

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 6 1985

date entered MAR 18 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Ohio Wesleyan University Thematic Group

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Multiple (Ohio Wesleyan University) not for publication

city, town Delaware vicinity of

state Ohio code 039 county Delaware code 041

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ohio Wesleyan University

street & number

city, town Delaware vicinity of state Ohio 43015

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Delaware County Courthouse

street & number N. Sandusky Street

city, town Delaware state Ohio 43015

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ohio Historic Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ nodate 1974 and 1984 federal ☒ state county local

depository for survey records Ohio Historic Preservation Office

city, town Columbus state Ohio

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>Elliott Hall, 1890s</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ohio Wesleyan University Thematic Group represents the historically and architecturally significant buildings on the Ohio Wesleyan campus. The group is comprised of 11 University-owned buildings which are linked historically through their association with and contribution to Ohio Wesleyan University from its founding in 1842. The buildings relate to all aspects of college life, being used for classroom, office, recreational, religious and residential purposes. The structures represent a range of architectural styles and construction materials, but are unified nevertheless by their institutional stature and architectural character.

Situated on three distinct "campuses" within the larger University campus, the buildings reflect Ohio Wesleyan's growth over a one hundred year period. Other buildings on the campus are of later 20th century development (post WWII) and are thus excluded from the Thematic Group. (These include modern academic facilities; a library and theater, and dormitories.) Two other older buildings on the Ohio Wesleyan campus, Edgar Hall and Humphreys Art Hall, are excluded from the nominated grouping because they were not originally owned by or connected with the University. (Originally a Post Office, Humphreys was not acquired by OWU until the 1960s. Edgar Hall is included in the Downtown Delaware Historic District since it was originally a commercial building.)

H.D.-- NR: 12/17/82

The University's main campus is located on Sandusky Street directly south of Delaware's historic downtown district. Development of this campus was initiated with the acquisition of Ohio Wesleyan's first building, Elliott Hall (Bldg. #1, built 1833, acquired 1842). Continued construction on this campus brought Sturges Hall (Bldg. #2, 1856), Merrick Hall (Bldg. #5, 1873), University Hall (Bldg. #4, 1893), and Slocum Hall (Bldg. #3, 1898). These buildings comprise the core of the University's main campus and represent an outstanding grouping of 19th century academic buildings. University, Slocum and Sturges Halls make up the University's main facade along Sandusky Street. Elliott and Sturges Halls are nearly identical in their Greek Revival style but are rendered in different materials of wood (Elliott) and brick (Sturges). Merrick, constructed of native blue limestone, and University and Slocum Halls, built of rough-faced sandstone, introduced new materials and styles to the campus. The construction of Richardsonian Romanesque University Hall, with its dominant tower, was symbolic of the University's academic standing in the late 19th century. Slocum Hall, with a Renaissance Revival facade, is noted for its large reading room

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with elliptical end, overhead balcony and stained glass skylight. Two athletic facilities were added on the edges of the main campus in the early 20th century: Edwards Gymnasium (Bldg. #7, 1905), and Selby Field (Bldg. #6, 1929). Both buildings are utilitarian but architecturally expressive of their functions.

The Monnett Campus developed on the west edge of the village of Delaware in the 1850s as the Ohio Wesleyan Female College housed in Monnett Hall (demolished 1979). Although merged with Ohio Wesleyan University in 1877, this campus was not built upon further until the early 20th century. Sanborn Hall (Bldg. #10) was constructed in 1908 and the University's first women's dormitory, Austin Hall (Bldg. #11), in 1923. Set in a rolling landscape amid numerous trees, both Sanborn and Austin were built with their main facades oriented toward Monnett Hall. Both buildings are constructed of brick with Colonial Revival details.

Located at the crest of a hill overlooking a wooded glen just to the south of the Monnett Campus are the Student Observatory (Bldg. #9) and Stuyvesant Hall (Bldg. #8). Known variously as "Observatory Hill," "Barnes Campus" and "Davies Campus," this site was bequeathed to Ohio Wesleyan in the late 19th century by faculty members. The site is dominated by Stuyvesant Hall, a large brick residence hall built in 1931 with two large wings and a central bell tower and cupola. Its Georgian Revival style is enhanced by the terraced front lawn and winding steps leading to a central entry. Directly west is the Student Observatory, a small Classical Revival building with observation deck and dome built of rough-faced gray brick.

