It covers 11.5 acres per OSU/ALUMNI MAGAZINE article dated, November, 1984.

The length of the LONG WALK from the front of the Main Library to the curb at College Road is 1,275 feet. See Herrick's, *The OSU Oval*, p. 34 for source of this information.
A patron asked how long the walk around the Oval is (July 2010). This is the response from FOD:

From: "Pahouja, Regni" <pahouja.1@osu.edu>
To: 'Tamar Chute' <chute.6@osu.edu>
Date: Thu, 08 Jul 2010 15:23:40 -0400
Subject: RE: Oval Question

Tamar,

According to our GIS staff, length of Oval is 3773 feet.

Thanks,

Regni S. Pahouja
Archive Data Manager
Facilities Operations and Development
2003 Millikin Road, rm 111
Columbus, OH 43210
Direct: 292-2421
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Oddments on the Oval

Professor's whim, trustees' objection, architect's idea account for strange construction of three buildings

By MALCOLM H. GALBRAITH

WHEN Howard Dwight Smith, Ohio State University architect, retires in the not too distant future, he may prepare a book dealing with the various structures gracing the "cow pasture" campus.

While the historical background and architectural style may play prominent roles in the general theme of the publication, there'll probably be a mixture of anecdotes revealing what went on behind the scenes—circumstances which influenced not only the location of the buildings but even the detailed specifications.

One outstanding example is the old physics building erected on the south side of the oval in 1906. It's now known as Mendenhall Laboratory, named in honor of a former physics professor and trustee. Some 50 feet above the ground, in the south wall, is a plugged-up hole, two feet square, and the lighter-colored tan brick reveals the dictates of an old physics professor.

In those days, the chairman of a department was head of a building committee when the university planned a new structure. In 1906, Professor Benjamin Franklin Thomas was head of the physics department, and, in that capacity, he dictated two specifications. He not only decreed that the hole be placed in the south wall, but that the structure itself be placed at a slightly different angle so that its front was not quite parallel with the fronts of adjacent buildings.

Professor Thomas had taken into consideration the position of the sun during the morning hours, and he was anxious to have the sun's rays fall di-
Professor Thomas' proposal to place Mendenhall Laboratory at an odd angle, inspired Smith, then a student, to rev this cartoon for the 1906 Mako.

Proposed football field layout

was patterned after Yale Bowl

city upon his demonstration table so he could conduct experiments in his_Human Physics class—using the unaltered rays.

A wooden door, opening from the side, kept out the elements. But with the remodeling of the building in 1929, the local "peep hole" passed into oblivion, just 18 years after Professor Thomas died in Boothbay, Maine, at sea.

Still another oddity in the arrangement of the university structures is the location of Lord Hall, the seat of mechanical and ceramic engineering. Located north of Hayes Hall and at a peculiar angle on West 17th Avenue, the building is simply out of line with any other building on the campus.

The building dates back to about the time when Yale University built its famous bowl. This grandaddy of football stadia was laid out solely upon the position of the sun at 3 p.m. on fall days, in order to reduce to a minimum the amount of sun which would shine in the eyes of players of either contesting team—a sporting gesture, if nothing else.

Taking this as a cue, Frank L. Packard, famous architect, sold the Ohio State trustees on his proposal to build a football field in an area a short distance west of Lord Hall, and running in a general northwest-southeast direction. But that wasn't enough. Since the competing teams dressed in the armory for the games, it would be necessary to provide a roadway to the new athletic field. So, Packard, with pencil sketches only, convinced the trustees, and the first—and only—building erected on the new thoroughfare was Lord Hall.

Apparently, it was not until the university erected Lord Hall that the trustees found there was enough room remaining to erect other structures on the opposite side of the proposed roadway from Lord Hall, as Packard originally planned.

The subsequent decision to erect the stadium down by the river has stamped Lord Hall as a monstrosity in the overall plan of university buildings—a situation which is difficult to explain to the casual visitor on the campus.
at the north the court around which will be grouped the buildings of the College of Engineering. The Medical group will be on an axis extending west from Eleventh and Neil Avenues. The residential, or dormitory group will be on an axis, extending east between Eleventh Avenue and the Twelfth Avenue roadway. This group will include Oxley Hall and its future enlargement, the new Women's Building, Ohio Union, and the proposed dormitories for men. The College of Agriculture buildings are already grouped along Neil Avenue. The group of the College of Education will occupy the site of Ohio Field. The new Athletic Field will have at the north the Stadium, with the Men's Gymnasium, the Armory, and the Women's Gymnasium on the east side facing west and presenting an appropriate architectural front to the athletic field and drill ground. The central Oval, with its formalized arrangement of walks and drives will remain undisturbed for many years to come, but undoubtedly more important buildings will replace some of the structures now facing this space. At High Street and Fifteenth Avenue, the principal entrance to the campus will be architecturally emphasized by the erection of a building on the north side of the roadway, similar in architecture to the Archaeological Museum, the two buildings being connected by some feature combining building and landscape architecture.

The planting of trees, shrubbery, and perennial plants will keep pace with the construction of buildings, roads and walks, all combining to make a harmonious whole.

The grouping of buildings with due regard to formality and symmetry. In the preparation of the campus map this general principle was not deviated from except in one particular, the preservation of the informal aspect of Mirror Lake and its surroundings.

To quote Professor Bradford:

The map was based on two fundamentals: (1) Principal and secondary axes; (2) the grouping of buildings carrying related work, sufficient elasticity being incorporated in the plan to permit of meeting unforeseen future problems.

The principal axis is east and west, commencing at High Street and Fifteenth Avenue and extending west through the center of the Oval and the Library. A main north and south axis extends from Eleventh Avenue passing through the centers of Ohio Union, Orton Hall, and the Chemistry Building to Woodruff Avenue. Neil Avenue forms another north and south axis, while the location of the Stadium establishes still another.

The grouping of buildings according to related work may be explained as follows: The Orton Hall-Chemistry Building axis will reach...
The Main Building in the Seventies
The Oval

UNIVERSITY DAY ON CAMPUS

FROM: The Ohio State University Monthly, April, 1921. p. 8.
Blind students can see their way across the Oval using these pebbled paths.

Some changes in Oval Mall seen by blind

One of Ohio State's most time-honored landmarks, the Oval, has undergone something of a facelift this summer. Some of these changes are subtle ones, not obvious to the hordes hurrying across its walkways these fall days, but they're most meaningful to the handicapped.

First, a special sidewalk for the blind was laid along the west edge of the main north-south walkway. The one-foot wide strip is made of "coarse exposed aggregate," said Dean Ramsey, director of grounds maintenance and development. The exposed stone gives a rough surface, almost like cobblestone, which is discernible by either foot or cane.

Nancy Brower, acting director of the Office for the Physically Impaired, emphasized the walk is a pilot project and if successful, may be introduced elsewhere on campus. Her office is now contacting Ohio State's approximately 50 blind or partially sighted students to inform them of its existence.

"Crossing the Oval and negotiating the intersections with only sound cues is very difficult for the blind," Ms. Brower said, "and we felt the summer would be the right time to provide them with more mobility. In addition to marking the north-south axis, we laid five-foot wide strips at various intersections, so the blind can tell more easily where they are."

The area directly in front of Hagerty Hall and Mendenhall Laboratory was also changed to meet the needs of the handicapped, as well as physically able students. S. Oval Dr. was transformed into S. Oval Mall, as one more step in the university's move towards a pedestrian campus. Ramps were installed for those in wheelchairs. Emergency vehicles may use a 12-foot access route. Landscaping and planting was done with outdoor classroom areas in mind.

"We implemented a non-linear design," Mr. Ramsey said, "which means we gave the ground contour.

Combined cost of the sidewalk for the blind and the changes in the S. Oval Mall area were estimated at $68,000.

When landscaping work has been done around University Hall next spring, the conversion of the Oval from busy streets to quiet walkways will be complete.
University limits Oval activities

By Jeff Reed

It is no coincidence if there seem to be fewer activities on the Oval this quarter. The University's administration, by unwritten order, is toning down Oval activities.

"We are attempting to limit activities on the Oval as much as possible and would like to see more activities scheduled on the Oval's perimeter and at the student unions," Edward Q. Moulton, University vice president for Business and Administration, said Wednesday.

Moulton said there would be no official written policy concerning Oval activities because each activity request is subject to "individual judgment" by the activities scheduling office.

He said it seems "logical" to him that activities be held at places other than the Oval, particularly areas near the unions, because of the accessibility to indoor organization offices and other union facilities.

Moulton said University administrators have always attempted to "preserve the Oval as a green spot for students to sit or walk through." He said past administrations denied requests to construct buildings on the Oval.

Mary C. Bruer, administrative assistant for activities scheduling, said the policy of "cooling" Oval activities was developed partly because "things got out of hand" last Spring Quarter.

"Most Oval activity requests are reasonable, but last Spring Quarter we had to deny requests for a carnival, a 3,000 pound sculpture and a parachute jump," Bruer said.

She said aside from "outrageous" requests, activities that would be denied include those that would disrupt classes or damage the Oval.

In regard to limiting Oval activities, James G. Trainer, coordinator for Student Organizations Finance Office, said he had been unofficially informed by "higher ups" at the beginning of Autumn Quarter that no activities would be allowed on the Oval.

Richard H. Armitage, vice president for student services, said he spoke with Moulton about Oval activities, and foresees "no trouble now" with the scheduling of "limited activities shy of a rock concert."
Students travel over winter’s blanket

12 January 1978

A panoramic view from the top floor of the main library shows the changing of the classes on the Oval Tuesday with snow-bound Columbus in the background.
Main Oval walk will be replaced with new surface

Students who pass through the Oval will have to get used to an inconvenience while a large section of sidewalk is being replaced.

"The sidewalk was beginning to deteriorate with a lot of potholes and cracks," said Harry Mauger, a private contractor handling the restoration. "We'll replace a 1,000-foot section of the main walk."

The resurfacing should be completed by September 1, according to Mauger. But he doubts if it will be completed. "The weather will be the major problem," he said. "If the weather is bad, then we can't work."

The new sidewalk will have a different look, Dean Ramsey, director of Grounds Maintenance said. "We're laying down an exposed aggregate surface," Ramsey said. "It's the kind of surface that shows many different types of gravel," he added.

Kelma and Mauger Construction dig up a deteriorating sidewalk on the Oval. The new sidewalk will be an exposed aggregate concrete surface.
OSU students need less restrictive attitude toward modern artworks

By Jean Kinney
11-20-79

It was just about a year ago that an ad hoc committee at Ohio State was working to secure a grant, matched by other funds, to provide the Ohio State campus with a sculpture that would have set it apart from other college campuses without radically altering it.

The proposed sculpture would have been incorporated into the Oval, sloping some of the sections to a maximum height of 30 inches, keeping them covered with grass.

In describing the project he submitted to the committee, sculptor Robert Irwin realized the importance of not "radically changing the existing commitments to the use and traditions" of the Oval. He considered, in fact, the would-be raised sections of the Oval "a good height to provide a sitting place."

Though problems with the sculpture arose over its cost and with administrators' worries that it might leave the Oval less accessible to the handicapped, those bugs might have been worked out.

But once word of the project reached the ears of the student body, it was doomed. Student reaction to the possibility of change showed a blind reverence for tradition as predictable as Saturday night's High Street victory "celebration."

This year, the same National Endowment of the Arts grant that might have made Irwin's sculpture possible will not be sought. Betty Collings, director of the university galleries, said last year's sculpture fiasco proved that not only are more administrative channels for such large-scale projects needed, but an awareness and appreciation for contemporary art on the part of the OSU community is necessary, also.

