



# OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

RPR Number:

1. No. <b>LOR-1929-21</b>		4. Present Name(s)		<b>LOR-1929-21</b>
2. County <b>Lorain</b>		5. Historic or Other Name(s) <b>Sperry House</b>		
6. Specific Address or Location <b>50 West Vine</b>		19a. Design Sources		<b>Lorain</b>
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number <b>0900085112043</b>		20. Contractor or Builder		
7. City or Village <b>Oberlin</b>		21. Building Type or Plan <b>Other House Type</b>		2. County
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name: <b>Oberlin</b> <b>17 397875 4571340</b> Zone Easting Northing		22. Original Use, if apparent <b>Single Dwelling</b>		
10. Classification: <b>Building</b>		23. Present Use <b>Single Dwelling</b>		4. Present or Historic Name(s)
11. On National Register? <b>NO</b>		24. Ownership <b>Private</b>		
13. Part of Established Hist. Dist? <b>NO</b>		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known		50 West Vine
15. Other Designation (NR or Local)		26. Property Acreage <b>0.11</b>		
16. Thematic Associations: <b>Public Spaces</b> <b>College</b> <b>Grocery</b>		27. Other Surveys		6. Specific Address or Location
17. Date(s) or Period <b>c. 1896</b>		28. No. of Stories <b>Two story</b>		
18. Style Class and Design <b>Dominant Dutch Colonial Revival</b>		29. Basement? <b>Yes</b>		50 West Vine
18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)		30. Foundation Material <b>Stone bearing</b>		
19. Architect or Engineer		31. Wall Construction <b>Balloon/western/platform frame</b>		50 West Vine
		32. Roof Type <b>Gambrel</b> Roof Material <b>Asphalt shingle</b>		
		33. No. of Bays <b>2</b> Side Bays <b>3</b>		50 West Vine
		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) <b>Wood shingle</b>		
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)				
<p>This Dutch Colonial Revival house features a recessed porch at the right corner of its main/south facade. Within the porch, the wood door has a large, oval window. A leaded &amp; beveled glass window is right of the door. The porch has square pilasters &amp; square columns supporting it. Left of the porch, a large 1/1 window has an upper sash that is smaller than the lower sash. Another square pilaster is located at the far left corner of the house. The second story features the gambrel gable indicative of Dutch Colonial Revival style. The gable extends to just above the 1st story &amp; its wood shingles bow out at the 1st story. 2 1/1 double hung windows at the 2nd story have segmental arched pediments above the windows with a torch &amp; laurel wreath design at the center of each arch. The arches have cornice returns. The attic has a pair of windows that form 1 arch with a wood 'keystone' at the top. The east elevation features a door at the center, below a projecting bay, which is supported by decorative brackets. A small window left of the door has muntins that form diamonds. The projecting bay has small, sawtooth shingles at the lowest row &amp; features a pair of 1/1 double continued...</p>				
43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)				
<p>In 1896, the 'Gentleman Explorer' Dr. Lyman B. Sperry led a team to an unexplored glacier in what would become Glacier National Park. The glacier is known today as Sperry Glacier, and it rests on Mt. Oberlin. Also in 1896, some two thousand miles away in Oberlin, Ohio, on a parcel of land at the northwest corner of South Professor and West Vine, this house was moved to come to front on W. Vine. Dr. Lyman B. Sperry owned that parcel of land, and became, with his wife Rosa H., the first resident to live at 50 W. Vine. Sperry taught at Oberlin College and did much more traveling in his life, and, in fact, died in Glacier National Park. Lyman and Rosa Sperry moved out of this house, though, around 1908, making way for another Sperry family (but of no apparent relation), Merritt D., his wife continued...</p>				
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)				
<p>This house is located on a residential street.</p>				
45. Sources of Information				
<p>Oberlin City Directories. Oberlin News; 'Plans for property W. Vine and S. Professor', 06/19/1896, p. 5, c. 4; 'Died in Glacier Park; to be buried in Oberlin; obituary', 07/05/1923, p. 1, c. 6; 'To open grocery store', 02/25/1908, p. 1, c. 6; 'died; obituary', 06/30/1915, p.1, c. 7.; Oberlin College Archives Online. 'Louis D. Hartson, Biography'. &lt;<a href="http://www.oberlin.edu/archive/holdings/finding/RG30/SG12/adminhist.html">http://www.oberlin.edu/archive/holdings/finding/RG30/SG12/adminhist.html</a>&gt; Accessed 08/02/2005.; Blodgett, Geoffrey, 'Oberlin Architecture, College and continued...</p>				
46. Prepared By: <b>Laurie Stein</b>		47. Organization: <b>Oberlin Heritage Center</b>		48. Date Recorded: <b>12/02/2005</b>
49. PIR Reviewer:				50. PIR Review Date:



