Institution The Ohio State University
Name of Bldg. Lord Hall
Year erected 1906
Contractor John H Hinay
Architect Frank L Packard
Cost $ 114,615.83

Construction:
Fireproof? No
Walls Brick
Floors Wood
Roof Wood Framed Sheathing, Tile Roofing
Basement Ceiling plastered, cement floor

Use

Comments

Remodeling, Repairs and Fixed Equipment
SCHOOL OF MINES BUILDING — LORD HALL
DEPARTMENTS OF CERAMIC ENGINEERING, METALLURGY AND MINERALOGY, AND MINE ENGINEERING
Dr. W.O. Thompson, President,
Ohio State University.

Dear Sir:—

I return herewith the petition signed by J.A. Crew and a number of other students of the Department of Metallurgy and Mining, touching the naming of the School of Mines Building.

I think there is general agreement on all sides that the building should be named Lord Hall. This should be done by the Board of Trustees in executive session, and the information not made public until such time as memorial exercises are held, which I hope will be done sometime this fall, and the naming of the building could very nicely be made an interesting and appropriate part of the memorial exercises. I have regretted ever since the Robinson Memorial that the name was not conferred upon that building at that time, instead of later, when it attracted no attention.

It may perhaps interest you to know that I have not only thought that the School of Mines building should be named Lord Hall for a number of years past, but have expressed this idea to various friends as much as five years ago, and in speaking of it, we all agreed that Prof. Lord would greatly deprecate such a step being taken during his life, but that he would probably prize it most highly could he have known that such a tribute would be paid him after his death.

I therefore join most heartily with the recommendation of the students of mining that this building be named Lord Hall.

In the second matter named in the petition, namely, that the
students of mining be allowed to prepare and place a suitable bronze tablet, would say that I see no objection whatever to the plan, and think that it has many points to commend it, rather than the method now being pursued in the placing of tablets upon the various buildings. You will recall that Brown Hall was the first building to receive a bronze tablet, and this was raised by the subscription of fifteen of us, all friends of Brown's, most of us members of the faculty. This step set the pattern, in a way, and it was followed up by the students of the College of Agriculture or the Townshend Literary Society, getting the Townshend Hall tablet. Then the Board of Trustees took up the matter and placed the Page Hall tablet, and lastly the Orton Hall tablet. There yet remains the tablet for Hayes Hall, and Robinson Laboratory, though the latter might well wait, I should think, until the main building is erected in front of the present shops, when the name could be applied to the main building rather than to the shop end of it. If the Board of Trustees decides to re-name the School of Mines Building, I would sooner see the tablet furnished by the mining engineering alumni than to see the Board of Trustees place it. In this connection I may say to you confidentially, that Prof. Ray and myself have unofficially, with the knowledge that we shall have plenty of backing, taken up the question with Miss Carrie Lord, sister of Prof. Lord, of painting a likeness of him to hang in the School of Mines Building. She has accepted the commission, and is at work upon the same. We do not know whether we shall have it available this fall or not, but hope that it may be. This will be paid for, if Miss Lord will consent to take it,
Dr. Thompson, #5.

by probably a limited group of Prof. Lord's associates and students, but it will not in any way conflict with the idea advanced in the students' petition. There is no reason why we should not do both.

Very respectfully submitted,

EO/S

Edwardorton
Engineering Experiment Station

Founding, Early Development and Important Projects Now Under Way Described

By E. A. Hitchcock, Dean of the College of Engineering and Director of the Station

The history of the Engineering Experiment Station began in February, 1911, with the appointment by Dean Edward Orton, Jr., of a committee, Professor N. W. Lord as chairman, to "consider the desirability of establishing an Engineering Experiment Station in connection with Ohio State University and to report to the engineering faculty their conclusions and recommendations concerning the same."

From Dean Orton's annual report of 1911 to President W. O. Thompson, we quote the following:

"In our opinion the duty of a state university to the people who support it is not confined to the training of the youth of the state. It involves two other duties—the duty to bring new knowledge into the world by original scientific researches and to show the people of the state how to use and apply the knowledge in our possession. This conception of the function of a state university is based upon the principle of economy and efficiency in the administration of public business. Beyond question, every commonwealth needs a place where its rising generation can secure technical, industrial and professional education. Beyond question, every commonwealth needs expert advice in making expert use of its resources and in choosing the industries it is best fitted by nature to support. The men who can teach efficiently in such schools must in the nature of the case be able to serve in the other capacity also. The use of their powers as technical advisers to the public and to private interests is the most effective mode of improving their value as teachers. The two functions supplement each other. In Ohio the state has made some use of the expert knowledge of its University corps, but not nearly as much as in some other states, nor as much as it is desirable."

As a result of this activity of Dean Orton's, a bill passed the 80th General Assembly in 1915 authorizing the establishment of such a station. As no funds were provided, however, nothing further was accomplished until 1915 when the station was organized and an advisory council appointed by President Thompson composed of Professor E. F. Coddington, acting director, and Professors Sherman, Withrow, Magruder, Demorest, Caldwell and Cole.

First Funds in 1915

An appropriation of $10000 for each of the years 1915 and 1916 was distributed among the departments having problems under way. This action was the practical beginning of the station, although in the spirit of the engineering faculty it has been a reality for years. Before this time, 16 engineering college bulletins had been published as a result of engineering research in several fields.

No further appropriation beyond that mentioned was provided until 1918, when by legislative action $20,000 was appropriated for the years 1919 and 1920. As a result of this appropriation engineering projects are now under way and upon completion will result in the saving of many thousands of dollars to the industries and to the people of Ohio.

In illustration of the great value which may accrue to the country from only one line of research, we would simply mention the work of the last Professor N. W. Lord in connection with the coal industry. In the field of fuel research he was a pioneer and the result of his work is of international value. Through the work of Professor Lord, coal operators and coal users became fully alive to the importance of industrial research. As a result the direct saving to the nation is many millions of dollars annually—a saving which will constantly increase until the highest possible efficiencies are obtained in our fuel utilization.

Work Now Under Way

In order that our alumni may know in general of the several projects now under way and the different fields of engineering and science into which they go, we are about to give a condensed statement of each:

1. Hydrology of the Upper Scioto River of Ohio. A study of the behavior of this stream for the past 30 years accompanied by tables of drainage basins of all streams in the state, charts showing length of weather bureau records for all stations in the state and charts showing duration of all stream gauging in the state.

