building was a planing mill and machine shop built in 1838 at the corner of Main and Mill (now Vine Street) by three college students (James A. Preston, William H. Ewart, and Cephas Foster) to aid college students who depended on manual labor for support. There they manufactured window sashes, doors, and window blinds. (Charles H. Camp's *History of the Business Section of Oberlin, 1833 to 1874*). Other small industries and manufacturing shops were along the railroad tracks south of the business district.

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Fires

The downtown business district suffered a series of devastating fires beginning in the mid-1860s. Many wood-frame buildings on the west side of South Main burned in an August 1870 fire. Another serious fire on March 6, 1882 started on East College Street and spread south on Main Street (Phillips, p. 141). This was followed by a May 6, 1886 fire that spread from the southwest corner of Main and College and destroyed several buildings (Phillips, p. 148). Buildings erected after the fires were generally of brick and stone construction. These fires led the town leaders to decide to build a modern water system; it began operation in 1888, and in 1903 the city built the first water softening plant of its kind in the United States. Another disastrous fire happened on New Year's Eve, 1898, causing extensive damage to the buildings on the west side of South Main Street.

Transportation

When the town was first established few residents had their own stables, and town residents and the college community used livery services for transportation, when it was too far to walk to their destination. Several livery stables were located in the inner block section of what is now the proposed historic district.

The first railroad service to Oberlin - the Toledo, Norwalk and Cleveland Railroad - was finished in 1853. It became part of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway in 1869 and later part of the Chicago-Buffalo route. The depot was erected south of town in the 1860s. The Lake Shore route eventually became part of the New York Central system, which maintained passenger-train service in Oberlin until 1949. New York Central (later Penn Central) continued to use the tracks for freight service until 1976.

Streetcar service from Cleveland and Elyria to Oberlin was added on December 14, 1897, with round trip fare of 25 cents (Phillips, p. 175). Service was extended to Wellington in 1899 and to Norwalk in 1902. Completion of the interurban line made it easier for people to shop outside town, a problem that was later compounded by the automobile. Oberlin College President John Henry Barrows, addressing the annual meeting of the Oberlin Board of Commerce in 1900, noted, "It is a foolish and suicidal mistake for citizens not to support the trade of their own town. It is a bad habit showing a lack of municipal patriotism and good sense, for people to go away from Oberlin to buy. . . Even if it costs a little more, which it does not usually, we ought to stand by each other, the college by the town, and the town by the college." (Phillips, p. 185). Today's downtown merchants would heartily support his message of a century ago. Streetcar service ended in 1929.

Much of the district dates from the pre-automobile era, when many Oberlin residents walked, traveled by horse and buggy, took the streetcar to neighboring communities, or took the train to travel greater distances. The first sightings of automobiles were in 1899, when two Wintons passed through town, drawing a crowd along College Street (Phillips, p. 181) and Dr. H.W. Pyle became the first person in town to own a car. After 1920 several structures, including automobile dealerships and a gas station were erected in downtown to sell and service automobiles.

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The automobile has made it easier for local residents to shop outside the downtown area in the mid to late 20th and early 21st centuries, and yet fortunately it has not spelled the end of Oberlin's downtown, which still retains its historic charm and pedestrian-friendly ambiance. Today, Main Street Oberlin, property owners and business owners, the City of Oberlin, the Historic Preservation Commission, Oberlin College, Oberlin Heritage Center/Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization (O.H.I.O.), and other community groups are working to revitalize and assure a strong future for downtown Oberlin as a key component of this community which has played such an important role in the history of our region, state, and nation.

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Photographs

Photograph numbers correspond to the attached map showing photo angles.

All photos:

Downtown Oberlin Historic District

Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio

Photography by Richard Holsworth

December 2001.

Negatives in possession of:

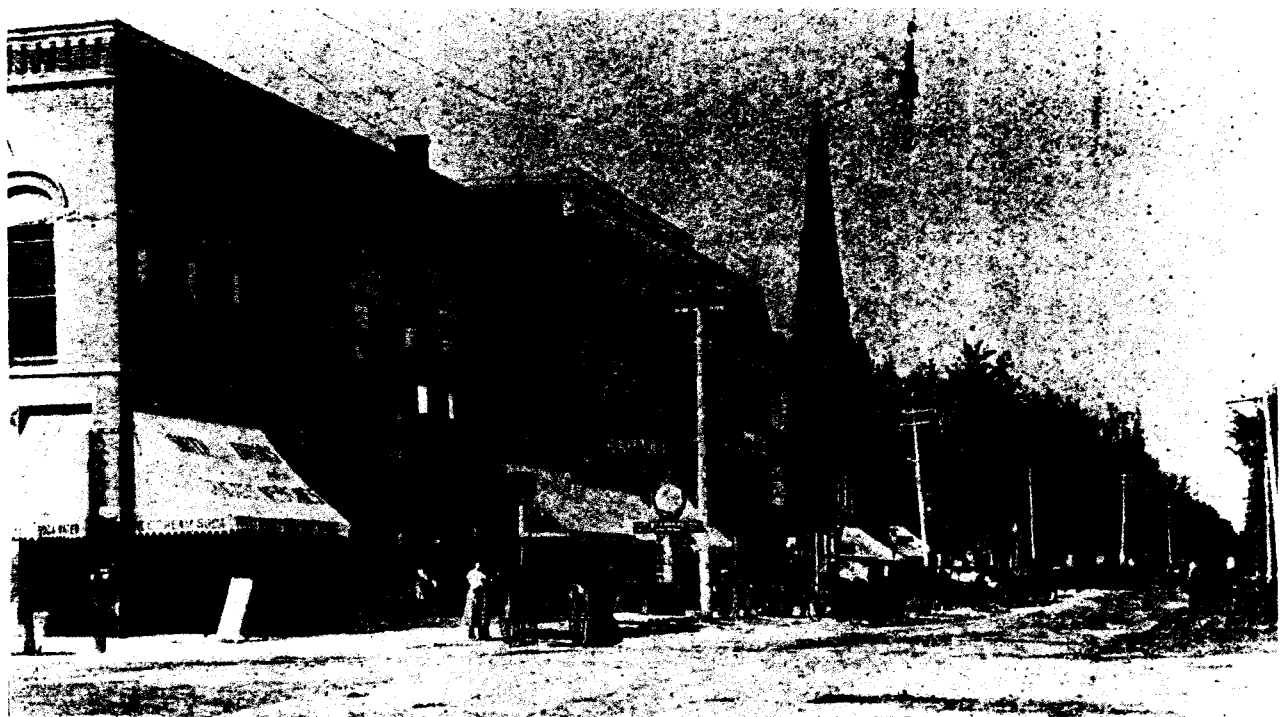
Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization/Oberlin Heritage Center
P.O. Box 0455
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

