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Photo available upon request

Oberlin Heritage Center Celebrates 150th Anniversary of Monroe House

The Oberlin Heritage Center's historic Monroe House is having a birthday! Built in 1866, the beautifully preserved Italianate style brick building which serves as the nonprofit organization's main office and is a focal point of its guided history tours, celebrates a milestone anniversary this year. In honor of the building's sesquicentennial, the Heritage Center will host a community **Open House** on **Saturday, September 10 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** offering visitors the chance to explore behind-the-scenes from attic to basement. Young-at-heart of all ages also will enjoy the Little Red Schoolhouse, which will be open for tours and playing old-fashioned games inside and out. The free event is part of the **Ohio Open Doors** initiative taking place all over the state from September 9-18, with historic sites posting special tours and activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, in 1966.

The Monroe House originally was built for General Giles Shurtleff (1831-1904) and his wife Mary Burton Shurtleff (1836-1924). Shurtleff was a Civil War veteran who commanded the first African American regiment from Ohio in the Union Army. He owned the house only a short time before he sold it in 1870 to James (1821-1898) and Julia Finney (1837-1930) Monroe. Monroe, a professor at Oberlin College, was widely respected as an abolitionist (and friend of Frederick Douglass) and politician who served as a U.S. Consul to Brazil and also was a five-term U.S. Congressman. Julia Monroe led local charity projects and was the daughter of Charles Grandison Finney, an internationally known minister and leader of Oberlin College. The Monroe family occupied the house for the next 60 years. Open House visitors can learn more about the Shurtleffs and Monroes, as well as other former inhabitants, as they have the opportunity to look closely in the nooks and crannies of all corners of the house.

For more information about this event or other upcoming activities hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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