Biggs-Clifton
Oberlin
Building 17b

1749
1917
131
1

Oberlin 0900086112027

17

Elemen

Further while in the porch. The door is located at the center of the main face (east elevation). The door appears to be original; it is wood with a large window. A modern screen door obscures the door. Left of the door, an 8/1 window is flanked by narrower, 6/1 windows. To the right of the door there is a 12/1 window. In all of the windows (at both the first and second stories), the upper sashes are significantly smaller than the lower sashes, creating square lights in the upper sashes. The second story windows are 8/1 at the far left and right. At the center of the window, there is a pair of smaller, 6-light (not double hung) windows. The roof features a pyramidal dormer, which has a pair of hopper windows, with Mullions dividing the windows into nine square lights. The south elevation includes an exterior chimney near the right, and a window with shutters is right of the chimney at the second story. Trees continued...

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continue on Reverse if Necessary)

On October 7, 1908, the Oberlin News reported that 'Joseph T. Biggs has moved from 160 South Main street, and with his family is living in his new home, No. 40 King street.' The home seems to have been new not only to the Biggs family, but newly constructed, as its first appearance in the city directory also occurs in 1908. Joseph Biggs worked as a carpenter and contractor. He and his wife Elizabeth had seven children: Harvey L., Alice Verne (OHS 1903), Hazel Frances (OHS 1906), Stella Irene (OHS 1911), Virgil Alonzo (OHS 1912), Esther Margaret (OHS 1915), and Edith (OHS 1918). All but Harvey appear to have been living with their parents when the family moved to 40 King street in 1908. During the 1910s this house was the setting of two weddings. Alice married Walter V. Hewlett, a teacher continued...

43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)

A two-car, two door detached garage has a small, arched window in its gable. This house is located on a residential street that receives little traffic.

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

45. Sources of Information

46. Prepared By: Patricia Murphy
47. Organization: Oberlin Heritage Center
48. Date Recorded: 12/05/2006
49. PIR Reviewer: 
50. PIR Review Date: 
<table>
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<th>2. County</th>
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<th>4. Present Name(s)</th>
<th>5. Historic or Other Name(s)</th>
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<td>Biggs-Clifton House</td>
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**8. Site Plan with North Arrow**

- E. College
- Spring
- N
- King

**54. Farmstead Plan**:  
- Door Selection: Single centered  
- Door Position: Flush  
- Orientation: Other  
- Symmetry: Bilateral symmetry

**Report Associated With Project**:  

**NADB #:**
of piano and harmony from Cleveland, in 1916. The next year, Stella wedded James Wendell Shaw of Monroe, Mich., a graduate of the College of Mechanical Engineering at Ann Arbor. The Oberlin News stated that 'Mr. and Mrs. Shaw will make their home there [at 40 King street] for the present.' It is unclear how long the Shaws resided with Stella's family. Possibly her son, Phillip, was born here in 1919. Hazel attended Oberlin College, gaining her bachelor's degree in 1912 and her master's in 1916. She went on to teach English at East High School in Cleveland. Virgil Biggs graduated from Oberlin College in 1917 and served in the Oberlin Ambulance Unit in Italy in World War I. By 1920 Harvey had returned to live with the family, working as a carpenter. Stella and her husband had moved out, but Virgil (working as an ad solicitor), Esther, and Edith (working as a stenographer) all still resided with their parents in 1920. In the early 1920s Edith married John Mour. The Biggs family lived here through 1922, when an obituary for Joseph Biggs appears in the Oberlin News. He died 'at his home, 40 King street,' 'after an illness of two years.' Upon his death Joseph Biggs' Masonic Lodge printed a 'Resolution of Respect' in the Oberlin News, honoring him as 'a worthy member,' "a respected citizen," and 'a devoted husband and father.' Possibly it was around this time that the remaining members of the Biggs family left this house. By 1927, Shirley Clifton, his wife Ella and daughter Beulah resided here. That year Shirley, who by then was retired, was elected to fill a vacancy on the Oberlin village council. He served on the council until 1929, when ill health forced him to resign despite a 'very good' record. The Cliftons' daughter, Beulah, a 1916 graduate of OHS, was employed at Elyria Savings and Trust. City directories indicate that Shirley died sometime between 1935 and 1937, when the house is listed only in Ella's name. By 1948, Ella was renting out a portion of the house to her daughter Ruth and her husband Hubert Ashley, who became the outright owners by 1956. Hubert worked as a state bank examiner. He also served as treasurer at First Church for a time. Ruth attended the OC academy, Conservatory, and College between 1913 and 1916. Before her marriage in 1918, Ruth taught at the Prospect school for several years. She and Hubert had one daughter, Janet, who graduated from OHS in 1940. She attended OC and the Conservatory between 1939 and 1941. By 1942 Janet had married Benson L. Tucker. The Ashleys occupied this house until at least 1961, when the city directory lists Hubert as retired. By 1970, the Ashleys had departed and the Neufeld family had taken up residence here. Eldo Neufeld worked as the conservatory librarian at Oberlin. He and his wife Grace had at least two children.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

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

45. Sources (Con't)