This two-story, wood frame house with Italianate Style elements features a truncated roof with double-bracketed cornice and wooden posts and railing surrounding a rooftop terrace. The front facade has symmetry around the main entrance flanked by identical bay windows with flat roofs. A flat roofed entrance porch supported by square porch posts shelters the main entrance door. The door has side lights and a rectangular transom window. The second floor has paired windows with wood shutters. The roof has a pair of interior chimneys. Almost all of the windows appear to be replacements.

43. History and Significance
Built in the late 1850s as a plain, oblong, frame farmhouse, this house was significantly altered in 1862 by owner John Clark. The local newspaper referred to the new structure as "one of the finest places in town." J.W. Steele married Professor J. Clark’s daughter and they moved into the house in the late 1880s (Blodgett). In 1888, Mr. and Mrs. Steele and three daughters resided in the house and they continued to live here through 1904 (City Directories). Judge Steele was one of the late 19th century’s leading citizens in Oberlin; he was twice postmaster and he played a critical role in the construction of the village waterworks (cont.)

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)
This home is at the eastern end of historic East College Street and was beyond the prestigious 19th century neighborhood.

45. Sources of Information
and the county orphanage on East College (Blodgett). In 1907 and 1908, H.E. Adams, identified as manager, independent stone co. (sic) and then as a traveling salesman, resided in the house. In 1910 Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Day resided here; and William and Maud Townsley from 1914 through 1931. In 1933 the house was listed as vacant. From 1935 through 1942 J. H. Nichols, professor, Oberlin College and his wife Louise lived in this house; and in 1956 R.J. Kilmer was listed as resident (City Directories).

This house is significant for its long association with a leading and very influential citizen. This house was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin Historic Landmark in September of 1975.