1. View NW from corner of S. Main and E. Vine; showing 90 S. Main St.
2. View NW from S. Main, showing 82 S. Main St.
3. View SW from S. Main, showing 68 S. Main St.
4. View NW from S. Main, showing 56 S. Main St.
5. View NW from S. Main, showing L to R: 38-42, 32, 30, 26 S. Main St.
6. View WSW from S. Main, showing L to R: 42, 32, 30, 26 S. Main St.
7. View WNW from S. Main, showing L to R: 26, 24, 20, 18, 16 S. Main & 5 W. College
8. View WSW from S. Main, showing R to L: 16, 18, 20, 24, 26 S. Main
9. View SW from N. Main & E. College, showing L to R: 5, 7-11, 15-17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 37 W. College
10. View SE from W. College, showing R to L: 37, 29, 27, 25, 23 W. College
11. View SE from N. Main and W. College, showing L to R: 5-11, 13, 15 S. Main St.
12. View SW from E. College, showing 35 E. College
13. View SE from E. College, showing L to R: 23-27, 17-21 E. College
14. View SW from S. Main, showing R to L: 13, 15, 19, 21, 23, 27-29 S. Main
15. View East from S. Main, showing L to R: 11, 13, 15, 19, 21 S. Main
16. View ENE from S. Main, showing R to L: 31, 27-29, 23 S. Main
17. View E from S. Main, showing 39 S. Main
18. View SE from S. Main, showing 51-53 S. Main
19. View ENE from S. Main, showing 69 S. Main
20. View from parking lot NNE, showing 18-22 Carpenter Court
21. View NE from S. Main, showing 39(tower), 49, 51-53 and 69 (right) S. Main St.
22. View NE from S. Main, showing 39 (tower), 49, 51-53 S. Main St.
23. View NW from SE corner of Main and Vine Street, showing 90 S. Main (left), 82 S. Main (center right)
24. View ESE from S. Main St, showing 49 S. Main Street

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1907 Postcard of West College Street as seen from the corner of College and Main Streets.
Source: Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. Resource Center Locke Collection



East College Street, ca. 1913-1920, as seen from the corner of College and Main Streets.
Source: Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. Resource Center Locke Collection

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West College Street, as seen from the corner of College and Main Streets, ca. 1952-1959
Source: Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. Resource Center Locke Collection

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Section number PROPERTY OWNER LIST Page 37

Downtown Oberlin Historic District Property Owner List

(building numbers, street addresses, historic names, current names and current property owners, mailing addresses and parcel numbers are indicated)

Carpenter Court

#1 18-22 Carpenter Court (22 is now Kotok's Market)
Owner: Oberlin Off Street Parking Inc.
M.P.O. Box 0447
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112027 (5-027)

East College Street

#2 17-21 E. College Street – Hobbs Block/Apollo Theater
(now 17 = Manuel's Barbershop, 19 = Apollo Theater, 21 = Nationwide Insurance)
Owner: William N. & Sanders M. Steel
19 E. College St.
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900086102038 (175-038)

#3 23-27 E. College Street - Rowland Block (now 23 = vacant, 27 = Cable Co-op)
Owner: Arthur H. & Ada L. Clark Family Ltd. Partnership
P.O. Box 0299
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900086102040 (174-040)

#4 35 E. College Street – The Bailey Block (now private residence & art studio)
Owner: John Pearson & Audra Skuodas
35 E. College Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900086102049 (173-049)

West College Street

#5 5 W. College Street (east part) – Carpenter Block (now Java Zone)
Owner: Arthur H. & Ada L. Clark
Family Ltd. Partnership
P.O. Box 0299
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112012 (229-013)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

Section number PROPERTY OWNER LIST Page 38

- #6 7-13 W. College Street (west part) – Carpenter Block (now 7 = Herricks Jewelry, 13 = Ben Franklin & Mindfair Books)
Owner: Cochrane Inc.
P.O. Box 0447
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112012 (229-012)
0900085112011 (300-011)
0900085112010 (301-010)
- #7 15-17 W. College Street – (now west part of Ben Franklin & Carlyle Gift & Flower Shop)
Owner: Cochrane Inc.
P.O. Box 0447
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112010 (301-010)
- #8 19 W. College Street (east part) – Simon Levy’s (now Foxgrape Café)
Owner: Cochrane Inc.
P.O. Box 0447
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112009 (302-009)
- #9 21 W. College (west part) (now: The Green Iguana)
Owner: Allyn W. & David R. Gibson
23 W. College Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112090 (-090)
- #10 23 W. College Street – Gibson Block (now Gibson’s Bakery)
Owner: Allyn W. & David R. Gibson
23 W. College Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112007 (304-007)
- #11 25 W. College Street – Post Office Block (now Smith’s Home Furnishings, Floor Coverings and Yarn Shop)
Owner: Cochrane Inc.
P.O. Box 0447
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112006 (305-006)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

Section number PROPERTY OWNER LIST Page 39

#12 27 W. College Street – Westervelt Block (now Tooo Chinoise Restaurant)
Owner: Allyn W. & David R. Gibson
23 W. College Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112005 (305-005)

#13 29 W. College Street – E.P. Johnson Dry Goods (now Bead Paradise II)
Owner: Ruth Aschaffenburg
29 W. College Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112004 (305-004)

#14 37 W. College Street – Co-op Bookstore (now Oberlin Bookstore)
Owner: Oberlin College Controllers Office
173 W. Lorain Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112001, 002, 003 (305-001, 002, 003)

South Main Street

#15 5-11 S. Main Street (north part) – Goodrich Block, etc. (now 5 = First Merit Bank, 9 = Weia Teia Restaurant,
11 = Aries Style Salon)
Owner: Arthur H. & Ada L. Clark
Family Ltd. Partnership
P.O. Box 0299
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900086102001, 002, 003, 004 (176-001, 002 177-003, 004)

#16 13 S. Main (south part) (now John D. Cole Business & Management Services)
Owner: John D. Cole
P.O. Box 191
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900086102005 (178-005)

#17 15 S. Main Street – Carpenter/Burnett Building, etc. (now Black River Café)
Owner: Joseph B. Waltzer
64 Spring Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900086102006 (178-006)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