While Andrew Broekema, dean of the College of the Arts, is working to form a permanent committee to set guidelines for future proposals like Irwin's, Collings is attempting to make the OSU community more receptive to public art.

The galleries office recently organized a day-long forum featuring contemporary artists and others involved in public art, who spoke on their own works and the tendency of Ohio's artists to leave the state, finding little outlet here for their artwork.

The best recent example of this, perhaps, is George Segal's powerful sculpture commemorating 1970's Kent State shooting victims — ironically and unfortunately, the sculpture resides at Princeton University in New Jersey. Kent State's version of "commemoration" consists of a gymnasium.

Though the Irwin project has been temporarily laid to rest at Ohio State, it is not necessarily a finished issue. And no doubt other provocative sculpture proposals for the campus will surface in the future.

Close-minded rejection of public art is a selfish reaction.

OSU students should remember that the campus belongs not only to them, but to future generations of college-goers as well, who may be more appreciative of creative change, which can be exciting and interesting.

As OSU administrators endeavor to establish realistic guidelines for future campus art, students would do well, as Irwin put it after the flat-out rejection of his Oval proposal, to "examine their attitudes if they're that restrictive."

Jean Kinney is a senior from Columbus majoring in journalism.
The rains came on June 2 and for a few hours turned High Street into a river and the Oval into a replica of Mirror Lake. It's not often—and that's fortunate—that the Main Library is reflected in a "lake" on the Oval.
A long walk through time and change

The Ovall Springs to Life
established in 1872, and from the beginning cadets had drilled on the Oval, cavalry as well as infantry. When cadets formed companies on the Oval in the early 1920s, they wore white trousers with their fancy dress uniforms, and they marched to the Oval, company by company drawn up in squares. The photographs of 1970 show National Guard troops in battle gear confronting students. Clouds of tear gas waft under the elms. But by 1978 The Five Brothers were elms planted by the class of 1891. For decades the trees cast their fluttering shadows across the heart of the campus, until they succumbed one by one to Dutch elm disease. The last was removed in 1972. Only about 10 elms survive on or near the Oval.

Once all High Street had been lined with towering elms. The streetcars that brought students to the Oval made a crackling electric noise, and sometimes big sparks danced along the trolley lines. There was no beer or liquor on High Street in those days, just the stories of old photos housed in the University's Photo Archives, though, a different Oval emerges. Throughout time, humor and fun have had their place on the Oval, even during more serious moments.

Ohio State's military science department had been established in 1872, and from the beginning cadets had drilled on the Oval, cavalry as well as infantry. When cadets formed companies on the Oval in the early 1920s, they wore white trousers with their fancy dress uniforms, and they marched to the Oval, company by company drawn up in squares. The photographs of 1970 show National Guard troops in battle gear confronting students. Clouds of tear gas waft under the elms. But by 1978 The Five Brothers were elms planted by the class of 1891. For decades the trees cast their fluttering shadows across the heart of the campus, until they succumbed one by one to Dutch elm disease. The last was removed in 1972. Only about 10 elms survive on or near the Oval.

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the years after the Great War. But at one restaurant across from the Oval, one woman remembers, a kindly owner sold soda for a nickel and allowed a boy and a girl to sit by the window all afternoon, until the dinner crowd came in.

Sometimes classes of elementary school children were led around the Oval to look at the wide variety of trees and to hear about the collection of stones in front of Orton Hall. On Sundays faculty members came from their nearby Victorian homes and strolled the Oval with their families. On more than one occasion a touring car stopped by the Oval, and people with jugs got out and walked to the spring by Mirror Lake to fill up on cold, clear water.

From the beginning there had been cane rushes, a rough sort of game where one of a group of sophomores put a cane down his trouser leg, and the freshmen had to find it and get it out. There were also tugs of war and pie-eating contests.

The Oval for years was a favored place to dine, and in days before air conditioning the anxious looks at the sky and talk of rain seemed worth the risk. Time and again the lawn was set with long rows of tables, double rows of folding chairs, and the striped tents of caterers.

Greased pigs and tugs of war

By the late 1930s, Tradition Day had become May Week, and while much activity filled the Oval, the larger gatherings had been shifted to the stadium. Traditionally, however, gatherings at the stadium involved a parade of sorts across the Oval from the corner of 15th Avenue and High Street.

The May Week pageant in 1947, like most in that era, centered on the stadium, but the Oval that year was the scene of baseball games, a tug of war, and a pushball game with 50 men on a side.

Today, between 5,000 and 15,000 students use the Oval on a single day. When the weather's especially fine, it's necessary to empty the trash receptacles twice. The maintenance people have found that the cleaner they keep the Oval, the more responsible the students are about litter.

Because of heavy foot traffic the lawn needs extra aeration and seeding. Trees are pruned regularly, and there is an annual spraying for the elm bark beetle.

At the Oval's northwest corner is the Sundial, given by the class of 1905. Moved from its original location, it now stands between the library and University Hall.

Silent relic of the past

The face of the venerable bronze instrument has taken the weather well, but the gnomon, the angled pin that casts a shadow to mark the hours, was missing for many years. A sundial without a gnomon is like a clock without hands. It is a strange relic of the past—an almost forgotten sundial. But now, once again, the device marks the passing hours, thanks to a generous alumnus.

Someone, perhaps a hazed fraternity pledge, regularly shines the nose on the statue of William Oxley Thompson, which stands in front of the library in full academic regalia and peers down the length of the Long Walk. Thompson was president of the University from 1899 to 1925.

The real William Oxley Thompson was there on that day in 1913, when the 40th Anniversary Pageant featured the girls with the big butterfly wings, the strange combination of turbine and Maypole, and the janitor announcing the absence of the civil engineers.

One wonders, however, what he would say about today's frisbee craze or the world's largest musical chairs game. If statues could only talk.

Burton Cantrell is associate editor of Living Single magazine, and Sandra Fisanick is contributing editor to Columbus Monthly.
Anthony Rosta, naked to the waist, dashes over the grass to leap and catch a sailing frisbee behind his knees. In one effortless sweep he whirls, leaps again, and sails the frisbee back.

It's not just the center of campus,” he says. “The Oval is a symbol of the whole University.” The frisbee is aloft again, and he is off to catch it.

Rick Hunt and Julie Murray are relaxing after class. Rick lies back with one elbow on the grass, while Julie sits with her arms wrapped around her knees, her pale yellow hair falling forward.

“You always see people you know,” says Rick.

“It's like a place in the country,” says Julie.

Delinda Spencer lies on a blanket in a T-shirt and shorts, studying a psychology text. “It's easier to study here than in the dorm.”

Steve Gujer lies on a beach towel, his back lighted by sun, while he leafs through a book on architecture. “I come here almost every day.”

A missing segment of a pageant

In June of 1913 the University celebrated its 40th anniversary with a pageant. Electrical engineering students walked down the Oval at appropriate intervals carrying pint-sized utility poles. The physics department marched with a device that looked like a cross between a turbine and a Maypole; girls in diaphanous gowns were connected by ribbons to the machine's axis. For botany and entomology, other girls in long gowns paraded as flowers and giant-winged butterflies. The only female law student was carried on a litter, blindfolded, dressed as Justice and holding a balance.

As the students marched across the Oval in costumes representing their various schools and academic departments, only the civil engineers were missing. Their place in the parade was taken by Brown Hall's janitor, a man with a trim beard and white suspenders. He carried a placard saying, "Civil Engineers all gone on surveys."

The year 1913 was the time of the great floods in Ohio. Civil engineers, professors, and students were needed to survey ravaged areas where cities had been built without proper concern for the hazards.

Peace on the brink of war

In this carefree, peaceful atmosphere, the Oval hardly reflected a world on the brink of the Great War. And in Columbus the impending storm seemed especially cloudless.

In 1917 the class of 1892 held its 25th reunion on the Oval. Members dedicated an impressive flagpole in front of the Administration Building. On a boulder at its base they placed a plaque: “In honor of those Sons of the University who have answered the call to the colors in the year 1917.”

In 1919, on the 11th of November, the people of the University celebrated Armistice Day. At 10:58 a.m. the campus fell silent. On the Oval, 3,000 men in uniform stood at attention. Except for the brown leaves of the oaks, trees were bare. Sixteen buglers sounded taps. The uniforms men saluted.

A tradition began that day. Every Wednesday, at 10:58 a.m., a bugler would play taps by the flagpole for an individual son of the University who had fallen on some foreign field. The flow of students on the Oval would stop. Men in uniform would salute.

In February 1972 the last weekly taps was played for Navy Commander Theodore Daum, class of ’58, who had died when his plane went down in 1968. His mother came to Columbus for the ceremony and said, “I had a strong feeling of his spiritual presence.” Today the ceremony is held once a month and goes almost unnoticed.

Cavalry and infantry drilled on the Oval

In 1968, the year Commander Daum died, a group of students took over the Administration Building with a sit-in. That year, the traditional spring review of ROTC cadets was moved from the Oval to the Polo Field behind University Hospital. The official reason for the move was “to permit the cadets greater room for formations.” The real reason, everybody knew, was that they could no longer march on the Oval without being taunted by those students who opposed the war in Vietnam.
OSU Oval Trail

For complete brochure see: Walking Tours

A walking tour of Ohio State's Columbus Campus

Follow the sidewalk west along 15th Avenue, past Mershon Auditorium, until you come to the second crosswalk. Cross to the traffic island; note that traffic moves in both directions here. Then take the crosswalk that leads to the large, grassy area ahead of you, again, watching for traffic. Now you are standing at the east end of the Oval, the central part of the campus. The Long Walk ahead of you extends west to the William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library, the academic hub of the campus. Follow the Long Walk to the first intersecting sidewalk, the point at which the Trail turns right (north), and stop.

The Oval

If you pause here and look around, you may understand why every generation of Ohio State students has found the grass and trees on the Oval an inviting setting — for parades and reviews, classes and studying, frisbees and kite-flying, strolling and handholding. During most of each hour, the sidewalks that cross the Oval seem strangely empty. But when classes change, at 12 minutes before the hour, the sidewalks fill with students on their way to all parts of the campus.

Now follow the sidewalk to the right (north) toward the first building. Pause in the Mall area (North Oval Mall) near College Road and look north. To your right across the street is Weigel Hall.

Weigel Hall

This new addition to Mershon Auditorium houses the administrative offices of the School of Music. Weigel Hall also has a 700-seat auditorium and practice rooms for the musicians. The building is named for Eugene J. Weigel, first director of the School of Music and originator of the Marching Band's famed Script Ohio.

Hughes Hall

Across from Weigel Hall and ahead of you is Hughes Hall, another School of Music facility. The building was named for James Roy Hopkins, a former director of the School of Fine and Applied Arts and a prominent figure in American art in the early part of the century. You may visit the building if you wish. As you enter the main lobby, to your right is the Hopkins Hall Gallery. Here, traveling exhibits and the work of faculty and students are displayed.

If you entered Hopkins Hall, leave by the same entrance, return to the Mall area, and turn right. Continue west along the Mall to Derby Hall, the next building on your right.

Hopkins Hall

Hopkins Hall provides classrooms and facilities for a variety of art programs offered by the College of the Arts. Completed in 1963, Hopkins Hall is named for James Roy Hopkins, a former director of the School of Fine and Applied Arts and a prominent figure in American art in the early part of the century. You may visit the building if you wish. As you enter the main lobby, to your right is the Hopkins Hall Gallery. Here, traveling exhibits and the work of faculty and students are displayed.

