42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features
This two-story, wood frame house has three bays facing the street. The tall, narrow, paired first floor windows and doors on the main facade suggest an Italianate influence. The shallow porch has been altered by the replacement of the original columns with iron columns of a later date. The second floor of the main facade has three windows (the central one appears to have been modified into a bay window at some point). There is a brick interior chimney on the east end of the main block of the house. There are various additions and alterations at the back of the structure including an added garage. On the east side of the lot, behind the house is an early barn converted to use as a garage.

43. History and Significance
John Mercer Langston was born a free black to a Virginia slave owner and his African-American wife, whom he had manumitted earlier. Langston, an 1849 Oberlin College graduate, was, in the years before the Civil War, a national abolitionist leader and a key figure in the struggle for the black franchise in Ohio. Langston was, in 1850, the first black to be admitted to theological studies at Oberlin College; he was also the first African American lawyer in Ohio. He initiated his law practice in Brownhelm Township, where, as township clerk, he was the first black (cont.)

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)
East College Street was Oberlin's most prestigious 19th century residential neighborhood. Today it is experiencing a loss of integrity due to conversions to rental and alterations to historic homes.

45. Sources of Information
Lorain County Courthouse: Lorain County tax records. Oberlin Public Library: Oberlin City Directories. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files; National Register Nomination; Oberlin City Directories. Cheek, William and Aimee Lee. Langston house; Anderegg house. Oberlin College Library Special Collections: Oberlin City Directories.
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

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

Langston was elected to public office in Ohio, possibly the nation. In 1856 he traded his Brownhelm farm to his brother-in-law, O.S.B. Wall, for this home in Oberlin's prestigious East College Street residential neighborhood. He and his family lived here until 1871. During his years in this home, Langston was a leading spokesperson for black equality, both as a part of the war effort and in the struggle for civil rights after the war when he headed the Freedman's Bureau. After leaving Oberlin, Langston served as a member of congress from Virginia, the first African American to do so, and was the founder and dean of the Howard University Law School. Later occupants included Mrs. J.M. and Harvey Leonard (1883); R.B. Ranson, furniture dealer (1886); Mrs. E. Upp (1888); and from 1891 through 1920 Professor Frederick Anderegg, professor of mathematics; his wife Mrs. Mary, continued to live here through 1931. From 1933 through 1942 John D. MacLaury, salesman, was listed as occupant. In 1956, J.R. Wood and Kornelius Lems are listed as occupants; and, in 1961, physician, Stephan B. and his wife Dorothy F. Lewis were listed as occupants (City Directories). A student cooperative, took ownership in 1989; they operated it for student housing.

The house has national significance for its association with an important leader in the struggle to end slavery, enfranchise African-Americans, and provide freed slaves with economic and social opportunity. Langston house was listed as a National Historic Landmark on May 15, 1975 and by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin Historic Landmark in September of 1975.