2. Analyzing and Testing Coals of Ohio. For this project there is now being erected a commercial gas plant to work one-ton capacity by means of which accurate values of Ohio coals in the furnishing of gas, as a substitute for natural gas, will be established. This research will also include the determination of the amounts and qualities of all by-products for the coals investigated. A complete description of this plant with illustration will be given in a later issue of the Monthly.

3. Kerosene Burners for Motor Cars. The work for this project has been in progress as thesis work for two years and consists of investigation in gasoline saving and kerosene oil-burning devices for use on Ford motors.
Lord Hall, Headquarters of Engineering Experiment Station
Collectors' Items Are Found Within Walls of Lord Hall

By ROGER A. MYERS
Lantern Staff Writer

Brick samples on a hall wall, a fading display labeled "How Aluminum Is Made," a model of an underground coal mine and dusty samples of audio-visual training aids equipment contribute to the collection.

These and other academic treasures are found beneath the 12-foot-high ceilings within the ageing walls of Lord Hall, located directly east of Denney Hall.

Built for the University ceramics, metallurgy and mining departments in 1906 for $128,864.15 as the School of Mines Building, it became Lord Hall in 1912 in memory of Nathaniel Wright Lord, first dean of the College of Engineering and first director of the School of Mines. In 1959, after a fire destroyed part of the third floor and the roof, $170,000 worth of repairs were required.

Lord Hall's architectural style is English Renaissance with dark brown paving brick trimmed with Bedford limestone. The building is three stories tall, and includes a high basement with a floor even with ground level.

The basement and first floor are used mainly for offices, with a few scattered classrooms. The top floor is used mainly for classrooms, with a few offices.

In the basement, a battered, red soda-acid fire extinguisher hangs on the wall next to an electric fuse box with a foot-long switch lever. A sign reading "Danger Low Ceiling 5' 7'" warns people leaving by a rear exit of the building.

Dirty Sign
A dirty sign on the hall wall asks "What are Refrigeratories?" and describes bricks used to line furnaces. A group of kilns surrounded by a maze of pipes, conduits, mechanical and electrical equipment used to test bricks is found in a nearby room. Small four by six foot cubicles with bricks inside are built into a brick wall near the kilns.

Following the overhead string of pipes to the other end of the basement-hall, one finds free literature describing teaching aids of all kinds. In a nearby room are stacks of film tins. Another room houses a repair center for electronic teaching aids.

On the main and top floors, funny-looking wooden steps lead the three feet from the floor up to the window level. There, red steel fire escapes cling to the building and meander to the ground below.

Creaky Stairs

Offices are partitioned out old classrooms. Three by four foot cubicles on two levels joined by a creaky old wooden stairs divide one twelve-foot-high main floor room into two six-foot-high sections. Windows in the cubicles on both levels look down into a nearby room.

The cubicles are furnished with bare shelves, a solitary light socket with a bare bulb hanging by a frayed cord; a battered chair; a clothes hanger hanging from a nail on the back of the door; and assorted coffee cans, nails, sheets of paper, unbound paper clips, pipe fittings, wooden blocks, ceramic pots, straw, mason jar lids, newspapers and door knobs scattered at random through the six cubicles.

Vending Machines

At the rear of the building is the Cellar, where one can purchase food from a vending machine. Soup, sandwiches, soft drinks, pastries, milk, ice cream, candy and fruit juices can be consumed under bright fluorescent lights and the 15-foot-high ceiling.

Considering its background, and present use Lord Hall is a nice place to visit but I wouldn't want to live there.
TEMPORARILY spic and span, the student work room of the "new ceramics lab in Lord Hall" was, in 1907, worth a picture. A pair of work benches flank a four-station lab sink with sump drainage so clay did not clog sewers. The young man, right, is "wedging" clay — working out air and mixing by slamming the lump repeatedly down on the tabletop. The partly obscured man, center, is Edward Orton, Jr., son of Ohio State University's first president, and founder of the ceramic engineering department, created April 20, 1894, in legislation playfully called "the Mud Pie Bill." Just to Orton's left is a shot-loaded test device rigged (with a plaster-laden bucket as counterweight) to test a "dogbone specimen" in tension. The third man has a collection of various-sized balls (all worn down from about two inches in diameter) made of porcelain (sometimes flint) and used in a ball mill, a way to grind ceramic materials to proper size. The circular device on his table has a crank and a top opening and is very likely a ball washer, much like those scattered around golf courses. The room behind is a mold and plaster storage room. In the left foreground is a screw press which, when the wheel was spun by the downward-pointing handles, swung down to press clay between a die and mold. The foot-pedal at the bottom served to back off the clay sample. Behind the benches are student lockers in which was stored samples and equipment. Note the light bulbs hanging from long wires. Current ceramic engineering chief Dr. William B. Shook, laughing, figures the students pulled the bulbs into the lockers with them so they could see. At the left of the press is a two-toned crock for storage of small clay samples. Behind is a smereed barrel, either for waste or "slip." Slip, says Shook, may have gotten its name "from the fact that it is so slippery when you drop it on the floor. Actually it is a general term for a fluid form of ceramic mix and is commonly used by hobbyists."
Old halls reviewed; restoration an issue

By Neerja Sharma
Lantern staff writer

The appearance of the OSU main campus may soon change with the proposed demolition of Lord and Brown halls, and the Neil and 17th building.

Richard Eschliman, assistant vice president of the University Architect’s office, said there has been discussion concerning the demolition of Lord Hall, but the building’s demolition has not been placed on any agenda.

David Marsh, assistant vice president for the Office of Campus Planning and Space Utilization, plans to have Lord Hall demolished in four to five years. First, funding is needed in order to replace the structure.

According to Campus Planning, the average age of most buildings on the Ohio State campus is between 30-40 years. Lord Hall is 84 years old.

“Generally, if a building has some architectural character and is usable, we’d rather restore it than tear it down,” Marsh said.

But renovating Lord Hall would not be cost effective according to the Office of Physical Facilities, the University Architect and Campus Planning. When renovating a building, it must be brought up to current code. Eschliman said Lord Hall is not architecturally unique like Orton Hall or Townsend Hall.