Later development of Ohio Wesleyan tended to occur between the east (main) and west (Monnett) campuses, including a number of modern dormitories in the Stuyvesant vicinity, as well as a library, theater, and student center on east-west connecting streets. The academic center remained focused on the main campus with the construction of several facilities behind (east of) the original core of academic buildings.

The 11 Ohio Wesleyan Thematic Group structures possess a high degree of integrity in terms of their location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The oldest of the 11 buildings were listed on the National Register in 1973: Elliott, Sturges and Merrick Halls (all located on the main campus). Renovation and rehabilitation projects sponsored by the University in recent years have enhanced the appearance and structural stability of Elliott, Sturges, Slocum, University and Sanborn Halls, as well as Edwards Gymnasium. Each of the 11 buildings continues to serve a useful purpose at Ohio Wesleyan and is well maintained by its Buildings and Grounds Department.

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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1842 - 1931

Builder/Architect J. W. Yost, S. R. Badgley, William Tinsley,
Morris Cadwallader

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criteria A & C

The resources in the Ohio Wesleyan University Thematic Group nomination together represent the historical and physical development of the University from its founding in 1842 through the next 100 years of educational growth and reform. As the University's oldest remaining campus buildings, the group is historically unified by its association with and contribution to the development of academics, administration, athletics, and student life at Ohio Wesleyan. The University itself is significant for its unique role in the development of the city of Delaware and its contributions to quality higher education as a liberal arts college which has operated continuously in this location (and in these buildings) for 142 years.

The University's buildings are also significant for architectural reasons. Choice of architectural style at Ohio Wesleyan, in addition to responding to current trends, reflected changes in educational focus, methods or principles. Educational reform and architectural development were complementary trends at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Spanning the period from 1833 to 1931, the group includes the following campus buildings: Elliott Hall (1833, N.R. 1973), Sturges Hall (1856, N.R. 1973), Merrick Hall (1868-73, N.R. 1973), University Hall (1893), Slocum Hall (1898), Student Observatory (c. 1900), Edwards Gymnasium (1905), Sanborn Hall (1908), Austin Hall (1923), Selby Field (1929), and Stuyvesant Hall (1931). With the exception of Ohio Wesleyan's first building, Elliott Hall, each was built by the University to provide space for a specific function or to accommodate growth and change.

Overall, the succession of buildings represents important stages in University development, such as the introduction of structured physical education in the early 20th century or the tremendous increase in student enrollment following WWI. Specific developmental forces included building campaigns and endowments, changes in academic policy, reforms in methods of teaching and study, changes in student life, and sheer growth in numbers. As the University broadened its curriculum, its faculty, and its enrollment, the physical structure also required expansion and change.

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OWU Thematic Group

Ohio Wesleyan was founded by the Methodist Church in 1842, a central event in the educational renaissance of the church at that time. Delaware, Ohio, was selected as the site for the school largely as a result of the "liberality and public spirit" of the townspeople. Although founded on the "most liberal principles," early Ohio Wesleyan was steeped in "a staid and confident classicism" that was reflected in its architecture. The earliest history of Ohio Wesleyan is represented by Elliott Hall, originally built in 1833 as the "Mansion House" hotel. Acquired by the University in 1844, Elliott is Ohio's oldest collegiate Greek Revival building. (The building was moved to make way for University Hall in the 1890s.) Also remaining from this period is the University's first library, Sturges Hall, completed in 1856. The two buildings are nearly identical in style, and along with Thomson Chapel (demolished in the 1890s), comprised the classically-inspired "Doric Front" which the University presented to the world.

During the remainder of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century, the University's methods and programs, its manners and morals, underwent an evolution. During the post Civil War period, it became evident that the classics-oriented curriculum was giving way to a more pragmatic, scientific emphasis. This change is reflected in the architecture of Merrick Hall (1868-73), originally called "Alumni Hall" or "Science Hall", which departs from the Greek tradition of Elliott and Sturges. Another significant event during this period was the 1877 union of the male University with the Ohio Wesleyan Female College, begun in 1853 on the western edge of Delaware. While the two schools were slow to integrate, the University now absorbed courses that later developed into Home Economics, Fine Arts and Music departments.

