

## OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
567 E. Hudson St. Columbus, Ohio 43211  
614/297-2470



1. No.		2. County LOR		4. Present Name(s) Oberlin College President's House		<input type="checkbox"/> Coded	
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource				5. Historic or Other Name(s) Williams House; Oberlin College President's House			
Roll # Exp. # Facing Front 1 11A N Rear 1 10A SW							
6. Specific Address or Location 154 Forest				17. Date(s) or Period 1920		30. Foundation Material Unknown	
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number				18. Style or Design Colonial Revival		31. Wall Construction Brick Bearing	
7. City or Village If Rural, Township & Vicinity Oberlin				18a. Style of Addition or Element(s) High Style <input type="checkbox"/> Elements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		32. Roof: Type Hip Pitch Moderate Material Slate	
8. Site Plan with North Arrow				19. Architect or Engineer Clarence Ward		33. No. Bays Front 5 Side 5	
				19a. Design Sources		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Brick, Flemish Bond	
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name				20. Contractor or Builder J.B. Tucker		35. Plan Shape Rectangular	
Zone Easting Northing <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>				21. Building Type or Plan House: other		36. Changes (Explain in #42)	
10. <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object				22. Original Use, if apparent Single Dwelling		37. Window Type(s) 12 over 12 Double-hung; casement	
11. On National Register ? Yes				23. Present Use Single Dwelling		38. Bldg. Dims. 27 ft. X 51 ft.	
12. N.R. Potential ? Yes				24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		39. Endangered? No Explain:	
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No				25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Oberlin College 135 West Lorain Street Oberlin OH 44074		40. Chimney Placement	
14. Dist. Potential ? Yes				26. Property Acreage .149		41a. Distance from road	
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local) NR: Oberlin College thematic nomination				27. Other Surveys in Which Included McQuillan (76); Doud (92)		41b. Frontage on road 27 ft.	
16. Thematic Association(s) Education: Private/parochial: Higher				28. No. of Stories 2 and 1/2			
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features This symmetrical, two-and-one-half-story, hipped roof house has elements of Colonial Revival Style. A pediment with a small semicircular window is centered along the roofline. Two sets of paired wooden piers on each side of the front door extend from the pediment to the foundation and frame the front door and the three windows above. Piers are repeated at each corner. The cornices each have a row of dentils. A pair of arched dormers is on each side of the roof, except for the front-facing side. The dormer windows are double-hung with semicircular fanlights. The second-story windows are twelve-over-one, double-hung, except for the two small windows above the front door roof. (cont.)				29. Basement? Yes			
43. History and Significance Designed by Oberlin College art professor Clarence Ward, this house was built for physics professor Samuel R. Williams. The contractor, J.B. Tucker completed in the house in 1920. Williams left Oberlin College for a position at Amherst College in 1924. In 1927 the college bought the house for \$31,000 as a home for college presidents. (Blodgett). The house has since served as the home for seven presidents and their families. The 154 Forest Street address was listed in city directories starting in 1894. From 1894 through 1908 Clinton McKellog was the occupant, with Mrs. F.B. Boyd and P.M. Avery in 1894. (cont.)							
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) Forest Street is a predominately intact, historic, residential neighborhood.				46. Prepared by M. Fedelchak-Harley; L. Previll			
45. Sources of Information Lorain County Courthouse: Lorain County tax records. Oberlin Public Library: Oberlin City Directories. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files; Oberlin City Directories; Hi-O-Hi, 1917. Blodgett, Geoffrey. Oberlin Architecture College and Town: A Guide to its Social History. Oberlin College, 1985. Oberlin College Library: Oberlin City Directories.				47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.			
				48. Date Recorded 9-15-2000			
				49. Revised by			
				50a. Date Revised			
				50b. Reviewed by			

## 51. Condition of Property

☒ Excellent☐ Good/Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruin☐ Destroyed/Burned

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 54. Farmstead Plan



## 52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

☐ Corn Crib or Shed☐ Summer Kitchen☐ Silo☐ Smoke House☐ Spring House☐ Ice House☐ Designed Landscape Features☐ Privy☒ Garage

## 53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

OAI Completed? \_\_\_\_\_

Archaeological Feature:	Observed	Expected on Basis of Archival Research
Well	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Privy	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Cistern	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Foundation	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Structural Rubble	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Formal Trash Dump	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Other _____	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>

## 42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

All second story windows have stone sills and lintels. The main entrance has a hipped roof over the porch supported by Doric Style columns. A rectangular transom window and sidelights, with leaded glass, frame the front door. Small balconies with cast iron railings accent the large, first floor casement windows. Carved, stone, lintels rest above each set of these windows. This house has a large back patio and formal lawn and garden. Large fanlights are above the windows and doors facing this space. The house appears to be unaltered and well maintained.

## 43. History and Significance (Continued from page 1.)

In 1910 and 1916 the house was occupied by P.F. Finch (City Directories). In 1917 "Finch" s" was included in the college yearbook with 26 students photographed on the front steps (Hi-O-Hi). This building was demolished to build the existing house in 1920.

This house is significant for its association as the residence of Oberlin College presidents. This house was listed on the National Register as part of the Oberlin college thematic nomination in 1978. It was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin City Landmark in November of 1997.