“Lord Hall is an old building. It has reached its prime and passed it,” said James E. Stevens Jr., assistant vice president for Physical Facilities.

But Jeff Winstel, national registrar manager for the Ohio Historic Preservation Office said, “Lord Hall is potentially eligible for architectural significance.”

In terms of safety, “Lord Hall is no worse than any other building,” Stevens said.

Jean Hansford, campus planner, said safety is not the prime reason for discussion of destruction of any building. He said the building’s design and its usability are significant factors.

Hansford gave Townsend Hall as an example. Townsend had long narrow rooms with columns in the middle which made teaching difficult. But the partitions could be easily removed. In this case renovation was possible and feasible.

The configuration in Lord Hall, however, cannot be altered so easily, he said.

Eschliman said the cost of maintaining a building is another significant factor in deciding to tear down a structure. One feature that is becoming very costly is Lord Hall’s heating system.

“It (the heating system) is old and has become inefficient,” Stevens said.

Additionally, there has been talk of tearing down the Neil and 17th building and Brown Hall. The two structures, however, are also not yet on the agenda, Eschliman said.

No buildings on OSU campus have been demolished in at least nine years. Stevens said. Plans are normally long range. When space is needed to build a new structure and funds are provided, discussion of demolishing old buildings can occur.
Lord Hall poses obstacles to disabled

Building set for demolition at possible cost of $500,000

By Laura Briggs
Lantern staff writer

While Lord Hall waits to be demolished, students, staff and faculty in the building have been inconvenienced by the lack of an elevator.

It has long been proposed that Lord Hall, 124 W. 17th Ave., be torn down because of a poor heating system and structural problems. Renovating the 85-year-old building would be too costly, say university officials.

Meanwhile, the upper floors of the building have been inaccessible to people with physical disabilities.

It is uncertain when the building will be demolished. The earliest would be 1995, said David Marsh, assistant vice president for facilities planning. The demolition could cost as much as $500,000, he said.

Tonya Laubach, a women's studies instructor who teaches in Lord Hall, said she doesn't know if any students in her class are handicapped because they wouldn't be able to get to class.

People don't pay attention to others with disabilities, Laubach said. We forget that outside ourselves, there are so many needs to be addressed, she said.

"People really don't care," Laubach said.

David Brickner, building coordinator of Lord Hall, said three years ago he carried a student in a wheelchair upstairs to class twice a week with two other men. In another case a student was carried up the stairs for only part of the quarter until the class was moved, he said.

Physically challenged people also have problems getting to the offices of faculty located on the upper floors of the building.

Keith Kilty, professor of social work, said he meets handicapped students in Stillman Hall during his office hours because his office in Lord Hall is up one flight of stairs.

Handicapped students must complete their projects in other computer labs because they have no way of getting to the labs in Lord Hall, Kilty said. There is not necessarily anyone there to help them at other labs, he said.

The building won't be demolished until there is funding to replace the structure. Funding to relocate will be in the capital plan for 1992, Marsh said.

There are some people that want to keep the building, said Ben Brace, special assistant to the vice president for business and administration. But the money to do so is the deciding factor. There is only so much money to go around, he said.

Marsh said the building should be demolished because it is an ineffective use of site and space.

Renovations were made to other older buildings on campus, said Okey Tolley, assistant campus planner. Elevators were installed in Brown Hall, Mendenhall Laboratory, and Stillman Hall, he said. But doing this in Lord Hall wouldn't be cost effective.

"When you're thinking about destroying a building, you don't put $200,000-$400,000 or whatever it costs to put an elevator in," Tolley said.

In 1985, power door openers were installed at the main entrance of the building, making it handicapped accessible, said Tom Heretta, an architect from the Office of the University Architect. An elevator was not installed because of the cost.

The downstairs bathrooms were made handicapped accessible two years ago, Brickner said.

Many students may not know that Lord Hall lacks an elevator when scheduling classes.

Lord Hall, whose inadequate facilities and difficult access for people with physical disabilities have long been a source of criticism, waits for a proposed date with demolition. The building will be destroyed as early as 1995 at a cost of as much as $500,000.

Students with physical disabilities who have scheduled classes in Lord Hall should contact the Office of Disability Services in order to get into another class, said Assistant Director Dick Maxwell.

"We work with the scheduling office immediately to get that class relocated," Maxwell said. Students with disabilities have priority scheduling. The scheduling office is not scheduling many classes in Lord Hall because of its inaccessibility, he said.

Physically disabled students are also unable to get to the department of anthropology's office to add a class, so they must go through other channels.
The History of Lord Hall and the Anthropology Department at Ohio State

Anne B. Lee
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Anthropology
Ohio State University
January 2001

Introduction

Many of you are probably asking yourselves why anyone would want to write, or read for that matter, an article on the history of Lord Hall and the Department of Anthropology at Ohio State. My answer is curiosity. I have been stumbling around these halls long enough to find the building and the past of the department intriguing. I view the history of buildings and departments as a little like genealogy. A person’s academic lineage is a lot like their family lineage – one perspective on where you are going is to know where you came from.

When I embarked on this endeavor, I was simply curious, but, along the way, I began to realize the need to document the story of the building and the discipline. Lord Hall will likely be gone in the (near?) future, and what is preserved in the university archives may be the only record of its existence. Likewise, the lack of documentation on the changes in the Anthropology Department left me wondering why those that had gone before me had not preserved anything. As many of us know from our numerous theory classes, the historical, social and intellectual context that ideas bloom in has a lot to do with what those ideas are and the path any particular idea will take. Preserving that context is important for future historians of anthropology and the social sciences as well as for the simply curious.

What follows is a smattering of all the information I gathered. The organization is a result of trying to group all the bits of data together in some coherent fashion. There are many gaps and this piece should not be taken as a definitive account but it does outline the basics and constitutes a step toward compiling and preserving some of the story.
Lord Hall

Construction began in 1904 on the building that would become Lord Hall. The Ohio State Board of Trustees approved plans for the School of Mines Building on August 13, 1904. The architect for the original structure was Frank L. Packard. Packard’s plans called for a three-story wood frame structure with a brick exterior. Two small sub-basements were also included in the plans. The odd orientation of the building can be attributed to Packard, who developed the campus master plan in addition to being the architect for the Mines Building.

