

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

SEP 19 1980

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Old Ohio Union

AND/OR COMMON

Student Services Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

154 West 12th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Columbus,

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12th- Samuel Devine

STATE

Ohio

CODE

039

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

049

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Ohio State University

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

410 S. High Street

CITY, TOWN

Columbus, Ohio

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE

October 15, 1974

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Ohio Historic Preservation Office, The Ohio Historical Cent

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Ohio

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Ohio Union, a three story Jacobethan style structure, is built of red brick with Ohio sandstone trim. Although it has been added to and remodeled several times, the building retains its exterior form and character and much of its original interior finish.

The front facade has a five part composition with projecting sections at the center and the ends. The center bay is dominated by a two-story tabernacle frame with a round arched doorway. The projecting end sections have square two-story bays. The front facade faces south.

The main feature of the east side of the building is a hexagonal bay which encloses the main stairway. Since the building is located on a steeply sloped site, the basement opens out at ground level on the rear facade. Originally a one storey ell was located on the rear of the building, but it has been expanded so that it extends out twice as far and is now two storeys tall. The rear wall of the ell is bowed with buttresses separating the bays of windows. The ell is trimmed with pressed copper sheeting. On the west side two story brick additions have been made. The front sections are very plain; the rear section is detailed keeping with the style of the main building.

Stone belt courses separate the floors, and stone lintels, sills, and mullions frame the windows which are mostly double-hung. A stone cornice extends around the building. Wall dormers break the cornice on both the front and rear facades. The parapet gable ends are finished with stone coping.

The slate shingled roof has steeply pitched sides with a segmentally arched top section so that from the ground, it appears to be a gable roof. On the front and back of the roof are louvered vents with hipped roofs.

Inside, the original configuration of the basement has been obscured by numerous remodelings. The other floors retain much of their oak woodwork and their general arrangement. The stairs on the east end of the building retain their oak detailing also.

SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | |
|-------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1909, 1918, 1937 ~~BUILDER~~ ARCHITECT George S. Mills, Toledo, Ohio

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Ohio Union is significant because it was the fourth student union to be built in the United States and the first to be built at a state university. It is unique among college unions of its time because it is the result of a direct legislative appropriation and because it was conceived as a private male club on a campus with a significant female enrollment. The Old Ohio Union is also significant as one of the best examples of Jacobethan architecture on the campus of the Ohio State University.

The Union was built as the result of a student-led campaign which culminated in an appropriation of almost \$75,000 by the 77th Ohio General assembly. On October 9, 1908, the Board of Trustees approved the plans for the building and on April 12, 1909, the cornerstone was laid. A housewarming was given on January 13-14, 1911, but since funds not been appropriated for furnishings, it was not completely open for several months.

The Union's purpose was to "promote good fellowship among the men of the University." Facilities included dining rooms, a lounge, a reception room, reading, billiard, writing and check rooms, and offices. Each male student was levied a membership fee. Originally, women were allowed in the building only to attend meetings of co-ed organizations. The rule forbidding women to eat in the dining room was rescinded in 1914, but use was restricted to guests of members. It was not until 1945 that women were allowed free use of the lounge.

During World War I the union was expanded to accomodate students enrolled in the School of Military Aeronautics. A new Ohio Union was completed in 1951 and the old union became the Student Services Building, housing the student health service and five other student service offices. The health service moved out in 1969 and the other offices in 1976. Presently, the building is being used as temporary quarters for the Department of Fine Arts.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Brief History of the Ohio Union", Centennial Series, Columbus: The Ohio State University, (1970).
Herrick, John. Ohio State University Campus Buildings, "Student Services Building". Typed manuscript. Office of Campus Planning. 1976.
Mendenhall, Thomas C. The History of the Ohio State University, Vol II. Columbus: The Ohio State University, 1926.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.04 acresQUADRANGLE NAME Southwest ColumbusQUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 328 270 4429125B

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C D E F G H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

starting at the intersection of the curb line

of West 12th Avenue and a north-south line through the center of the

main south doorway of the Old Ohio Union, then east 150 feet, then north

200 feet, then west 300 feet, then south 200 feet, and then east to

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

the starting point.

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George M. Kane

ORGANIZATION

DATE

5/16/78

STREET & NUMBER

237 East 18th Avenue

TELEPHONE

291-2125

CITY OR TOWN

Columbus, Ohio

STATE

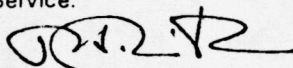
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



9/12/78

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12.5.78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 12.4.78

Attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for completion of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS SUBMITTED.

Description: Pls. provide a more detailed architectural description, paying particular attention to the additions & remodeling. How many additions were there & what were their dates? Has the original integrity of the bldg. been compromised?

Statement of Significance: Pls. provide a stronger and more concise statement of architectural significance w/ more discussion of campus architecture of OSU & perhaps other comparable state educational institutions.

Bibliography: _____

Geographical Data -- Acreage: _____

UTM Reference(s): _____

Verbal Boundary Description: _____

Certification: _____

Photographic Coverage: Pls. provide additional photos to give better coverage of the structure and showing additions.

Map Coverage: _____

Other: Pls. provide sketch map showing additions.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Bill Brabham/Lucy Franklin
National Register staff, telephone 202-343-6401

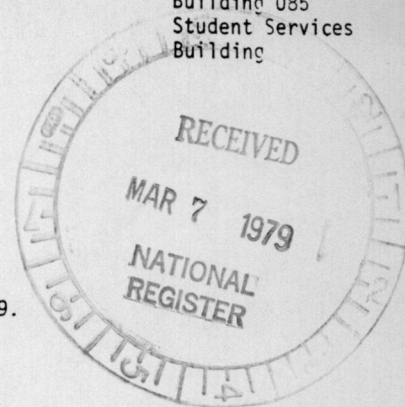
Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Barah T. Bridges
Branch of Registration

Date: 1.5.79
12/29/78

Building 085
Student Services
Building

A. IDENTIFICATION & LOCATION



1. Name

1.1 Officially named "The Ohio Union" by Board of Trustees on October 28, 1909.

1.2 Alternate names noted:

Students' Building
Club House
Student Union

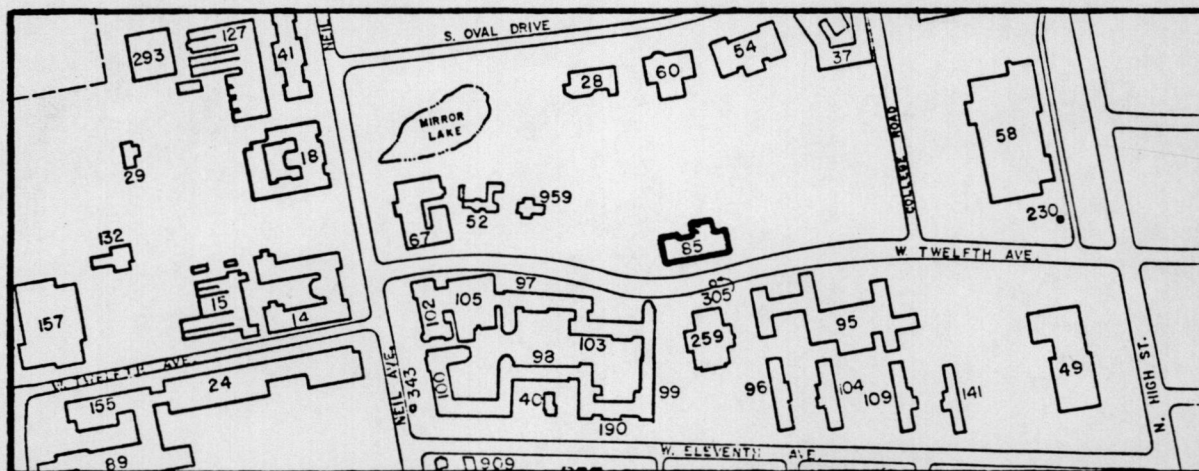
1.3 Wartime names included "Ohio Union Mess Hall,"
"SMA Mess Hall" and similar names.

