This vernacular, gabled ell-plan house has a protruding gabled section at the left side of the facade, which faces west. Within this gabled section, the first story has a large, 1/2 double hung window whose upper sash is smaller than its lower sash. Above this window, an asphalt-shingled hood accentuates the window; the hood has fairly simple bracket supports whose only adornment is to have a slight, ornamental triangular vent. To the right of the gabled section, a small corner porch displays historic elements below the roofline in the small, wooden balustrades that border the lower edge of the porch roof and squares at each corner have a decorative ‘X’ cut out of them. The porch supports also appear to be historic. Concrete steps lead up to the wood floor of the porch. The steps have a metal railing. Within the porch, the main entry door has been replaced. The south elevation has a gabled section at the center and two 1/2 double hung windows at the first story. The second story has a triplet of windows. A triangular vent is situated in the attic. continued...

The first known occupants of this house, as identified in city directories, were the Cowdery family in 1894. At that time, Park Street was called Water Street and the address was 3 North Water. Kirke Lionel Cowdery (b. 1866, WI; d. 1946) was a professor of French at Oberlin College. In 1892, Kirke married Mary 'Marie' Emily (nee Taylor; b. 1869, OH; d. 1957). Mary attended Oberlin College from 1888 to 1891. The couple had two children, Lawrence Taylor (b. 1893) and Karl Montague (b. 1895). Professor Cowdery was noted for having led the campaign to establish the Oberlin College Women's Literary Club in 1879. He was also the grandfather of Oliver Cowdery, who wrote a large portion of the Book of Mormon. Though Kirke was not Mormon continued...

This house has no associated outbuildings. It is located on a residential street, near downtown Oberlin.
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<tr>
<th>1. No.</th>
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<td>2. County</td>
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<td>3. Address</td>
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<td>4. Present Name(s)</td>
<td>rental property</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Historic or Other Name(s)</td>
<td>Cowdery-Mitro House</td>
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### Site Plan with North Arrow

- **Orientation**: Gable end axis
- **Symmetry**: Bilateral asymmetry
- **Door Position**: Recessed
- **Door Selection**: Single off center

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**Report Associated With Project:**

**NADB #:**
A small, one-story addition at the rear has a screened-in porch attached to it. The north elevation includes a historic door right of center. The door has horizontal wood panels below a square window. A square window is also located at the right of the first story, while small paired, 1/1 double hung windows are at the left. The second story has a 1/1 double hung window at both the left and center of the elevation. In the rear one-story addition, the house has an awning-style window. This house is similar in design to 123 and 175 North Pleasant in Oberlin.

43. History and Significance (Con’t)

himself, he and his wife, Mary, were interested in tracing the roots of Mormonism and were well-versed in regards to a controversial document housed in Oberlin College’s library called the ‘Spaulding Manuscript,’ which some believe to be the basis for the Book of Mormon. The Cowdery family lived in this house through 1900. In 1902, Mrs. Lavina Hawk (or Lovina Howk) (b. 1853, NY) occupied the house through 1904. In 1908, Ara E. Gill (b. 1873, Ohio) moved into the house with his wife, Daisy D. (b. 1875, Ohio; d. 1910). Ara and Daisy married in 1896 and they had three children: Vera (b. 1900), Minana M. (b. 1901), and Harriet A. (b. 1904). Ara worked as a piano tuner, repairer, and technician for Saunders and Gill and the Conservatory of Music. Tragically, Daisy committed suicide in 1910, and the Gills vacated the house shortly thereafter. The next known occupants were Earl Leroy Tucker (b. 1895) and wife Leona Gertrude (nee Cole; b. 1897, Ohio). Earl worked as a clerk and became the owner of Dobyns Bakery in 1917. In 1920, the city directory identifies Charles G. Hutchinson (b. 1862) living here with wife, Clara (b. 1874). They had married in 1894 and had two children: Leland (b. 1899) and Doris (b. 1901). While living at this location, Doris was a student at Oberlin High School and Leland was a student at Oberlin College. The Hutchisons were no longer residents of the house in 1927 and it is unclear in the city directory who the occupants were at that time. The next known occupants were Luke E. (b. 1901, OH; d. 1980, Oberlin) and Helen A. (b. 1904 NY; d. 1981, Oberlin) Steiner in 1933. Luke Steiner was a 1924 graduate of Oberlin College and a professor in the Chemistry Department. The Steiners had two children. From 1935 through 1937, the house was occupied by Oberlin High School graduate H. Wallace Smith (b. 1901, WV; d. 1974, OH) and wife Geneva Louise (nee Edmonds; b. 1906, OH). Wallace was a bank teller at Oberlin Savings Bank and Geneva was a bookkeeper. They had married in 1926 and had two children: Stanley Wallace (b. 1927), a graduate of both Oberlin High School and Oberlin College, and William Lee (b. 1929), a graduate of Oberlin High School. The Clarke family occupied the house from 1939 through 1940. Alfred Clarke was a steam fitter. He and his wife Alice had one child. From 1941 through 1942, an Elyria factory worker named Clyde Morrison lived here with his wife, Elfreda. In 1943, Fred William Mitro (b. 1915, OH; d. 1973, Oberlin) moved in and remained in the house through 1948. Fred was a graduate of Oberlin High School and married Rita R. in 1948. They had seven children: Frank, Fred J., John J., James, Dennis, Joanna, and Diane. Fred, Sr. had worked as a core maker at the Elyria foundry, a lumberman at Oberlin Gulf, a partner in running Midland Sohio on Main Street, and was an employee at the Oberlin Canteen Co. He was a member of Sacred Heart Church and the Holy Name Society at the church. Though the city directory does not list the Mitro family at this address in the 1956 and 1961 volumes, they are again listed in 1970 and in the 1973 phone book. In 1956, Gilbert H. and Alma V. Osmer were listed as the occupants of the house. ‘Gil’ (b. 1914; d. 1967) was a graduate of Oberlin High School and was the foreman in the paint department at Oberlin College. He and Alma had three children: Michael, Judith, and Vicky. In 1961, Elden and Wanda L. Bayne were listed as the residents. Elden worked as a mechanic and Wanda was an operator for Northern Ohio Telephone. The owners and occupants of the house from 1973 through the early 1990s are unknown except for Robert H. Stillwell, a photographer for Oberlin College, who lived here from circa 1979 to 1985. By 1993, the current owner, Vasanti P. Kharkaras had taken ownership of this current rental property. VPK Lmtd is a rental company.

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