According to the campus master plan a diagonal street would run parallel to the front of the building. Maps dating to the years immediately after the construction do show a winding road running roughly along the present course of 17th Avenue. This road eventually became a straight line running diagonally from east of Hayes Hall to the Sherman Street intersection on 18th Avenue. This road approximated the sidewalk that now runs from the front of Lord Hall over to 18th by the new Math Tower (Herrick 1988: entry 051).

Work on the building progressed quickly. Construction bids were opened on September 15, 1904, and John H. Hina was awarded the construction contract on the same day. The foundation walls were nearly completed by November 23, 1904. The exterior work was completed a year later in September, 1905, and the Trustees accepted the building in April 1906. The cost of the original building is reported as $185,000 (Herrick 1988: entry 051) but is contradicted by information on a photograph archive form on file at the OSU Archives (Lord Hall Information File) which states the cost as $114,615.83. A Lantern article from 1968 reports the original cost of Lord Hall as $128,864.15 (Myers 1968).
The Renaming

So how did the School of Mines Building (also known as the Mines and Ceramics Building or the Mines Building) come to be called Lord Hall? Who was Lord for that matter? Nathaniel Wright Lord was a native Ohioan who worked at Ohio State for thirty-three years in a variety of positions. Lord originally started at the university in 1878 for a salary of $500 as a chemical analyst. In 1879 Lord was made an assistant professor and in 1881 he was made the first director of the School of Mines. Lord became the first dean of the College of Engineering in 1896, a position he held until 1901. Nathaniel Wright Lord died unexpectedly from heart failure on May 23, 1911 at the age of fifty-seven (OSU Archives N.W. Lord Biographical File, no author).

A petition to rename the School of Mines Building “Lord Hall” was submitted to the university President in 1911. According to a letter from then College of Engineering dean, Edward Orton, to President W.O. Thompson on August 22, 1911, the petition was made by “J. A. Crews and other students” (letter on file, OSU Archives, N.W. Lord Information File). In the aforementioned letter, Orton requested that the petition be honored and that a bronze tablet be prepared and placed in the building by students rather than by the Board of Trustees as had been done in previous cases. Orton also reported to the President that Lord’s sister, Caroline A. Lord, a well-known Ohio artist, had been asked by himself and another engineering faculty member, Frank Ray, to paint a portrait of Lord that would hang in the
renamed building. This oil painting was given to the university in July of 1912 (*The Ohio State University Monthly* 4:15). In 1926 Caroline Lord also gave the university a commemorative portrait of the other Lord sibling at Ohio State, the late H. C. Lord, professor of astronomy (*The Ohio State University Monthly* 18:85). [As an aside: Harold T. Heath, ME in EE 1911, reported that students affectionately dubbed the siblings the ‘Heavenly Lord’ and the ‘Earthly Lord’ (*The Ohio State University Monthly* 50:3)]

The bronze plaque dedicated to N. W. Lord is still in Lord Hall; it is on the east wall of the second floor entry immediately behind the Undergraduate Anthropology Association announcement board. The location of the painting of N. W. Lord remains unknown to this author after considerable inquiry.

**The Additions to Lord Hall**

The Lord Hall we all love and know is the result of two additions to the original structure. In 1918 a two-story extension on the northwest end of the building was added to house the ceramics lab and kiln rooms. This addition, as near as I can tell, currently hosts the offices in the northwest wing of the building as well as The Cellar. The cost of the 1918 addition is reported as $24,172.20. The year 1940 saw a second addition to the building, the first floor extension on the east end of the building. This addition was originally used to house the metallurgy laboratories. The second addition was a WPA project and reportedly cost $38,980 (Herrick 1988: entry 051).

Enlarged twice. See sketch: three wings (B, A" and C in sketch) are of one story construction

A, A', & A"—original construction. A' and A" of one-story construction
B — 1st addition. Also included two stories on top of A'
C — 2nd addition

(Source: Herrick 1987)

**Room Correspondence: Why is Lord 235 so big?**

For many years now I have wondered why parts of Lord Hall seem to be over-heated and why other parts are under-heated. While I didn’t find any answers to these questions in the archives I did
discover some previous uses of rooms in the building when I stumbled upon building plans drawn in 1941 (Lord Hall Information File, OSU Archives). Room 235 used to house the spacious-for-its-time School of Mines Library while 244 was the Mineralogy X-ray Lab. The GTA office in 200 used to be the Mineralogy Engineering Drawing Lab while the GTA office in 19A/B was the ceramics pottery machine room. Most of the other rooms in the building were various metallurgy labs, classrooms or office spaces. Not much else was discovered on the later uses of Lord Hall, but Dr. Poirier reports that the School of Natural Resources once occupied areas currently inhabited by the department offices (personal communication, 1/01), and an article in The Lantern from April, 1968, paints a pretty bleak picture of the interior, noting that the office cubicles had a “solitary light socket with a bare bulb hanging by a frayed cord” (Myers 1968).

**Lord Hall’s History With Fire**

Lord Hall has the unfortunate luck to have been the victim of fire twice during its history. An early morning fire in the winter of 1959 destroyed parts of the third floor and roof while the rest of the building suffered water and smoke damage. The fire apparently started when a “painter’s drop cloth was wrapped about a light bulb that was allowed to burned all night” (The Ohio State University Monthly 50:3). Damages were estimated at $170,000 to the building and $38,000 to the contents. State emergency funds were used to immediately start repairs (The Ohio State University Monthly 50:3).

Lord Hall’s second brush with destruction came amidst campus wide protests against the university’s involvement in the Vietnam War. Targets of particular ire were the presence of an Army R.O.T.C. office on campus and military research as well as perceived racial and economic discrimination on the part of the university. On Monday May 4, 1970 at 9:45 a.m. 28 fire calls were received by the fire department. The most serious of these calls was the fire that resulted when a firebomb was thrown into Lord Hall, damaging photocopy equipment. The building apparently housed the equivalent of the university printing services at the time.