From 1890 to World War I, Ohio Wesleyan was thoroughly transformed. Under the leadership of President James W. Bashford, the faculty was enlarged, the curriculum broadened, enrollment increased and an unprecedented building campaign launched. Methods of instruction changed as memorization and recitation gave way to classroom lectures and original research in the library and laboratory. Elective courses were offered and new departments were introduced. The expanded curriculum included plans for a Ph.D. program and professional schools of law, theology and medicine.

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OWU Thematic Group

University Hall, constructed in 1893, was designed by J. W. Yost to serve as a commanding architectural symbol of Ohio Wesleyan's new academic position. The building provided administrative and faculty offices, lecture rooms, and a 2,500-seat hall of assembly in Gray Chapel. A history of 1894 called University Hall "one of the most complete college buildings to be found in America." Slocum Hall was similarly constructed in 1898 to accommodate the new emphasis on original student research. Centrally located on the original site of Thomson Chapel, the new library featured every accommodation for preserving and classifying books as well as a large, well-lit reading room for students.

The construction of University and Slocum Halls, built in Richardsonian Romanesque and Renaissance Revival styles respectively, represented a distinct departure from the classic lines of the "Doric Front" of the University. Suggestion has been made that the change from the old facade to the new coincided with the end of the classical and "ideal" age in American education and the beginning of eclectic, diverse and "practical" emphasis in higher education.

The use of laboratories for scientific research is best represented by Perkins Observatory, now the Student Observatory, built c. 1900. It is significant that the building was extremely well equipped for a small university, demonstrating the continuing emphasis being placed upon the study and practice of science at OWU. Later, Ohio Wesleyan took a major step in this field with the construction of Perkins Observatory at Stratford, a preeminent facility in astronomical research.

Another reform of this period was the introduction of standardized physical education at the turn of the century, replacing informal sports and military drill. Edwards Gymnasium, built in 1905, was the first significant athletic facility on the Ohio Wesleyan campus. Its construction provided a focus for "physical culture" at the University. Athletics was given another major boost at OWU with the construction of Selby Field in 1929, one of the outstanding stadiums of its day to be built in Ohio. Both structures reflect their utilitarian function in the design that was selected.

The early 20th century also saw an increase in the level of emphasis given the arts at Ohio Wesleyan, while other areas such as medicine and mathematics were being de-emphasized. Since the study of music and art had originally been focused in the Ohio Wesleyan Female College and Monnett Hall (demolished 1979), the

NR: 6/23/75

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OWU Thematic Group

Monnett campus served as the location for construction of arts-related buildings. The University acquired an existing residential building for conversion to an art hall (Lyon Art Hall, now a private residence). In 1908, Sanborn Hall was constructed to house the School of Music. Its Colonial Revival styling and classical embellishment were symbolic of the position which the study of music assumed at the University. Ohio Wesleyan recently completed a "Renaissance in Music" fund-raising campaign to further enhance its role.

In addition to changes in curriculum and academic policy, increases in enrollment were obvious incentives to development at Ohio Wesleyan. Men were housed primarily in fraternities or private residences, but the University assumed responsibility for housing the women students. Throughout the 19th century, women resided in Monnett Hall or in freshmen cottages located primarily on the Monnett campus. By the 1920s, the inadequacies of the freshmen cottage system could not be overlooked, and the University decided to construct a major women's dormitory on the Monnett campus. Austin Hall, with accommodations for 230 students, was completed in 1923. Its Colonial Revival style and spacious corridors, parlors and reception rooms reflected the changes in student social life of the 1920s.

Student enrollment had reached nearly 2,000 by 1925, when the University received a \$1 million endowment for construction of yet another women's dormitory, Stuyvesant Hall. (A dormitory for men was also envisioned, but plans were cut short by the Depression.) Completed in 1931, Stuyvesant provided space for 255 freshmen women, eliminating the need for a freshmen cottage system at Ohio Wesleyan. Built in the Georgian Revival style, the dormitory was located on property acquired by the University and situated between the Monnett and main campuses. The building was placed dramatically on a terraced hillside overlooking a picturesque glen. A more open student lifestyle was evident in the construction of Stuyvesant Hall with its rear patio and fountain, date parlors, and recreation room with stage.

