

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) Allencroft (Russia House)		<input type="checkbox"/> Coded	
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource				5. Historic or Other Name(s) Plumb House; Allen House			
Roll #		Exp. #		Facing			
S. Side 1		9A		N			
Front 1		8A		NW			
6. Specific Address or Location 134 South Professor				17. Date(s) or Period 1861		17b. Alteration Date(s)	
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 09-00-085-109-032				18. Style or Design Vernacular		High Style <input type="checkbox"/>	
7. City or Village Oberlin				18a. Style of Addition or Element(s) Italianate		Elements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. Site Plan with North Arrow				19. Architect or Engineer		30. Foundation Material Stone	
				19a. Design Sources		31. Wall Construction Brick Bearing	
				20. Contractor or Builder		32. Roof: Type Flat Pitch Flat Material Unknown	
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name				21. Building Type or Plan House: other		33. No. Bays Front 2 Side irregular	
Zone		Easting		Northing		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Brick, Common/American Bond	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		35. Plan Shape Irregular	
10. <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure				23. Present Use Multiple Dwelling		37. Window Type(s) 1 over 1 Double-hung	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object				24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private		38. Bldg. Dims. 48 ft. X 76 ft.	
11. On National Register ? Yes		12. N.R. Potential ?		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Oberlin College 135 West Lorain Street Oberlin OH 44074		39. Endangered? No Explain:	
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No		14. Dist. Potential ? Yes		26. Property Acreage 0.762		40. Chimney Placement	
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local) NR: Oberlin College thematic nomination				27. Other Surveys in Which Included McQuillin (76)		41a. Distance from road	
16. Thematic Association(s) Education: Parochial/private: Higher				28. No. of Stories 2		41b. Frontage on road 124 ft. (corner)	
				29. Basement? Yes			
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features This two-story, vernacular building has Italianate elements in its windows and porches, and a high, stone foundation. Its form is entirely asymmetrical, resembling an accordion in its arrangement of layered cubic masses. The flat roofline has multiple chimneys and a crowning band of brick corbelling above a rhythmic pattern of decorative brickwork. The windows are varied; some are six-over-six and double-hung, while others are narrow casement or bay windows. All of the windows have stone sills and lintels. The front porch has a flat roof, supported by three squared posts and no railing. The posts have simple capitals and bases. A side porch has a balconied roof with iron railing, supported by a single, round, porch post.							
43. History and Significance Ralph Plumb, an Oberlin-Wellington Rescue participant, had this house built in 1861. Ralph and Samuel, his brother, were abolitionists from New York who came to Oberlin in 1855. After the Civil War Ralph moved on to Illinois and in 1865 Dr. Dudley Allen purchased this house. Allen was known as an art collector and his son Dudley Peter, who graduated from the college in 1875, was an important philanthropist, through his widow, to both the college and the community after his death. Gifts from his widow made possible Allen Art Museum (1917) and Allen Memorial Hospital (1925). This house, the family home, passed into the hands of the college in 1899, (cont.)						46. Prepared by M. Fedelchak Harley; L. Previll	
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) This building is located at the intersection of Forest and South Professor Streets. Forest Street is predominately an historic residential street. This intersection is the southern end of the campus, but there are student housing units further south.						47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.	
45. Sources of Information Lorain County Courthouse: Lorain County tax records. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files. Blodgett, Geoffrey. Oberlin Architecture College and Town: A Guide to its Social History. Oberlin College, 1985.						48. Date Recorded 8-10-2000	
						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>No</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)

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

after Dr. Allen had added bay windows and space in the rear in 1872. The college continued alterations enlarging the rear in 1932 and altering the front porch in 1952 (Blodgett). The interior has had significant changes over time. The house has served as student housing since the college came into ownership. Today it is "Russian House," where both native Russian language students and American-born students who study Russian live.

Though altered from the 1861 original structure, this house is significant for its association with the college through a graduate who made significant philanthropic gifts, and for its long-term use as college student housing. It was listed as an Oberlin City Landmark in 1975. It was listed on the National Register as part of the Oberlin College thematic nomination in 1978.