Protests intensified later in the day when news reached Columbus of the Kent State shootings, in which four students were killed by the Ohio National Guard. The University was closed from May 6 until May 19 due to these “disruptions” (The Ohio State University Monthly 61:13). A picture of Dr. Poirier with National Guardsmen in full riot gear appeared in the May 11, 1970 (p. 33) issue of Newsweek. Anyone interested in the campus conflict of May 1970 should check out the June 1970 issue of The Monthly. The entire issue is devoted to the happenings of May 1970 and has a day-by-day account of the events leading up to and following the closing of the university.
The Mythic Demolition of Lord Hall

For as long as I can remember I have heard that the Anthropology Department would be moving and that Lord Hall would be demolished. Back in the days when I worked in Dr. Dancey’s lab and we had a thermometer taped to a cabinet in order to gauge exactly how frigid it was in Lord 109, I thought this was a great idea. The building, however, has a certain charm to it and I must admit that I have become somewhat attached. So, I decided to figure out precisely when Lord Hall would disappear from the campus landscape. Not any time soon is the answer despite a March 1990 Lantern article that reported that the demolition “may soon” occur (Sharma 1990). Eleven years later, Lord Hall is still standing.

Lord Hall has long been on the university’s demolition list because it is not “cost effective” to remodel the building according to the Office of Physical Facilities and Campus Planning (Sharma 1990). In order to remodel Lord Hall the building would have to be brought up to current code and that would cost more than demolition and equivalent space elsewhere. Older university buildings are generally only
remodeled if they are architecturally unique in some way and can still be used. One of the major problems with Lord Hall is that the upper floors are not handicap accessible; an elevator alone would cost between $200-400,000 (Briggs 1991). Dr. Poirier reports that the space was offered to the College of Humanities a few years ago if they could raise the necessary funds for a new building. To the best of his knowledge that has not occurred and the proposal may be off the table at this time.

So, the question remains: is Lord Hall going to be torn down and, if so, when? The answer is yes, Lord Hall will most likely be leveled but exactly when is anyone’s guess. According to department chair. Dr. Frank Poirier, Lord Hall is now considered “swing space” which means it serves as temporary space for any department that needs it (pers. comm., email to author December 4, 2000). Lord Hall will probably be around for a while longer and the Department of Anthropology will probably still be there when the wrecking crew shows up. Well, that’s my prediction anyway.
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1988    Interpretations of Culture Change in the Eastern Woodlands During the Late Woodland Period. Occasional Papers in Anthropology Number 3. Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.
Good Day! 
WELCOME TO OSUToday, the latest news and information for faculty and staff of The Ohio State University for Tuesday, Sept. 30. The deadline for submissions is noon the prior business day.

Department of Anthropology moves to Smith Laboratory

The Department of Anthropology has moved from Lord Hall to Smith Laboratory. While the move went smoothly, there will be some delays in services as laboratories and offices are unpacked and made fully operational. The main office is located in Smith 4034. The new address is 174 W. 18th Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43210-1106. All phone and e-mail contacts will remain the same as before. Contact: Jean Whipple, 292-4149
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
DOCUMENTATION OF
LORD HALL, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
(OH HABS No. _______

COLUMBUS,
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

October 2008
Lord Hall, The Ohio State University
Columbus
Franklin County
Ohio

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service

Ohio State Historic Preservation Office
567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211

October 2008
Location: 124 West 17th Avenue, Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. The building is located on the north side of West 17th Avenue, with Neil Avenue to the west and North College Road to the east.

Northwest Columbus, Ohio, USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle NAD 27, Zone 17N, 4429651, 328201

Present Owner: The Ohio State University, 154 West 12th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

Present Use: The current tenants are in the process of vacating the building; the current tenants are the Anthropology Department, the Business Operations Department, the Office of Information Technology, and the School of Music.

Significance: John Milner Associates\(^1\) recommended that Lord Hall be considered individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C: under Criterion A as an example of The Ohio State University’s early twentieth-century development, and under Criterion C as an example of the work of architect Frank L. Packard (1866–1923) and a remnant of his 1904 Master Plan for the university. The building’s broad, low overhanging hipped roof, arched windows, and symmetrical composition show influences of the Italian Renaissance Revival style, which Packard used for several Columbus educational and institutional buildings, including The Ohio State University’s Biological Hall (built 1898, demolished 1922).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date(s) of construction: Plans for the building were approved on August 13, 1904. Construction bids were opened on September 15, 1904. The building was completed in September of 1905, and the board of trustees accepted the building in April 1906.\(^2\)

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2. **Architect:** The architect for the original structure was Frank L. Packard, who was also responsible for the master plan for the campus. Packard was a major Columbus architect of the period, and was responsible for Hayes and Biological halls on The Ohio State University campus. Packard's other work in Columbus includes the Chittenden Hotel, the Old Governor's Mansion, Memorial Hall, the Columbus Athenaeum, and many other significant buildings. Packard also designed many buildings outside of Columbus and is especially well-known as a designer of institutional buildings.

3. **Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses:** The Ohio State University is the original and present owner. The building was initially used for the School of Mines and was known as the Mines Building.

4. **Builder, contractor, suppliers:** John H. Hina was awarded the construction contract in September of 1904. There is no known information about the supplier or builder.

5. **Original plans and construction:** The original plans, drawn by Frank L. Packard, called for a three-story structure with brick exterior walls and a mixture of brick and wood-frame interior walls, and a wood interior floor structure. The plans do not have a date but were approved in August 1904. In November of 1904, the foundation walls were complete. Within a year, the exterior was finished. The building was approved by the board of trustees in April of 1906 at a cost of $185,000.³

6. **Alterations and additions:** The first addition was approved by the board of trustees in March of 1918. Joseph N. Bradford prepared the plans for enlarging the building on the northwest section. The general contract was awarded to D. W. McGrath, the electrical contract was awarded to McMaster Company, and the heating and plumbing contract went to the William H. Conklin Company. Construction was completed on October 13, 1918, at a cost of $24,172.20.⁴

A second addition was approved by the board of trustees in February of 1940. Howard Dwight Smith prepared the plans for a one-story enlargement of the east side of the building; this addition was used for metallurgical analyses (Fuller 1941:24). No formal contracts or bids were awarded because this was a Works Progress Administration project. The building was completed by the end of 1940 at a cost of $39,980.⁵

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³ Ibid.
⁴ Ibid.
⁵ Ibid.
Lord Hall received an overhaul in 1968. Remodeling specifications called for new hardware, the replacement of four doors, use of concrete to level the floors where needed (so that 1/8” vinyl asbestos flooring could be added), new HVAC equipment, new plumbing, new electrical equipment (including switches, fuses, lighting, and transformers), and a new telephone system.

