This vernacular house displays elements of Craftsman and Shingle style architecture in a modified Gabled Ell plan. The porch, which is in the corner of the south and east elevations, is recessed below the second story and contains one column below the gabled pediment. The door faces the east elevation, and a window faces the front facade. The wall of the porch is stucco, with a stone cap. The column is covered in rough-textured stucco, like the
continued...

This house was built by 1911, when it appears on the Sanborn map with the address of 284 Forest (Sanborn). Around 1914, the house was renumbered as 268 when others were constructed west of it on Forest (Sanborn, Oberlin News). Neither 284 nor 268 Forest appear in the 1910 city directory, however, and in 1916 this house is listed as vacant, so little is known about the early occupants. By 1927, the house served as the college infirmary and was called "Browning House" (City Directory, Archives). continued...


This well-maintained home is located in a quiet neighborhood, and is surrounded by other homes that are in good condition. A one-car, detached garage with wood siding is located at the rear of the lot.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)

45. Sources of Information

46. Prepared By: Petersen, T Reeves, M Surovy
47. Organization: O.H.I.O.
48. Date Recorded: 08/19/2003
1. No. LOR-1679-21

2. County Lorain

3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Cen

4. Present Name(s)

5. Historic or Other Name(s)
Browning House

51. Condition of Property: Excellent

53. Affiliated OAI Site Numbers

52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Door Selection: Single off center
Door Position: Flush
Orientation: Gable with two story same height
Symmetry: Bilateral asymmetry

FOR OHPO USE:
49. Revised By:
50a. Date Revised:
50b. Reviewed by:
RPR Number:

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)

rest of the first story’s exterior. The shingles in the second story flare slightly as the meet the stucco. The south elevation has a front-facing gable. Within this bay, a window, located to the right, is situated between the first and second stories; to the left, one window is located in each story. A small window is located in the gable. The east elevation contains a cross gable that juts out from the body of the house, creating the L, and has a flat-roofed section that extends even farther. A second entry is located at the east elevation, near the center of the facade. A variety of window configurations are located at this elevation; all windows have wood surrounds. The west elevation features an exterior chimney of running bond brick, located at the right of the gabled section. This elevation is difficult to view, as much foliage obscures it. A screened-in porch appears to be located to the left of the elevation.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

In 1928, the infirmary (along with the name Browning House) relocated to W Lorain near Allen Hospital, and this house became a private residence (City Directory, Archives). It was listed as vacant in 1929, but by 1933 Professor Leigh Alexander, his wife Grace, and their son John moved in (City Directory). Leigh taught Classics and Ancient History at Oberlin College (Alumni Register). John attended Oberlin College in the late 1930s and early 40s (Alumni Register). The Alexanders lived here until at least 1944, probably until Leigh’s death just after his retirement in 1948 (City Directory, Alumni Register). By 1956, Mabel & C. Walter Gehring, a Christian Science practitioner, resided here (City Directory). Robert H. Willoughby, a professor of flute at the Oberlin Conservatory, and his wife Elaine lived here from around 1961 until at least 1970 (City Directory).

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (Con’t)

45. Sources (Con’t)
