



OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

RPR Number:

1. No. BUT-00030-01 REV		4. Present Name(s) Peabody Hall		0-01 BUT-0003
2. County Butler		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Western Female Seminary, Seminary Hall		
6. Specific Address or Location 701 Western College Drive		19a. Design Sources		2. County Butler
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number		20. Contractor or Builder		
7. City or Village Oxford		21. Building Type or Plan Other Building Type		4. Present or Historic Name(s) Peabody Hall
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name: Oxford 16 695546 4374658 Zone Easting Northing		22. Original Use, if apparent College/University Dormitory		
10. Classification: Building		23. Present Use College/University Dormitory		2. County Butler
11. On National Register? YES		24. Ownership Public		
13. Part of Established Hist. Dist? YES		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Miami University Oxford, Ohio 45056		4. Present or Historic Name(s) Peabody Hall
15. Other Designation (NR or Local) Western Female Seminary		26. Property Acreage		
16. Thematic Associations: Seminary PRIVATE/College		27. Other Surveys		2. County Butler
17. Date(s) or Period 1861		28. No. of Stories Three and a half story		
17b. Alteration Date(s) 1871, 1996		29. Basement? Yes		4. Present or Historic Name(s) Peabody Hall
18. Style Class and Design Dominant Italianate		30. Foundation Material Stone bearing		
18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)		31. Wall Construction Brick bearing		2. County Butler
19. Architect or Engineer Walters and Wilson (1861)		32. Roof Type Gable Roof Material Unknown		
		33. No. of Bays 33 Side Bays 13		4. Present or Historic Name(s) Peabody Hall
		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Common or American bond		
35. Plan Shape U-shaped				
36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates: 17. Original/Most significant construct				
17b. Substantial alteration/addition				
37. Window Type(s) 6 over 6				
38. Building Dimensions				
39. Endangered? NO By What?				
40. Chimney Placement				
41. Distance from & Frontage on Road				
51. Condition of Property: Good/Fair				
52. Historic Outbuildings & Dependencies Structure Type				
Date				
Associated Activity				
53. Affiliated Inventory Numbers: Historic (OHI)				
Archaeological (OAI)				
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary) Peabody Hall is a U-shaped brick college building with a symmetrical facade distinguished by a 4-1/2 story central gabled pavilion and 3-1/2 story wings with smaller gabled pavilions. A central tower that rose above the main pavilion no longer exists. The building sits on a raised basement with random fieldstone foundation. The facade is composed of windows set in twos and threes with segmental-arched soldier brick lintels and stone sills that form a continuous string course. Stone belt courses also mark the upper and lower portions of the facade. Round-arched windows are located below the gables in each of the projecting pavilions. The end pavilions also have buttresses capped with stone at each corner. The long north and south side elevations (forming the U) continue the corner gabled pavilions, sill and belt coursing, and window treatments of the facade. The front entrance with pointed arch is centrally located in the main pavilion, where a broad one-story porch with paired colonettes is located. A decorative porch roof balustrade has been removed. The porch is reached by steps with an iron railing. As existing, Peabody Hall was completed in 1871 using the continued...				
43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary) Peabody Hall was originally built in 1861 on the foundation of the first Western Female Seminary building (1855) which had burned in 1860. The 1861 design was by Cincinnati architects Walters and Wilson. A second fire in 1871 destroyed much of the new building, but the exterior walls were saved and incorporated into the new Seminary Hall in 1871-72. Western Female Seminary was organized in 1853 by Rev. Daniel Tenney, a Presbyterian minister in Oxford. Based on the model of Mt. Holyoke Seminary (later Mt. Holyoke College), Western was led by Principal Helen Peabody for its first 30 years. She retired in 1884 to make room for new leadership as the Seminary was transitioning to a degree-granting college. In 1894, the Seminary became known as The Western: A College and Seminary for Women. The				
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52) The building sits at the top of a hill (Peabody Hill) overlooking the south landscape of Miami University's Western campus.				
45. 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; Zach Douglas, Dave Fingerhut and Dave Yousavich, Getty Campus Heritage Grant Student Report, Professor Curt Ellison, Fall 2008.				
46. Prepared By: Judy Williams		47. Organization: Historic Preservation Consultant		6. Specific Address or Location 701 Western College Drive
49. PIR Reviewer:		48. Date Recorded: 07/30/2008		
		50. PIR Review Date:		

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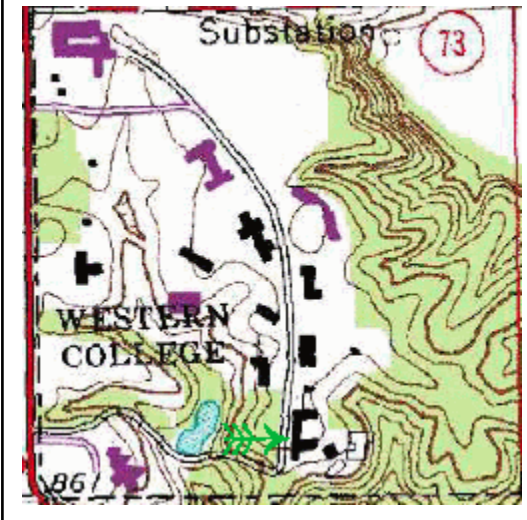
4. Present Name(s) **Peabody Hall**

2. County **Butler**

5. Historic or Other Name(s) **Western Female Seminary, Seminary Hall**

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan :



Door Selection:
Single centered

Door Position:
Flush

Orientation:
Gable with lateral wing

Symmetry:
Bilateral symmetry

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #:



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42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)

exterior walls of an earlier 1861 building that had been gutted by fire. Features from the earlier building include the central entrance, fenestration pattern, belt coursing, and buttresses and piers. The building received a new design above the third floor in 1871. In 1996, the building underwent a sensitive rehabilitation.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

name was changed to Western College for Women in 1904. In 1905, Seminary Hall was renamed Peabody Hall to honor Miss Peabody. Located in a commanding hilltop position, the building served in the early years as residence hall, classroom and nerve center for the Seminary. Even as new buildings were added to the campus, it remained as a focal point. Today Peabody Hall houses students and offices and is a center of community life for Miami University's Western College Program.

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

45. Sources (Con't)