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Derby Hall

Named for Samuel D. Derby, first dean of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, the hall opened in 1905 as the Chemistry Building. Today Derby Hall houses one of four OSU Bookstores. You may visit the bookstore, which is in the basement.
Students' footprints shape Oval’s paths

By Erin Scanlon
3-09-82

Lantern staff writer

When the campus was being designed and blueprinted more than 100 years ago, the plans did not specifically include construction of the Oval.

“The shape of our Oval is accidental,” said John H. Herrick, executive director emeritus of campus planning. “It evolved from the placement of the buildings.” He added that the geometric pattern of the sidewalks in the Oval were also accidental because they were caused by decades of students wearing down paths as they cut across the Oval to get to classes.

Herrick has been doing a history of OSU for more than 10 years and says he receives many questions about the Oval because it is so popular.

Herrick said the emergence of the Oval was gradual. He said the Neil farm, which extended west from Olentangy River to High Street, was chosen for the site of OSU in 1870. A landscape gardener from Cincinnati, Captain Herman Haerlin, devised the first blueprints for the university.

The informal design, Herrick said, was styled in an English Manor House plan. University Hall became the "manor house" up on the hill with its steps facing downtown Columbus.

"There was a long drive from University Hall to High Street," Herrick said. "Neil Avenue was just a dirt road then with two dormitories, North and South dorms, which is where Hamilton Hall is now."

The open space in front of University Hall soon began taking shape with the addition of Hayes, Orton and Townshend halls; the armory, which stood on the east end; the biological halls, which were where the Faculty Club is today; and the second chemistry building, where Derby Hall is now located.

With the building of Page Hall in 1902 and Mendenhall Laboratory in 1905, the "arcs" of the Oval were completed, Herrick said.

"It was not called the Oval until about 1900," Herrick said. "The existing shape of the present Oval was complete in 1901." Herrick added that the drive from University Hall was removed in 1902.

"The Oval serves as a living room for students," Herrick said. "It has been the site of everything from commencement to riots."

Some earlier events which occurred on the Oval include a "cane rush" in 1906 and 1907 where two opposing teams attempted to cross a boundary line while carrying canes.

In 1908, the Oval was the site for a tug-of-war. A "senior frolic on campus" was held on the Oval in 1911. And for students with an interest in baseball, they could choose from any one of the three baseball diamonds situated on the Oval in 1912.

Herrick recalled that when he attended OSU as a student from 1925-28, there was a military parade and review every Wednesday during the fall and spring quarters.

In 1918 and again in 1968, the first Wednesday of every month was dedicated to honor graduates who were killed in war. Students walking along the Oval would stop as the Orton Hall chimes played "Carmen Ohio." The flag in front of the Administration Building was lowered as a bugler played "Taps." In May of 1974, the Oval was the site of a Noon-to-Midnight rock concert sponsored by Plantland.

And in January of 1980, 4,500 students participated in a "musical chairs" game to break the Guinness World Record for such an event. Tickets were sold to participants for $1 with the proceeds going to the American Heart Association. An attempt to break that record will again be held on the Oval April 25.

Through the years, there have been attempts to change the face of the Oval. Probably one of the most recent was a plan to make a land sculpture which would have raised 11 pieces of ground on the Oval into geometric hills. The hills would have been inclined about 30 inches.

The plan, which was submitted by Los Angeles artist Robert Irwin in 1979, would have cost $96,700. It was officially abandoned because it missed the proposal deadline from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) and because it did not meet with favor from students.

During the 1970s there was an informal proposal to build a fountain on the Oval but it was abandoned, said William Griffith, director of campus planning.

Griffith said there are no plans for buildings to be erected on the Oval because it is officially designated as "open space" by the university's official master plan.

"The importance of open space is very vital," Griffith said, "You need that kind of area for relief of the hustle and bustle."

"Generations of Ohio Staters can relate to the Oval," he said.
Electrical failure puts Oval in dark

The Oval was without lighting Wednesday night because of an undetermined electrical problem, said a university building services clerk.

All of the Oval east of the Main Library and from the South Oval to the North Oval Mall was affected, said Roger Morgan, university police supervisor.

Police were informed about 8 p.m. that lamp post lights on the Oval were out and contacted the OSU electrician.

The electrician tried to repair the lights but will not be able to correct the problem until today, the building services clerk said.

Morgan said some police patrols were assigned closer to the area to provide extra protection. The police could provide sufficient protection without calling in additional manpower, he said.
A walking tour of
The Ohio State University
Elephant stirs support for rhinos

By Frederick Bermudez
Lantern staff writer

"Belle," a baby elephant from the Columbus Zoo, made a special appearance on the Oval Wednesday afternoon to stir support for the almost extinct black rhinoceros.

Andy Lodge, a keeper at the city zoo, estimated there are fewer than 400 black rhinos left in the wild. The rhinos are being killed for sport and for their horns, he said.

The black, or long-lipped, rhinos are one of two African species living in the wild in Africa, Lodge said.

"It's strictly a money thing," said Lodge. "The most useful parts of the rhinos are their horns."

"Belle," a baby elephant from the Columbus Zoo, made a special appearance on the Oval Wednesday afternoon to stir support for the almost extinct black rhinoceros.

They are hunted for the powder in their horns that is rumored to be an aphrodisiac, he said.

Lodge said in 1970 there were more than 20,000 black rhinos, but a survey last month indicated only 380 rhinos in the wild.

"Within a year, there won't be any left in the wild."

For the past two months, Lodge worked at the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary in Kenya.

The Columbus Zoo team was on the Oval collecting contributions and selling mugs and shirts. The shirts read: "Save a horny friend."

All profits will go directly to help finance the reserve, Lodge said.

The reserve consists of 5,500 acres and is surrounded by a fence with a 24-hour guard protecting the rhinos, Lodge said.

"That's the only way they are going to save the rhinos."

Lodge said monthly costs at the reserve are around $9,000. That money is used to pay guards, provide them with clothing, room and board. It is also used for vehicles used on the reserve and for veterinary treatment for the rhinos, he said. Lodge said building the reserve cost about $1 million.

The reserve gets no financial support from the African government, Lodge said, and the Columbus Zoo is the sole source of revenue for the reserve.

The Columbus Zoo has the oldest black rhino in captivity, Lodge said, and it will be joined by a female within the next few weeks in an attempt to breed the two.

The Columbus rhino is 36 years old and there is some doubt whether he will be able to breed with the female, Lodge said. The black rhinos usually live to be 40 to 50 years old, he said.

The zoo will collect the rhino's semen and try to artificially inseminate the female, Lodge said.

"I think this is a good idea," said Marian Henry, a sophomore from Cincinnati. "I wasn't aware of the situation but now I will do my part. I don't see how it could hurt."

Lodge will bring "Belle" back to the Oval Friday afternoon in another fund-raising effort.
David Chafin of the OSU Landscape Maintenance Crew uses a backhoe to plant a tree on the Oval Wednesday. The tree is one of several being planted to replace the "Five Brothers", a set of five elms which were planted there in the early 1890's.
The Ohio State University Oval
Students' Feet Shaped Its Paths

"One can wander up and down the walks leading from High Street to the oval almost any time of the day and see groups of giggling co-eds or unambitious underclassmen seated on the ground 'enjoying nature to its fullest.' . . . It is especially out of order and extremely rude for students to use the President's yard for such foolishness."

-- "Loafers on Campus"
Editorial, The Ohio State University Lantern
September 22, 1920

Every weekday at the quarter hour its paths resonate with the rumble of thousands of feet as Ohio State students hurry to classes on its criss-crossed paths. In bad weather, filled with purposeful people intent on getting inside, it's mainly a utilitarian web of walkways. In good weather it also serves as a temporary outdoor home to sunbathers, dogs, picnickers and assorted other nature lovers who claim their spaces amid its sheltering trees and thick grass.

The Oval--no longer the president's yard--is not a dignified stretch of manicured and sacred ground. Instead, like a mother's lap, its green expanse invites familiarity. It serves, often simultaneously, as a playground, pedestrian walkway and outdoor reception area to as diverse an academic community as can be found on any campus in America. Pulsing with life, throbbing with movement and sound, the Oval is the heart Ohio State's 3,200-acre campus.

On its commodious grounds students have assembled for the sublime and the serious: class pictures and commencements, rallies and riots. Sometimes the gatherings have been orderly, sometimes
not. On a rainy April Sunday in 1980, the Oval was the setting for more than 4,300 people engaged in the world's largest game of musical chairs. On another spring day--this one in 1970--its generous green space accommodated 5,000 protesters, some carrying rocks and bricks, and 1,200 armed police and National Guardmen in a confrontation that culminated in the first and only student strike in Ohio State's history.

An arena for both anger and joy, the Oval's distinctive shape and network of paths evolved not by design, but by accident. Originally conceived as a quadrangle, the Oval's elliptical form was shaped over 20 years by the placement of buildings and roads constructed around it. Extensive research by John H. Herrick, executive director emeritus of Campus Planning, shows that the 1893 design of the campus conceived by Captain Herman Haerlin, a landscape gardener from Cincinnati, followed that of an English manor. The main campus building, University Hall, served as the manor house. Set well back from the highway, its service buildings were behind it, with lawns, gardens, wooded areas and other landscape features informally placed around the main structure.

The construction of additional buildings and roads around the large lawn in front of University Hall during the 1890s began to define the space as an oval rather than as a quadrangle. Around the turn of the century, another university master plan designed by Haerlin further defined the oval shape of the lawn. The first written reference to the green space as an oval occurred 10 years later. By 1912, the area was often referred to as the "campus
oval" or the "central oval." Eight years after that, the word "oval" was capitalized and the modifiers were dropped--the space became simply, and for all time, "the Oval."

In 1914, a master plan developed by the new university architect named Joseph Bradford proposed a very formal, geometric pattern of walks within the Oval. Bradford's plan also changed the streets bordering the area to perfect its elliptical shape. Lack of funds made it impossible to build most of the walkways Bradford proposed, but the university did create a wide path extending from the main library at the apex of the Oval to the open space at its east end. Known then and now as "the Long Walk," it was by tradition off bounds to freshmen, whose punishment for trespassing was a dunking by upper classmen in nearby Mirror Lake.

Despite attempts to redirect them, students continued to make their own paths through the grass. They also found time to "lounge around" on the Oval and to litter. A 1920 editorial in the student newspaper admonished that "it does not add to the beauty of the campus one whit to have paper sacks, popcorn boxes, etc. distributed over its [the Oval's] surface." In 1921, the Men's Student Council, in support of a campus beautification plan, proposed forcing students caught cutting across the Oval's grass to retrace their steps and take the proper course to their destination. The plan was not enforceable, and the students' footpaths eventually became the present paved network.

Gradually over the past 16 years, the central campus surrounding the Oval has also become a pedestrian area. Prior to 1970, Neil Avenue, a major north-south Columbus street that went
through the campus, was considered by both the city and university traffic engineers to be a vital city artery. During the student disturbances in 1970 when all university activities were suspended for several days, Neil Avenue was closed to traffic. Advantage was taken of this unprecedented action and the street was never reopened through campus, thus making the area more hospitable to pedestrians.

In 1974, North Oval Drive was converted to a pedestrian mallway and in 1975 the east end of South Oval Drive followed suit. Presently, College Road, which borders the east end of the Oval, is the only section where vehicular traffic gets in the way of pedestrian access to the buildings bordering the university's central lawn.