Section number PROPERTY OWNER LIST Page 40

- #18 16 S. Main Street – Morris Meat Market (now Campus Video)
Owner: Patricia Stetson
103 East College Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112015 (231-015)
- #19 18 S. Main Street – Pettiford Bakery (now Subway)
Owner: Wade & Alberta Hallauer
155 Hollywood Avenue
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112016 (232-016)
- #20 19 S. Main Street – Standard Drug (now Ginko Gallery and Studio Fiberart)
Owner: Patricia Stetson
103 East College Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900086102007 (178-007)
- #21 20 S. Main Street – G.S. Pay & Son Meat Market, etc. (now Edward Jones Investments)
Owner: Wade & Alberta Hallauer
155 Hollywood Avenue
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112017 (233-017)
- #22 21 S. Main Street – Westervelt Building (now Sperry-Gorske Agency, Insurance & Real Estate)
Owner: John P. & Michael S. Gorske
134 Fairway Drive
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900086102009 (178-009)
- #23 23 S. Main Street – Severy & Sage Grocery (now Campus Cleaners & Launderers)
Owner: Steve & Dona Milkovich
205 Shipherd Circle
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900086102010 (179-010)
- #24 24 S. Main Street – Marie DeFrance Millinery Shop (now The Workshop Framing)
Owner: Lisa LTD
11413 Clary Road
Wakeman, Ohio 44889
0900085112018 (233-018)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

Section number PROPERTY OWNER LIST Page 41

- #25 26 S. Main Street – Gilchrist Building/Watson Hardware (now The Molyneaux Building, Watson’s Hardware)
Owner: Glenn Realty Company
 Off Street Parking
 M.P.O. Box 0447
 Oberlin, Ohio 44074
 0900085112083 (234-083)
- #26 27-29 S. Main Street – M.H. Streator & Sons Groceries (now 27 = Matrix Games, 29 = Dave’s Army Navy)
Owner: Helen J. Supers
 373 Reamer Place
 Oberlin, Ohio 44074
 0900086102011 (179-011)
- #27 30 S. Main Street – Mason’s Restaurant (now The Feve Coffee House & Deli)
Owner: Matthew & Jason V. Adelman
 30 ½ S. Main St.
 Oberlin, Ohio 44074
 0900085112029 (234-029)
- #28 31 S. Main Street – W.T. Champe’s Barber Shop (now Stitch by Stitch)
Owner: Helen J. Supers
 373 Reamer Place
 Oberlin, Ohio 44074
 0900086102012 (179-012)
- #29 32 S. Main Street – Rowland Drug Store (now The Copy Shop)
Owner: Frank S. Carlson, Trustee
 P.O. Box 0344
 Oberlin, Ohio 44074
 0900085112030 (234-030)
- #30 38-42 S. Main Street – Oberlin Steam Laundry/Grange (now 38 = Downtown Pizza, 40 = Modern Beauty Salon, 40 ½ = Solaluna Yoga Center, 42 = Oberlin News-Tribune)
Owner: Arthur H. & Ada L. Clark
 Family Ltd. Partnership
 P.O. Box 0299
 Oberlin, Ohio 44074
 0900085112054 (235-054)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

Section number PROPERTY OWNER LIST Page 42

#31 39 S. Main Street – Union School/Westervelt Hall (now New Union Center for the Arts)
Owner: The Nord Family Foundation
347 Midway Boulevard
Elyria, Ohio 44035
0900086102083 (179-083)

#32 49 S. Main Street – Peoples' Banking Company (now AAA)
Owner: OHIO Motorist Assoc.
57 Brecksville Rd.
Independence, Ohio 44131
0900086102020 (180-020)

#33 51-53 S. Main Street – Hobbs Block (now 51A = Polished Records, 51B = 252 Tattoo,
53 = Tappan Square Cleaners)
Owner: Tappan Square Cleaners Inc.
51 S. Main St.
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900086102021 (181-021)

#34 56 S. Main Street – Oberlin Telephone Exchange (now Verizon)
Owner: Verizon (General Telephone of Ohio)
Attention: Rick Masching
Mail Code SV1E5106
750 Canyon Drive
Coppello, TX 75019
0900085112081, -056, -079 (73-081, 74-056, -079)

#35 68 S. Main Street – United States Post Office
Owner: U.S. Government
U.S. Postmaster
68 S. Main Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112076 (72-076)

#36 69 S. Main Street – Oberlin Town Hall & Fire Dept. (now known as Old City Hall)
Owner: City of Oberlin/City Manager
85 S. Main Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900086102076 (72-076)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

Section number PROPERTY OWNER LIST Page 43

#37 82-86 S. Main Street – Klermund Ford (now The Bridge Technology Center, the Perpetual Garage Sa
Store and the Mandarin Restaurant)

Owner: Shwu-Chen Chai
472 Caskey Drive
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112068 (70-068)

#38 90 S. Main Street – Janby Gas & Oil (now Midas Auto Service Experts)

Owner: Lin-Barry Inc.
90 S. Main Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
0900085112077 (69-077)

Vacant Land/Parking Areas Within the District:

Off Street Parking behind West College Street and East College Street buildings

Owner: Oberlin Off Street Parking
M.P.O. Box 0447
Oberlin, OH 44074

Bank Parking lot at 29-31 East College Street

Owner: Oberlin Off Street Parking
M.P.O. Box 0447
Oberlin, OH 44074

Vacant Land between 38-42 S. Main and 32 S. Main (“private alley” according to auditor records)

Owner: Oberlin Off Street Parking
M.P.O. Box 0447
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

Verizon Parking Lot, north of 56 S. Main Street

Owner: Verizon Communications
Att: Rick Masching
Mail Code SV1E5106
750 Canyon Drive
Coppello, TX 75019

80 S. Main Street green space

Owner: Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization
P.O. Box 0455
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Downtown Oberlin Historic District
Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio**

