This American Foursquare house is well-ornamented in the Neo-Colonial style. Slim, fluted Doric columns support the low-pitched roof over the porch, which covers the first floor of the façade. The first floor facade has one octagonal bay window on each side of the front door. There is a one-story addition on the south side of the house, with a low-pitched roof and a large Chicago-style window surrounded by the same ornamental shutters that surround all the other first- and second-floor windows. There is a hipped dormer on each side of the front door. The house is surrounded by an elaborately landscaped yard, including small ornamental ionic columns.

This house was built in 1898 for Mary Spear, the widow of Charles V. Spear, benefactor of Oberlin College’s Spear Library (Blodgett). She lived on Elm Street, but used 21 S. Cedar as a boarding house. Professor William G. Caskey and his wife Flora lived here from 1899 until at least 1902 (City Directories). Mrs. Spear sold the house in 1903 to Alice Williams, whose husband George had been killed in the Boxer Rebellion in China (Blodgett). In 1907, Mrs. Spear sold the house to H. H. Kung, who graduated from the College in 1906 and returned to his native China (Blodgett). Mrs. Caskey and his wife Flora lived here from 1899 until at least 1902 (City Directories). Mrs. Spear sold the house in 1903 to Alice Williams, whose husband George had been killed in the Boxer Rebellion in China (Blodgett). Mrs. Spear sold the house to H. H. Kung, who graduated from the College in 1906 and returned to his native China to become a wealthy banker (Blodgett). In 1907, (cont.)
Mrs. Williams leased it to the Oberlin Hospital Association (OHA) for use as the town’s first hospital (Blodgett). 204 citizens were members of the OHA, and their regulations stipulated that “The Hospital shall be a private institution supported by the fees of members of this Association, voluntary contributions, and the receipts from those patients who are able to pay for their board and care” (Preston). When the hospital opened on Aug. 17, 1907, it had 8 beds, and room charges were $10 per week, including “board, medicine, dressings, and the divided attention of one nurse” (Preston). To raise funds, the OHA hosted an annual fair (Preston). Allen Memorial Hospital opened in 1925 and the Cedar Street house reverted to residential use (Blodgett). Dr. H. F. Vaughan moved in during the late 1920s and stayed until at least 1933, and Oberlin College electrician R. P. Harvey and his wife Helen lived here from 1935 until at least 1942 (Directories). Alice Williams herself returned to live in the house during the 1930s, and in 1942 her former tenant H. H. Kung bought the house and deeded it to the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association on the condition that Mrs. Williams could remain in the house for the rest of her life. She died in 1952, and Religion Professor Clyde A. Holbrook moved in, added a room to the south side of the house for his Great Dane, and stayed until 1966 (Blodgett). The house deteriorated during a long string of short-term renters, but it has been restored beautifully by the current owner (Blodgett).