The edges of the Oval are now ringed by 16 buildings, some of them designed several decades ago by university architect Joseph Bradford as classical structures featuring gables, towers and pitched roofs. Hayes Hall and Orton Hall, two Richardsonian Romanesque buildings designed in the 1890's by a distinguished Ohio architectural firm, were recently renovated with careful attention given to the retention of their historical character. Named for Henry Hobson Richardson, Richardsonian Romanesque buildings are characterized by a massive, heavy appearance, simplicity of form, and rough-faced masonry. Orton Hall, which has the campus chimes located in its tower, also reflects the Richardsonian Romanesque style in the columns located in its lobby.

The new Wexner Center for the Visual Arts, a modern structure
to be constructed on the Oval's eastern end, will further define its form. On its inner edges, the Oval is shaped by a variety of trees, many of them planted as class gifts on long-ago Arbor Days. Over the years, sculptures, historical markers, and boulders bearing plaques honoring veterans and university service clubs, have been also been placed on and around the Oval.

Officially designated as an "open space" on the university's present master plan, the Oval has been the object of some drastic—and, fortunately, unsuccessful—landscape redesign proposals. The most recent, in 1979, proposed making a "land sculpture" that would have raised 11 pieces of ground on the Oval into geometric hills, each with inclinations measuring about two-and-a-half feet. An earlier proposal in the 1970s called for a fountain on the Oval. Neither came to fruition, and no major changes are to the surface or shape of this space that has long served as the heart of The Ohio State University.
REFERENCES


___________. "Loafers on Campus." The Ohio State University Lantern, September 22, 1920.

___________. "Musical Chairs Record Set." The Ohio State University Lantern, March 29, 1982.

___________. "To Beautify Campus is Aim of Authorities." The Ohio State University Lantern, February 9, 1921.
In 1949, Howard Dwight Smith, university architect for the design and construction of campus buildings, made a significant contribution to the university's central lawn or Oval: his classicized tower addition to the main library solved a design problem that for decades had frustrated the architectural development of the central lawn's principal east/west axis. When proposed around 1905, the original main library had been the Oval's architectural focus in two successive campus development plans by the Olmsted Brothers, 1905 (figure 1) and Ohio State University Professor Charles St. John Chubb, 1910 (figure 2).

Yet the library, when finally built in 1912 on the site recommended by both Chubb and the Olmsteds, turned out to be a paper climax, the university's grand axial drama in plan but not elevation. For thirty-seven years gracious trees, framing the central lawn within the Oval's perimeter frame of buildings, screened from view the library's eastern facade. Smith's tower, however, gave the Oval an unmistakable architectural climax (figure 3). Crowned by a hipped, matte-green copper roof dressed at its apex with a comb of acroteria, the tower rose in powerful verticals over the treeline to command the Oval's central spine.

His predecessor as university architect had prepared the way for Smith's climactic tower. Between 1911 and 1929 Joseph Nelson Bradford gave the Oval an effective architectural frame by designing classicized buildings that shared tripartite elevations, pitched or hipped roofs and a uniform cornice line. Still, four of the Oval's original buildings did not conform to Bradford's pattern: the eclectic Victorian University Hall (1873), the castellated brick mass of the armory (1898), and Hayes and Orton halls, Richardsonian Romanesque buildings. Their stylistic disparities nevertheless worked well as evenly distributed counterpoints to an otherwise classicized oval frame, and they succeeded historically as an architectural record of the university's land-grant era (1873-1910),
when studies in the agricultural and mechanical arts were the university's basic strength.

Three of the four buildings gave the Oval a vertical drama. A tower on each rose behind the trees to herald the central lawn's architectural frame. The distance between the towers mediated their differently styled volumes into variations wrought on a fixed theme: the truncated mansard cone of University Hall, atop a tower on a square plan (see page 28); Orton Hall's asymmetrically massed cylindrical tower, the university's carillon capped by a conical red-tile roof (figure 4); and the armory keep, ringed by crenellations on its central tower and flanking turrets, the most figural of the three buildings (figure 5).

It was the Oval's tower theme that Howard Dwight Smith adumbrated in his library addition, an extruded rectangle and a hipped roof whose axial power above the trees, greater height and mass and classicized design constituted a visual fiat, at once conferring a larger order and drama on the other three more picturesque towers. Like Orton Hall's carillon chiming forth two concerts a day and ringing out each quarter-hour, all four towers marked off a rhythm around the rim of the university's central lawn, so many brick and stone criers calling out the moment of the Oval's pastoral expanse.
With Smith's tower the Oval achieved an architectural maturity that uniquely mixed adventitious circumstance and planned development. Between 1873 and 1981 a variety of memorials appeared on the Oval, making it a kind of camp santo commemorating events in the university's history. Also reflecting the Oval's juxtaposition of formal and informal elements, the memorials ranged from sculpture placed in axial and nonaxial positions to memorial trees and markers such as the one on the site of the armory—destroyed in a 1958 fire—or the adjacent plaza dedicated as the Land Grant Centennial Memorial (figure 6). Orton Hall itself was a memorial building: its stately masonry courses were of lighter and darker shades of stone in order to depict in the building's elevations the discrete strata of Ohio bedrock—building conceived as a memorialized geology. These commemorations, coupled with the symmetries and asymmetries of the Oval's architectural frame, and the organized and spontaneous activities staged on the central lawn itself, created over the years the ambiance of laissez-faire formality that characterized the Oval addressed by the five architect teams in the university's 1983 Center for the Visual Arts Competition (figure 7).

Of the five entries, that by the winners is easily the most sophisticated exploration of the Oval's historical context. The entire design pivots off the collision of the city grid, marked by the axis of 15th Avenue east of High Street, with the grid of the university, delineated by the Oval's "long walk." Both grids define the formally planned grove of trees that replaces the present entrance drive, creating a true vestibule to the Oval in an area that for years lacked adequate spatial definition. Intended to harbor memorialsto outstanding university figures, the grove extends and formalizes the commemorative aspect of the Oval through buckeye trees that rise off a campus grid laid over the diagonals of a city grid, on which grow autumn-yellow ginko trees. The trellised formality of the buckeye grove complements and plays against the picturesque arborescence of the Oval's inner frame.

The entrance to the Center for the Visual Arts is an evocation of the armory that avoids the bathos of a literal restoration. Parts of the armory's foundations are excavated and treated as a continuous polygonal seat line enclosing an outdoor sculpture precinct. The original eastern turrets re-emerge as sectioned figures. They build up to the mass of the central tower, bridge the transition from the smaller-scale buckeye grove to the much larger central lawn, are effective portal frames to the center and the Oval, and receive the city-grid path swung around the Oval's eastern end. This raised path and the adjacent semicircular steps provide a significant axial hesitation from which to see how the architects carried into three dimensions four distinct pairs of interlocked city and campus grids.

The central tower aligns with the axis of East 15th Avenue, on which the tower of University Hall also lies. This feature highlights both towers and pulls the city grid farther into the campus, a symbolic integration of the two communities climactically restated by splaying the Center for the Visual Arts.
itself across both campus and city grids. The center, on the eastern edge of the university, balances the orientation of another facility on the university’s western border. In 1919, Bradford oriented the imposing new football stadium and its towers—Smith’s first major campus design—to city streets rather than those of the campus, thus creating a precedent for the center’s identical grid shift of twelve-and-a-half degrees.

These axial and armory evocations function as Smith’s library tower did: they reorder a significant theme of the Oval by resurrecting its lost tower figures, and they join the university to the city in which it resides. In replacing the present land-grant and armory memorials, the towers avoid the didactic, disembodied character of many Oval memorials by transforming a built memory into a functioning reality. Parallel with the straightforward metaphorical geology of Orton Hall, the Center for the Visual Arts is a complex metaphorized archaeology, an architectural dig in search of the unities to be unearthed and created around an Oval ground fraught with unplanned and designed realities.

The entire design charges the outscaled village green of the Oval with a city’s tension and vitality. Marked by an urbanized desire for connection and interchange that is sublimated into design, the project concentrates architectural episodes and incidents at a city’s density, their dynamism carried visually by the lines of the two grids rotated twelve-and-a-half degrees through all plans, sections and elevations. Like a squared-off arcade cut through a city block, the center’s spine is a public artwalk whose free access and views onto major galleries further enliven the center’s presence on the Oval.

From its opening lines in the napkin grid of Columbus laid in front of Scholar’s Gate, the center compels the observer to relate its complex parts to one another, to engage metaphors so ardently and intimately tied to their setting that they elevate the design into a literary architecture. This architectural fiction refuses any closure on meaning at the scale of a single building or that of the Oval’s larger context. Only when the observer, conscious of the axis joining 15th Avenue to the armory, University Hall and stadium towers, understands the project’s collision of city grid, campus grid and the successive Ovals of Chubb,
Bradford and Smith—only then does the observer fully grasp the meaning of the Center for the Visual Arts. One then comprehends a total campus environment enhanced by designers who understood the architectural tradition of the Oval and, with an intellectually poetic rigor, focused and embedded that understanding in a single building complex.

Footnotes

1 The Olmsted Brothers Plan appears in John C. Olmsted, “The University of the Future,” a report dated December 12, 1905 and reprinted in John H. Herrick, OSU Campus Master Plans Office of Campus Planning and Space Utilization: Columbus, 1982), Exhibit G-3, pp. 12-21. The Chubb Plan, “The Formal Development of the Campus,” originally appeared in the April 1910 issue of the Alumni Quarterly and is reprinted in the Herrick volume as Exhibit H, pp. 4-15. The Olmsted Plan was the first to recommend a symmetrical and axial treatment for the campus, excepting the Oval center, left as an informally landscaped area. Chubb replaced the bland symmetry of the Olmsted Plan with more dynamic axial arrangements. For earlier picturesque campus plans, see Herrick, The Oval (Office of Campus Planning and Space Utilization: Columbus, 1982), pp. 5-6.

2 By 1919 Bradford had greatly elaborated the Chubb Plan by sending axial shafts across a campus much larger than the one surveyed by Chubb in 1910.

3 For a complete record and map of these memorials see Herrick, Oval, pp. 24-34. These include, in Herrick's view, Bradford's proposed latticework of Oval cross-walks, of which the long walk, marking the east/west axis of the campus, is the major vestigial trace.

4 The Olmsted, Chubb and Smith each criticized the area around the entrance drive and proposed ways to canalize more effectively the westward axial view to the library. See Howard Dwight Smith, "Architectural Development of Ohio State University." This article originally appeared in the September 1955 issue of the Ohio Architect and is reprinted in Herrick, Master Plans, Exhibit J-4, pp. 7-12.
A Center for the Visual Arts
The Ohio State University Competition
1984

Edited by Peter Arnell and Ted Bickford
Associate Editor, Catherine Bergart

Essays by Kurt Forster, Alan Colquhoun, Jonathan Green, Richard Miller, Edward W. Wolner, and Patricia J. Wuichet

Postscript by Douglas Davis

Five submissions for a Center for the Visual Arts at The Ohio State University by Dalton, van Dijk, Johnson & Partners and Cesar Pelli & Associates; Feinknopf, Macciocca, & Schappa and Arthur Erickson, Architects; Lorenz & Williams Inc. and Michael Graves, Architect; Nitschke Associates and Kallmann, McKinnell & Wood and Lyndon/Buchanan Associates; and Trott & Bean, Architects and Eisenman/Robertson, Architects
Oval orchestration

The Columbus Symphony Orchestra performs a free concert on the oval, Sunday, as part of Welcome Week activities. The free concert included a special selection for the occasion called "Buckeye Ballads."
Heart of campus

By LEAH WEAVER
Lantern staff writer

For some it is a playground and picnic area, while for others a place to study books or passers-by. But whatever the pastime, most agree the OSU Oval is much more than a pedestrian pathway.

