6. Specific Address or Location
284 West College
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number
0900085101026
7. City or Village
Oberlin
9. U.T.M. Reference
Quadrangle Name: Oberlin
17 397184 4571698
Zone Easting Northing
10. Classification: Building
11. On National Register? NO
13. Part of Established Hist. Dist? NO
15. Other Designation (NR or Local) 
16. Thematic Associations:
World War I
World War II
Labor Union
Date(s) or Period c. 1890
17b. Alteration Date(s) 
18. Style Class and Design 
Element Colonial Revival
18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)
19. Architect or Engineer
19a. Design Sources
20. Contractor or Builder
21. Building Type or Plan American foursquare
22. Original Use, if apparent Single Dwelling
23. Present Use Single Dwelling
24. Ownership Private
25. Owner's Name & Address, if known
26. Property Acreage 0.47
27. Other Surveys
28. No. of Stories Two and a half story
29. Basement? Yes
30. Foundation Material Unknown
31. Wall Construction Balloon western platform frame
32. Roof Type Pyramidal
33. No. of Bays 2 Side Bays
34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Wood shingle
35. Plan Shape Rectangular
36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates: 
17. Original/Most significant construct
17b.
37. Window Type(s) 1 over 1
38. Building Dimensions 51' x 30'
39. Endangered? NO
By What?
40. Chimney Placement Center
41. Distance from & Frontage on Road 50' approx.
43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)

The first known occupant of this house, probably built in the early 1890s, was a Mrs. Malora Bartholomew, who lived in the house with her son Artie from 1894-1896 after the death of her husband in 1891. She moved to Oberlin from Russia Township. Her son Artie Bartholomew was a farmer at the time he lived at the house, then later went on to become a plumber. The house was next the residence of Elmer Rowland and his family: his wife Eva and his sons Ray and Ralph. Elmer attended the OC Academy from 1873-74, and worked as a teamster during his time residing here. After the Rowlands lived in the house for only a short period (directory only lists them here in 1897), Mrs. Media Bunker, widow of L.A., moved here, probably with her two children. One (Lloyd) attended the OC Academy from 1897-1901, continued...

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)
A two-car garage at the rear of the lot has a front gable. The garage extends quite a ways back (it is longer than the typical detached garage of the period) and has several windows with Mullions at is linear ends (east and west elevations). This garage appears to be in a better condition than the house, and could possibly be newer than the house. This house is located in a residential area, on a street that receives a fair amount of traffic.

45. Sources of Information
8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Door Selection:</th>
<th>Single off center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Door Position:</td>
<td>Flush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation:</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symmetry:</td>
<td>Bilateral asymmetry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #: 
and later became a dentist. Mrs. Bunker also had a daughter, but it is unclear whether she also stayed in the house. Mrs. Bunker lived here only briefly, 1899-1900. After she left Oberlin, Mrs. Bunker went on to become a doctor, and set up a well respected practice at the Women's Hospital in Cleveland. Meritt Darius Sperry (an Oberlin Preparatory student 1889-91), his wife Myrtle (Conservatory student 1895-96, 1902-03), and their daughter Margaret (Conservatory student 1921) lived in the house during the period of 1902. Mr. Sperry was at this point a furniture dealer working at Hart and Sperry; according to the Oberlin Weekly News, in 1906 he went on to open Sperry Grocery in Oberlin. The next, and longest, occupants of the house moved to Oberlin in 1903: Mrs. Lydia Lord Davis, together with her mother Mary Lord and three sons (William, John, and Lewis). The Davis family resided here through the 1950s. Mrs. Davis and her husband had been serving as missionaries for the previous ten years. They had returned on furlough to the states, and when Mr. Davis returned to Shansi for a second trip in 1899 Mrs. Davis was forced to remain behind due to health reasons. In 1900 Mrs. Davis received word that Mr. Davis was killed during the Boxer Rebellion, and she subsequently moved to Oberlin. Mrs. Davis was actively involved in missions work for the rest of her life, helping to establish the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association, and various other organizations for missionary support. She became the executive secretary for the O.S.M.A. until her retirement in 1941. Her son John Davis established the Lydia Lord Davis scholarship for supporting Chinese students at Oberlin. All three of the Davis boys graduated from OHS (William 1911, Lewis 1915, John 1914) and attended Oberlin College; William graduated in 1915, Lewis in 1919 (although he completed his final year at Columbia), and John graduated in 1918. John and Lewis both served in the military. John enlisted in the U.S. Navy Flying Corps during WWI, and Lewis enlisted in the Naval Reserves during WWII. They both also eventually returned to Shansi for periods of time, working to establish Oberlin's Shansi Association. William also stayed involved in both Oberlin and the world. He worked for one of President Roosevelt's 'New Deal' agencies (the Reconstruction Finance Corp.) during the Depression, and was the Oberlin College Treasurer from 1941-58. The only blemish on Mr. William Davis' record would have to be the time during his high school years when he was fined 20 dollars for 'disrobing preparatory to bathing' in the waterworks reservoir with two other students. Possibly William was the member of the trio who 'is said to have hid in the reservoir for about twenty minutes in the hope that [Deputy Marshall] Graham would weary of waiting. The hope was futile.' Mrs. Davis lived in the house until her death in November of 1952. This house was emphasized in GC Secretary Donald Love's review of Lydia Lord Davis' life and work: 'In her house generations of high school and college students met for mission study classes which influenced an untold number, if not toward active missionary service, at least toward a wider humanitarian viewpoint. For years, too, the house was a busy office where Mrs. Davis' voluminous correspondence was conducted, and vast mailings were prepared for the Oberlin-Shansi Association.' After the Davis family, the next resident of the house, by 1961, was Mr. Ulrich Engler and his wife Johanna (OC 1946). Mr. Engler, an architect, lived in the house through 1970. Around then the house became a duplex. The 1970 directory lists Paul Revers, a Firelands teacher, and Engler Ulrick as the residents. However, Westwood cemetery records show Paul Revers died in 1987. Nonetheless, he continued to be listed as the resident of the house through the 1989 phonebooks.

44. Sources (Cont')