B. Historical Context

1. Franklin County

During historical-period early times, members of the Delaware, Mingo, and Wyandot tribes inhabited the area that encompasses present-day Franklin County; settlements were especially prominent along the Scioto River in what is now downtown Columbus. Lucas Sullivant of Kentucky established the first Euro-American settlement in the area in 1797. Sullivant had surveyed a portion of the Virginia Military District west of the Scioto River and laid out the town of Franklinton on the west bank of the Scioto River, across from present-day downtown Columbus. James Scott, who owned the first store in Franklinton, joined Sullivant in 1798. Other Euro-American settlements soon sprang up in the area that would become Franklin County.

Franklin County was established on April 30, 1803, making it one of the first counties organized in the new state of Ohio. Franklin County was carved out of the larger Ross County and initially stretched from present-day Pickaway County on the south to Lake Erie on the north, and from the present-day location of Greene County on the west to near the present-day Franklin–Licking County Line on the east. The county consisted of land from four different land surveys: the Virginia Military District, U.S. Military Lands, Congress Lands, and the Refugee Tract. Franklin County did not reach its current boundaries until 1857. Before this time, portions of the original county territory were used to form Delaware County (1808), Pickaway County (1810), Madison County (1810), and Union County (1820), and in 1850 Madison Township gained land from Fairfield County. The final adjustment to the county was made in 1857, when nine and a half sections from the southwest corner of Licking County were incorporated into Franklin County.

8. Franklin County Historical Society, *Columbus and Franklin County: Past and Present* (Columbus: Franklin County Historical Society, 1972), 35.
4. Lord Hall

The Department of Mines and the School of Mines Building

The Department of Mines was established in 1877 for the study of mining techniques and engineering. Students learned how to keep records of what had been extracted and analyzed, along with mineralogy, metallurgy, drafting, and chemistry, to name just a few areas. The department featured the newest mine surveying and inspection instruments.22

The university needed a building to house the rapidly growing Department of Mines, and in August of 1904, architect Frank L. Packard submitted the design for the School of Mines Building, later to be called Lord Hall. The Mines Building (alternately known as the Mining Building, the School of Mines Building, and the Mines and Ceramics Building)23 was complete by 1906 and initially housed the Ceramics, Metallurgy, and Mining departments.

Frank L. Packard, Architect

Frank Packard had attended classes at The Ohio State University before transferring to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he graduated in 1887. After graduation, Packard returned to Columbus and in 1892 founded the architectural firm Yost and Packard, along with Joseph L. Yost. By 1899, Packard was sole owner of the firm.24

The Mines Building is a good example of Frank Packard's design during a time in his career when he was becoming more strongly affected by Spanish and Italian–influenced architecture, including the Italian Renaissance Revival

23. The John H. Herrick Archives, entry 051.
and Mission styles. Earlier in Packard’s career, medieval-based styles had held more sway. For example, Packard’s earliest Ohio State University campus building, Hayes Hall (1893), had rough, massive stonework and large arched openings, reflecting the medieval-based Richardsonian Romanesque style.

However, with the popularity of Neoclassical buildings in the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Classical Italian forms began to make their way back into the American architectural vocabulary, displacing the medieval revival asymmetry of the 1870s and 1880s. Frank Packard responded to the Columbian Exposition’s influence quickly, and embraced the Italian Renaissance Revival style on the Ohio State campus in 1898 with his design for Biological Hall (demolished in 1922). Biological Hall was a two-story, hipped-roof building with a central arcade that had columns and arched windows, a symmetrical exterior composition, carved Classical stone details, and other elements of the Italian Renaissance Revival style.

The 1904 Mines Building was Packard’s second Italian Renaissance Revival building at Ohio State, but its Renaissance detail was not as obvious as that of Biological Hall. The Mines Building’s gabled central pavilion, arched windows, and broad overhanging roof are hallmarks of the style; however, the ornament of the building is relatively plain, without the elaborate arched moldings, carved stone details, and columned central arcade seen at Biological Hall. While Biological Hall suggests the influence of the high-style Italian Renaissance Revival design of McKim, Mead, and White’s Boston Public Library (1888–1895), the Mines Building is a plainer building, suggesting a desire to show more restraint.

The main entrance to the Mines Building, with its stone entablature and brackets, is one of the most recognizable Italian Renaissance Revival features of the building, and it is the most similar to the more elaborate stonework of Biological Hall. The wood brackets under the overhanging roof of the Mines Building are also a common Italian Renaissance Revival feature. However, the Mines Building’s exposed wood rafter tails and lack of boxed eaves is somewhat unusual for the Italian Renaissance Revival style. This feature suggests that Packard may also have been slightly influenced in this design by the Arts and Crafts movement’s Mission style, which is based on Spanish Colonial precedents. The Mission style was also very popular at the time Frank Packard was designing the Mines Building, and other Packard buildings of the time show Mission and Arts and Crafts influence.
Original Layout

Lord Hall has five levels: one below-ground basement, one raised basement level (referred to in this report as the “ground floor”), two floors fully above ground (the first and second floors), and an attic. (Note that on the original drawings for the building, some of the floors have slightly different names; the basement is called the “basement and/or foundation,” and the ground floor is labeled the “basement.”)

On the original drawings, only the central part of the foundation area below the existing ground surface was excavated. The rooms in this below-ground basement area housed the mechanicals for the building. This area was connected to the ground floor through a small storage room east of the ground-floor front entrance, and a metal spiral staircase provided entrance to the foundation area.

All three above-ground floors of the building had a central corridor running the length of the building. The ground floor, first floor, and second floor were connected by two large staircases at the rear of the building. Restrooms were located on each floor at the rear of the building next to the west staircase.

