This Gabled Ell house features decorative carved pieces in the gable of the east elevation, and below the porch. Also at the east elevation, a pair of double hung windows is located at both stories. Knee braces are situated below the gable and the plain cornice is carved at the bottom of the gable. The right side of the gable extends out and down to cover the porch, which has square supports and knee braces. Cement steps lead up to the porch. The continued...

The history of this structure is closely tied to Westwood Cemetery, Oberlin’s sole cemetery since 1864 (Bickel 3). The house was built c. 1884 to provide a residence for the caretaker/sexton of the grounds (Oberlin News). The first residents of this house were sexton Paul & A.S. Jensen & their children, Mattrup & Jensine from 1891-1901, when Mr. Jenson retired. In 1901, Joseph Feakins began his 25-year occupation as superintendent of Westwood (City Directory, Oberlin News). Joseph & Lou Feakins continued...

This house is in very good condition, and is located along the perimeter of a cemetery, which houses the graves of several local historical figures. A detached, one-car garage is located behind the house; it has a two-over-two double hung window in the north elevation and a hip roof.

45. Sources of Information
51. Condition of Property: Excellent

52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

53. Affiliated OAI Site Numbers

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:

54. Farmstead Plan

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

The north elevation faces the street, and it contains the cross-gabled portion at the center of the elevation, which has a hip in the gable. Two over-two windows are located in the second story, and four of the same windows run across the first story. A door is located in the addition, which has a deck attached to it. The west elevation has a large, fixed window at the right side of the addition, with four-panel windows flanking it. Two two-over-two windows are visible in the original portion of the second story. The rear (south) of the house has two two-over-two windows at the original part of the house, and an addition extends from the left corner and contains a flat roof.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

lived here in what was known as the 'cemetery house,' with their children, Clifton, Zela, Harry & Glenn (City Directory). Feakins' assistant, Henry Slater also lived here, beginning in 1908 (City Directory). From 1926-46 no residents are recorded & the house & cemetery fell into disrepair, indicating that it may not have had a regular groundskeeper (Oberlin News). In 1944, the Oberlin Cemetery Association turned the cemetery over to the City of Oberlin. In 1946, after serving in WWII, Frank Zavodsky became the cemetery superintendent. He, his wife Carol, & daughters Barbara & Robin lived in the house, which was dilapidated after 20 years of neglect. They remodeled it, adding electricity, indoor plumbing & an extra room. During his years as Westwood sexton, Zavodsky held a number of other positions, such as Director of Public Works & Acting City Manager (Oral History, Oberlin News). Zavodsky retired from official service in 1984 but volunteered at the cemetery until his death in 1997 (Oberlin News). The current owner is the City of Oberlin & Westwood Cemetery Association(Property Card).

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

45. Sources (Con't)

1. No.  LOR-1748-21
2. County  Lorain
3. Location of Negatives  O.H.I.O. Resource Cen

Roll No.  Picture No.(s)
8  31,32

4. Present Name(s)

5. Historic or Other Name(s)
Westwood Cemetery Sexton House