Architecturally, the Ohio Wesleyan Thematic Group contains some outstanding buildings designed by notable architects. Merrick Hall was designed in 1868 by William Tinsley, an important institutional architect of the 19th century, who also designed the Institute for the Education of the Blind in Columbus, Ohio. University Hall, a landmark campus building which is an example of Richardsonian Romanesque, was the work of

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J.W. Yost, a Columbus architect who also designed OWU's Edwards Gymnasium. Later, in partnership with Packard, Yost designed several other significant collegiate buildings in Ohio, most notably Ohio State University's Orton Hall. Slocum was designed by architect S. R. Badgley who, it is claimed, visited numerous college libraries in the east and combined their best features into this Renaissance Revival building.

The quality of architectural styling at Ohio Wesleyan did not diminish in the early 20th century. Colonial Revival styles from this period are well-represented on the OWU campus, particularly in Sanborn Hall and the two dormitories, Austin and Stuyvesant. Selby Field is also noted as a good example of early 20th century stadium construction.

University pride in its historic buildings has become evident in recent years through a series of renovation programs. Exterior renovation of Elliott Hall and cleaning of both Sturges and Slocum was accomplished in the 1970s. A major fund-raising campaign, entitled "Renaissance in Music" resulted in the complete refurbishing of Gray Chapel in University Hall (including purchase of a Klais Organ from West Germany) and renovation of Sanborn Hall, home of the music department. More recently, Edwards Gymnasium has been upgraded on the interior.

The Thematic Resource Area for Ohio Wesleyan University was determined by the following methodology: All buildings owned by the University and located on its main campus in Delaware were surveyed in the Ohio Historic Inventory and evaluated for their architectural significance and historical contribution to Ohio Wesleyan's history and development. The survey was conducted by Bradford Green, an Ohio State University graduate student (1974); George R. Cryder, director of audio-visual services at OWU (1982); and Judith B. Williams, preservation consultant with Benjamin D. Rickey & Co. in Columbus, Ohio (1984).

The 11 buildings included are those structures which were specifically built by Ohio Wesleyan University over the course of its history for use in academics, athletics or student life on its main campus in Delaware, Ohio. Buildings of modern construction (less than 50 years old) or buildings which were built for other purposes and acquired by the University only recently (e.g. the old post office, purchased c. 1966 for use as an art hall) were excluded from the thematic resource group. The nominated buildings represent the most significant resources associated with the history and development of the Ohio Wesleyan University campus in Delaware, Ohio.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Delaware County, Ohio. Chicago: O.L. Baskins & Co. 1880.
Buckingham, Ray E. Delaware County Then and Now. Delaware, Ohio. 1976.
Hubbart, Henry Clyde. Ohio Wesleyan's First Hundred Years. 1943.
Ohio Historic Inventory forms for Delaware County.
Ohio Wesleyan University Bulletin, various years.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property indicated on individual OHI forms

Quadrangle name Delaware

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

SEE ATTACHED OHI FORMS AND USGS MAP

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet -- Item 10, page 1

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judith B. Williams/Preservation Consultant

organization Benjamin D. Rickey & Co.

