**Ohio Historic Inventory**

**Ohio Historic Preservation Office**
567 E. Hudson St. Columbus, Ohio 43211
614/297-2470

---

### 1. No.  
2. County  
3. Location of Negatives  
4. Present Name(s)  
5. Historic or Other Name(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of Negatives</th>
<th>O.H.I.O. Resource</th>
<th>LOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roll #</td>
<td>Exp. #</td>
<td>Facing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Front</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Williams House; Ward House</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### 6. Specific Address or Location

335 East College

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### 7. City or Village

Oberlin

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### 8. Site Plan with North Arrow

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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### 10. Site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Object</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### 11. On National Register ?

No

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### 12. N.R. Potential ?

No

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### 13. Part of Estb Hist Dist?

No

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### 14. Dist. Potential ?

Yes

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### 15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)

---

### 16. Thematic Association(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education: Higher &amp; Social Service: Private &amp; Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### 17. Date(s) or Period

1910

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### 17b. Alteration Date(s)

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### 18. Style or Design

Vernacular

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### 18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)

Craftsman/Arts & Crafts

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### 19. Architect or Engineer

W. Dominick Benes, Cleveland

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### 19a. Design Sources

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### 20. Contractor or Builder

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### 21. Building Type or Plan

House: other

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### 22. Original Use, if apparent

Residential: Single Dwelling

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### 23. Present Use

Institutional Housing, County Home

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### 24. Ownership

Public

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

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### 26. Property Acreage

0.751

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### 27. Other Surveys in Which Included

Dyson (91)

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### 28. No. of Stories

2

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### 29. Basement?

Yes

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### 30. Foundation Material

Brick

---

### 31. Wall Construction

Wood Frame

---

### 32. Roof:

Type: Gable
Pitch: Moderate
Material: Composite Shingle

---

### 33. No. Bays

Front: 8  
Side: 3

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### 34. Exterior Wall Material(s)

Stucco

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### 35. Plan Shape

Rectangular

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

Altered, Substantially

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### 37. Window Type(s)

Altered

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### 38. Bldg. Dims.

55 ft. X 30 ft.

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### 39 Endangered?

No

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### 40. Chimney Placement

Gable End, Exterior

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### 41a. Distance from road

55 ft.

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### 41b. Frontage on road

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### 42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features

This two-story Arts and Crafts Style house has a gable roof and white stucco exterior. The front façade has three gable dormers on the second story with rhombus-shaped tile inlays above each window. The front entrance is on the west side of a central bay window; the door is not original. All windows are replacements including block glass that fills in the basement window openings. This house maintains some of its original details, including the porte cochere on the east and an enclosed porch on the west. A small, flat-roofed addition with sheared corners extends from the rear of the house. A fire escape stairwell extends from the rear exposure of the second floor.

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### 43. History and Significance

This house was built from plans by W. Dominick Benes, a partner in the Cleveland architecture firm of Hubbell & Benes, in 1910. Charles Whitman Ward, an 1899 Oberlin graduate who had returned to town to assume the post of assistant to the president, had the house built just east of President King's home at 315 East College. Mr. Ward had a distinguished career in the field of private social service; at Oberlin he encouraged students to travel to the city to learn about the needs of the poor. Mr. Ward left his position at the college in 1912; in 1917 he sold the house to Clarence Ward (Blodgett). From 1920 to 1970 Clarence Ward and his wife Helen E. were listed (cont.)

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

East College Street is a predominately intact historic neighborhood. The neighborhood's integrity, however, is threatened by insensitive rehabilitation and conversion to student rental. A two-car garage with original windows and matching stucco is behind the house.

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### 45. Sources of Information

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

- Barn Type(s)
  - Corn Crib or Shed
  - Smoke House
  - Designed Landscape Features
  - Summer Kitchen
  - Spring House
  - Ice House
  - Prity
  - Silo
  - Forma Trash Dump
  - Other

51. Condition of Property

- Excellent
- Good/Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin
- Destroyed/Burned

Date

52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

OAI Completed?

No

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s)

54. Farmstead Plan

Archaeological Feature

- Well
- Prity
- Cistern
- Foundation
- Structural Rubble
- Formal Trash Dump
- Other

Observed

- No

Expected on Basis of Archival Research

- No

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

As occupants. From 1920 to 1970 Clarence Ward and his wife Helen E. were listed as occupants. Mr. Ward was listed from 1929 through 1948 as "dir-prof Ob Col" and as "fine Arts prof." In 1961 he was listed as "Emeritus Prof. O.C." In 1970 he was listed as "emeritus director, art museum/professor O.C." (City Directories). In 1970 the house was purchased by the Lorain County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities as a group home.

This house is significant for its long association with the college as residence for an assistant to the president and faculty, and for its three decade use for public social service. The house was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin City Landmark on May 5, 1997.