1.4 After the Ohio Union moved to its new location on High Street (Building 085), this building was referred to as the "Old Ohio Union" and gradually came to be called by its present name because of the activities housed in it.

2. Location

2.1 Located at 154 W. 12th Avenue. See map below.

2.2 For greater detail, see Sheet 110 in the book of campus maps in the University Archives.



For identification of other buildings shown, see Appendix A.

3. General Description

3.1 Type of construction:

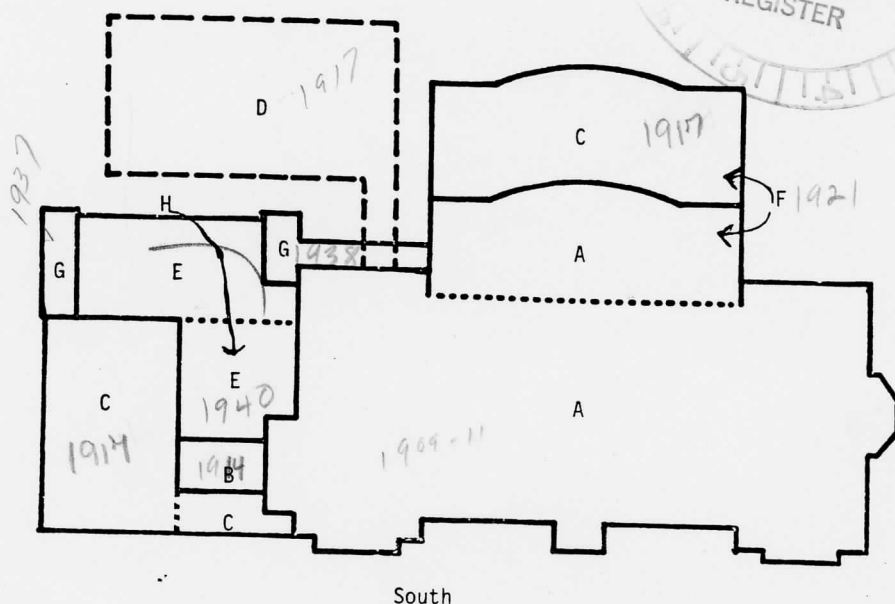
Wood frame with brick exterior, except that all of Dins sketch below and narrow passageway in and along north side of A were entirely frame.

3.2 No. of stories:

Basement and three stories except as noted in notes accompanying sketch.

3.3 Increments of construction:

Enlarged seven times. See sketch.



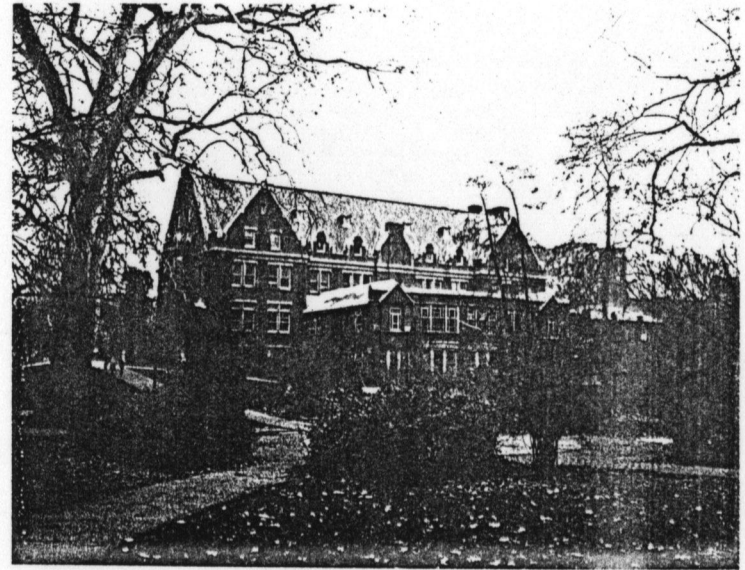
- A. Original Building. Architect's Project No. 0891. Consisted of basement and three stories. Only the basement extended north of the dotted line. The projection at the lower left was an outside stairway from the basement. This stairway was enclosed in a project bearing a 1914 project number in the University Architect's office, but this enclosure is not treated as a separate addition in this report.
- B. First Addition. Architect's Project No. 1235. A basement storage room for ice or food supplies, iced through a hole in the top.
- C. Second Addition. Architect's Project No. 1710. The portion north of the original building (A) was an extension of the dining room at the basement level only. The portion to the west of the main building was two stories in height, except that the portion of the basement level south of B, east of the broken line, was not excavated. At the first floor level, this construction covered a small part of the southwest corner of B.
- D. Third Addition. Architect's Project No. 1816. This was a one story frame building constructed as a temporary kitchen for the School of Military Aeronautics in World War I. It was above the basement level, but was connected to the basement by a 20 ft. long ramp.
- E. Fourth Addition. Architect's Project No. 2121. This was a one-story, L-shaped addition at the basement level only. It was a kitchen built to replace D.
- F. Fifth Addition. Architect's Project No. 3730. This was an extension of the first floor lounge in the original building extending from the dotted line in A over the top of all of C.
- G. Sixth Addition. Architect's Project No. 4035. This consisted of a one-story frame passageway along the northside of the original building (A), two-story units at the east and west ends of E, and first floor construction over that part of E north of the dotted line.
- H. Seventh Addition. Architect's Project No. 5231. This construction was at the first floor level only and covered that portion of E below the dotted line. A small area in the southwest corner was included in C (see above).
- 3.4 Present area of building as shown in inventory records of Division of Campus Planning:
- 44,970 sq. ft. gross; 26,573 sq. ft. net assignable
- 3.5 Volume of building:
- 532,838 cu. ft. (PP)

Student Services Building – The Ohio State University

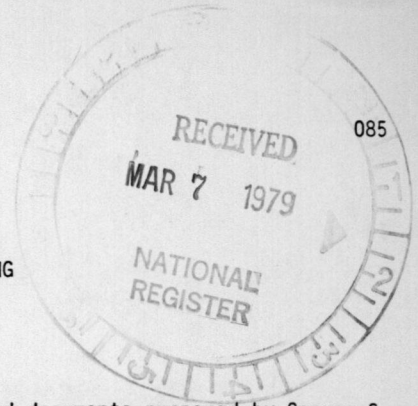
North Facade



CIRCA 1911



1978



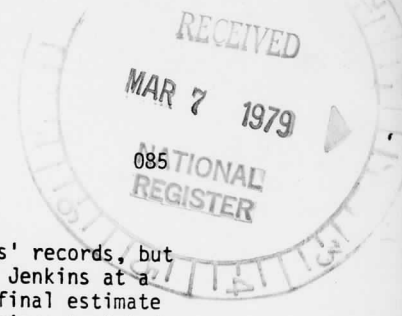
B. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION - ORIGINAL BUILDING

1. On October 9, 1908 the Board of Trustees approved the plans and related documents prepared by George S. Mills and authorized the solicitation of bids by contractors.
2. Bids were received on December 9, 1908 (T).
3. On December 9, 1908 the Board of Trustees awarded contracts to the following contractors:
General: George A. Abernathy
Plumbing and gas fitting: Huffman-Conklin Co.
4. The Board of Trustees on December 9, 1908 approved the architect's recommendation that the electrical contract be awarded to Frances Brothers, D.W. McGrath, or McMaster Electric Co., but left the choice open. The minutes of July 18, 1910 indicate that D.W. McGrath did the work.
5. The heating and ventilating contract was not awarded on December 9, 1908. On December 30, 1908 the Board of Trustees, on advise of the architect, decided to omit the ventilating work.
6. The Board of Trustees on March 26, 1909 awarded the heating contract to the Huffman-Conklin Co.
7. Beginning or work:
The cornerstone laying ceremony was held on April 12, 1909 (L4/14/09)
8. Completion and occupancy:
 - 8.1 The Board of Trustees on June 30, 1910 referred to the Building Committee the question of acceptance of the work of the general contractors, and authorized payment of the final estimate if approved by the Building Committee.
 - 8.2 On July 18, 1910 the Board of Trustees approved payment of final estimates on the other contracts.
 - 8.3 Although the building was completed in July 1910, the opening was delayed pending installation of lighting fixtures and equipment.
 - 8.4 The building was opened with a "housewarming" on January 13 and 14, 1911 (L1/18/11), but it was still not ready for use on account of furnishings for which donations were being solicited.
 - 8.5 The Board of Overseers of the Ohio Union on February 10, 1911 created a committee to devise ways of raising money to furnish the building. Contracts for furnishing and equipment were approved in successive meetings from March to August of 1911, and the building was apparently put into use piecemeal. The Lantern, for example, stated on March 22, 1911 that the building would be opened in six weeks, and on May 17, 1911 that the dining room would be open June 1.

C. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION - FIRST ADDITION

This addition consisted of an 12'6" x 17'8" ice room outside of and to the west of the basement level kitchen in the southwest corner of the original building. It is referred to in the University Architects' records as a "vault" or a "icing platform" and was Job No. 2345. The architect was Joseph N. Bradford.

Years later, all projects in the University Architects' office were numbered and this project was designated as Project 1235, which indicates that it was initiated in 1912. Project 1235 included kitchen remodeling as well as this small addition.



No file of bids, contracts and similar documents has been found in the University Architects' records, but a summary sheet prepared many years after the fact indicates that the work was done by E.T. Jenkins at a cost of \$439. The drawing in the University Architects' file is dated "August 1914." The final estimate was dated September 15, 1914. The Lantern on September 16, 1914 noted that an "outdoor refrigerator" had been constructed.

No Board of Trustees records have been found, but there are frequent references in the 1912 minutes of the Board of Overseers of the Ohio Union to the remodeling, including a discussion on November 4, 1912 of bills for remodeling.

Thus it would appear that the Ohio Union Board initiated the total project in 1912, and that the ice room addition was designed and built in August and September 1914.

D. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION - SECOND ADDITION

1. On July 3, 1917 the Board of Trustees authorized the President and Secretary to have necessary plans and estimates made, and that the Emergency Board be requested to authorize immediate erection of additions to the dining room and to the refrigeration and storage rooms to meet the needs of the "aviation school."
2. The necessary plans and related documents were prepared by Joseph N. Bradford, University Architect.
3. On November 7, 1917 the President reported to the Board of Trustees that bids had been received and that the construction contract had been awarded to E.H. Latham at \$11,084. Apparently the work was already well under way, since the first estimate was dated October 11, 1917 (A). Work normally would have been in progress a month before the first estimate, which provides the basis for the first payment to the contractor.
4. On November 17, 1917 the President reported to the Board of Trustees that the addition to the refrigeration and storage room (west of the original building) had been completed.
5. The final estimate on the entire project, including the dining room addition, was dated December 4, 1917 (A).

E. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION - THIRD ADDITION

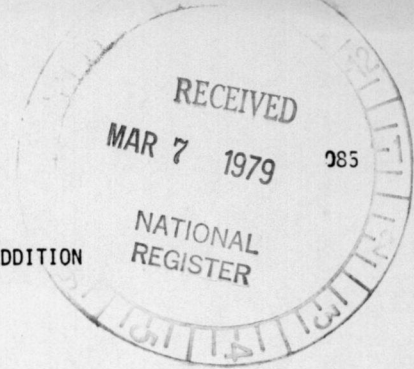
1. On January 29, 1918 the President reported to the Board of Trustees that it was necessary to erect a temporary kitchen at the Ohio Union for the School of Military Aeronautics. No action by the Board is recorded.
2. Plans for this building were prepared by Joseph N. Bradford, University Architect.
3. The Lantern on February 5, 1918 reported that the kitchen "had been added," but was not yet equipped. On February 20, 1918 the Lantern stated that the old kitchen was used as a serving room. Thus it would appear that the work was completed in February 1918.
4. At the September 4, 1918 meeting of the Board of Trustees, Acting-President Adams reported that the School of Military Aeronautics, for which this structure had been erected, had been discontinued.

Several months later, (December 31, 1918) Cabinet discussed the possibility of demolishing the temporary kitchen. Cabinet minutes from this date on are missing, but the Lantern on September 28, 1921 reported that during the summer the "former frame kitchen" was replaced with a modern brick and stone structure. The Monthly in November (13:24) likewise reported that a modern brick and stone kitchen had been built to replace the frame structure built during the war.

Thus it would appear that the frame building (3rd addition) was removed during the summer of 1921, but the evidence is not absolutely clear on this point.

(Note: The new brick and stone kitchen referred to in the Lantern and the Monthly is the 4th addition.)

F. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION - FOURTH ADDITION



Only sketchy records of this project have been found.

The minutes of the Ohio Union Board of Overseers for March 8, 1921 indicate that the University Architect (Joseph N. Bradford) was making plans for a permanent brick addition to the kitchen to replace the frame structure (3rd addition) added as an expediency during the war.

A May 1921 drawing of this addition by Joseph N. Bradford is in the files of the University Architect.

The Lantern on September 28, 1921 report on changes made during the summer. The article stated that replacement of the former frame kitchen with a modern brick and stone structure had been completed.

Thus it would appear that the addition was constructed between May and September of 1921.

G. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION - FIFTH ADDITION

1. On November 8, 1937 the Board of Trustees approved the plans and related documents prepared by Howard Dwight Smith and authorized the solicitation of bids by contractors.
2. Bids were received on December 17, 1937 (T).
3. On January 10, 1938 the Board of Trustees approved the award on December 17, 1937 by Cabinet of the Construction contract to Skilken Brothers, Inc. for \$14,312.
4. Beginning of work:
The first estimate was dated March 5, 1938 (A).
5. Completion and occupancy:
The final estimate was dated June 24, 1938 (A).

H. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION - SIXTH ADDITION

1. On June 10, 1940 the Board of Trustees approved the plans and related documents prepared by Howard Dwight Smith and authorized the solicitation of bids by contractors.
2. Bids were received on July 31, 1940 (A).
3. On August 2, 1940 the Summer Executive Committee of the Ohio Union approved the contracts to the following contractors:
General: Robert H. Evans and Co.
Plumbing: J.F. Oelgoetz Co.
The electrical and heating work was done by the Service Department of the University (A).
4. No records of progress on this addition have been found. However, minutes of the Ohio Union Board of Overseers for January 23, 1943 indicate that the new space was already in use. This suggests the construction might have been completed in 1940 and establishes January 1941 as the latest date of completion.

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REGISTER

I. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION - SEVENTH ADDITION

1. On September 2, 1952 the Board of Trustees approved the plans and related documents prepared by Howard Dwight Smith and authorized the solicitation of bids by contractors.
2. Bids were received on October 27, 1952 (T), but the Attorney General ruled that the bids were improperly taken (T 11/17/52). New bids were taken on November 14, 1952, but a court restraining ordered prevented any award on the basis of these bids. (T 2/9/53).
3. New bids were received on February 3, 1953 (T).
4. On February 9, 1953 the Board of Trustees awarded contracts to the following contractors:

General: Geis Construction Co.

Electrical: Bustav Hirsch Organization, Inc.

Heating: Sauer, Inc.

Plumbing: Thomas J. Croak

5. Completion and occupancy:

This addition was a small part of a project mainly comprised of remodeling space for use by the Student Health Service, which was done in two phases. The addition in question was a part of Phase I, final estimates for which were dated June 18, 1954 (A). However, the work on the addition was probably completed much earlier, since the work on all Phase II contracts was substantially completed by August 1, 1953 (A). It seems reasonable, therefore, to conclude that the addition in question was begun and completed in 1953.