date 5/21/84

street & number 391 Library Park South

telephone (614) 221-0358

city or town Columbus

state Ohio 43215

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national

☐ state

☒ local

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

W. Ray June

title SHPO

date Jan 9, 1985

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Andrew

date 3/18/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest

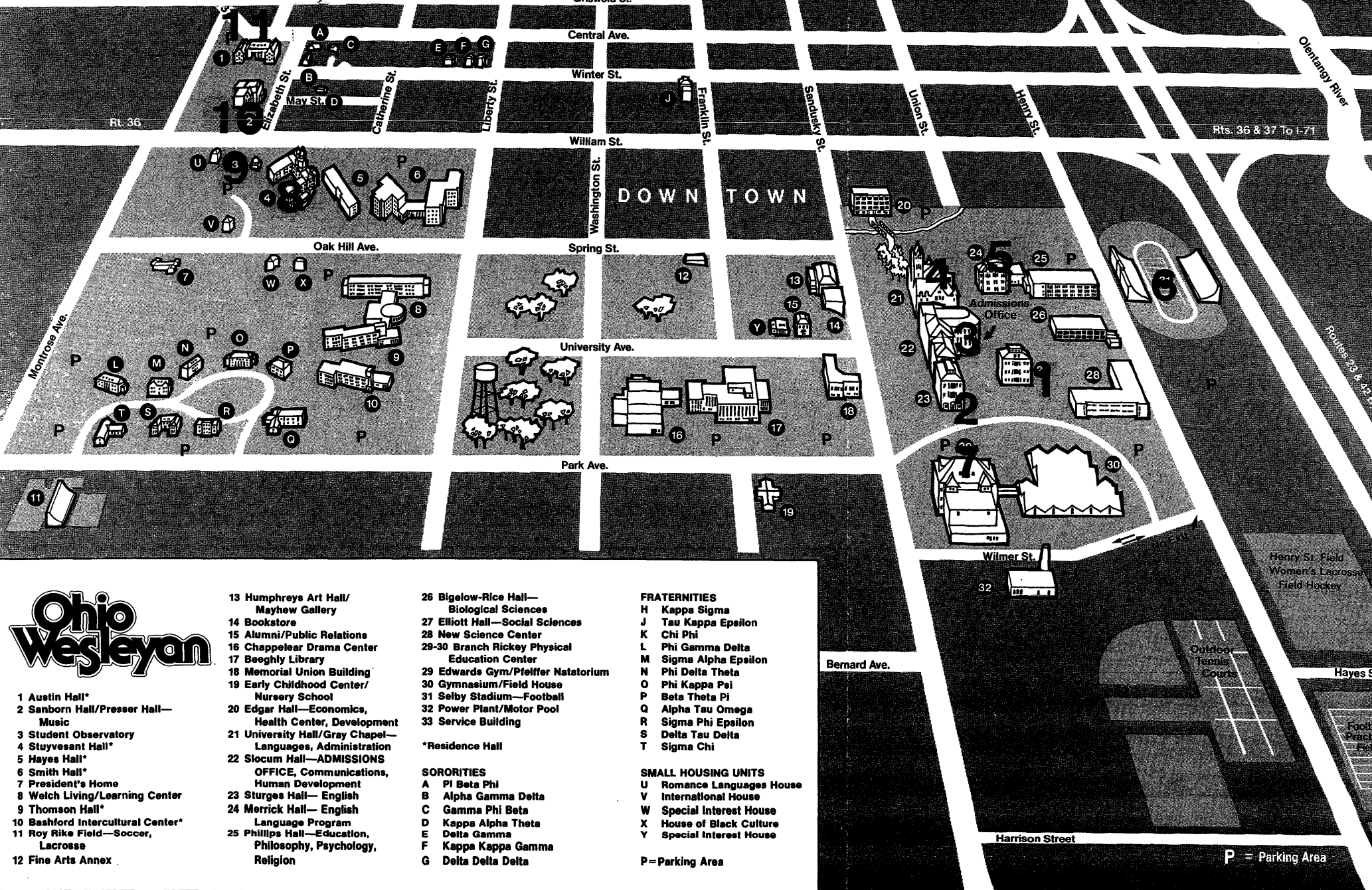
Chief of Registration

See Continuation Sheet for listing

date

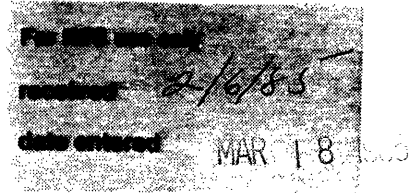
OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY THEMATIC NOMINATION

Building Location Map



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Item number

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Ohio Wesleyan University Thematic Resources
State Delaware County, OHIO

Cover accept cover Patrick Andrews 3/18/85

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Austin Hall

Substantive Review for Keeper

accept Patrick Andrews 3/18/85

Attest

2. Edwards Gymnasium/Pfeiffer
Natatorium

**Entered in the
National Register**

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 3/18/85

Attest

3. Ohio Wesleyan University
Student Observatory

**Entered in the
National Register**

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 3/18/85

Attest

4. Sanborn Hall

**Entered in the
National Register**

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 3/18/85

Attest

5. Shelby Field

**Entered in the
National Register**

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 3/18/85

Attest

6. Slocum Hall

**Entered in the
National Register**

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 3/18/85

Attest

7. Stuyvesant Hall

**Entered in the
National Register**

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 3/18/85

Attest

8. University Hall-Gray's
Chapel

**Entered in the
National Register**

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 3/18/85

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest