### Ohio Historic Inventory

#### 1. No. LOR-1818-21

#### 2. County Lorain

#### 3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O.

#### 4. Present Name(s) Houston House

#### 5. Historic or Other Name(s)

#### 6. Specific Address or Location 481 Caskey Court

#### 7. City or Village Oberlin

#### 8. Site Plan with North Arrow

#### 9. U.T.M. Reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quadrangle Name:</th>
<th>Oberlin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zone Easting</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone Northing</td>
<td>4571682</td>
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</table>

#### 10. Classification: Building

#### 11. On National Register?

#### 12. Ownership Private

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

#### 14. Other Designation (NR or Local)

#### 15. Other Surveys

#### 16. Thematic Associations:

- College, World War II
- World War II

#### 17. Date(s) or Period 1955

#### 18. Style or Design

- Modern Movements
- High Style

#### 19. Architect or Engineer

- Max Ratner

#### 20. Contractor or Builder

- No. of Bays: 3
- Side Bays: 2
- Exterior Wall Material(s): Running Stretcher bond

#### 21. Building Type or Plan Gabled Ell

#### 22. Original Use, if apparent Single Dwelling

#### 23. Present Use Single Dwelling

#### 24. Ownership Private

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

#### 26. Property Acreage unknown

#### 27. Other Surveys

#### 28. No. of Stories One story

#### 29. Basement?

#### 30. Foundation Material

- Poured concrete

#### 31. Wall Construction

- Balloon frame/western frame/pla

#### 32. Roof Type

- Gable

#### 33. Roof Material

- Asphalt shingle

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

- Running Stretcher bond

#### 35. Plan Shape T-shaped

#### 36. Changes (Explain in #42)

- Addition
- Altered
- Moved

#### 37. Window Type(s)

- Other

#### 38. Building Dimensions

- 56' x 56'

#### 39. Endangered? By What?

#### 40. Chimney Placement

- Multiple random

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

- Dist: 25' & Frontage: unknown

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

This single story home is situated in a contemporary gabled ell shape. This gabled ell is a T-shaped plan, based on the intersection of its main section and wing. The cross gable roofline contains the same pitch and same height throughout the entire house and extends out to create eaves. The facades are faced with a brick veneer that is arranged in a stretcher bond pattern. The front elevation contains a door with a large fixed window and a small window and a second window. The home is enclosed by other homes that are in very good condition.

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

This neighborhood, the Shipherd Circle development (also known as College Park), was created to help meet the need for attractive and retain quality faculty following WWII. The College was also eager to promote its new development as a racially integrated neighborhood. The college acquired a large tract of land on the eastern edge of the town south of East College Street, the acreage long known as Caskey farm, which is a cul-de-sac off of Shipherd Circle. The home is enclosed by other homes that are in very good condition.

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

This well-maintained house rests on Caskey Court, which is a cul-de-sac off of Shipherd Circle. The home is enclosed by other homes that are in very good condition.

#### 45. Sources of Information


#### 46. Prepared By: Clark, Surowy, Tomazic, Tuohy

#### 47. Organization: O.H.I.O./Oberlin Heritage Center

#### 48. Date Recorded: 08/02/2004
 Houston House

51. Condition of Property: Excellent

52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

53. Affiliated OAI Site Numbers

Door Selection: Single off center
Door Position: Recessed
Orientation: Lateral axis
Symmetry: Bilateral asymmetry

FOR OHPO USE:
49. Revised By:
50a. Date Revised:
50b. Reviewed by:
RPR Number:

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

window. A decorative, brick planter creates a small porch area in front of the entrance. The north elevation contains four single paneled windows that are surrounded by wood moldings. Underneath the roofline, there is a variegated wall treatment, also located a few other places on the house where there is not brick. The foundation material is difficult to determine, but it seems to be concrete or brick and there appears to be no basement. The house has two chimneys, one located at each gabled section. A two car, attached garage is located on the left side of the front elevation.

1898 to 1919.' The first houses were built in 1950 (Blodgett 213, Lothrop). This house was designed by Max Ratner and built in 1955 for Sara L. Houston. (Lorain auditor). Max came to Oberlin following World War II, which he spent imprisoned as a conscientious objector. He taught himself architecture during his internment and put his skills to use when he moved to Oberlin after the war to help area steel workers build their own homes in response to the housing shortage. He and his partner and fellow Antioch College graduate Douglas Johnson built a house for themselves and their wives at 45 N. Prospect in 1947. The team designed and helped build a number of houses throughout town. By 1955, when this house was built, Max was working alone. He left a few years later and gained national attention for his work, which included the Brook Tower in Denver, CO, which was the tallest building west of the Mississippi at the time of its construction, according to Max's Antioch College obituary (he died in 2002). The original resident, Sara Houston, was a professor of physical education at Oberlin College from 1950 until her death in 1973. She earned her PhD

43. History and Significance (Con't)

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<td>Picture No.(s)</td>
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