This two-and-one-half-story house, with hipped slate roof, has remnants of Greek Revival Style in its symmetry around a prominent front-facing pediment. The cornice and ranking cornice have modillion blocks. The portion of the house under the ranking cornice protrudes from the house about six feet. The first-story windows and roof dormers are capped by decorative wooden semicircles. An arch of decorative woodwork frames the original leaded fanlight and sidelights of the front entrance. Elongated octagonal windows sit to each side of the main entrance. The pediment has a small oculus window; all windows are replacements. The exterior of the house is covered in vinyl siding, and the rear has (cont.)

History and Significance
Built prior to 1837, the core of this house is one of the oldest remaining structures in Oberlin. Its first occupant was William Ingersoll from Lee, Massachusetts. In 1853 Ingersoll sold the house to Alason Spooner (Blodgett). In 1873 W. L. Carter, owner of Carter and Rositer Hardware at 10 South Main, was listed as occupant. In 1877 B.W. Locke, "justice of the peace," was listed as occupant (City Directories); he had purchased the house from Spooner. By 1878 Mr. Locke had completed his alterations and an expansion with the addition of a crenelated wooden tower on the front façade (Blodgett). Mr. Locke's name appeared as occupant in 1891, 1894, and 1896. (cont.)

Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)
This is a busy commercial street, one block east of downtown. The house's recent conversion from residential to office completes the business district identification for this block.
had many 20th century additions.

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

In 1866 Mrs. Lucy Mellen was listed as occupant; followed by Dr. E.D. Merriam in 1890; and W.H. Simpson in 1897. In 1899 and 1902 E.H. Bacon was listed as occupant; and in 1904 Carl W., "editor Tribune," and J.L. Kinney were listed as occupants (City Directories).

In 1907 Mrs. A.C. Murphy was listed as occupant; in 1908 and 1910 Samuel Cleland was listed. Mrs. Murphy returned as occupant, identified as "matron," from 1914 through 1920 (City Directories). In 1918 "Murphy’s" at 58 East College was in the Hi-O-Hi Yearbook as a student boarding house. In 1929 Thomas and Lillian Debham were listed as occupants and in 1931 Mr. Debham, "teacher," was listed. From 1933 through 1961 the house was alternately listed as occupied by Mrs. Mary P Mallory and as "Graduate House" (City Directories). Mrs. Mallory ran a student rooming house, and she had the house remodeled, with design by Oberlin architect, William B. Durand. Together they removed the tower, introduced the recessed doorway, the dormers, and the decorative molding over the first-floor windows. In 1947 the college purchased the house from her estate (Blodgett). The house was listed as vacant in 1970 (City Directories). In June 1992 Conservatory Violin Professors Roland and Almita Vamos purchased the house. They lived in the house and used the rooms as housing for high school students from around the country and world who came to study with the couple. Mr. and Mrs. Vamos were legal guardians for these students. After high school graduation some students wanted to study at Oberlin College and were invited to continue living with the couple. The Vamos' completely renovated the house; they acquired it in terrible condition and left it in excellent condition. In 2000 they sold it to the Oberlin Memorial Shansi Association (Vamos Interview). The Association plans to use the house for offices and to provide short-term lodging to visiting scholars (Arnold Interview).

Though altered, this house is significant for its age as one of Oberlin’s oldest. It is also significant for its long association with the college as both student and faculty housing. It was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin City Landmark in September of 1975. It was listed on the National Register as part of the Oberlin College thematic nomination in 1978.