“It’s like Central Park is to New York City,” said Rainer Ziehm, an OSU junior from Kent who took advantage of a warm November day to play on the Oval. “I look at the Oval as a place to get away,” he said. “Really it’s the only place to get away on a campus this large.”

Often considered the heart of Ohio State’s 3,200-acre campus, the Oval has been the center for hundreds of activities — everything from commencements to tug-of-war. Still one of the most popular areas on campus, the Oval is the spot for frisbee fanatics, friends and playful puppies.

But at the beginning of the century when the Oval was developing, such lighthearted activity was condemned on the area then considered the university president’s “backyard.” Before 1949, the president’s home was located north of the Oval, overlooking what some described as “irreverent” activity.

Outrage about behavior on the Oval was expressed in an editorial entitled “Loafers on the Campus,” which appeared in the Lantern in 1920:

“Has it ever occurred to the students who persist daily in taking sunbaths on the spacious lawns in front of the president’s residence that the campus was not meant to be used as a picnic ground?

“Evidently not, as one can wander up and down the walks of the Oval almost any time of day and see group...”
takes shape in Oval

capitalized form.
Since then, the Oval has been
the host for activities ranging
from solemn to silly.
When Ohio State's military
science department was estab­
lished in 1872, male students
marched and drilled on the Oval
as they fulfilled their required two
years of cadet service.

From its beginning as a social
center, it was the site for cane
rushes, “a rough sort of game
where a designated sophomore put
a cane down his trouser leg, and
freshmen had to find it and get it
out.”

During summer months, many
gathered on the Oval for parades,
dinners, bike races and greased
pig contests. And in 1928, the
Oval served as a runway for a
pilot landing his biplane in
celeb­
ration of Engineers' Day.

More recently, the area was the
scene for the world’s largest game
of musical chairs, which earned
OSU students a mention in the
Guinness Book of World Records.

Impromptu events such as rall­
ies, protests and sermons often
occur on the Oval, a natural
gathering place for many students.

Ernal Smith, assistant superin­
tendent of landscape maintenance,
said he’s seen an array of unoffi-
cial Oval activity ranging from
war protests to “streakers,” —
people who during the 1970s
enjoyed bounding through public
places in the buff.

“The police tried to chase the
streakers on the Oval, but they
were never quick enough to catch
them,” Smith said.

Smith recalled the Vietnam War
protests in 1970 when students
clashed with National Guard
troops on the Oval.

“It was really hectic for us to
mow and maintain the Oval
during the days of the student
riots,” Smith said.

The protesters didn’t like us
any more than they did anyone
else — they considered us part of
the ‘establishment’ because we
wore uniforms, and they didn’t
like that,” he said.

“They would throw things and
‘boo’ at us, but no serious
violence ever occurred.”

Smith describes the Oval as one
of the prettiest spots on campus
where students can pause and
relax.

Many landmarks complement
the area, including the statue of
William Oxley Thompson, which
stands in solemn watch at the
entrance to the Main Library.

Oxley was president of the
university from 1899 to 1925.
In 1915, the first statue erected
on the Oval was of Dr. Wil­
loughby Miller, a dentist who
discovered the cause of tooth
decay. The statue was moved to
the medical area of the campus in
1978.

Now gone from the Oval are
the original “Five Brothers” elm
trees, a gift from the class of
1891. Once swaying proudly in
the center of the Oval, the last of
these trees died of Dutch Elm
disease in 1972. A boulder with a
plaque now marks this spot.

In 1987, five oak trees were
planted near the location to
replace the “Five Brothers.”

In the past, efforts to alter
the Oval with a large central fountain
or expensive sculptures have been
met with protests from the cam,
pus community.

As she relaxed between classes
on Tuesday, Trish Dobosh, a
sophomore from Youngstown, cap-
tured the sentiment of those who
love the Oval’s time-honored
traditions and appearance.

“You can sit here and not
worry about anything,” she said.
“The Oval is unique, and I hope
they never change it.”

And so do many, many others.
Oval becomes racecourse for

By Todd Boyer
Lantern staff writer

It may not have been the Indianapolis 500, but the Oval became a 100-meter raceway Friday afternoon.

Two teams of students gathered to race vehicles they designed and built for a mechanical engineering class. But there was a catch — each team had only two D-cell batteries to power their vehicle.

Students from Professor Kosuke Ishii's Mechanical Engineering 564 and 581 classes staged the competition for about 100 spectators.

Only one of the teams was able to successfully demonstrate its design to the crowd, which included mostly engineering students and faculty.

Students wrote to several businesses to obtain materials and sponsorship, Ishii said. Batteries, bearings, and electric motors were donated by various businesses. The remainder of the expenses were met by the department and the students.

Each team was given ten minutes to convert the batteries' power to any other form of energy. They were judged on whether the vehicle completed the 100-meter course and how closely team-members were able to predict the time needed to complete the course. A panel of engineering faculty also scored each team on design and mechanical merit.

"Prototyping exercises like this make good engineers," said Ishii.

The successful team designed a winch that pulled a stripped-down bicycle up a ramp using a series of electric motors powered by the two batteries.

Ishii said he organized the competition when students from his 564 class, in which the students designed the vehicles, asked if they could take the designs further, and build prototypes from their designs.

Students wrote to several businesses to obtain materials and sponsorship, Ishii said. Batteries, bearings, and electric motors were donated by various businesses. The remainder of the expenses were met by the department and the students.

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The successful team designed a winch that pulled a stripped-down bicycle up a ramp using a series of electric motors powered by the two batteries.

Andy Eckler, a senior from Wadsworth, and member of the winning team, said the team's design had to be totally redesigned after the gearbox broke on Wednesday.

The other team had designed a catapult system, but was unable to successfully launch its vehicle, and after three mechanical failures was disqualified.

Ishii said he hoped the race could become an annual event.
Freshmen did not have it easy in the early years. They were dunked in Mirror Lake (President George Rightmire stopped this practice in 1927); could sit only in the west bleachers of the Stadium; were not allowed on the front steps of University Hall; and from 1910-1934 they were required to wear "beanies." Another Freshmen tradition is pictured above and shows the ritual they performed as a result of being caught on a forbidden campus spot. As the Freshmen class size increased, it became impossible to enforce all the edicts and this tradition ended in the 1940's.

# 2 - WHAT WAS "CLEANING" THE LONG WALK?

Oval turf replaced

Mark Dudrow, a graduate student from Westerville, believes the work is a good idea as long as there is some space left for activity on the Oval.

"But I think people are going to walk on it if they don't fence it, so they should do it," Dudrow said.

Robb Burris, a sophomore from Columbus, agreed that the renovation is a good idea, but disagreed about fencing.

"There is a chance people would get hurt," he said. "And since it's fall quarter there are a lot of people who might get drunk and tear it down or make it unsafe for someone else."

"I think they should have done it at another time, maybe during the summer," Burris said.

Dale said it is an unfortunate coincidence that the work is being done at a time when the Oval will be such a busy place, but the work needs to be done.

"This is the best time to do this because it's rainier, cooler, and weed seeds won't germinate now," he said.

The work will continue, weather permitting, throughout the quarter, Dale said.
Oval revival

PORTIONS OF THE OVAL, hard hit by the 1988 drought, needed reseeding this autumn. A patch near Hayes Hall receives tender treatment from Dave Chafin, groundskeeper 3, Grounds Maintenance.
Oval designs reflect history of campus

University Archives record architectural changes through time

By Jamie Rulli
Oasis staff writer

The evolution of the Oval and the university did not follow any one plan. The diversity of architectural styles on the Oval is a reflection of the changing master plans for campus development.

According to information found in the University Archives, funding for the university came from the Federal Land Grant Act of 1862. The act called for the creation of a new type of institution to teach practical skills as well as traditional, classical studies.

Page Hall, Hagerty Hall, and Mcrendenhall Lab on the oval

According to the archives, the school was created by the Ohio Assembly in 1870 with the name of Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College and opened in 1873. The name was changed to the Ohio State University in 1878.

The first campus building was University Hall, a replica of the Bishop's Palace in Oxford, England. Positioned at the head of the quadrangle, the building was only three stories tall and was finished one year later. The architect of both buildings was influenced by the work of Henry Hobson Richardson. Richardson was an influential architect of that period, said Jacqueline J. Cargus, assistant professor of architecture.

According to the archives, the building called the American-modeled model for those on the Wexner Center for the Visual Arts.

Townshend Hall, designed to house the Department of Agriculture, was finished in 1888, according to the archives. It was named for N. S. Townshend, a professor of agriculture at Ohio State for 25 years and one of the founders of the Ohio Agricultural College in Oelber.

Three buildings that look similar on the Oval are Page Hall, Hagerty Hall and Mendenhall Lab, according to the archives. Page Hall was built in 1903 and houses the displays, Herrick said.

An article in the January, 1928 issue of the "OSU Monthly" said the interesting thing about Hagerty Hall was that it was the model for those on the Wexner Center for the Visual Arts.

Page Hall, which had the center of the oval, was only one of the founders of the Ohio Agricultural College in Oelber.

The article said Hagerty Hall was designed to be similar to neighboring buildings. The buildings used red bricks and gray brick. The reason for making the buildings look the same was an attempt to harmonize the central campus, the article said.

Lord Hall was designed by Columbus architect Frank L. Packard and built in 1904. The noticeable thing about Lord Hall is its unusual orientation.

Herrick said the reason Lord Hall seems to be out of place is that Packard built it in 1904. The plan had a street running diagonally past the front of where Lord Hall nowstands, Herrick said. Herrick said that although the trustees did not like the plan and never adopted it, they did build the road and Lord Hall.

According to the archives, the Main Library was designed by Howard Dwight Smith. It was built in 1912. The original building had only three stories tall and had a courthouse between it and Neil Avenue.

In 1951, the eleven-floor addition was built. The courtyard was incorporated into the building and is now the central part of the library that has a glass ceiling and displays, Herrick said.

Hughes Hall and the Faculty Club building were built in the 1940's. These buildings were designed by a university architect Howard Dwight Smith, according to the archives.

Herrick said Smith was a campus architect who tried to bring a uniform look to the campus buildings. The buildings had red brick exteriors with limestone trim, Herrick said. Herrick said another element that B.W. Smith's buildings had was that they all had copper roofs. They can be identified by their copper roofs, which have turned green in recent years, Herrick said.

Hopkins Hall was added to the Oval in 1963, according to the archives. Herrick said buildings made during that period contain elements not previously found in OSU buildings, such as the enamelled steel panels on Denney Hall and the use of lots of glass in other buildings. Herrick said these buildings reflect a national style of the time.

Herrick also said that the sixties was a time of rapid growth of the student population. The feeling at the time was, "Style be damned, get some more classrooms," Herrick said.

Herrick said one organizational principle of campus planning is the concept of an axis. The axis is a line that other features are related, Herrick said. Herrick said the long walk that goes from the library to College Road was set up as an axis back in 1912 or 1913.

Herrick said that there was to have the library at one end of this axis and two limestone monumental buildings at the other end. Herrick said the two buildings were Sullivan Hall and Mer­ shon Auditorium. Herrick also said it is difficult to see this axis now because of the Wexner Center.

Another axis runs through the stadium, Herrick said.
Ouch!

Magician Howard Morgan swallows a sword Tuesday afternoon on the Oval while volunteer assistant Susan Sahr, a sophomore majoring in finance from Westerville, watches in amazement. Morgan will be performing on the Oval throughout the week.
OSU police fed up with dogs, bikes illegally on Oval

By Michael Skoens
Lantern staff writer

"The OSU Police Department is receiving complaints on bicyclists and dogs on the Oval, OSU Deputy Police Chief Richard P. Harp said. Harp said the complaints have come from students, faculty and staff. University police are trying to increase awareness of the problem, Harp said. By mentioning the sign prohibiting bicycling on sidewalks, the department is giving people a chance to correct the problem.