J. COST

1. Originally listed at \$68,559.06 as of June 30, 1910; increased to \$78,698.95 as of June 30, 1915 (B). Latter figure presumably would cover all of the original building.
2. As of June 30, 1975 the building was listed at \$261,397.58 (B).

K. PHOTOGRAPHS

1. In Photoarchives:

X 1781 -- original building
X 13932 -- temporary kitchen
X 12753 -- 1960
X 12754 -- 1960

2. Other

M 67:15 (Nov 1975)
Hooper: 94
McC2:193A



L. MISCELLANEOUS

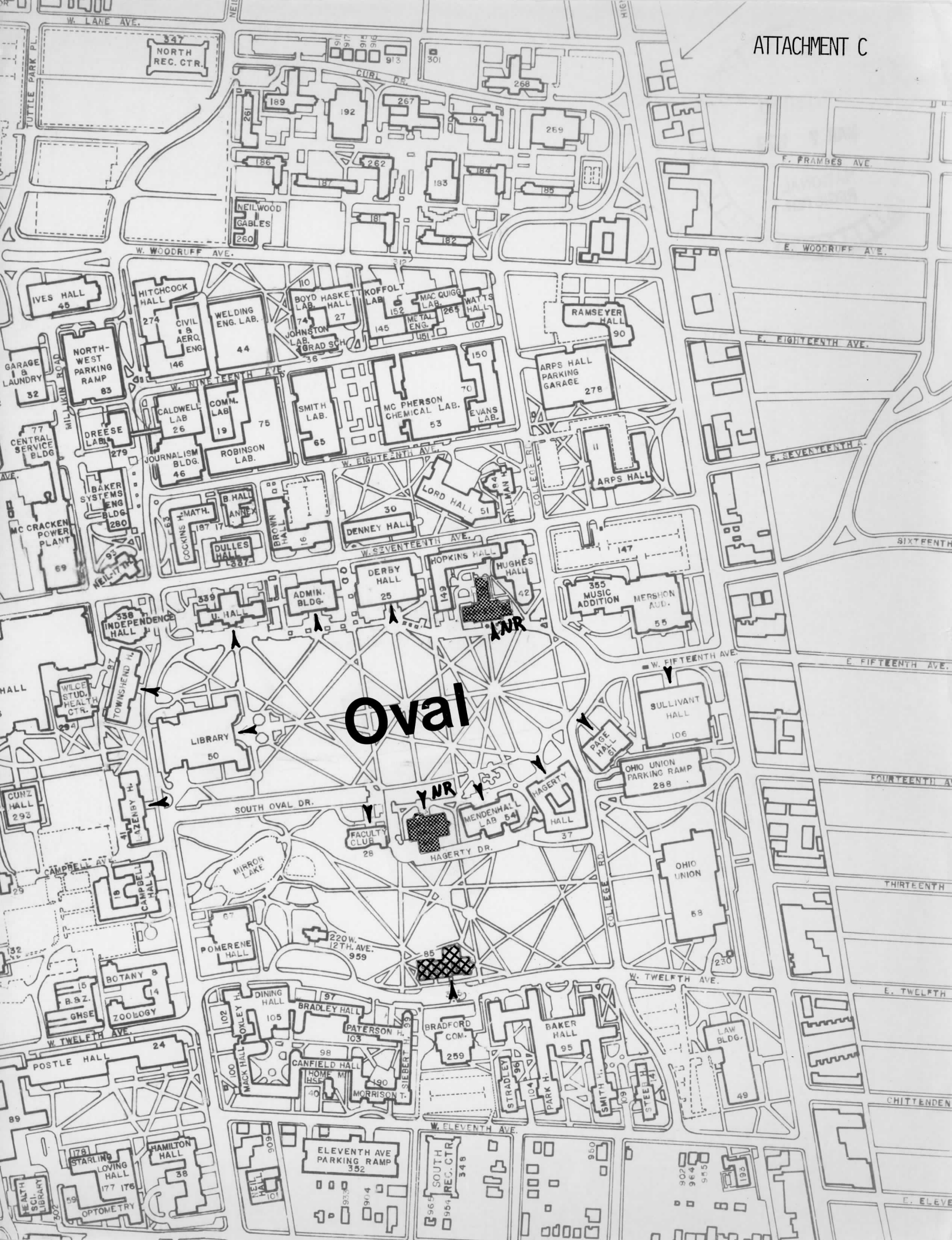
This building was replaced as a student union by Building 058, which opened in November 1951.

Building 085 was then remodeled for student service offices, including the Student Health Services. The remodeling was substantially completed by August 1, 1953 (A).

The Student Health Service moved to Building 294 in the Autumn of 1969.

At this writing, most of the remaining student services offices have moved to Lincoln Tower (271). Building 085 is expected to be used as temporary quarters for Fine Arts during the planned remodeling of Hayes Hall (039).

John H. Herrick
December 10, 1976



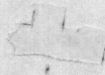
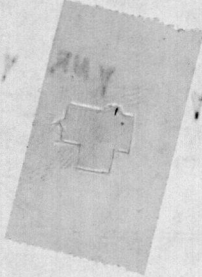
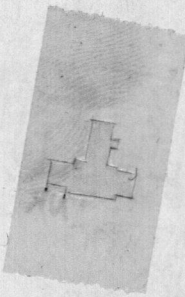
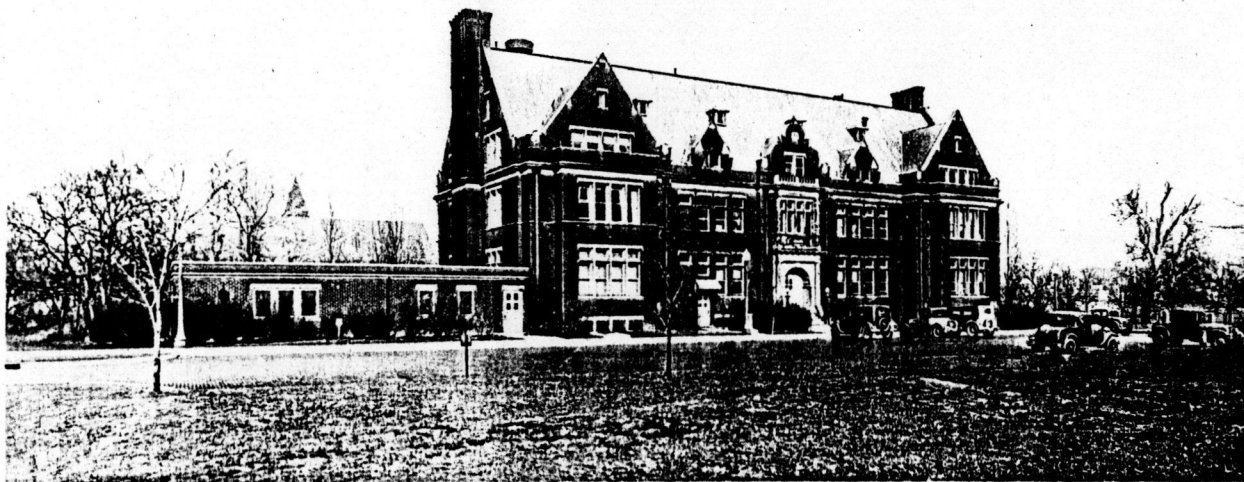
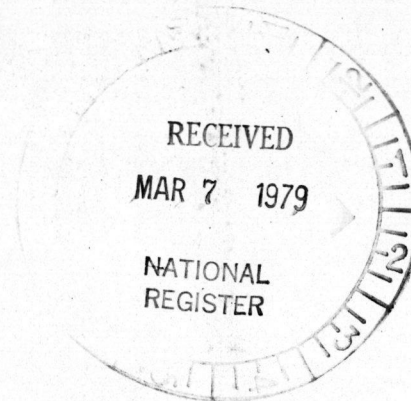


Photo No. 1756



Institution The Ohio State University

Name of Bldg. Ohio Union

Year erected 1910

Contractor Geo. G. Abernathy

Architect Geo. S. Mills

Cost \$ 95,962.79.