Ground Floor: The ground floor (labeled the “basement” on the original construction drawings) had a long work room along the west side of the building. A pottery machine room and a brick machine room were located at the front of the building to the west of the main entrance or vestibule. Several rooms with coal-washing machinery, a calorimeter, and a preparation space ran along the east side of the ground floor. The metallographic and fuel lab, along with a room for gas analysis and mine ventilation, were located at the front of the building to the east of the main entrance or vestibule. Storage rooms and workshops were located at the rear of the building on the ground floor. Two square, one-story extensions were located off the rear of the building. The extension on the west end of the building housed the kiln room, and the extension on the east side of the building housed the assay laboratory. These one-story extensions had tin roofing.

First Floor: In the 1904 plan of the first floor, the ceramic chemical laboratory was at the west end of this central corridor, while the metallurgical laboratory was at the east end. Smaller laboratories were on the north side of the corridor at the rear of the building, and large lecture halls and offices were located on the south side of the corridor, at the front of the building.

Second Floor: On the second floor, drawing rooms capped the central corridor at the west and east ends of the building. The department library was housed in the central room above the first-floor entrance at the front of the building.
The library was flanked on the west by the museum and on the east by the department offices and a lecture room. Across the corridor on the north side of the building were a photographic room with a dark room, an instrument room, the department laboratory, a second dark room, and a blue-printing room.

Additions: A two-story extension off the northwest corner of the building was constructed in 1918 to house the ceramics lab and kiln rooms. A second addition to the building was constructed in 1940; this one-story addition extended the first floor on the building’s east end and was built to house the metallurgy laboratories.25

Noteworthy Events

In 1911, the Dean of the College of Engineering, Edward Orton Jr., petitioned the president of the university to change the name of the School of Mines building to Lord Hall, in honor of Nathaniel Wright Lord, professor and first Dean of the College of Engineering. Professor Lord was a pioneer in the field of fuel research, who hoped to find a source other than oil that could be widely used in machinery.26 A letter from Edward Orton to President W. O. Thompson dated August 22, 1911, states that this petition was made by “J. A. Crews and other students.”27 In this case, the students were to prepare and place the commemorative bronze tablet since they had put forth the petition, unlike in previous cases, when the board of trustees performed those tasks. As of July 2008, the bronze plaque dedicated to N. W. Lord was still in Lord Hall.

Lord’s sister, Caroline A. Lord, was a well-known Ohio artist who donated an oil painting of Nathaniel Lord in July of 1912.28 The current location of this portrait, however, is not known.29

The building has survived two fires: one in 1959 and one in 1970. The first fire occurred when a painter’s drop cloth was wrapped around a light bulb that was left on through the night.30 The fire was confined to the third floor and the roof, but smoke and water damaged the rest of the building.31 The State Controlling Boards released emergency funds to allow repairs immediately,

25. The John H. Herrick Archives, entry 051.
28. “1912 Oil Portrait by C. A. Lord To Be Hung in Lord Hall,” The Ohio State University Monthly 4:15 (July 1912).
31. Ibid.
which cost a total of $170,000. In the meantime, classes were transferred to other buildings.

The 1970 fire occurred during campus protests against the Vietnam War—a firebomb was thrown into Lord Hall shortly after news of the Kent State shootings was reported. The university’s printing equipment was being used in the building at the time, and the damage to that equipment was placed in the thousands of dollars.  

Tenants and Uses

According to a 1939 map of The Ohio State University main campus, Lord Hall was still functioning as the Mines Building. The 1939 map listed Lord Hall as the home of the Ceramic Engineering, Metallurgy, Mine Engineering, and Mineralogy departments.

The Anthropology Department has been the building’s primary tenant for the last forty years of its existence. The department occupied the eastern one-half of the first and second floors of the building, and in later years expanded to occupy office spaces in the 1918 addition, the former pottery machine room on the ground floor, and all large rooms along the front of the building on the second floor. The work room along the west side of the ground floor and the old kiln room served as space for university maintenance. The east side of the ground floor, as well as the 1940 extension, housed the media and technology offices of classroom support. Other portions of the building served as swing space for other departments. During the 1990s, for example, the music teaching assistants occupied the former ceramic chemical laboratory, lecture room, and museum office on the west side of the first floor at the front of the building.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement: Lord Hall is a three-story Italian Renaissance Revival building with a few features that appear to be related to the Arts and Crafts Movement and Mission style. It has a symmetrical exterior with an overhanging roof with wood brackets. The exterior is clad in common-bond brick with a limited amount of limestone trim. The ornament on the exterior of the building is fairly restrained. The interior consists of corridors and classroom, laboratory, and office spaces. Although the interior has a mix of original plaster walls and newer gypsum board walls, most of

33. The Ohio State University, “Map of Part of Grounds” (1939), Maps file, The Ohio State University Archives.
the original layout has been retained. The interior also has some original woodwork, but the ceilings are post-1960 acoustical tile, and the floors have been covered with asbestos vinyl tile.

B. Description of Exterior

1. **Overall dimensions**: The building is a three-story structure with a basement. The original structure was roughly rectangular in plan but became L-shaped when a 1918 addition was constructed at the rear of the building. The gross size of the structure is 61,119 square feet, and the net assignable space is 40,909 square feet. The building volume has been estimated at 991,660 cubic feet.

2. **Foundation**: The foundation is composed mostly of coursed, rough stone masonry, although some portions of the foundation masonry are composed of common-bond brick.

3. **Walls**: Composed of common-bond brick masonry, the face brick on the building's exterior is dark brown-red in color. The building features herringbone-patterned brickwork on the arched arcade on the center pavilion of the façade, and in several other locations. The walls also include limestone trim elements such as copings, window sills, beltcourses, and springpoints.

4. **Structural system, framing**: The building is supported by the brick masonry exterior walls and by a series of brick masonry interior walls. Wood joists support the interior floor structure.

5. **Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads**: The building features a shallow recessed porch on the façade. The porch is reached by a pair of two-flight brick-and-stone staircases that extend out from the porch on the sides. The staircases are closed in by low brick walls. The porch itself includes two stone brackets, an entablature and cornice, and a plain, flat stone peaked pediment without a raking cornice.