City code 2132.10 on riding bicycles on sidewalks states, 'No person shall operate a bicycle upon a sidewalk, except at locations which Columbus City Council designates as bikeways.' "Bicycling on the Oval is prohibited by university policy and state law," Harp said. "I urge people to follow these guidelines."

Harp said although police are only trying to increase awareness of the problem, city codes and state laws make it possible for police to impose fines and other penalties.

"Harp said the problem is that the pedestrian paths across the Oval are filled with activity, especially on warm, sunny days. The area gets crowded and the bicyclists must use the pedestrian walkways, which makes the area dangerous, he said.

Wendy Necco, a member of the OSU Mountain Bike Club, said she rides her bike frequently, but bicyclists on the Oval irritate her. "Bicyclists go too fast on the Oval and it's dangerous," Necco said.

At meetings, the bike club always stresses the importance of not riding across the Oval, Necco said. She said bicyclists on the Oval do not give pedestrians right of way and they damage the grass in the area.

Bryan Shelton, a senior majoring in communications, said bicyclists should quit riding on the Oval's pedestrian walkways. "A lot of people know not to ride across the Oval, but they ignore these rules," he said. Bicyclists are other bicyclists riding through the Oval and think it is all right to break the law, Shelton said.

Harp said dogs running loose on the Oval are a problem and state and local laws prohibit dogs from running loose in the Oval. Dogs on campus should be under the control of their owners at all times.

Necco, a senior majoring in communication and international business, said dogs make the Oval more sociable when they run around playing.

Shelton said he doesn't think dogs on the Oval. "I can see how it would bother you."

This dalmatian might be adorable, but OSU police say he can create serious problems on the Oval. If problems with dogs and bicycles continue, police say they could begin imposing fines and penalties.

However, Shelton said, "If you don't like dogs, you should probably avoid the Oval."
In the spring, or on a nice March day, a young iguana's fancy turns to thoughts of catching some rays, and Spot enjoyed the sunshine on the Ohio State University Oval with his owner, senior Nick Osborne, and junior Joan Ruef.
Campaigns take off on the Oval

By Craig Chadwell
Lantern staff writer

Students crossing the Oval Thursday had a number of ways to spend &quot;four bucks.&quot; None of these options included a second pizza or a donation to Oval preachers.

Four dollars could have bought one ticket to this Saturday's Ohio Glory game, two &quot;Perot — Now There's a Choice&quot; buttons or four &quot;We the People — Brown '92&quot; bumper stickers.

The Students for Perot committee got some of the 5,000 signatures required from registered Ohio voters to get H. Ross Perot on the Ohio ballot as an Independent candidate for president.

Shortly after 1 p.m., supporters from the Central Ohio (Jerry) Brown for President Campaign set their table up in the center of the Oval approximately 15 feet from the Perot table.

Brown is already on the ballot for the primary. Brown backers were distributing information, registering voters and helping students change residency status to vote in Franklin county.

Jeff Alexander, a family resources management senior who signed the Perot Licking County ballot, took the biography and article from The New York Times that the Student for Perot committee gave out.

&quot;I've heard a lot about this guy,&quot; Alexander said, &quot;I guess it's about time to find something out.&quot; Many people who stopped by both the Perot and Brown tables asked for information on the candidates' position on various issues. Neither side had a concise outline, but both offered handouts with some information.

A Student for Perot committee member said that Perot is not going to release his position on issues until after he is on the ballot in all 50 states.

The Brown handout dealt with Brown's education policies: &quot;During his administration, he opposed charging tuition at state colleges and universities,&quot; the handout read.

The Brown sheet also said that Brown &quot;was and is committed to education.&quot; The man from the Ohio Glory didn't have any handouts, but the bullhorn seemed effective in attracting attention.

Referring to the Brown supporters' unexpected appearance, Students for Perot committee member Jim Sturman said, &quot;It's not really relevant, given Brown's relatively small showing in primaries to date, but it's O.K.&quot;

&quot;I'd listen to what he has to say,&quot; Sturman said, &quot;But I wouldn't vote for him.&quot;

The presence of Students for Perot was not only about signing pieces of paper, Sturman said. &quot;It's about being aware,&quot; Sturman said, &quot;It's about getting people to think about their options come November.&quot;

The Brown supporters included Carolyn Shahen, Coordinator of the Central Ohio Brown for President Campaign, and Marianne Elam, a Sociology teaching assistant at Ohio State.

Some who stopped for information did not have to decide between football tickets or political support products.

&quot;I'm poor; I can't afford it (a bumper sticker),&quot; said a man getting information about Jerry Brown.

Elam said she is volunteering for the Brown campaign partly because she is a single mother who is tired of the way things are now.

&quot;I'm trying to raise my kids to know that education is empowerment,&quot; Elam said, &quot;With all the cuts, it's hard.&quot;

The Brown posters read &quot;Take Back America.&quot;

Students for Perot had &quot;Perot — Now, There Is A Choice&quot; T-shirts available and said they will have &quot;Students For Perot&quot; T-shirts available soon.

The Brown supporters said they will be on the Oval most of the day Monday to continue to register voters before the 9 p.m. Monday deadline for registration to vote in the Ohio primary.

The man at the Ohio Glory booth said he sold about 700 tickets Thursday.
OSU students play Twister on the Oval Wednesday afternoon.

Twister entertains on the Oval

By Tonya Ewing
Lantern staff writer

Coed clothed Twister entertained about 200 OSU students on the Oval Wednesday.
Students twisted for prizes on 50 Twister mats that were donated by Milton Bros. and the Olentangy Area Student Association.

"We just wanted to bring a huge event to a huge place on a huge campus," said Nancy Needs, the Steering Committee Chairperson.

Radio Station 101 brought its ice cream truck and a sound system. Randy Malloy, the promotions director and an OSU alum, was the disc jockey for the event. He encouraged student participation by saying, "Tie up your dogs, lay down your bikes, drop your books and twist."

Students signed up to get participation points for their student or Greek organizations said Lisa Susany, special events coordinator.

Needs said that in 80 years of OSU Homecomings this is the first Oval Twister game.

"It's Huge" T-shirts were sold during the game to raise money for the Homecoming budget, said Needs, and they are extra large because it's a "Huge Homecoming". Kerry Brockman, a freshman majoring in dance, won one of the games outright. She won compact discs and a T-shirt from 101. "I am flexible beyond all belief," was her comment for game strategy.

Stan Gajola, a freshman and Steven Lindberg, a sophomore tied in one game. Gajola, a journalism and theatre major won two tickets to see the Spin Doctors from 101. Lindberg, a member of the OSU Ski Club, won two tickets to see the Ramones and Social Distortion.

Maxwell's will host the Kickoff party Tuesday at 8 p.m. The parade and pep rally will be Friday night.
Dark Oval dangerous, students say

By Robert Neifach
Lantern staff writer

The lack of sufficient lighting on campus has caused students to feel unsafe when walking at night.

Over the past year, new lamp posts have been installed on the Oval, but students still aren't satisfied.

"The lights on the Oval are nice and fancy, but they don't give off enough light," said Eric Sherman, a senior from Bristol, Tenn. "The Oval needs something brighter, like spotlights, to light up such big areas."

But OSU officials said installing spotlights would cause problems. "They could give off too much light," said Donald Barr, a landscape architect. "There would be a lot of glare."

Barr said the Oval is one of many areas on campus that's considered too dark.

"I don't understand why the same type of light, a post mounted on the side of the building, is always used to brighten up buildings," said Debra George, associate professor at Landscape Architecture. "Different lighting should be used depending on the type of building."

Barr, however, said, lights used on campus are the most energy efficient. "None of the energy given off is wasted."

Fixtures have been added to some of the older buildings and reflect light off them. This enables the public to see paths between buildings.

But that has not lessened Sherman's uneasy feelings. "There is still hardly, if any, lighting across the South Oval," he said. "I get nervous whenever I have to go across there for a night class."

Barr said lighting conditions on the South Oval will get better. "People don't think there's any lighting on South, because they're comparing it to ... the other Oval."

Barr said there are plans to add cast-iron fixtures around the South Oval, similar to those set in the Oval.

The next step is to add lights around the perimeter of the Oval, not just in the interior. The same will be done for the South Oval. Lights will also be installed around Mirror Lake, the north and south dorms, and around the Towers.

So far $500,000 has been spent on lighting for the Oval. Hopefully, another $500,000 will be spent to finish up its perimeter, Barr said.

The funds for the light fixtures are coming from the state legislature.

Barr said because it's an election year, the legislature has to deal with other issues.

"Right now the lighting situation has been put on the back burner," he said. "Hopefully, by early 1993 we expect to continue adding more fixtures to campus."
An unidentified pedestrian walks across the Oval at Ohio State University under a steady shower of snow while bright but brittle fall leaves still hang on some of the trees. Today's outlook is similar to yesterday's — chilly but just a flurry or two.
Work near Main Library inconvenient

Work on sewer to be finished by mid-summer

By Kellie D. Wargo
Lantern staff writer

For the next five to eight months, construction on much of the Oval will inconvenience travelers gaining access to the west side of the Main Library.

Construction workers dug a huge hole and blocked off several sidewalks near the library so they can install a new storm system.

The existing combined sewer, which holds both sewer and storm water drainage, does not meet the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency requirements, said Jean D. Hansford, Senior Campus Planner for the OSU Department of Campus Planning.

The project, which should be completed by midsummer, should "stop sanitary sewage (overflow) in the (Olentangy) river," Hansford said.

The need for the breakup of the two systems rose when the new science building and math tower were built. If the new sewer system had not been installed, an overflow into the river could occur, said University Engineer Phil Sule.

"The science building and the math building would have added to the system and caused an overflow," Sule said. "There is a need for separation."

"The construction for these new sites have irregular boundaries," Sule said. The area affected by the new water system in front of the Main Library includes W. 17th and E. 18th Avenues to College Road, through the south Oval, and down towards Pomerene Hall. From Pomerene Hall, the university's combined system leads into the Columbus combined system, Sule said. Other systems will be added around campus in the future.

Senior Rachell Arceci was annoyed by the construction. "This is my last quarter. It (the construction) breaks up the beauty of the campus and is an inconvenience."

Juniors Janette Cooper and Scott Hoover find the construction inconvenient and an eyesore. Hoover said, "I've got to walk all the way around. I don't like it."

The staff at the Main Library, with offices nearest to the construction have not heard of any noise complaints regarding the construction.

"The reason there have been no complaints yet probably is because the students have not been around to notice," said an unidentified staff member.

Construction to install a new storm system has closed sidewalks near the Main Library.
Not quiet on the Western front

BEYOND THE ROBES of William Oxley Thompson's statue outside of the Main Library lie the trenches of sewer warfare. The trenches through the Oval and surrounding roadways are part of a project to separate sewer pipes from storm sewers. This and other construction has changed traffic patterns on the central campus. For more on traffic, see page 2.
Perspective

A view of the Main Library as seen from College Drive.
A compilation of local, state, and national stories about The Ohio State University and issues concerning higher education.

NEWS DIGEST

Business First MAR 22 1993

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Buckeye section of the Engineering Society of North America presented illumination design awards to: Gary Wallace, GW Engineering, for AmeriFlora; Glenn Boesger, Korda/Nameth Engineering, for Ohio State University's Sullivant Hall rotunda; John Fetters, Effective Lighting Solutions and William Logan, WRL Lighting Tech, for First English Lutheran Church art glass lighting; and Don Barr, Ohio State University, for the university's Oval and improved lighting at Orton and University Halls. Barr also received the People's Choice award for best lighting design for those projects.