Construction:

Walls Brick

Floors Wood

Roof Wood trusses & sheathing, covered with slate

Basement Terrazo & cement floors, finished all over

Fireproof? NO.

Use Mens Union

Photo No. 1756 Name of Bldg. Ohio Union, O.S.U.

Comments:

OHS Pictures Collection # 122

Ohio Dept. of Finance ca. 1930

Property

Old Ohio Union

State

Ohio

Working Number

9.19.78.4115

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK ^{pl} 9.20.78

HISTORIAN

Significant in social history and education as indicative of prevalent attitudes toward college life and toward women
Also stated as significant for Jacobethan architecture, defer to architectural historian on this.

~~Accept~~ ^{Outcrop}
see 2nd
Control sheet 11-30-78

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

~~Bravman~~
Bravman
12.4.78

ARCHEOLOGIST

Return
Bravman

OTHER

Architectural significance is weak - as is other info - considering total areas of significance. ~~see 2nd page~~
Given the weakness of the nomination and the detailed nature of the objection letter, I may return to the state for a much stronger description and justification of significance. (I don't have any problems with the basic building, however. - Given the correct info. + despite alterations, I feel bldg is probably eligible.)

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

see second control sheet
12.17.78
return for questions raised
by University

~~Accept~~ Return
Franklin 12/19/78
12.4.78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

Federal Register Entry _____

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74

Property

Old Ohio Union

State

Ohio

Working Number

9.19.78.4115

2nd control

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK 9.20.78

I feel the historical significance is not seriously undermined by the objection letter. But I would like this significance bolstered by architectural significance; agree w/ Bill that the nomination should be returned + ~~answer~~ the objections of the objection letter answered in a re-written description; statement of significance.

HISTORIAN

Return

Delay 12-14-78

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

The questions raised by OSU are substantial & need to be answered questioning accuracy of #1 & validity of preparation. Also additional photos necessary to show alterations/additions

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Return
Franklin
12.17.78

BRANCH CHIEF

Return
Bridges

12/29/78

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back

1.5.79

Entered

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit

3.7.79

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS RESUBMITTED.

7 Description: Pls. provide a more detailed architectural description, paying particular attention to the additions & remodeling. How many additions were there & what were their dates? Has the original integrity of the bldg. been compromised?

8 Statement of Significance: Pls. provide a stronger and more concise statement of architectural significance w/more discussion of campus architecture of OSU & perhaps other comparable state educational institutions.

9 Bibliography: _____

10 Geographical Data -- Acreage: _____

UTM Reference(s): _____

Verbal Boundary Description: _____

12 Certification: _____

Photographic Coverage: Pls. provide additional photos to give better coverage of the structure and showing additions.

Map Coverage: _____

Other: Pls. provide sketch map ~~of~~ showing additions.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Bill Brabham/Lucy Franklin on the National Register staff, telephone 202-343-6401

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Laura T. Bridges
Chief, Branch of Registration

Date: 1. 5. 79
12/29/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEPH0684627
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

SEP 19 1978

DATE ENTERED

APR 20 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old Ohio Union

AND/OR COMMON

Student Services Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

154 West 12th Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbus,

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
12th- Samuel Devine

STATE

Ohio

CODE

039

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

049

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Ohio State University

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

410 S. High Street

CITY, TOWN

Columbus, Ohio

STATE

43

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE

October 15, 1974

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Ohio Historic Preservation Office, The Ohio Historical Cent.

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Ohio

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR
☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Ohio Union, a three story Jacobethan style structure, is built of red brick with Ohio sandstone trim. Although it has been added to and remodeled several times, the building retains its exterior form and character and much of its original interior finish.

The front facade has a five part composition with projecting sections at the center and the ends. The center bay is dominated by a two-story tabernacle frame with a round arched doorway. The projecting end sections have square two-story bays. The front facade faces south.

The main feature of the east side of the building is a hexagonal bay which encloses the main stairway. Since the building is located on a steeply sloped site, the basement opens out at ground level on the rear facade. Originally a one storey ell was located on the rear of the building, but it has been expanded so that it extends out twice as far and is now two storeys tall. The rear wall of the ell is bowed with buttresses separating the bays of windows. The ell is trimmed with pressed copper sheeting. On the west side two story brick additions have been made. The front sections are very plain; the rear section is detailed keeping with the style of the main building.

Stone belt courses separate the floors, and stone lintels, sills, and mullions frame the windows which are mostly double-hung. A stone cornice extends around the building. Wall dormers break the cornice on both the front and rear facades. The parapet gable ends are finished with stone coping.

The slate shingled roof has steeply pitched sides with a segmentally arched top section so that from the ground, it appears to be a gable roof. On the front and back of the roof are louvered vents with hipped roofs.

Inside, the original configuration of the basement has been obscured by numerous remodelings. The other floors retain much of their oak woodwork and their general arrangement. The stairs on the east end of the building retain their oak detailing also.

Franklin County Recorder's Office

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC

STREET & NUMBER

410 S. High Street

STATE

43

Columbus, Ohio

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Ohio Historic Inventory

TITLE

October 15, 1974

DATE

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

Ohio Historic Preservation Office, The Ohio Historical Cent.

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

STATE

Ohio

Columbus

CITY TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 7 1979 APR 20 1979

DATE ENTERED

Old Ohio Union, Franklin County, Ohio

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

The total effect of the additions have only a minor impact on the excellent scale and detail of the building. The building sets on a bluff with open space to its north and east, overlooking the campus oval and Orton Hall (NR). To the west is the old president's house (tudor revival) and gentle hills rolling down to mirror lake. Across a wide street to the south are modern high rise dormitories, but the original setting, on the whole, is intact.

The interior has been subdivided, especially the 2nd floor, but ample woodwork and metal ceilings remain to give a good feeling for the original appearance. Just inside the main entrance there is a major room, rather like a "grand hall," complete with a massive fireplace with carved oak mantel. The entry and stairway on the east end in the bay are original, complete with leaded glass doors on the 2nd level. The third floor has a dome ceilinged "meeting hall" with tudor arched openings along the long sides.

#8 Significance

The old Ohio Union is primarily significant as one of only two Jacobethan revival structures on the OSU campus. The major mass of the building is the original 1914 structure which exists in a little altered condition. Two additional masses, one to the north and one to the west are smaller in scale and in no way detract from the impact of the original structure. There are no more than a half dozen Jacobethan revival structures in all of Columbus. As noted by Marcus Whiffen the style had its greatest impact on educational architecture.

In addition this was the 4th student union to be built in the U.S. and the 1st to be built at a state university. The building functioned as a student union until 1951. Although Ohio State was a co-ed institution, the student Union was a club for men only until 1945.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Old Ohio Union, Franklin County, Ohio

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 7 1979

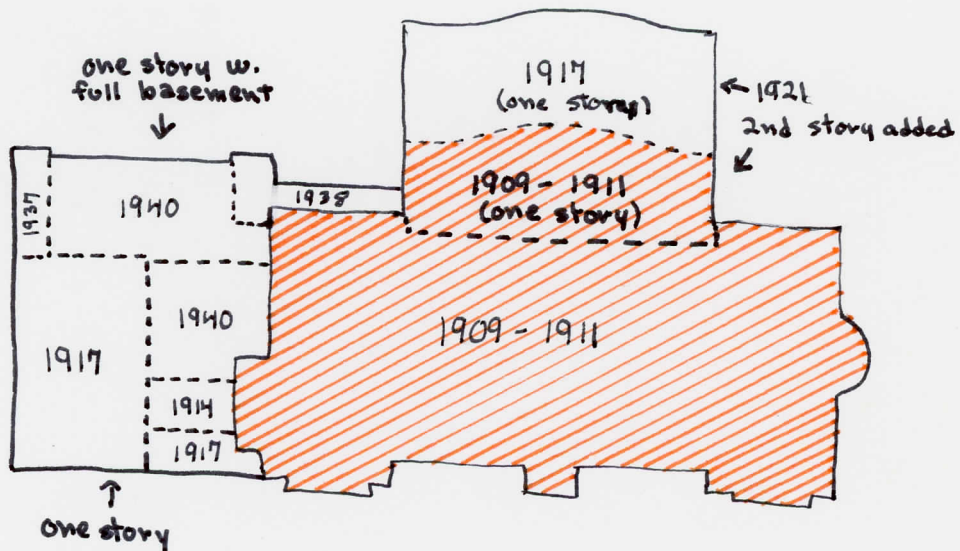
DATE ENTERED

APR 20 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Old Ohio Union, Franklin County, Ohio

