This two-story Italianate Style brick house has a low-pitched, hipped roof. The roof has a cupola and paired lintels and sills, and wood shutters. The entrance has side lights and a transom window. The windows have stone brackets at the eaves. A shallow front porch with square posts sits across the front of the house. Full-length, multi-pane windows are on the first floor of the main facade and are unusual in Oberlin. The windows have stone lintels and sills, and wood shutters. The entrance has side lights and a transom window. The brick has been sandblasted and newer additions have been built at the rear.

Built in 1853 by Anson Morris who worked on many early buildings in Oberlin, it was originally a square brick house (Blodgett). In 1873 the house was bought by Rev. Heman B. Hall whose youngest son, Charles Martin Hall, discovered the electrolytic process for producing aluminum in a rear woodshed. Hall went on to found ALCOA Aluminum Co. and endowed Oberlin College (O.H.I.O. Docent Manual). In 1896, 1897 and 1899 the address was listed as either “no occupant” or “vacant.” In 1902 and 1904 William F. Rowe, a clerk, was listed as resident. From 1907 (cont.)

The demolition of residential structures has isolated this house in a predominantly commercial block.
51. Condition of Property

- Excellent
- Good/Fair [X]
- Deteriorated

52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

- Corn Crib or Shed
- Smoke House
- Designed Landscape Features

Archaeological Feature:

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

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s)

OAI Completed? [ ]

54. Farmstead Plan

Date

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

through 1920 Miss Delilah Stewart was listed as resident; and, in 1908 Z.E. Stewart, was also listed as resident. From 1929 through 1942 C.H. Aussiker, foreman, was listed as resident; in 1935 and 1937 Mr. Aussiker was joined by A.L. Williams, assistant professor at Oberlin Conservatory, and his wife Mary. In 1956 and 1961 J.A. McGrann, an optometrist, was listed as resident, with Michael Tolschko in 1956; with L.K. Orndorff, a teller at Lorain County Savings Trust in 1961 (City Directories). In 1980 the college began a renovation of the house; the woodshed where the process for extraction of aluminum was discovered had been removed. Today the house is used by the college for faculty housing.

This house is significant for its association with an important American industrialist, Charles Martin Hall, and the process he discovered here. Mr. Hall played an important role in the philanthropic development of both Oberlin College and the community. Hall House was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin Historic Landmark in September of 1975. In 1978 it was listed on the National Register as a structure in Oberlin College's thematic nomination. It was listed as a National Historic Chemical Landmark on September 17, 1997; a plaque marking this designation was presented to Oberlin College on September 17, 1997. The plaque reads: “On February 23, 1886, in his woodshed laboratory at the family home on East College Street, Charles Martin Hall succeeded in producing aluminum metal by passing an electric current through a solution of aluminum oxide in molten cryolite. Aluminum was a semiprecious metal before Hall's discovery of this economical method to release it from its ore. His invention, which made this light, lustrous, and non-rusting metal readily available, was the basis of the aluminum industry in North America.”