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

hung windows. The right side of the elevation has steps that lead to another door. Both doors have a window in the upper half & 3 filled wood panels below. A window is located between the doors. 1/1 double hung windows are located in the 2nd story to the left & right of the projecting bay. Another gambrel gable dominates this elevation & west elevation since the roof is a cross gable. The west elevation has a large 1/1 window with a small upper sash at the left side of the elevation. The right side has a bay window with a narrow 1/1 window that faces southwest (another likely faces northwest, but is not visible). The center window is leaded & has beveled glass. The bay has an entablature with dentil molding, frieze panels, & cornice. The 2nd story has 3 1/1 double hung windows. The attic has a pair of 6/1 double hung windows.

*43. History and Significance (Con't)*

Myrtle V., and their daughter Margaret E., an Oberlin College student. Merritt and family had lived in Piqua, Ohio for five years previous to moving into this house. Before that, they had lived in Oberlin. Sperry returned to take over the Sperry Grocery business from his brother. Myrtle died in 1915. Sometime between 1916 and 1920, Merritt Sperry moved out. Jean P. Youtz, a Conservatory student, lived here in 1920. The house maintained this college tie with the next known resident, Mary Agnes Stocker in 1927, who boarded students, and the house became known as Rose Cottage. This house is listed vacant in 1933. In 1935, the Phelps family moved in: Mrs. J.H.; Dorothy Turner, a student; Joel H., a student; Majorie, a student; and Vesta, a student. This house was once again vacant from 1937 to 1940 when Lewis D. Hartson, a professor in the Oberlin College Department of Psychology, wife Mary, and children Dorothy Helen, Robert Reed, and Mary Elizabeth moved in. Lewis compiled and edited the 1960 Oberlin Alumni Register, an 888-page source listing Oberlin College students. From 1943 to 1970, a large number of residents occupied this house including, in succession: Mrs. Ama Selover; F. Lugt; Charles E. Weltzheimer, wife Margaret B., and three children; D.M. Henderson and wife, Kathy G.; Hattie Selover; and James and Shirley Billingsly. It is worth note that Charles E. and Margaret B. Weltzheimer commissioned architect Frank Lloyd Wright to build a home at 127 Woodland. In the 1970s and 80s, it is unclear who lived at this house. The house was owned by David Breitman and Kathryn Stuart in the late 1990s - early 2000s. They undertook exterior renovations.

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

*45. Sources (Con't)*

Town: A Guide to Social History,' Oberlin College, 1985.; City Directories, O.H.I.O Resource Center.; Holsworth, Pat, Oberlin Pioneer Database.; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.; Gordon, Stephen C., 'How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory,' Ohio Historical Society, Columbus. 1992.; McAlester, Virginia and Lee. 'A Field Guide to American Houses.' Alfred K. Knopf Inc. New York. 2000.; 'Alumni Register: Graduates and Former Students, Teaching and Administrative Staff, (1833-1960).' Oberlin College, 1961.; Lorain County Court House, Auditor Property Record, Internet, <http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor/index.shtml>, Accessed 2005.