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RECEIVED MAR 7 1979

APR 20 1979

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE

The original structure is properly characterized as Jacobethan Revival and is very nearly identical in detail and scale to the University Club in Portland, Oregon (1912) pictured by Whiffen in American Architecture Since 1780 (P. 178). The structure is brick, 3 stories in height. Windows are rectangular with stone lintels and sills and appear in groups of four. Gables which rise above the roof are steep-sided triangular in form except for the center gable above the main entrance which has "Flemish" curves. The roof is a steeply pitched gable. The main doorway is round arched, the surround being of stone with columns and a frieze bearing triglyph and metope. Above the doorway the center bay is paneled under the windows and has stone quoins along the edges. Stone appears again as trim at the cornice and as capping along the gables. The east end has a 2 1/2 story projecting bay. The first story of the bay has glass and stone columned enclosed entrance. The projection is capped with a molding of shield forms and "S" curves of stone. These details and ornament are, according to Whiffen, all characteristic of this style which he notes occurred in the U.S. after 1890. He notes that the style was considered as a "cheerful" alternative to the solemnities of academic reaction and that the style had its greatest impact on educational architecture. The major portion of the original building was completed in 1909; final furnishings and details in 1911.

In 1914 a small basement storage "ice room" 12' 6" x 17' 8" to the west of the building was begun. In 1917 a 2 story kitchen remodeling enclosed the 1911 ice room. The same year the 1 story dining room (extension A) was enlarged. The lot drops off to the rear of the building, providing a splendid view of the campus "Oval."

A temporary kitchen for the School of Military Aeronautics was built in 1917, but was demolished in 1921. Between 1931 and 1940 a series of small additions were completed to the west end, behind the 1917 kitchen addition. Today the effect of these bits and pieces is a 1 story with full basement addition, low in height with no distinguishing features. The addition has a "tacked" on appearance, especially from the facade and does not detract from the mass of the original structure.

In 1921 the most important addition was made by adding the 2nd story over the original dining room and its addition. Also of brick and stone this addition compliments the original structure with rectangular, grouped windows, stone trim, mullioned panes and some strapwork continuing the elements of the Jacobethan revival. Here, however, the effect is more of the scale found on the 1909 Albert Kahn Cranbrook structures (also in Whiffen) and is indicative of the later Cranbrook architecture of Saarinen.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1909, 1918, 1937 ~~BUILDER~~ ARCHITECT George S. Mills, Toledo, Ohio

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Ohio Union is significant because it was the fourth student union to be built in the United States and the first to be built at a state university. It is unique among college unions of its time because it is the result of a direct legislative appropriation and because it was conceived as a private male club on a campus with a significant female enrollment. The Old Ohio Union is also significant as one of the best examples of Jacobethan architecture on the campus of the Ohio State University.

The Union was built as the result of a student-led campaign which culminated in an appropriation of almost \$75,000 by the 77th Ohio General assembly. On October 9, 1908, the Board of Trustees approved the plans for the building and on April 12, 1909, the cornerstone was laid. A housewarming was given on January 13-14, 1911, but since funds not been appropriated for furnishings, it was not completely open for several months.

The Union's purpose was to "promote good fellowship among the men of the University." Facilities included dining rooms, a lounge, a reception room, reading, billiard, writing and check rooms, and offices. Each male student was levied a membership fee. Originally, women were allowed in the building only to attend meetings of co-ed organizations. The rule forbidding women to eat in the dining room was rescinded in 1914, but use was restricted to guests of members. It was not until 1945 that women were allowed free use of the lounge.

During World War I the union was expanded to accomodate students enrolled in the School of Military Aeronautics. A new Ohio Union was completed in 1951 and the old union became the Student Services Building, housing the student health service and five other student service offices. The health service moved out in 1969 and the other offices in 1976. Presently, the building is being used as temporary quarters for the Department of Fine Arts.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Brief History of the Ohio Union", Centennial Series, Columbus: The Ohio State University, (1970).
Herrick, John. Ohio State University Campus Buildings, "Student Services Building". Typed manuscript. Office of Campus Planning. 1976.
Mendenhall, Thomas C. The History of the Ohio State University, Vol II. Columbus: The Ohio State University, 1926.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.0+ acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Southwest Columbus

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 117 328 270 442 9125

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION starting at the intersection of the curb line of West 12th Avenue and a north-south line through the center of the main south doorway of the Old Ohio Union, then east 150 feet, then north 200 feet, then west 300 feet, then south 200 feet, and then east to

the starting point.

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George M. Kane

ORGANIZATION

DATE

5/16/78

STREET & NUMBER

237 East 18th Avenue

TELEPHONE

291-2125

CITY OR TOWN

Columbus, Ohio

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature]

9/12/78

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

4.20.79

DATE

12-5-78

ATTEST:

[Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/17/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Property

Old Ohio Union

State

OH (Franklin)

Working Number

9.19.78.4115 2nd Contsal

TECHNICAL

Photos

9

Maps

CONTROL

pl

OK 3.9.79

The additions to the original 1909 structure do not detract from its scale and are evidence of the continued functional evolution of an educational institution.

HISTORIAN

Accept-
Franklin
4.17.79

Much stronger nomination with more information included under #7 + #8. Jacobethan styled campus structure which, although altered, still maintains integrity of design, materials, etc.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept
Braham
4.10.79

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

This property is historically significant as the first student union at a state university & the 4th in the United States. Its creation was the result of student initiative & concern. It is architecturally significant as one of the few Jacobethan structures in Columbus.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept-
Franklin
4.17.79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

APR 20 1979

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit



#1 Old Ohio Union, Franklin Co.
Photographer: Gretchen Klimoski, 1979
Negatives: Ohio Historic Preservation
Office

West end south facade looking NW showing
brick additions built on the west side
between 1917-1940

MAR 7 1979

APR 20 1979



#2 Old Ohio Union, Franklin Co.
Photographer: Gretchen Klimoski, 1979
Negatives: Ohio Historic Preservation
Office

West end looking east showing west
end additions

MAR 7 1979

APR 20 1979



#3 Old Ohio Union, Franklin Co.
Photographer: Gretchen Klimoski
Negatives: Ohio Historic Preservation
Office

Looking SE showing west end addition
and north addition (1921)

MAR 7 1979

APR 20 1979



#4 Old Ohio Union, Franklin County
Photographer: Gretchen Klimoski
Negatives: Ohio Historic Preservation
Office

Looking south at 1921 addition. Lower
story existing since 1917; remodeled and
upper story added 1921

MAR 7 1979

APR 20 1979



#5 Old Ohio Union, Franklin County
Photographer: Gretchen Klimoski
Negatives: Ohio Historic Preservation
Office

Looking SW at original building and 1921
addition

MAR 7 1979

APR 20 1979



#6 Old Ohio Union, Franklin County
Photographer: Gretchen Klimoski
Negatives: Ohio Historic Preservation
Office

Interior, east stairway in projecting
bay showing original stairway

MAR 7 1979

APR 20 1979



#7

Old Ohio Union, Franklin County
Photographer: Gretchen Klimoski
Negatives: Ohio Historic Preservation
Office

Same as #6, looking from laundry to second
floor

MAR 7 1979

APR 20 1979



Old Ohio Union, Franklin Co., Ohio
Photographer: George Kane, May 13, 1978
Negative: OHPO

