



OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

RPR Number:

1. No. BUT-00041-01 REV		4. Present Name(s) Presser Hall		1-01 BUT-0004
2. County Butler		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Presser Hall		
6. Specific Address or Location 501 South Patterson Avenue		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) Presser Hall
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name: Oxford 16 695196 4374927 Zone Easting Northing		22. Original Use, if apparent College/University Auditorium		
10. Classification: Building		23. Present Use College/University Auditorium		35. Plan Shape T-shaped
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		36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates: 17. Original/Most significant construct 17b. Substantial alteration/addition
15. Other Designation (NR or Local) Western Female Seminary		26. Property Acreage		
16. Thematic Associations: PRIVATE/College Music		27. Other Surveys		37. Window Type(s) Casement
17. Date(s) or Period 1931		28. No. of Stories Two story		
17b. Alteration Date(s) 2008		29. Basement? Yes		38. Building Dimensions
18. Style Class and Design Dominant Jacobethan Element Late Gothic Revival		30. Foundation Material Unknown		
18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)		31. Wall Construction Unknown		39. Endangered? NO By What?
19. Architect or Engineer Joseph C. Wespiser		32. Roof Type Gable Roof Material Slate		
		33. No. of Bays 17 Side Bays 7		40. Chimney Placement Unknown
		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Limestone Rubble or unquared stone		
41. Distance from & Frontage on Road				
51. Condition of Property: Excellent				
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) Presser Hall is a large two-story academic building with steep gabled roof, horizontal main block with end wings, and a large central auditorium wing at the rear. The roof is slate and the entire structure is faced in uncoursed field limestone, the material also used for several other buildings on the Western campus. Presser's symmetrical main facade includes three projecting pavilions with stepped triangular parapets, giving the building a Jacobethan Revival style. The central pavilion holds the entry, accented by a smooth cut-stone, flat-roofed entrance portico with three pointed-arch bays and paneled battlements at the cornice. A set of steps leads to the porch front; curving concrete ramps with wrought iron railings have been added to access the porch from each side. Above the porch are three window bays at the second floor; a name plate with 'Presser Hall' and a single window are located in the gable above. The two end pavilions are plain, with two windows at the second floor only. Windows throughout retain their casement appearance and have label hoodmolds of smooth stone. The stepped triangular parapets and fenestration details are used on the side wings continued...				
43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary) Presser Hall was constructed to house the music program for the Western College for Women, which had a strong tradition of music education. The building was built at a cost of \$150,000, half of which came from a grant from the Presser Foundation of Philadelphia. Theodore Presser was a music educator, businessman and philanthropist who created the foundation, which received funds from his estate following his death in 1925. At the time of the dedication of Presser Hall in 1931, the Foundation president told those gathered that this building was one of nine made possible by the Presser Foundation at that time. Presser Hall served Western College's music program and served as the music hall and auditorium for large college events as well as performances by visiting artists. Acquired by Miami				
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52) Presser Hall faces Patterson Avenue at the edge of Miami's Western campus. It was built adjacent to the Edgar Stillman Kelley Studio, which housed the college's musical artist-in-residence beginning in 1917. To the west of Presser Hall is a ravine; its entry doors line up directly with a cobblestone bridge and walkway leading east across the ravine to other campus buildings.				
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; The Question Mark, Western College newspaper, 'Dedication of Presser Hall,' May 30, 1931; Curry, Lucy, Ohio Historic Inventory form, 1976.				
46. Prepared By: Judy Williams		47. Organization: Historic Preservation Consultant		6. Specific Address or Location 501 South Patterson Avenue
49. PIR Reviewer:		48. Date Recorded: 07/30/2008 50. PIR Review Date:		

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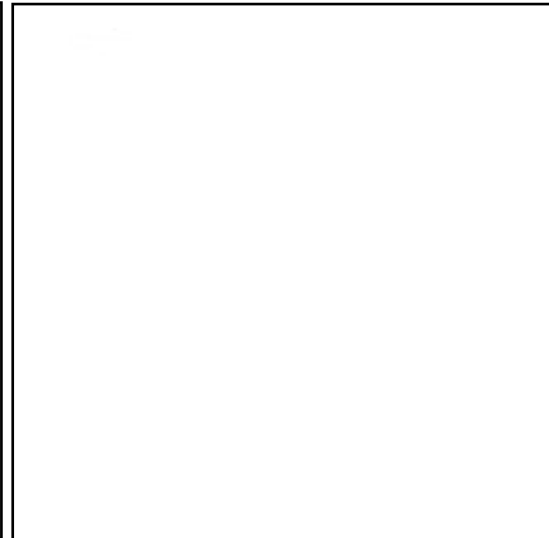
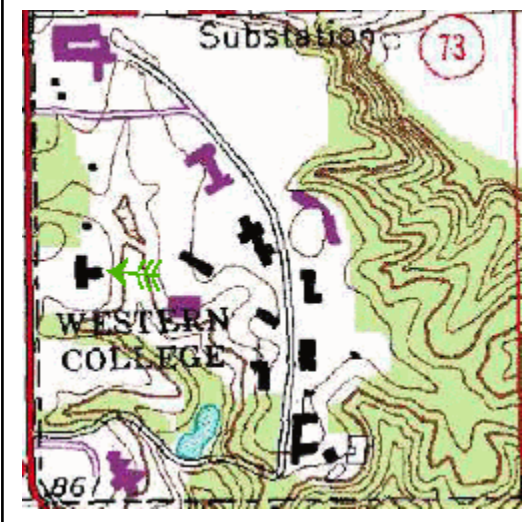
4. Present Name(s) **Presser Hall**

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8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan :



Door Selection:
Three or more

Door Position:
Flush

Orientation:
Lateral axis

Symmetry:
Bilateral symmetry

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #:



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

and rear auditorium section as well. At the rear of the auditorium is a one-story entry pavilion and Gothic-arched entrance with smooth stone surround. A rear interior courtyard is created by a fieldstone wall.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

University with the Western campus in 1974, Presser Hall underwent a complete renovation in 2008, including reconfiguring of interior spaces and a rear addition. Today it houses the Department of Music.

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

45. Sources (Con't)