Section number PROPERTY OWNER LIST Page 44

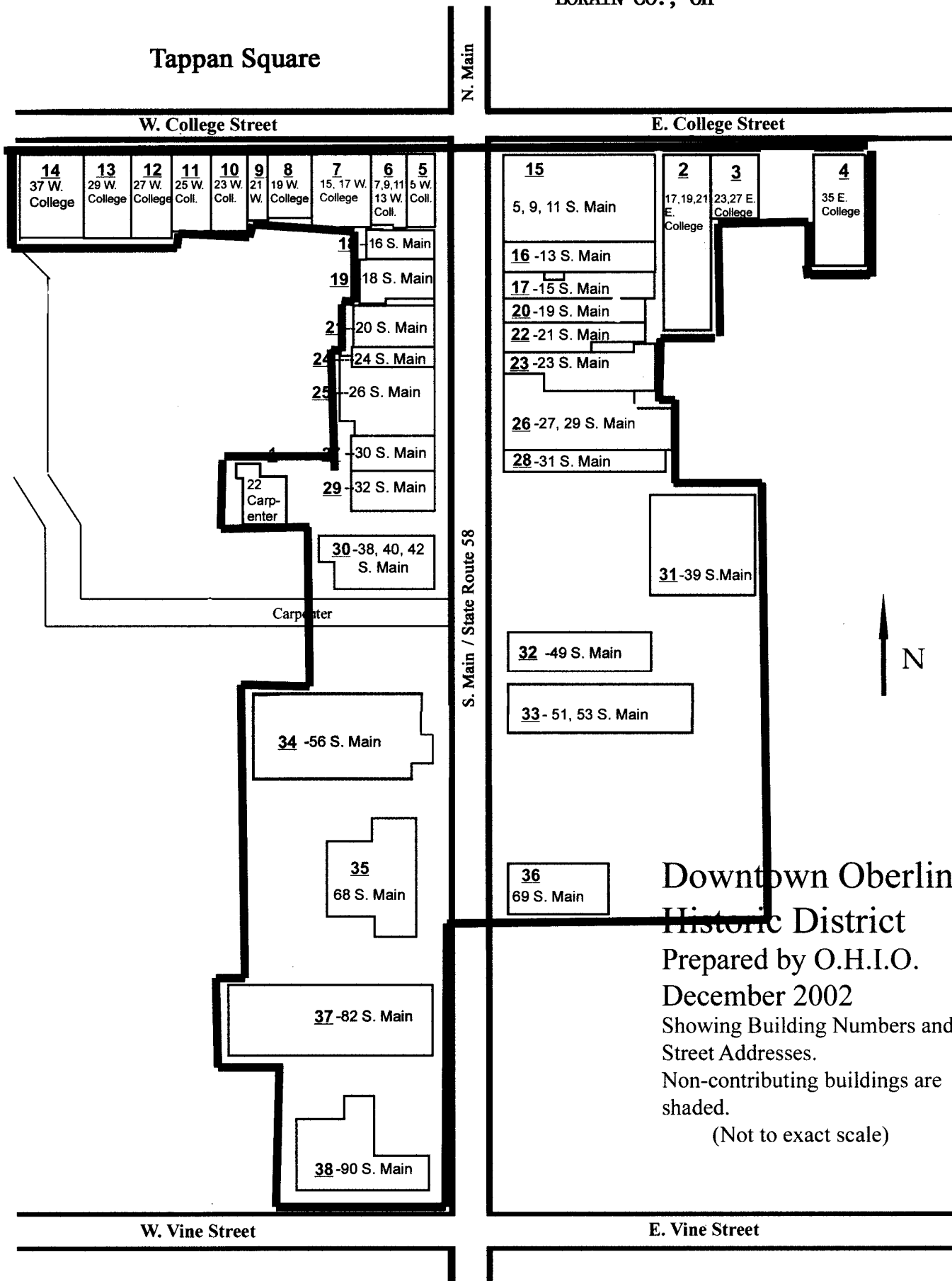
65 S. Main – Oberlin Public Library parking lot

Owner: Oberlin Public Library
65 S. Main Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

City Hall Parking Lot

Owner: City of Oberlin/City Manager
85 S. Main Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

Tappan Square



Downtown Oberlin
Historic District

Prepared by O.H.I.O.

December 2002

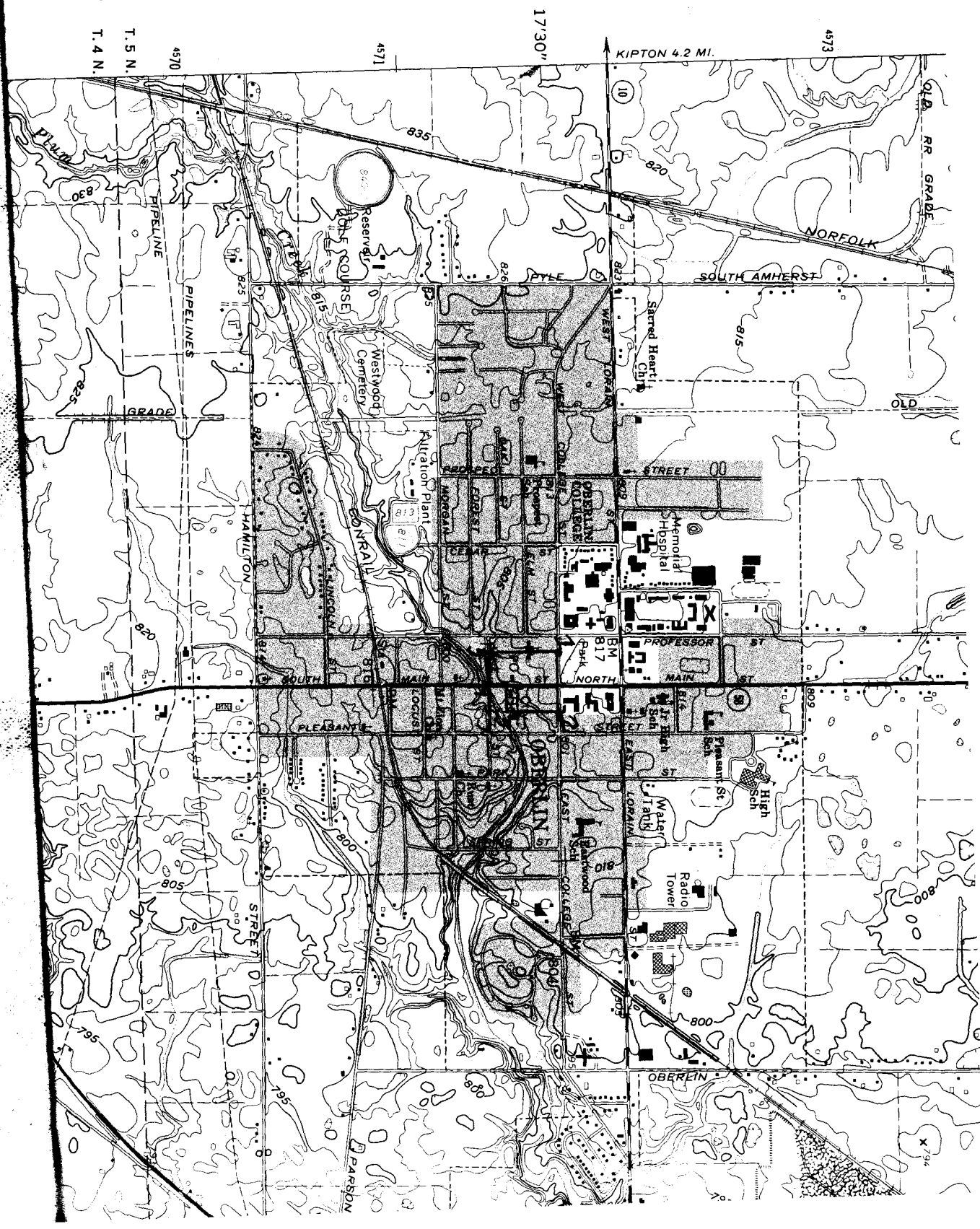
Showing Building Numbers and
Street Addresses.