#8079

East elevation

SEP 19 1978

APR 20 1979



#9089

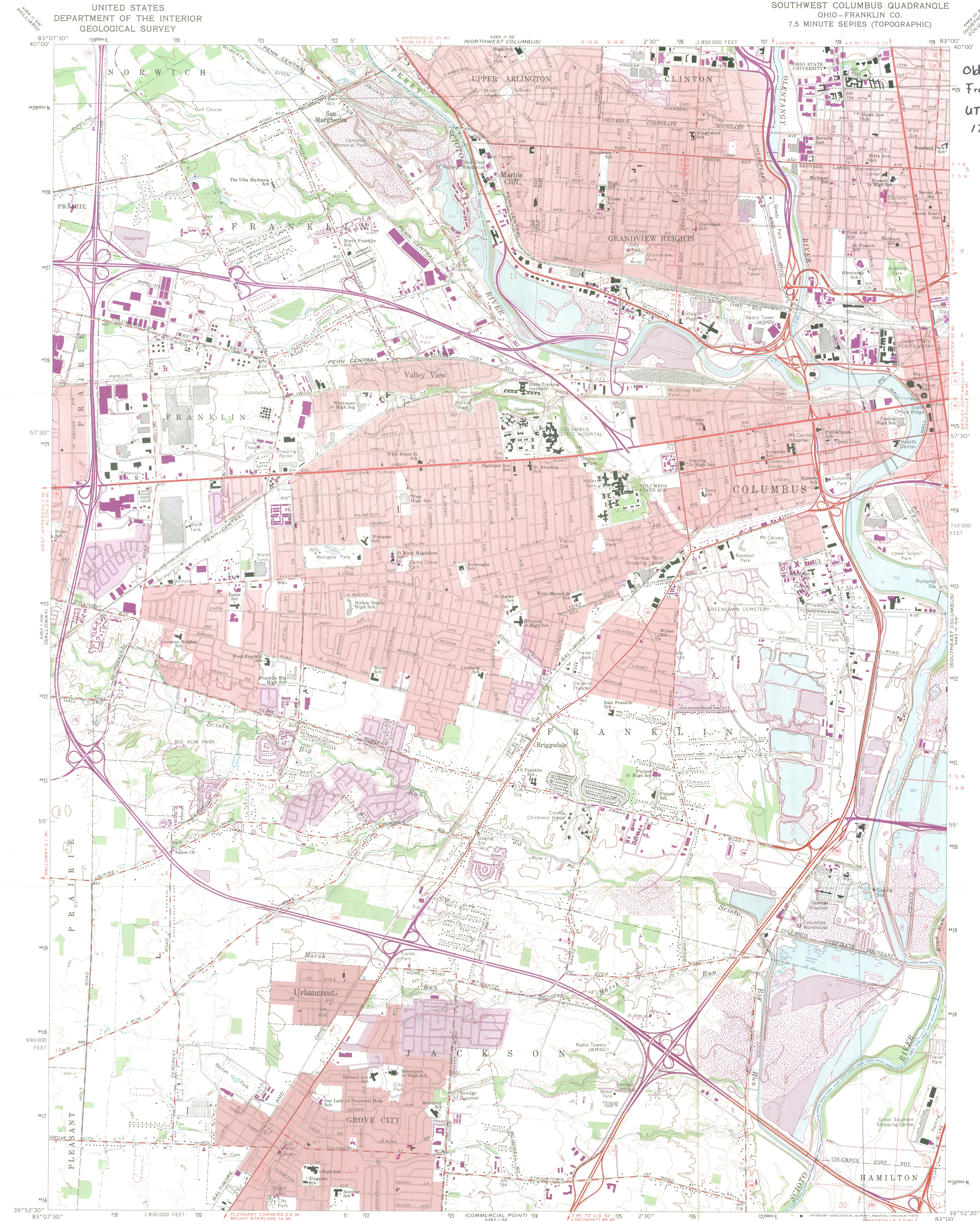
South Facade, Old Ohio Union
Columbus, Franklin County,
Ohio. Photo by George Kane
May 13, 1978. Negative at
the Ohio Historic Preserva-
tion Office.

SEP 19 1978

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SOUTHWEST COLUMBUS QUADRANGLE
OHIO—FRANKLIN CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Old Ohio Union
Franklin County
UTM Reference:
17/328 270/4429122



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies
Control by USGS, USCGS, and City of Columbus
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1953 and 1954. Field checked 1955. Revised 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Area west of the Scioto River lies within the Virginia Military District
Area north of Base Line lies within the United States Military District
Land lines based on the Base Line of the United States Military District
Area south of Base Line lies within Congress Lands east of the Scioto River
Land lines based on the Scioto River Base

UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

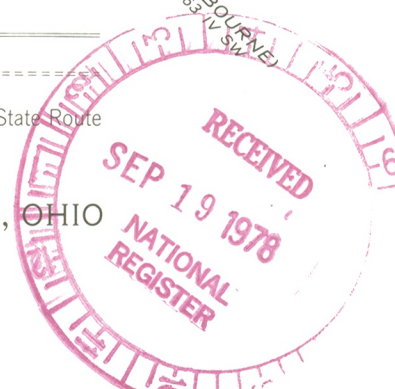
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

SOUTHWEST COLUMBUS, OHIO

N3952.5—W8300/7.5
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1973
AMS 4363 I NE—SERIES V852



APR 20 1979

H32-NR

Franklin 12/27
Bridges 12/29/78
for
Hewster

JAN 03 1979

Dr. William E. Vandament
Executive Assistant to the President
Director, Budget and Resource Planning
The Ohio State University
190 North Oval Mall
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear Dr. Vandament:

Thank you for your letter of December 1, 1978, concerning the nomination of the Old Ohio Union building of the Ohio State University.

We have carefully read your letter and considered the questions raised especially those concerning the architectural integrity of the structure. Since we believe they are valid, we are returning the nomination to the State for clarification. A xeroxed copy of the control sheets, showing the reviewers comments, and the return sheet, requesting additional information from the State historic preservation office, are enclosed for your information.

We appreciate your interest in the National Register program and your participation in the registration process.

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) William J. Murtagh

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Thomas H. Smith

bcc: Director's Reading File
NR

FHR: LFranklin:mjd 343-6401 12/27/78
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

December 1, 1978

Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Heritage Conservation and Recreation
Service, Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Student Services Building
Ohio State University
Nomination to the National Register

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

The Ohio State University was informed June 6, 1978 that the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board would give final consideration to the nomination of the Student Services Building (old Ohio Union) to the National Register at its meeting July 21, 1978. Despite a strong letter stating University views on the issue, the nomination was recommended by the Board and subsequently approved and forwarded to your office by the State Historical Preservation Officer.

The Board of Trustees has directed that the University's views on this nomination should be presented. Our position is that the building is not worthy of such recognition. As you know, both Hayes Hall and Orton Hall are University buildings on the National Register. We fully support their listing because both are significant architecturally and historically. The University has just completed a renovation and restoration of Hayes Hall at a cost of \$1.8 million and has a similar project for Orton Hall under design with a budget of \$1.2 million.

However, we believe that the Student Services Building lacks the unique features of these two fine old buildings. We take exception to many of the statements made to justify its inclusion on the National Register.

In the original nomination form the building is described as retaining "its exterior form and character and much of its original interior finish." It should be noted that 40 percent of the perimeter of the structure has been affected by later (post-1911) additions and that, of the interior finishes, only the east stairwell (in poor condition), first floor main lounge wainscot and door casings, second floor doors and casings, and pressed metal ceilings in a few rooms remain of the original interior finishes. No detailing remains in the basement; none of the first floor doors, floors and ceilings are original; most of the second floor ceilings, all the floors and walls, and some of the doors are not original; similar non-original conditions exist on the third floor.

The east stairway enclosure is described as a "hexagonal bay": in fact, it is a rectangular space with a projecting three-sided bay.

