Ohio Historic Preservation Office



567 F Hudson St Columbus, OH 43211 614/298-2000

OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

RPR Number

BUT-0250 6-01 4. Present Name(s) 1. No. BUT-02506-01 **Billings Hall** 5. Historic or Other Name(s) 2. County **Billings Natatorium** Butler 6. Specific Address or Location 35. Plan Shape 19a. Design Sources Butler 2. County Rectangular 289 Tallawanda Avenue 20. Contractor or Builder 36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates: Frank Messer & Sons 17. Original/Most significant construct 21. Building Type or Plan 6a. Lot. Section or VMD Number Other Building Type 17b 22. Original Use, if apparent Swimming Pool 7. City or Village 37. Window Type(s) Present or Historic Name(s) Oxford Billings Hal Casement 23. Present Use 9. U.T.M. Reference 38. Building Dimensions Oxford Quadrangle Name: 16 694797 4375990 39. Endangered? NO Easting Northing Zone 24. Ownership Public By What? 25. Owner's Name & Address, if known 10. Classification: Building Miami University NO 11. On National Register? 40. Chimney Placement Oxford, Ohio 45056 No chimney observed 13. Part of Established Hist. Dist? 26. Property Acreage NO 41. Distance from & Frontage on Road 15. Other Designation (NR or Local) 27. Other Surveys 51. Condition of Property: 28. No. of Stories Excellent Two story 16. Thematic Associations: 52. Historic Outbuildings & Dependencies Swimming 29. Basement? Yes University Structure Type 30. Foundation Material Unknown 17. Date(s) or Period 17b. Alteration Date(s) 31. Wall Construction 1952 Unknown Date 18. Style Class and Design 32. Roof Type **Neo-Classical Revival** Dominant Associated Activity Flat Roof Material 18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s) Built-up (tar paper, membrane, graveled) 33. No. of Bays 10 Side Bays 53. Affiliated Inventory Numbers: Historic (OHI) 19. Architect or Engineer 34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Charles F. Cellarius Flemish bond Archaeological (OAI) 42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary) 6. Specific Address or Location 289 Tallawanda Avenue Billings Hall is a two-story brick flat-roofed building with Neo-Classical Revival features. It consists of a volume two-story section that housed the swimming pool, flanked by a smaller one-story wing that functions as the main entrance. The natatorium facade has seven bays recessed between embedded stone pilasters topped by a stone cornice with wide frieze and brick parapet. The one-story entrance wing has a similar treatment, with a three-bay recessed porch created by square stone piers topped by the stone cornice with wide frieze

43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)

Billings Natatorium was constructed in 1952 as the first natatorium on the Miami University campus. The architect was Charles F. Cellarius, architect of so many of Miami's mid-20th century buildings. The facility was named for John Shaw Billings, MU class of 1857, who was a noted physician, librarian, and public health authority. It provided the university with an indoor facility for swimming in connection with physical education classes and intercollegiate swimming competition. Recreational swimming was offered weekday afternoons and evenings. The facility included locker rooms for men and women. Billings remained a swimming facility until 1994 when it was converted to the university's North Chiller Facility

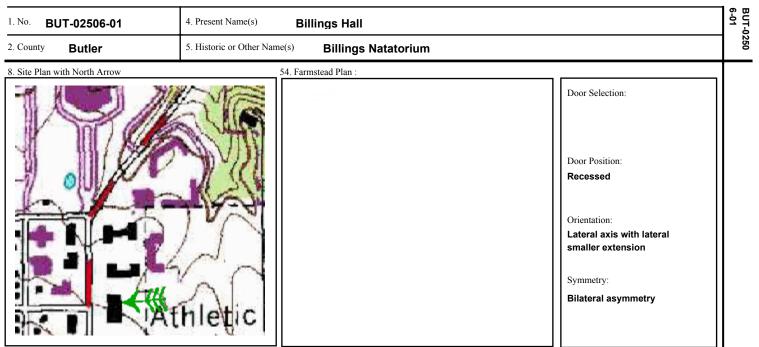
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)

Billings Hall faces Tallawanda Road in the north campus area of Miami University. It is adjacent to another former athletic facility, Withrow Court.

45. Sources of Information

and brick parapet.

Flintermann, Peter, Miami Buildings Past and Present, 1966; MU Physical Facilities, Building Information, 2005; The Miami Student, 'Aquatic Programs in New Natatorium Announced by Ray,' September 19, 1952.



Report Associated With Project:

NADB #:



1. No. BUT-02506-01	4. Present Name(s) Billings Hall	BUT-0 6-01
2. County Butler	5. Historic or Other Name(s) Billings Natatorium	0250
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)		
43. History and Significance (Con't)		-
		4
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (Con't)		
45. Sources (Con't)		1