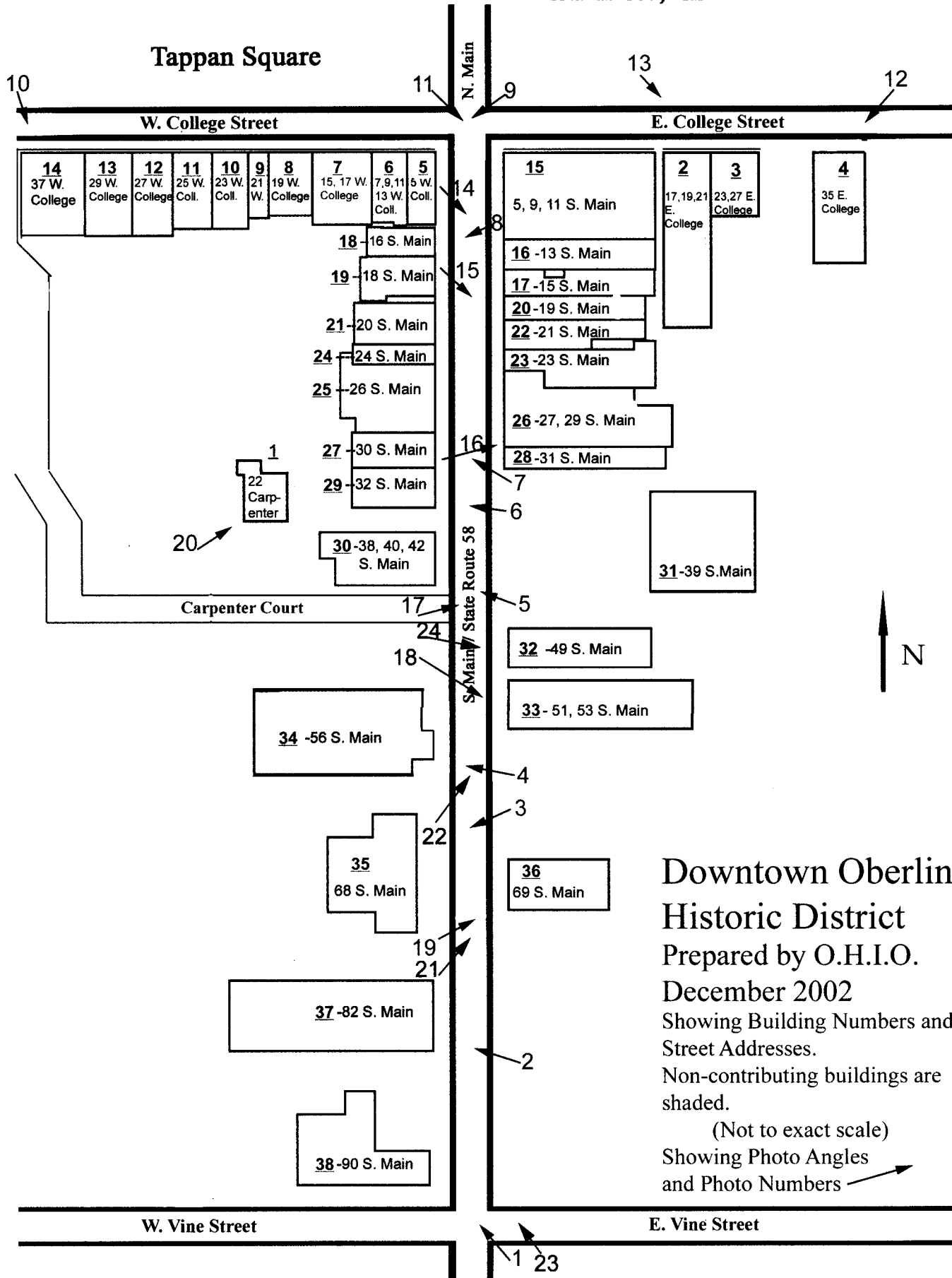
Non-contributing buildings are
shaded.

(Not to exact scale)

Downtown Oberlin Historic District
 Lorain County, Ohio

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. 397895 E | 45 71635 N |
| 2. 398165 E | 45 71630 N |
| 3. 398165 E | 45 71405 N |
| 4. 398035 E | 45 71335 N |
| 5. 397890 E | 45 71340 N |