The description of the north wing of the building in the nomination -- "bowed with buttresses", "trimmed with pressed copper sheeting" -- is irrelevant. That wing is a 1937 addition which is more closely related to Saarinen's Cranbrook architecture than the Jacobean style that the building is purported to represent.

The additions on the west side are described as "two story brick"; they in fact are one-story with basement, and generally align with the basement and first floor of the original building with no defined spatial relationship to that building.

The rear (north) section is described as "detailed in keeping with the style of the main building"; there is little relationship in reality. The "buttresses" and "pressed copper sheeting" do not exist elsewhere on the original building. The windows of the north wing are metal with hoppers; all windows in the original building are wood doublehung sash. Sill heights in the north wing and the window/solid surface relationship are greatly different from those in the original building.

The description states that the first, second, and third floors "retain much of their oak woodwork." In fact, most of the heavy oak doors are gone as well as sidelights at the south entrance. The profusion of sprinkler system piping and surface conduit for lighting, along with the alterations to virtually all floor and ceiling surfaces, remove any perception of what the original spaces were like.

The original nomination form points out that the building is one of the best examples of Jacobethan (sic) architecture on the campus. We assume the writer meant Jacobean. It should be noted that there are no Jacobean buildings in Ohio; there may be structures designed and detailed in the Jacobean style. We note that Jacobean refers to a variant in architectural style which followed the Elizabethan and preceded the Georgian (of Christopher Wren, among others). This style was visible for some 20 or 30 years, although some critics extend it to the reign of James I, giving it a lifespan of about 60 years.

Jacobean is a style profuse with characteristics, few of them distinct, but in combination strongly indicative of the style. Most significantly, the style is characterized by its contortions, its highly decorated classical elements and its exuberances in the use of detail. It has been labeled "stormy and disordered" because of the willingness of Jacobean stylists to carve and alter simple elements of their buildings.

Some general characteristics are the following:

- . Use of brick and stone;
- . Use of lead roofs, lead rain-water heads;
- . Ogee-capped turrets; projecting porches; gables and towers projecting upward uninterrupted from the building's facades;

- . Center-symmetrical casement windows; windows on one facade identical to those on the opposite facade;
- . Exuberantly carved marble mantels and highly ornamental interior decorations;
- . Richly carved entrances; superimposed classical orders;
- . Center hall at right angles to main front and entered on its axis; wholly-visible main staircase (important throughout the Jacobean style);
- . An "H" building plan, occasionally a rectangular "U" (formed by moving the center element in one direction or another);
- . Flemish-like wall panelling (the Flemish were the principal stonework artisans of the era; their product has been copied by the use of pressed metal or carved wood);
- . "Broken" classical elements, effected by interrupting the line flow of the traditional classical detail with carving or unexpected ornament.

It is clear that some of these characteristics can be found in the "Old Ohio Union" but it is equally obvious that there is no consistent occurrence of Jacobean elements. Wood sash in a doublehung arrangement, for example, is foreign to true Jacobean; the metal windows on the 1937 addition are closer to the character of the style than are those of the original building. Other examples are:

- . The roof is slate, not lead (or even a lead-appearing substitute);
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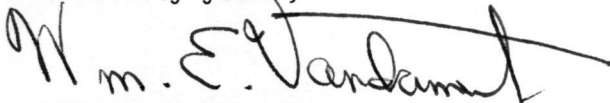
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WEV/ks

cc: Harold L. Enarson, President

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Office of Campus Planning & Space Utilization

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D DEC 11 1978

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

INITIALS

[Handwritten signature]

H32-NR

Ohio

JAN 03 1979

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Director, Budget and Resource Planning
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Columbus, Ohio 43210

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Keeper of the National Register

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Thomas H. Smith

bcc: ✓ Director's Reading File
NR

FHR: LFranklin:mjd 343-6401 12/27/78
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR

H32-NR

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National Register of Historic Places
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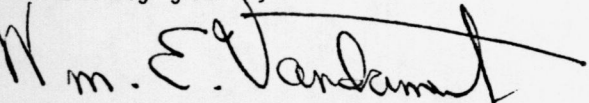
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United States Department of the Interior

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H32-NR

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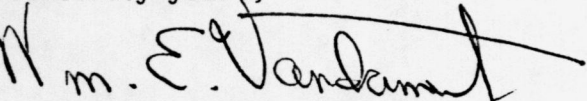
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TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: *Old Ohio Union B/Lg*

TO/FROM: *Gretchen Klimoski*
Dave Simmons

DATE: *1/1/79*

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER: *Lucy*

DIVISION: *NR*

REPORT: *Asked for Gretchen Klimoski
& got Dave Simmons who
said*

*Gretchen had called because
nomination was returned w/out
call to SHPD to discuss it first*

*Told him normally we would
have but w/ Director's directive
phone calls we normally would
have made had to go by way side.*

*Also explained that ^{we were} aware of
Columbus DOT situation ~~that~~ ~~that~~ wanted
to consider OSU's ~~committee~~ ~~group~~ it was
probably an eligible resource.*

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: *Old Ohio Union*

TO/FROM: *Dr. Vandamant*

DATE: *12/19/78*
4:00

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER: *Lucy*

DIVISION:

REPORT:

Told him we'd be returning nomination to state for clarification & will send him letter w/ copy of control sheet & return sheets.

Said, they just wanted to be sure it was taken seriously

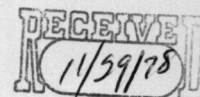
GRAM SERVICE CENTER
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western union

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6144572590 MGM TDBN COLUMBUS OH 172 11-24 0420P EST



DR WILLIAM J MURTAGH, KEEPER
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
SERVICE, DEPT OF THE INTERIOR
18TH AND C STS NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20240

REGARDING STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DEAR DOCTOR MURTAGH,

THE UNIVERSITY HAS LEARNED RECENTLY THAT A DECISION MAY BE MADE PRIOR
TO JANUARY 1 1979 CONCERNING PLACEMENT OF THE OSU STUDENT SERVICES
BUILDING (OLD OHIO UNION) ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.
THE UNIVERSITY DID NOT NOMINATE THE BUILDING FOR PLACEMENT ON THE
NATIONAL REGISTER AND DOES NOT SUPPORT THE NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY THE
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER OF OHIO.

AS OWNER OF THE PROPERTY THE UNIVERSITY WISHES TO PROVIDE COMMENTS
ABOUT THE BUILDING AND ITS NOMINATION TO YOUR OFFICE. THESE COMMENTS
WILL REACH YOUR OFFICE PRIOR TO THE CLOSE OF THE WORKING DAY OF
DECEMBER 4 1978. I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED IF A DECISION ON THIS
NOMINATION IS TO BE MADE PRIOR TO DECEMBER 5 1978.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

SINCERELY,

WILLIAM E VANDAMENT
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND DIRECTOR OF BUDGET AND RESOURCES PLANNING
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
190 NORTH OVAL MALL
COLUMBUS OH 43210

16:21 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM, PHONE WESTERN UNION ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT:

FOR YOUR LOCAL NUMBER, SEE THE WHITE PAGES

OF YOUR TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

OR

DIAL (TOLL FREE) 800-257-2241

(EXCEPT IN NEW JERSEY 800-632-2271)

OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S INFOMASTER SYSTEM DIRECTLY:

FROM TELEX 6161

FROM TWX 910 420 1212

*Call Al & send me
some comments.
RP*

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE OHIO

Date Entered APR 20 1979

Name

Location

Lansdowne House

Greenville
Darke County

Old Ohio Union

Columbus
Franklin County

Stemen Road Covered Bridge

Pickerington vicinity
Fairfield County

Also Notified

Honorable Howard M. Metzenbaum

Honorable John H. Glenn, Jr.
Honorable Thomas M. Kindness
Honorable Samuel L. Devine
Honorable Clarence E. Miller

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Thomas H. Smith
Director
The Ohio Historical Society
Interstate 71 at 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

NR Byers/bjr 4/27/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.