Published by the Office of University Communications
Mary Lindner, News Digest editor
EVEN PICASSO HAD TO START SOMEWHERE

Edward Penczek, a sophomore at Ohio State University, draws daffodils on the Oval during his basic drawing class. Yesterday, students were ushered out into the warm weather after being excused from work inside the classroom. They were to draw their impressions of organic material.
Sign of the times

Page Wilson, a senior in child and family development, signs the word "why" to senior communications major Meg Zlotnik. They practice sign language on the Oval for their speech and hearing class.
Jumpin' Jack Flash

A modern dance class takes advantage of the sunny weather Thursday to practice on the Oval.
This view (from Orton Hall Tower) is looking northwest across an Oval with no paved sidewalks. The light fixture in the foreground was a gift from the World’s Fair Grounds in Chicago in 1893. In the background is old University Hall and Power Plant #2 which later became the Brown Hall Annex and today is the site of the Science/Engineering Library.

The above photo and caption were used in a bulletin board display in the Main Library for Winter Quarter, 1994.
Winter beauty

THE BRANCHES OF A TREE frame the Orton Hall bell tower after last week's snow storm.

By Lloyd Lemmermann
Leash law to be enforced on the Oval

By Richard Folk
Lantern staff writer

Reports from visually impaired OSU students whose working guide dogs have been pestered by other unrestrained dogs on campus have prompted university police to start enforcing a Columbus ordinance forbidding dogs from freely roaming about the OSU campus.

The ordinance requires that dogs on campus must be kept on a leash at all times. For example, students may no longer be able to let their dogs run loose through the Oval as the weather gets nice.

Visually impaired student Paul Smith brought the problem to the attention of OSU police last quarter after his guide dog, Marvell, was attacked by another dog as they stood outside Pomerene Hall.

According to Smith, a dog which was loose on the Oval ran over to Marvell, jumped on top of him and started barking and growling.

"A lady ran over, grabbed the dog by the neck, said 'Damn dog!' and walked into Pomerene Hall," he said.

Smith also said this was not an isolated incident. He and other visually impaired students have had their guide dogs disturbed by other dogs which weren't on leashes on several occasions.

While on the Oval recently, Stacey Comerford was ordered by OSU police officers to keep her dog on a leash.

According to Comerford, the officers said they were following instructions from the university to keep dogs from running loose on the Oval.

"Everyone was sort of surprised because that's kind of the thing to do at the Oval," Comerford said.

She also said it was strange because bikes are not supposed to be on the Oval either, but the OSU police do not enforce it. OSU Police Chief Ron Michalec said reports from students about dogs distracting them on campus have led OSU police to enforce the ordinance.

Michalec said the police will first try an educational approach to the problem. They will inform students of the ordinance, and if the problem persists, they will issue citations to dog owners.

"Student safety has to come before student recreation."

— John Rarey

OSU senior John Rarey said he enjoys bringing his dog Saber down to the Oval and letting him run around when it starts to warm up in the spring.

"I wasn't aware that guide dogs were being disturbed by other dogs on campus, but student safety has to come before student recreation," Rarey said.
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS: DESIGNED HISTORIC LANDSCAPES NATIONAL LANDSCAPE SURVEY FORM

Number FRA-6311-13

1 LANDSCAPE NAME: Historic The Oval
Common The Oval

2 LOCATION USGS Quadrangle SW Columbus Acreage 5 acres
Street or Road College Road
City/Town Columbus State Ohio
Zip Code 43210 County Franklin Congressional District 15th
UTM Coordinates 32850E, 442470N; 32800E, 442970N; 32800E, 442950N; 32850E, 442950N

3 OWNER OF PROPERTY If group or government agency give contact person.
Name The Ohio State University Phone (614) 292-0433
Street Address 190 North Oval Drive
City/Town Columbus State Ohio Zip Code 43210
Pertinent Information

4 DESIGNED LANDSCAPE TYPE Check category(s) for landscape surveyed.
___ Residence _____ Garden _____ Estate _____ Pond/Canal/ Water Feature
___ Monument _____ Botanical Garden _____ Public Building _____ Institution
X Park _____ Parkway X Square or Commons _____ Streetscape
___ Fort _____ Cemetery _____ Park System _____ City/Town Plan
___ Other, please describe

5 LANDSCAPE STATUS Please describe as required below.
Ownership: X Public _____ Private Other, please note
Public Acquisition: ____ Considered ____ In Progress ____ Not Considered
Access: X Unrestricted _____ Restricted _____ No Access
Status: X Safe _____ Endangered _____ Preservation Action Needed
Preservation Action Undertaken, Describe

Further Information

6 LANDSCAPE ADDRESS BOUNDARY INFORMATION

Specific Location (Street, road, features comprising the boundary) Neil Avenue (W); College Rd. (E); 18th Street (N); Mirror Lake Hollow (S)

Location of Legal Description. Give contact person if known.

Courthouse/Registry of Deeds. Franklin County Courthouse Recorder’s Office

Street Address 373 S. High St. City/Town Columbus

State Ohio Zip Code 43215 Phone (614) 462-3930

7 REPRESENTATION IN OTHER SURVEYS Yes or No, please explain briefly

No National Register No National Landmark No State Designation

No Local Designation Other

Title of Survey and Depository of Survey Records

8 HISTORIC INFORMATION Check and complete wherever possible.

_X_ Original Landscape Architect Name(s) Jospeh N. Bradford - 1913

_X_ Alteration/Addition Landscape Arch. Name(s) Marion Packard - 1981 (Sphinx Plaza)

_X_ Original Gardener Name(s) Capt. Herman Haerlin - 1893

Builder/Engineer Name(s) N/A

_X_ Client Name(s) The Ohio State University

_X_ Date(s) of Construction 1873-1898: first buildings around central open space; 1901: oval shape established; 1914: long walk; 1974: North Oval Drive converted to pedestrian mall; 1975: South Oval Drive converted to pedestrian mall (east end); 1976: pedestrian plaza in front of University Hall; 1981: Sphinx Plaza
plaque (1979). Hard surfaced walks connect buildings and circulations routes along the north and south Oval pedestrian paths and crisscross the Oval intersecting the Long Walk. The most important circulation path is the Long Walk (1919), an axis extending east by northeast between the Main Library and College Avenue.

10 INTEGRITY  Do these categories exist as in the historic landscape?

X  Original Design  ___  Original Property Boundary  X  Design Intent

X  Spatial Relationships  X  Topography/Grading  X  Architectural Features

___  Vegetation  ___  Site Furnishings  X  Circulation System

STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY  Describe the degree to which the overall landscape and its significant features are present today. Explain categories of integrity noted above and any others that apply.

The Bradford Campus Plan (1919) provides the fully realized original Oval design. The Long Walk, as proposed, remains, although the original symmetric straight linear arrangement of walks radiating from four nodes along it was only partially implemented. Over time, convenience paths trod by students were recognized and added as hard surfaced walks. The Sundial (1905) was moved from its original location (1926), returned (1930) and made part of Sphinx Plaza (1981). Over time memorial artifacts and markers have been added to the Oval and remain (see #9). Among the added artifacts which are missing are: the Dr. Willoughby Miller statue (1915) which was moved to Postle Hall (1978) in accordance with the understanding agreed to in 1915; the Five brothers, English Elms planted as a class memorial (1890-91) which had all died by 1967. North and South Oval drives were closed to automobile traffic in 1974-76. University Hall was demolished and a facsimile was built on the site in 1975.

11 SIGNIFICANCE  Note reasons landscape is historically important.

X  Historic Association with Person, Group, Event  ___  Use of Unique Materials

___  Historic Significance in Landscape Design  ___  Unique Regional Expression  X  Important Landmark
BRIEF CHRONOLOGY  

Give pertinent facts about construction, subsequent, changes, events notable occurrences.  

Landscape gardener Capt. Herman Haeplin designed the first OSU campus master plan, which centered around University Hall (1871), a second which included the first incarnation of what was to become the Oval (1893), and a third (1900) which showed further evolution to the present space as extraneous structures were removed and the important buildings which help to define the space were constructed. Landscape architect Joseph Bradford provided a fourth plan in 1913 which included the Long Walk. The vehicular circulation route encircling the Oval was closed off during 1974-1976 and converted to a pedestrian mall and plaza. Only a section of South Oval Drive near the Main Library is accessible to autos today. The Oval has been the focus of student life and activities since 1900 - pageants, social rituals, parades and reviews, commencements, picture taking, picnics and organized meals, rallies and riots, rest and sport, classes and study. Notable occurrences include the Civil Rights Rally (1964), Speakers Rule Rally (1965), Student Dissident Rally (1970), Student Riots (1970), and Earth Week Rally (1980).

DESCRIPTION:  Begin with overall description, then note specifics.

CONDITION:  

- Excellent  
- Good  
- Fair  
- Deteriorated  
- Severely Deteriorated

CHANGES  

- Unaltered  
- Altered  
- Added to  
- Loss, Removal  
- Encroached Upon

DESCRIBE EXISTING CONDITIONS  

Emphasize landscape features, attach plan at

1" = 20' or 1" = 100'. Include a minimum of two photographs of significant views and features with location and direction of view noted on plan. The Oval has contained transitory and enduring features over the years: memorial rocks, markers, trees, statues, sculpture, site furniture, hard-surfaced walks, and vegetation. Among the extant artifacts are: Class of 1892 Memorial (boulder with plaque), Bucket and Dipper Rock (with plaque), Five brothers Rock (two plaques), Latitude Stone (with plaque), Orton Hall Boulder, Armory Marker, Sphinx Plaza with Sun Dial, W.O. Thompson Statue, Breaker Sculpture, and the Land Grant Centennial Memorial Kiosk and flagpole. Concrete benches and tables were added during the 1970's and 80's as class gifts. The important surviving memorial trees are the replacements for the Five Brothers elm trees (1976), the Kittle Memorial tree (Shumard Oak with plaque, 1979), the Viet Nam memorial trees (with plaque, 1977), the Kiplinger Memorial tree (with
Bibliography of Major Published Sources

Herrick, John H., The OSU Oval, 1982, Office of Campus Planning and Space Utilization, Columbus, Ohio.


13 FORM PREPARATION

Name(s) Joan Randall Phone (614) 168-8719
Street Address 273 Piedmont Rd.
City/Town Columbus State Ohio Zip Code 43214
Date 30-Mar-95

(Attach Photos if Available)
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  Explain categories of significance noted above

The OSU Oval is significant in its association with the thousands of students, faculty, and staff from all over the world who were daily affected by this space as they gathered, studied, played, ate, rested and then went on to affect the world as leaders, thinkers, planners, and doers. It was a gathering place for students to become part of the great social and political upheavals of the 1960's and 1970's. The alterations to circulation paths, addition of space-defining buildings, and addition and removal of trees and artifacts illustrate the time sequence.

12 SOURCES OF INFORMATION  Note sources used in survey with an *.

___ Local Repositories (Name, Address. Type of Material) __________________________________________
OSU Archives, 169 Converse Hall, 2121 Tuttle Park Place, Columbus, Ohio (letters, manuscripts)

___ Non-Local Sources of Documents (Same as Above) ____________________________________________
A. THE LONG WALK

B. CENTRAL NODE

C. FIVE BROTHERS ROCK, ORTON HALL

D. THOMPSON STATUE, THE MAIN LIBRARY

E. SPHINX PLAZA
19 June 1995

Mr. Rai Goerler
Archivist, OSU Archives
169 Converse Hall
2121 Tuttle Park Place
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear Mr. Goerler:

Enclosed is a copy of the American Society of Landscape Architects survey form for the OSU Oval. This form was prepared by Joan Randall, a recent graduate of the Master’s program in Landscape Architecture at Ohio State. Ms. Randall is a resident of Columbus with expertise in designed historic landscapes and cultural landscapes.

