This one and one-half story cottage possesses few of its original details due to replacement windows, vinyl siding and substantial alterations. This house was moved from the corner of East Lorain and Park Streets to its present location in the early 1920’s to make way for what is now a Laundromat. During this move the chimney was lost. The picture window in the front facing gable and the front porch were added after the move. The woodwork around the front door is the only evidence of original Greek Revival influence. Structural differences include the replacement of the entire rear wall and an additional staircase added to the interior. Also, the front porch stairs which faced the (cont.)

43. History and Significance

This house was originally located at 151 East Lorain. Reverend John Payne Bardwell and his wife Cornelia came to Oberlin in 1838 from upstate New York. Both studied at the college through the early 1840s. In 1843 John Bardwell became a congregational minister and a missionary agent among the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota. He traveled through much of the 1850s, raising money for the missionary cause. In Oberlin, Cornelia kept boarders in the house. After the Civil War, Bardwell traveled south to organize schools for the freed black population. He died among (cont.)

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

Lorain Street is State Route 511, a busy thoroughfare for traffic into and through town. The residential areas are interrupted by commercial buildings and have experienced loss of integrity due to conversion to rental and alterations to historic properties.

45. Sources of Information


46. Prepared by

M. Fedelchak-Harley; J. Heaton; L. Previll

47. Organization

O.H.I.O. and H.P.C. 8-31-1999

49 Revised by

M. Fedelchak-Harley

50a. Date Revised

50b. Reviewed by
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

street, were removed in the 1920s and repositioned to face the driveway on the east side. In 1935 the house was converted to a duplex. At some time in the 1930s the main interior stairs were torn out and reversed, they now lead to the front door instead of to the center of the first floor.

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

the Chippewa in 1871. Cornelia died 23 years later (Blodgett). In 1895 and 1896 J. W. and Mrs. L. Wallace occupied the house; from 1897 until 1920 there was either no listing or a listing as vacant (City Directory). In 1920 the house was moved to its current location (Blodgett). The former location is now a coin-operated laundromat. In 1920, 1929 and 1931-1937 Mr. Edward O. Cargill occupied the house (City Directory). In 1939 and 1942 Cicero Williams occupied the house; and in 1961 Mr. B.J. Thomas (City Directory).

This house was significant for its association Oberlin College and abolition. Today the house lacks integrity due to its changed location, lifted roof, vinyl siding and replacement windows and new dormer. The house was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin Historic Landmark in September of 1975.