**OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RPR Number:</th>
<th>BUT-02502-01</th>
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<td>County</td>
<td>Butler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Present Name(s)</td>
<td>Sesquicentennial Chapel</td>
</tr>
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**6. Specific Address or Location**

551 East Spring Street

**6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number**

Oxford

**9. U.T.M. Reference**

Quadrangle Name: Oxford

Zone Easting Northing: 694876 4375253

**10. Classification:**

Building

**11. On National Register?**

NO

**13. Part of Established Hist. Dist?**

NO

**15. Other Designation (NR or Local)**

Miami University

**16. Thematic Associations:**

RELIGION: ECCLESIASTICAL GROUP

University

**17. Date(s) or Period**

1959

**18. Style Class and Design**

Dominant: Colonial Revival

**18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)**

Cellarius and Hilmer

**19. Architect or Engineer**

Cellarius and Hilmer

**19a. Design Sources**

20. Contractor or Builder

**21. Building Type or Plan**

Basilican Plan Church

**22. Original Use, if apparent**

Church/Religious Structure

**23. Present Use**

Church/Religious Structure

**24. Ownership**

Public

**25. Owner's Name & Address, if known**

Miami University

**26. Property Acreage**

Oxford, Ohio 45056

**27. Other Surveys**

**28. No. of Stories**

One story

**29. Basement?**

Yes

**30. Foundation Material**

Unknown

**31. Wall Construction**

Unknown

**32. Roof Type**

Gable

**33. No. of Bays**

3

**34. Exterior Wall Material(s)**

Flemish bond

**35. Plan Shape**

Rectangular

**36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates:**

Original/Most significant construct

**37. Window Type(s)**

8 over 8

**38. Building Dimensions**

**39. Endangered?**

NO

**40. Chimney Placement**

Yes

**41. Distance from & Frontage on Road**

**42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)**

This is a one-story brick chapel designed in a simple Colonial Revival style. Dominant features include the central belltower with copper-roofed spire and the tall front portico with four Ionic columns supporting a pediment with modillions at the eaves and an oval window at the center. The central entrance has a broken pediment surround. Side elevations display four tall round-arched windows with keystones, designed to light the interior sanctuary. The building eaves have modillions and the roof is slate. On the interior, the building was designed with a sanctuary seating about 150, choir loft and office on the first floor, and restrooms, prayer room and meeting space on the lower level.

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

Sesquicentennial Chapel was constructed in 1959 as a gift from alumni and friends in observance of Miami University's 150th anniversary. Chapel services had been an early tradition at Miami with chapel first held in Old Main, then at Benton Hall (now Hall Auditorium) until the student body outgrew that facility. President John D. Millett advocated the idea of a Chapel as a Sesquicentennial project 'to reaffirm that education is our principal preoccupation, but that religious faith must still help to give content and meaning to our lives.' The chapel was to be non-denominational, open to all and was considered a living memorial at Miami. Its cost to build was $280,000. The architect was Cellarius and Hilmer, the Cincinnati firm who helped the university to firmly establish its...

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

The Chapel is located near the center of the Miami University campus. It occupies the corner of Maple and Spring Streets near other campus buildings; trees and lawn give it an appropriate context.

**45. Sources of Information**

Flintermann, Peter, Miami Buildings Past and Present, 1966; Millett, John D. 'The Reasons for the Sesquicentennial Chapel,' no date; MU Physical Facilities, Building Information, 2005; Chris Brock and Alea Jordan, Getty Campus Heritage Grant Student Report, Professor Curt Ellison, Fall 2008.

**46. Prepared By:** Judy Williams

**47. Organization:** Historic Preservation Consultant

**48. Date Recorded:** 07/30/2008

**49. PIR Reviewer:**

**50. PIR Review Date:**
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8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan:

- Door Selection: Single centered
- Door Position: Flush
- Orientation: Gable end axis
- Symmetry: Bilateral symmetry

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #: 

![Image of Sesquicentennial Chapel](image-url)
Georgian/Colonial Revival architectural tradition. Sesquicentennial Chapel was dedicated on June 7, 1959 at the Baccalaureate exercises for the class of 1959. The carillon chimes were dedicated in October, 1959, a gift from the national council of Delta Zeta sorority, founded at Miami in 1902, and of Delta Sigma Epsilon, founded at Miami in 1914 (the two merged in 1955). The Chapel continues to be used by a variety of campus groups as well as for weddings and other events.