

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Manassah Cutler Hall

AND/OR COMMON

The College Edifice

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Ohio University

CITY, TOWN

Athens

VICINITY OF

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th

STATE

Ohio

CODE

39

COUNTY

Athens

CODE

009

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. Harry Crewson, President

STREET & NUMBER

Ohio University

CITY, TOWN

Athens

VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Ohio University Archives
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

Ohio University

CITY, TOWN

Athens

STATE

Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

n.d.

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Physical Facilities, Ohio University

CITY, TOWN

Athens

STATE

Ohio

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Manassah Cutler Hall, originally called the College Edifice, and subsequently the Center College, was completed in 1819. The edifice is a three-story Federal building with a gabled roof. A wooden tower with cupola tops the center of the building.

The building has seen some modest alterations. In the 1880's a modernization of the building included the addition of a gable directly below the cupola. The roof line was likewise raised some three feet (see accompanying photo). The building saw no other major alterations until 1937. At this time major interior modifications and modernization occurred. The original wooden stairwells were replaced with metal ones and an elevator was installed. Old woodwork was replaced with concrete. These renovations remain. Also, modest interior decoration has taken place. Partitions have been added to accommodate new offices, new wall paper has been hung, and other minor interior changes have been made to accommodate the building into its present use as the administration building of the university.

On the first floor of the building is the office of the President of the university. The office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the Faculty, and other offices throughout the other two levels are maintained in typical university fashion.

In 1949, the building was restored to its original exterior design (see accompanying photograph). The university maintains the building in immaculate condition.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 1816

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Manassah Cutler Hall, now the main administration building for Ohio University, is the oldest college building in the old Northwest Territory. It is named after the eminent New England physician, botanist, and minister Manassah Cutler, who wrote the charter for the university, which was founded in 1804.

The building, first called the College Edifice, then the Center College, and finally the Manassah Cutler Hall was begun in 1816 and completed in 1819. Built at a cost of \$17,806, the building is a three-story structure with gabled roof. A tall cupola rose from the center of the roof and its clock helped students to adhere to their schedules. Following its completion, the building was used as a dormitory, with some rooms set aside for use as laboratories. Also, the office of the president of the university was in this building, and William Holmes McGuffey occupied it while president of the university between 1839-43. In 1882, a remodeling occurred, and the roof line was raised three feet.

Classes met in the building until 1937, when it was declared unsafe for such use. A complete interior modernization followed, and concrete was substituted for wood, metal stairs were installed, and elevators were introduced. In 1949, the roof line was restored to its original level, and the exterior now appears as it did when constructed.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hoover, Thomas. History of Ohio University, Athens Ohio: University Press, 1954.
- Peters, William E., Legal History of the Ohio University, Cincinnati: Press of the Western Methodist Book Concern, 1910.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY **Approximately 10**

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	4 0 5	1 4 0	4 3 5 3	3 3 0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuance Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph S. Mendinghall, Historian (original form completed by S. Sydney Bradford)

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

DATE

London, Dec 21, 1965

DESIGNED BY: .../1/65

202-523-5464 date

STATE Boundary Certified

D.C. 20240

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

7/15/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

Manassah Cutler Hall is located on the original tract of land granted for the State University in Athens Township, Ohio. Two buildings (shown on an accompanying photograph of an original lithograph of the campus), called the West and East Wings, built subsequent to Manassah Cutler in 1834 and 1835 respectively, are located in very close proximity to Manassah Cutler and contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

(See sketch Map)

Beginning at Point A, which is 100' north of the intersection of Park Place and Court Street and 200' east of Court Street, proceed east for 300' to a point; thence north for 150' to a point; thence west 300' to a point; thence south 150' to the point of origin.