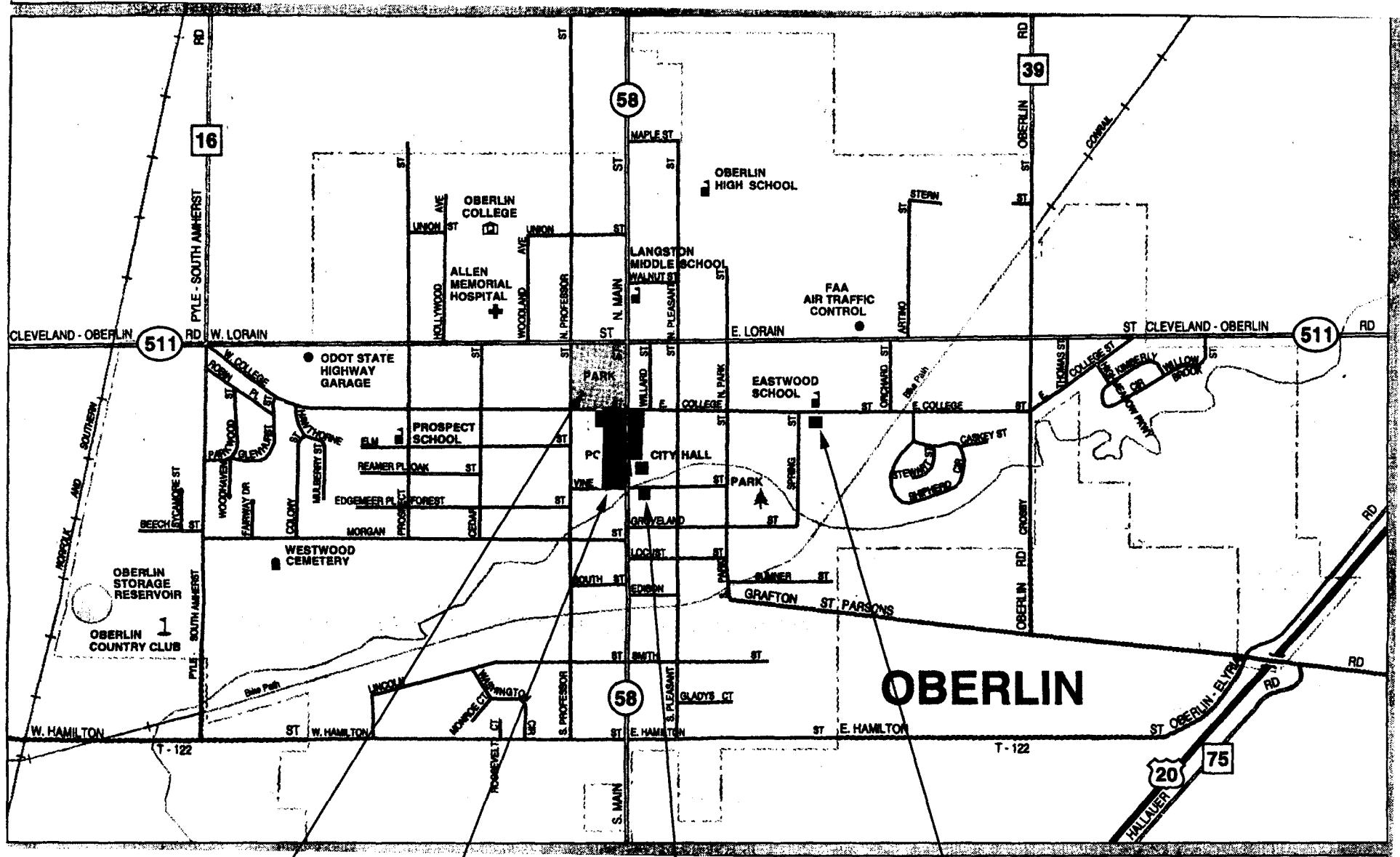




**Downtown Oberlin
Historic District**
Prepared by O.H.I.O.
December 2002
Showing Building Numbers and
Street Addresses.
Non-contributing buildings are
shaded.

(Not to exact scale)
Showing Photo Angles
and Photo Numbers

City of Oberlin showing National Historic Landmarks and Downtown Historic District



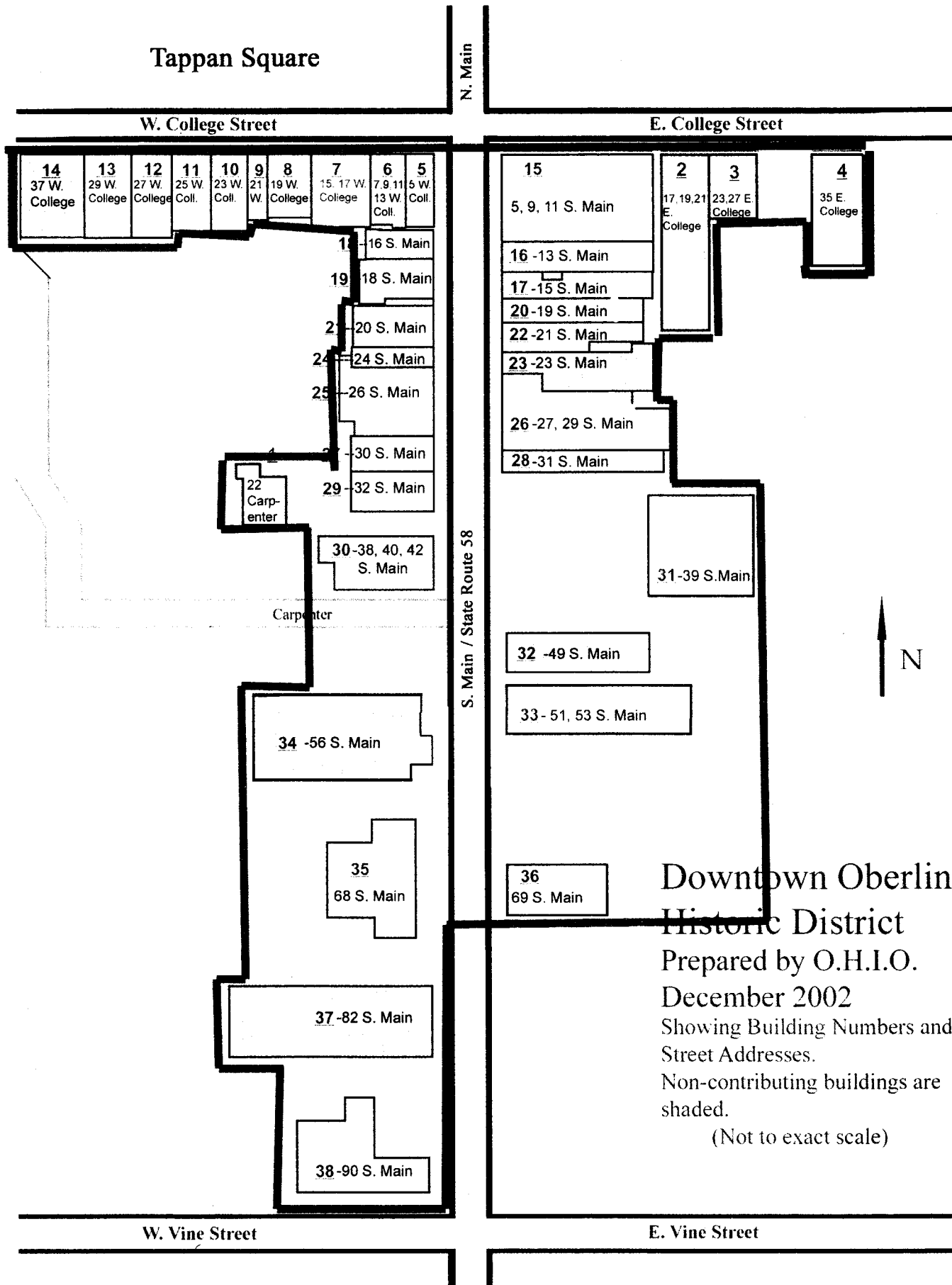
Oberlin College N.H.L.
(Tappan Square)

Downtown Historic District

Evans House N.H.L.

Langston House N.H.L.

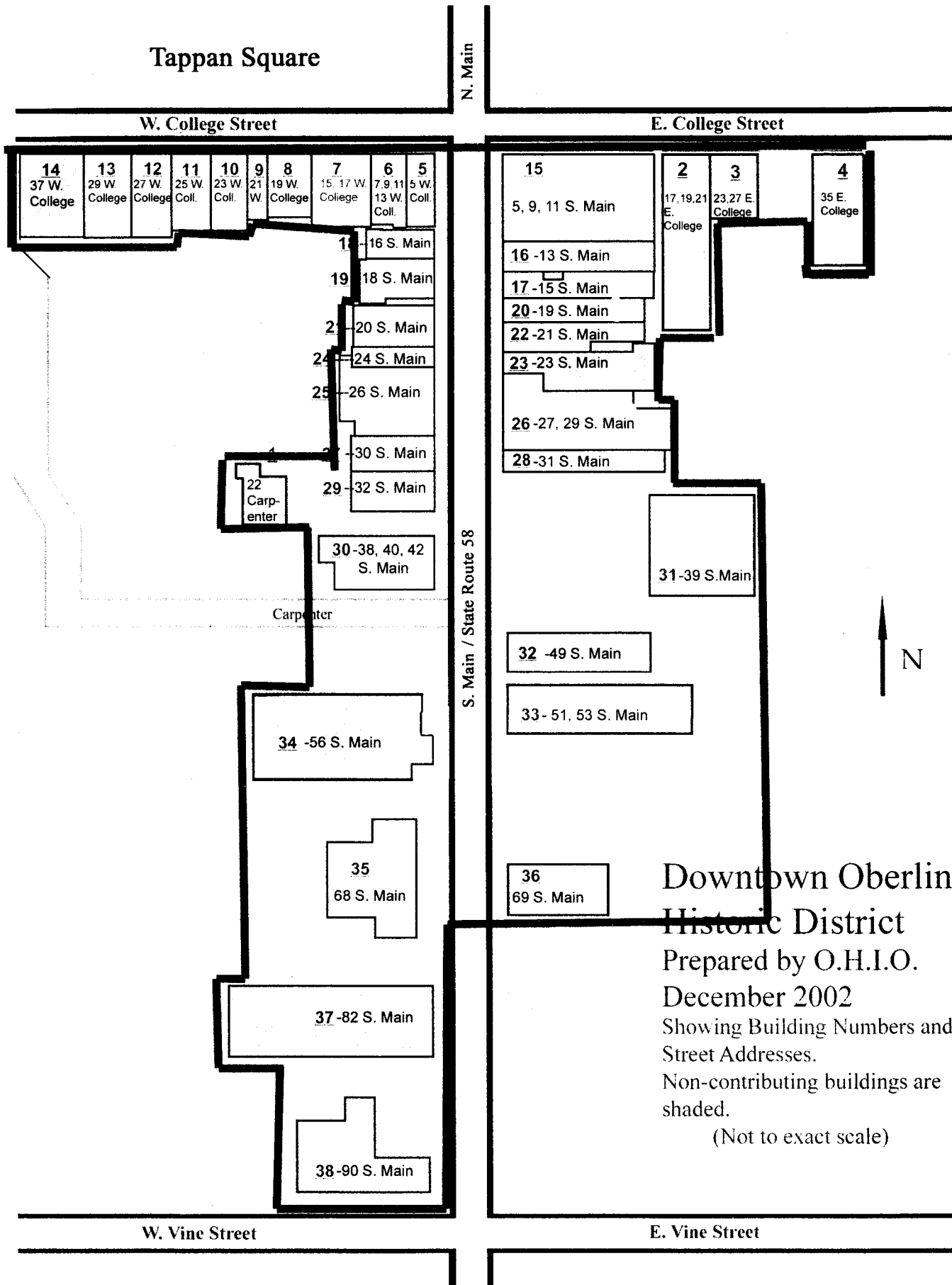
Tappan Square



Downtown Oberlin Historic District

Prepared by O.H.I.O.
 December 2002
 Showing Building Numbers and Street Addresses.
 Non-contributing buildings are shaded.
 (Not to exact scale)

Tappan Square



Downtown Oberlin Historic District

Prepared by O.H.I.O.

December 2002

Showing Building Numbers and Street Addresses.

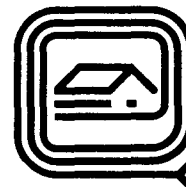
Non-contributing buildings are shaded.

(Not to exact scale)

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/ 298-2000 Fax: 614/ 298-2037

Visit us at www.ohiohistory.org/resource/histpres/



OHIO
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SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

Bill Jimdra, Chairperson
Oberlin City Council
Oberlin City Hall, 895 S. Main Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

Dear Mr. Jimdra

Congratulations on the recent listing of the **Downtown Oberlin Historic District** into the National Register of Historic Places!

The National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior listed the district on May 1, 2003. The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended.

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) is available to advise property owners in maintaining the historic character of their property. As you know from previous mailings received from this office, there are no restrictions placed on the properties following the National Register listing. However, the OHPO strongly encourages owners of historic properties to consider all options before completing work that could damage the structure or impair its historic integrity. Careful planning can facilitate the sensitive incorporation of contemporary alterations with the historic fabric. The OHPO provides free information on how to sensitively rehabilitate and repair historic properties, upon request.

Enclosed is information about the programs and services offered by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Powers
Department Head
Planning, Inventory and Registration

BAP/tch

Copy: Patricia Murphy, O.H.I.O., Form Preparer
Bob Dispirito, Oberlin City Manager
Senator Jeffrey Armbruster, District #13
Representative Joseph Koziura, District #56
Gary Boyle, Certified Local Government Contact
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
Paul Graham, Ohio Department of Transportation

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/ 298-2000 Fax: 614/ 298-2037

Visit us at www.ohiohistory.org/resource/histpres/



June 2, 2003

Oberlin Off Street Parking
M.P.O. Box 0447
Oberlin Ohio 44074

OHIO
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Gary Boyle, Certified Local Government Contact

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/ 298-2000 Fax: 614/ 298-2037

Visit us at www.ohiohistory.org/resource/histpres/



June 2, 2003

William N. & Saunders Steel
19 E. College Street
Oberlin Ohio 44074



Dear William and Sanders Steel:

Congratulations on the recent listing of the **Downtown Oberlin Historic District** into the National Register of Historic Places!

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OHIO
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SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

Arthur H. & Ada L. Clark
Family Ltd. Partnership
P.O. Box 0299
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Clark:

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OHIO
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SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

John Pearson & Audra. Skudodas
35 E. College Street
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear Mr. Pearson & Ms. Skudodas:

Congratulations on the recent listing of the **Downtown Oberlin Historic District** into the National Register of Historic Places!

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567 East Hudson Street
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614/ 298-2000 Fax: 614/ 298-2037

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June 2, 2003

Cochrane Inc.
P.O. Box 0447
Oberlin Ohio 44074

OHIO
HISTORICAL
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SINCE 1885

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Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/ 298-2000 Fax: 614/ 298-2037

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OHIO
HISTORICAL
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SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

Ruth Aschaffenburg
29 W. College Street
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear Ms. Aschaffenburg:

Congratulations on the recent listing of the **Downtown Oberlin Historic District** into the National Register of Historic Places!

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Department Head
Planning, Inventory and Registration

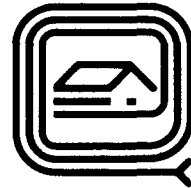
BAP/tch

Copy: Patricia Murphy, O.H.I.O., Form Preparer
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Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
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567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/ 298-2000 Fax: 614/ 298-2037

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OHIO
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SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

Oberlin College Controllers Office
173 W. Lorain Street
Oberlin Ohio 44074

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Senator Jeffrey Armbruster, District #13
Representative Joseph Koziura, District #56
Gary Boyle, Certified Local Government Contact
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
Paul Graham, Ohio Department of Transportation

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/ 298-2000 Fax: 614/ 298-2037

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OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

John D. Cole
P.O. Box 191
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear Mr. Cole:

Congratulations on the recent listing of the **Downtown Oberlin Historic District** into the National Register of Historic Places!

The National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior listed the district on May 1, 2003. The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended.

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Sincerely,

Barbara A. Powers
Department Head
Planning, Inventory and Registration

BAP/tch

Copy: Patricia Murphy, O.H.I.O., Form Preparer
Bill Jimdra, Chairperson, City of Oberlin
Bob Dispirito, Oberlin City Manager
Senator Jeffrey Armbruster, District #13
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OHIO
HISTORICAL
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SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

Joseph B. Waltzer
64 Spring Street
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear Mr. Waltzer:

Congratulations on the recent listing of the **Downtown Oberlin Historic District** into the National Register of Historic Places!

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Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
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June 2, 2003

Patricia Stetson
103 E. College Street
Oberlin Ohio 44074

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Dear Ms. Stetson:

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Planning, Inventory and Registration

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OHIO
HISTORICAL
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SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

Wade & Alberta Hallauer
155 Hollywood Avenue
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Hallauer:

Congratulations on the recent listing of the **Downtown Oberlin Historic District** into the National Register of Historic Places!

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HISTORICAL
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SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

John & Michael Gorske
134 Fairway Drive
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear John & Michael Gorske:

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SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

Lisa LTD
11413 Clary Road
Wakeman, Ohio 44889

Dear Sir or Madame:

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June 2, 2003

Glenn Realty Company, Off Street Parking
M.P.O. Box 0447
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear Sir or Madame:

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June 2, 2003

Helen J. Supers
373 Reamer Place
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear Ms. Supers:

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Barbara A. Powers
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Planning, Inventory and Registration

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June 2, 2003

Matthew & Jason Adelman
30 1/2 S. Main Street
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear Matthew & Jason Adelman:

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Department Head
Planning, Inventory and Registration

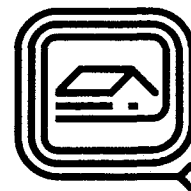
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614/ 298-2000 Fax: 614/ 298-2037

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OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

Frank S. Carlson
Trustee
P.O. Box 0344
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear Mr. Carlson:

Congratulations on the recent listing of the **Downtown Oberlin Historic District** into the National Register of Historic Places!

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Barbara A. Powers
Department Head
Planning, Inventory and Registration

BAP/tch

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Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/ 298-2000 Fax: 614/ 298-2037

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June 2, 2003

The Nord Family Foundation
347 Midway Boulevard
Elyria, Ohio 44035

OHIO
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SINCE 1885

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June 2, 2003

AAA OHIO Motorist Association
49 S. Main Street
Oberlin Ohio 44074



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**OHIO
HISTORICAL
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SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

Tappan Square Cleaners, Inc.
51 S. Main Street
Oberlin Ohio 44074

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Department Head
Planning, Inventory and Registration

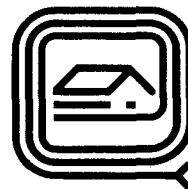
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OHIO
HISTORICAL
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SINCE 1885

June 2, 2003

Rick Masching
Mail Code SV1E5106, 750 Canyon Drive
Coppello, TX 75019

Dear Mr. Masching:

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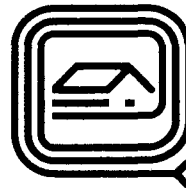
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June 2, 2003

City of Oberlin
85 S. Main Street
Oberlin Ohio 44074

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OHIO
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June 2, 2003

Shwu-Chen Chai
472 Caskey Drive
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear Shwu-Chen Chai:

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June 2, 2003

Lin-Barry Inc.
90 S. Main Street
Oberlin Ohio 44074

OHIO
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The Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) is available to advise property owners in maintaining the historic character of their property. As you know from previous mailings received from this office, there are no restrictions placed on the properties following the National Register listing. However, the OHPO strongly encourages owners of historic properties to consider all options before completing work that could damage the structure or impair its historic integrity. Careful planning can facilitate the sensitive incorporation of contemporary alterations with the historic fabric. The OHPO provides free information on how to sensitively rehabilitate and repair historic properties, upon request.

Enclosed is information about the programs and services offered by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Powers
Department Head
Planning, Inventory and Registration

BAP/tch

Copy: Patricia Murphy, O.H.I.O., Form Preparer
Bill Jimdra, Chairperson, City of Oberlin
Bob Dispirito, Oberlin City Manager
Senator Jeffrey Armbruster, District #13
Representative Joseph Koziura, District #56
Gary Boyle, Certified Local Government Contact
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
Paul Graham, Ohio Department of Transportation

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

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Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
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Visit us at www.ohiohistory.org/resource/histpres/



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
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June 2, 2003

Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization
P.O. Box 0455
Oberlin Ohio 44074

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