I thought you would be interested in having a copy of this form for the university archives.

Sincerely,

Stephen C. Gordon
Survey Manager

Enclosures
Winter Wonderland

Students fight their way through the slush while crossing the Oval Wednesday.
Tour of Columbus presents history, ghosts and Oval

Karissa Shivley
Lantern arts writer

Many people may not realize it, but Columbus is more than just the home of The Ohio State University Buckeyes. It actually has a lot of other things to offer: history, architecture and even stories of ghosts.

Once again, the Columbus Landmarks Foundation will be offering their annual summer walking tours from now until Oct. 6.

The tours will feature historic places in Columbus along with the architecture unique to those areas.

"Our intention is to serve as an educational tool that will help provide a greater understanding and appreciation for Columbus historical sites and architecture," said Barb Powers, Columbus Landmarks Foundation board of trustees member.

Each tour is given by someone who is familiar with that area.

"A person who is an expert in that historical district or architecture will do that tour," said Stephanie Pace, co-chair education committee for Columbus Landmarks Foundation.

Some of the most popular tours take people to places they would not normally be able to go on their own.

"The Forbidden City is one of the most popular tours," Pace said. "This year we're working with CAPA (Columbus Association for the Performing Arts) for a behind the scenes tour (of performance areas)."

A special highlight of this tour is a look at The Southern Theater before the completion of its renovation.

Another very popular tour each summer is the Ghosts of Columbus tour.

"They are tours of historic places in Columbus that have ghosts or urban legends surrounding them," Powers said. "We go to Town Street to the Kelton House and other houses on that street that have some eerie episodes associated with them."

The newest tour on the summer schedule is the tour of the OSU Oval.

Taking part in these tours can change the way a person looks at the city of Columbus.

"We spend so much time in these areas without really seeing them," Pace said. "After knowing the history and seeing the architecture you're more connected to the community and it means more to you."

The summer walking tours are sponsored by the Columbus Landmark Foundation, a nonprofit volunteer organization.

The tickets for the tours are $6 for members of CLF and $8 for nonmembers, except for The Forbidden City which is $12 and advance registration is required. For more information call 221-2691.
Kirstyn Rudik, a senior majoring in biology, soars in her special wheelchair modified for speed. She raced as part of the Awareness Day festivities on the Oval Tuesday.
Sean O’Neil, a junior majoring in business, attempts to hit a beeping ball while blindfolded. O’Neil investigated the world of the blind during Awareness Day activities on the Oval.
Curiouser and curiouser

Two students take time to chat between sculptures of giant mushrooms on the Oval on Tuesday.
Peace pipe

Zach Lerner blows a Shofar, a traditional Hebrew instrument, on the Oval. A traveling music group, from the San Francisco based international organization Jews for Jesus, performed on the Oval Thursday. Other members of the group were holding signs that read "Jesus loves Jews," and "Jesus loves Palestinians."
Trustees hear fiscal reports, approve construction

COLUMBUS – The Ohio State University Board of Trustees, in its monthly meeting Friday (11/3), conducted a variety of business, including accepting the audit of the last fiscal year and approving parking and construction projects.

Oval restoration to proceed

The Board of Trustees has given approval to the university to proceed with the first phase of a multi-year project aimed at a historic restoration of the Oval. A design consultant will be hired to map out installation of an irrigation system, turf restoration, new pavements and landscaping at a cost of $2 million.

Construction will be scheduled to begin in the spring of 2002, and conclude by the beginning of fall quarter 2002. The Oval restoration is linked to a larger project, aimed at reclaiming the historic qualities of Mirror Lake Hollow and building a pedestrian walkway, called the River of Trees, that will connect the Oval and Mirror Lake with the Olentangy River.

Future phases of the Oval renovation will include new building entrance plazas and plant management, including selective removal and additions of plant materials.
On The Town Square celebration to transform the Oval

Festival features something for everyone

COLUMBUS — The serene surroundings of the Oval, located in the heart of The Ohio State University campus, will be transformed this weekend into a celebration of culture and diversity with an “On The Town Square” celebration from noon to 7 p.m. Saturday (5/18).

The event, which last year entertained a record crowd of 4,500 people, is yet another aspect of the 2002 African American Heritage Festival highlighting the entire week (May 13 to 19).

The town square setting will offer sites of interests for children and adults. The Oval will showcase African American art, food and entertainment in addition to information booths. To date, 38 vendors have registered to participate.

Dionne Blue, coordinator of women student services and the vendor co-chair, said a lot of thought and hard work has gone into maintaining the integrity of the event.

“We sat down as a committee to hash out goals that would help make this event a positive experience and family oriented,” Blue said.

Fahari, the Swahili word for pride and the festival theme, became the top priority. “The whole notion of maintaining pride in the community was just as important in our selection of vendors as it was in planning entertainment,” Blue added.

Student coordinators Joel Diaz, a junior and pre-business major, and Shantelle Jenkins, a senior majoring in journalism and political science, are pleased with the variety of interests that will be represented. One of the unique vendors participating will offer original handcrafted merchandise from East Africa. In addition, a live radio broadcast will be provided by WSMZ FM (103.1).
“The message that we are trying to send is one of celebration and appreciation,” said Diaz. “Bringing the community together at a place such as the Oval provides an opportunity to experience the African American culture in a very unique way.”

“I think it is important for people of all cultural backgrounds to come together and learn more about African American culture,” said Jenkins. “It’s an event where you can have a great time, learn about the culture and meet other people in the community.”

The celebration continues Saturday evening with “Rock the Mike, Part II,” a dance being held in the parking lot of French Fieldhouse from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The festival wraps up Sunday with a return to the Oval for a campus cookout (noon to 4 p.m.) and a community area cleanup effort (noon to 3 p.m.).

For a complete list of events on the 24th African American Heritage Festival log on to: http://www.osuheritagefestival.com.

###
Oval to remain open through spring quarter
Holbrook responds to student concerns, Coca Cola provides funds to postpone construction

COLUMBUS -- The Ohio State University will delay renovation of the Oval until spring quarter ends in mid-June, and the additional cost will be covered through funds provided by the Coca Cola Company.

President Karen A. Holbrook announced her decision late Thursday (4/22) following a meeting with student leaders, including the originators of a petition drive requesting the delay that gathered nearly 9,000 signatures.

"The students explained their reasons for requesting a postponement of the Oval renovation," Holbrook said. "I was impressed with their very reasoned approach. They have convinced me and my cabinet of the importance of keeping the entire Oval open throughout spring quarter as a place to relax, exercise and enjoy a respite from the construction that is permeating our campus right now."

Holbrook said she could not justify use of university funds to cover the $200,000 cost of delaying onset of construction on the $2.5 million restoration project and sought another way to make up the shortfall.

"We looked for an alternative that would not involve using money that is more appropriately designated for academics and student services," Holbrook said. "Fortunately, the Coca Cola Company has stepped up to offer to fund the additional cost. We are very grateful for their generous support of this project."

Coke spokesperson Kirk Bidlack said, "Ohio State is one of Coca Cola's premier university partners, and we are pleased to be able to help the university preserve the tradition of spring on the Oval."

- more -
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Melissa Kizina, a graduating senior from Lorain, and Stacy Jurich, a freshman from Sylvania, led the petition drive, which collected 8,967 signatures both from students on the Oval and on-line. “On behalf of each student who expressed displeasure about this project, I would like to thank the administration for taking the concerns of students seriously and for working so hard to find a way to accommodate our needs,” Kizina said.

One of the students’ most compelling arguments, Holbrook said, was that current students have had to live, study, work and play on a campus with an unprecedented number of major construction projects.

“I think the Oval restoration was the proverbial straw that broke the camel’s back,” she said. “Our students have been remarkably good-natured and understanding about the detours, noise, dirt and other inconveniences that construction brings. Progress is a wonderful thing, but we also need to respect tradition. Thanks to Coke, we can do that and still be fiscally responsible.”

As the May 1 date for the renovation grew nearer, a growing number of students expressed unhappiness with the timeline. University plans called for fencing off about 40 percent of the Oval to begin work on the project, which will address deferred maintenance issues and includes replacing walkways, restoring lights and turf and removing some trees while planting others. A major component is installing an irrigation system to provide a lawn that will be easier to maintain given the heavy use of the Oval from special events as well as daily use by students, faculty, staff and visitors.

Instead of doing the work in two steps, as originally planned, the entire Oval will be renovated during summer quarter. This will necessitate closing the whole Oval for the summer. There are generally fewer events and activities during the summer, and those that would have been held on the Oval will be rescheduled elsewhere.

The 14-acre Oval is often the site of outdoor classes and is considered the heart of the campus. Students argued that closing part of the Oval this spring would limit their access to one of the few large areas of green space on campus and would deny them participation in such traditional activities as graduates having their photos taken in cap and gown with the statue of former President William Oxley Thompson, which stands at the west end of the Oval in front of the Main Library.
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Undergraduate Student Government President Mike Goodman summed up student response: “The Oval is a very special place to undergraduates, and I am glad that the university and Coca Cola could come together to ensure that the students’ spring is as meaningful and enjoyable as always.”

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PICNIC WITH THE BUCKEYES

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LICENSING

OSU goal: Protect the Oval

University pursuing trademark protection

By Mary Mogan Edwards The Columbus Dispatch

Students cross “The Oval” on the Ohio State University campus on Tuesday. [FRED SQUILLANTE/DISPATCH]

Forget about any plans you might have to appeal to Ohio State University lovers everywhere with a line of T-shirts evoking that signature grassy expanse that’s something between a circle and a rectangle.

The university is claiming “The Oval” — the place name and the image, not the geometrical shape — as its own.

Seeking trademark protection is the ultimate step in brand defense, said Rick Van Brimmer, OSU’s assistant vice president for trademark-licensing services. The university is moving the Oval up to that category (where Brutus Buckeye, Woody Hayes, The Shoe, Urban Meyer and the like dwell) because OSU is using it these days as a neck label on apparel and other items.
Unlike OSU’s Varsity, Fan Gear and other brands, stuff sold with The Oval label is marketed mainly to central Ohioans.

Van Brimmer said U.S. Patent and Trademark Office approval of a trademark request typically takes about a year.

Owning a trademark prevents anyone from making money off a trademarked image or phrase without the owner’s agreement.

Ohio State hasn’t relied on its big name alone to scare off pirates. In November, it sued online retailer CafePress in federal court, alleging that the company made and sold counterfeit Urban Meyer T-shirts and other items.

In 2015, the university sued Cincinnati’s Horseshoe Casino for attempting to register “The Shoe” as the name of a concert venue. That fight probably is over because the casino owner, Rock Gaming, rebranded itself in June as Jack Entertainment and the casino became known as Jack Cincinnati Casino. Its website does not mention The Shoe.

When it comes to special OSU places, the Oval is right up there with Ohio Stadium, the horseshoe-shaped object of that now-defunct trademark fight. When Provost Bruce McPheron told university trustees last fall about a plan to renovate Mirror Lake, he described its importance thusly:

“When people think of the Ohio State campus, Mirror Lake and the Oval — along with the stadium — those are the primary things people think of.”

When Van Brimmer starts talking about protecting the Mirror Lake label with a trademark, we’ll know it has reached the big time. mcedward@dispatch.com @MaryMoganEdward