**Oberlin College President’s House**

**Historic or Other Name(s):**
- Williams House; Oberlin College President’s House

**City or Village:**
- Oberlin

**Street:**
- 154 Forest Street

**Architect or Engineer:**
- Clarence Ward

**Construction Date:**
- 1920

**Interior Features:**
- Colonial Revival Style

**Exterior Features:**
- Colonial Revival Style

**Purpose:**
- Single Dwelling

**Ownership:**
- Public

**Building Type:**
- Other

**Historic or Other Name(s):**
- Williams House; Oberlin College President’s House

**Type:**
- Hip

**Pitch:**
- Moderate

**Material:**
- Slate

**Exterior Wall Material(s):**
- Brick, Flemish Bond

**Roof:**
- Single Dwelling

**Erector:**
- J.B. Tucker

**Foundation Material:**
- Brick Bearing

**Wall Construction:**
- Hip

**Site:**
- Forest

**Lot:**
- A

**Facing:**
- N

**Zone:**
- 11A

**Easting:**
- X

**Northing:**
- X

**Structure:**
- Single Dwelling

**Building:**
- Oberlin

**Ownership:**
- Public

**Property Acreage:**
- 0.149

**History and Significance:**
- Designed by Oberlin College art professor Clarence Ward, this house was built for physics professor Samuel R. Williams. The contractor, J.B. Tucker completed in the house in 1920. Williams left Oberlin College for a position at Amherst College in 1924. In 1927 the college bought the house for $31,000 as a home for college presidents. (Blodgett). The house has since served as the home for seven presidents and their families. The 154 Forest Street address was listed in city directories starting in 1894. From 1894 through 1908 Clinton McKellog was the occupant, with Mrs. F.B. Boyd and P.M. Avery in 1894. (cont.)

**Environment and Outbuildings:**
- Forest Street is a predominately intact, historic, residential neighborhood.

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

All second story windows have stone sills and lintels. The main entrance has a hipped roof over the porch supported by Doric Style columns. A rectangular transom window and sidelights, with leaded glass, frame the front door. Small balconies with cast iron railings accent the large, first floor casement windows. Carved, stone, lintels rest above each set of these windows. This house has a large back patio and formal lawn and garden. Large fanlights are above the windows and doors facing this space. The house appears to be unaltered and well maintained.

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

In 1910 and 1916 the house was occupied by P.F. Finch (City Directories). In 1917 "Finch’ s" was included in the college yearbook with 26 students photographed on the front steps (Hi-O-Hi). This building was demolished to build the existing house in 1920.

This house is significant for its association as the residence of Oberlin College presidents. This house was listed on the National Register as part of the Oberlin college thematic nomination in 1978. It was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin City Landmark in November of 1997.