6. **Chimneys**: The rear (northeast) wall of the building has several tall, fairly plain brick chimneys faced with the same common-bond brick as the rest of the building. The chimneys are trimmed and capped in limestone or cast stone. The roof also features three small wood cupolas with hipped roofs. The cupolas are mounted at the peak of the hipped roof, and are equipped with louvered openings on all sides, for attic ventilation.
7. Openings

a. **Doorways and doors**: The main entrance on the southwest façade retains its original arched transom, but the outer vestibule doors are mid-century wood three-light replacements. Front ground-level doors are two-light mid-century wood doors. Other exterior doors are post-1960 metal and glass replacements.

b. **Windows**: The building retains its original wood windows. In most cases, the windows are groupings of two-over-two double hung windows, with two-light sidelights and a four-light transom. The window openings are either flat-headed or segmental arched. The windows of the second-story arched arcade on the façade’s central pavilion are six-over-six wood double-hung. The building also has windows that are wood two-over-two with a two-light transom, and there are a few examples of two-over-two windows with no transom or sidelights at all.

8. Roof

a. **Shape, covering**: The roof of the central pavilion is low pitched and front gabled. The roof of the side wings is hipped, with a broad, low overhang. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles.

b. **Cornice, eaves**: The broad roof overhang has open eaves with exposed wood rafter tails, and long, thin wood brackets. In some cases, the brackets appear in groups of two, while other portions of the building feature single brackets. The front corners of the side wings feature a diagonally mounted corner bracket that is slightly longer than the other brackets. The central gable of the façade has a limestone raking cornice with a brick parapet above it.

C. General Description of Interior

1. **Floor plan**: The basement has a small number of rooms in the center of the building and a second large room in the east addition that is also accessible space. The ground floor, which is a raised basement level, has two staircases at the center, and an east-west central corridor that provides access to a few large rooms and a large number of offices and other small spaces. The north portion of the building’s northwest wing is entered through a set of glass doors on the west side of the wing, and this section of the wing is not accessible from the rest of the ground floor. The first floor has staircases and an entrance hall in the center bay. An east-west main corridor gives access to the first floor’s classroom, office, and laboratory spaces. The second floor is
also arranged with classrooms, offices, and other spaces, fanning out off of a central east-west corridor. The top floor level is an unfinished attic space.

2. **Stairway:** A flight of steps in the central entrance hall leads to the main east-west corridor. On the north side of this corridor are two symmetrically arranged staircases leading to the first and second floors. These two main staircases have wood steps covered in vinyl asbestos tile. The railing and newel posts are wood covered in a dark brown finish, and are fairly plain. The building also features a single narrow wood staircase leading up to the attic from the second floor.

3. **Flooring:** Most of the original wood flooring has been covered in asbestos and vinyl tile.

4. **Wall and ceiling finishes**
   
a. **Basement:** The walls are mostly composed of exposed stone foundation and some brick masonry. The ceilings are composed of exposed structural wood.

b. **Ground floor:** The walls are a mixture of original plaster and replacement gypsum wall board. Most of the ceilings are acoustical tile hung ceilings dating to the last thirty years.

c. **First floor:** The walls are a mixture of original plaster and replacement gypsum wall board. Most of the ceilings are acoustical tile hung ceilings dating to the last thirty years.

d. **Second floor:** The walls are a mixture of original plaster and gypsum wall board. Most of the ceilings are now acoustical tile hung ceilings dating to the last thirty years.

e. **Attic:** The attic space is unfinished, with the wood roof trusses and roof sheathing exposed, and there are some original fire walls with exposed common-bond red brick.

5. **Doorways, doors, and windows**
   
a. **Doors:** The front entrance vestibule has a set of original multi-light double doors that have been painted black. In the remainder of the building, some original paneled wood doors remain in office, classroom, and corridor spaces. Several six-panel wood doors appear to date from the original construction episode, while several two-panel one-light doors likely date to ca. 1918–1930. Other doors are post-
1960 flat metal and flat wood replacements. The original interior door openings tend to have wood transoms.

b. Windows: The building retains the majority of its original double hung two-over-two and six-over-six windows, with some window groups also featuring original sidelights and transoms. Original windows are visible on much of the interior of the building.

6. Decorative features and trim: The interior retains some of the original baseboards, door casings, chair rails, stair rails, and newel posts, but some of the original trim was removed after several fires damaged the building’s interior.

a. Fireplaces: There are no fireplaces in the building.

b. Cabinets and built-in features: No original cabinetry was observed. The current laboratory cabinets date from the 1960s and later.

7. Hardware: Some of the original paneled wood doors have their original hardware, including doorknobs and locks.

8. Mechanical equipment

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The building is covered by Ohio State’s central steam heating system. Other heating and cooling systems are post-1960 modifications to the building.

b. Lighting: Most lighting observed was composed of post-1960 fluorescent and incandescent fixtures.

c. Plumbing: No original bathroom fixtures were observed during fieldwork.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Lord Hall is situated in an institutional campus, surrounded by other structures belonging to the main campus of The Ohio State University. Lord Hall is the only building on the campus that is not oriented parallel to the surrounding streets. Oriented on a northwest-to-southeast axis, Lord Hall sits at a diagonal to 17th Avenue; this positioning can be attributed to the building’s architect, Frank L. Packard, who also developed the campus master plan.

According to the campus master plan, a diagonal street would run parallel to the front of Lord Hall and The Ohio State University Armory, which was
destroyed by fire. Maps dating to the years immediately after the construction
do show a winding road running roughly along the present course of 17th
Avenue. This road eventually became a straight line running diagonally from
east of Hayes Hall to the Sherman Street intersection on 18th Avenue. The
road approximated the sidewalk that now runs from the front of Lord Hall
over to 18th Avenue, by the new Math Tower. A curved, roughly diagonal
road running in front of the Armory and Lord Hall can also be seen on 1920s
aerial photographs of The Ohio State University campus.

2. **Historic landscape design:** The building sits on a small grass lot with
foundation plantings and a few trees. The south side of the building has
always had this type of landscape arrangement; however, a dense woods
associated with the original American Picturesque style campus plan
originally surrounded Lord Hall on the north, east, and west sides. These
woods are visible on campus photographs dating from 1913 through the
1920s, but by the 1940s, new construction north of Lord Hall had largely
destroyed this wooded area.

3. **Outbuildings:** There are no outbuildings associated with Lord Hall.