Mary Lyon Hall is a 2-1/2 story limestone-faced dormitory with original hipped slate roof. The building has a long horizontal axis, containing 16 bays on its main facade. Window openings have flat-arched stone lintels and paired 6-over-6 double hung sash. Hipped-roof, single-window roof dormers are positioned above each structural bay. At the center of the facade are five projecting one-story bay windows with flat roofs and battlements. The central bay contains the building's round-arched entry and also features the entry porch with round-arched opening with smooth stone surround, corner quoins and battlements at the flat roof. At each end of the building is a two-story wing with lower roofline adjoining the main section. The rear elevation has paired windows, hipped-roof dormers and an unornamented entry door with steps at the center. On the interior, the dormitory has a central corridor plan bisected by the entry hall. A living area with fireplaces is located on the first floor. Stairs are located off the corridor near each end of the building and restrooms are located in the end wings.

Built as a dormitory in 1925, Mary Lyon Hall was the second dedicated dormitory to be constructed on the campus of the Western College for Women. (McKee Hall had been built as New Dormitory in 1904, while Peabody Hall was multi-use.) Needed to accommodate the growing student population of the early 1920s, the building originally housed 110 young women. It was designed by Joseph C. Wespiser, also the architect for Presser Hall (music education building), built in 1931. Like Presser and Kumler Chapel before it on the Western College campus, Mary Lyon Hall is faced with uncourse fieldstone (limestone). (Clawson and Boyd Halls followed suit in the 1940s.) In 1934, college trustees named this building in honor of Mary Lyon, founder of Mt. Holyoke Seminary, which had served as the model for the Western Female Seminary. (McKee Hall had been built as New Dormitory in 1904, while Peabody Hall was multi-use.) Needed to accommodate the growing student population of the early 1920s, the building originally housed 110 young women. It was designed by Joseph C. Wespiser, also the architect for Presser Hall (music education building), built in 1931. Like Presser and Kumler Chapel before it on the Western College campus, Mary Lyon Hall is faced with uncourse fieldstone (limestone). (Clawson and Boyd Halls followed suit in the 1940s.) In 1934, college trustees named this building in honor of Mary Lyon, founder of Mt. Holyoke Seminary, which had served as the model for the Western Female Seminary.

Sources of Information
Mitchell, Lawrence, Western Female Seminary, National Register nomination, 1979; Western College Memorial Archives, Miami University; Photographs of Frank R. Snyder, Miami University Digital Collections; Curry, Lucy, Ohio Historic Inventory form, 1976.
1. No.  BUT-00035-01  REV
2. County  Butler
3. Name(s)  Mary Lyon Hall
4. Present Name(s)  Mary Lyon Hall
5. Historic or Other Name(s)  Mary Lyon Hall
6. Farmstead Plan:
   
   Bilateral symmetry

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #:
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<tr>
<td>5. Historic or Other Name(s)</td>
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### 42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)

### 44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (Con't)

Western Female Seminary at its founding in 1853. Mary Lyon Hall continues to function as a dormitory on the Western campus of Miami University today.

### 45. Sources (Con't)