Riggs-Bliss House

This one and a half story home is an altered shingle vernacular classified as an upright and wing. The steep roof has a prominent gable section with a gabled wing that faces the south. The wing section begins to slope over the enclosed porch, which at one point may have been open. A door is located on the porch and can be reached by the use of stone steps. A screen door appears to be in front of a wood-paneled door. Sidelight windows are located... continued...

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

While the auditors report dates this house at 1900, it is actually at least ten years older, for the City Directories show George David Bentley and his wife Elizabeth Adams Bentley as the first occupants in 1891. In 1894, Henry Peter Krehbiel and his wife Matilda E. lived in this house while Henry, later a minister in Newton, KS was attending Oberlin College (Holsworth, City Directory). After Krehbiel, the City Directory shows that John D. Williams, an agent, and his wife lived in this house... continued...

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

The house is located on the east side of N. Pleasant St. and is about the ninth house from the Walnut St. intersection into N. Pleasant St. A one-car garage is located in the rear of the property and contains a low-pitched gabled roof. The house is fair condition and is surrounded by other maintained houses.

45. Sources of Information

City Directories, O.H.I.O. Resource Center; Gordon, Stephen C, 'How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory,' Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, 1992; Holsworth, Pat, Oberlin Pioneer Database; Lorain County Court House, Auditor Property Record, Internet, http://www.loraincounty... continued...
1. No. LOR-1854-21  2. County Lorain  3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O.  
4. Present Name(s) Brian A and Bonnie L Bliss House  
5. Historic or Other Name(s)  

51. Condition of Property: Good/Fair  
52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies  

Garage  

53. Affiliated OAI Site Numbers  

Door Selection: Single off center  
Door Position: Flush  
Orientation: Gable dominant with lateral smaller extension  
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)  

to the left of the door while four eight-paned windows are located to the right and appear to be operable sliding windows. The gabled section contains two, one-over-one double hung windows on the first story and two side-by-side windows in the second story. The south elevation is difficult to survey because of the foliage in front of it. The north elevation contains five windows on the dominant section and one on the rear portion. Of the five windows, three are on the bottom and two are on the top, most are one-over-one double hung except for the middle window that is either awning or hopper and the window to the left of it that is two-over-two double hung. Wood shingles compose the exterior wall material. A brick chimney is located on the center of the main gable.  

43. History and Significance (Con't)  

until sometime in 1896. This house then appears to have been vacant until around 1902 when Charles A. Marsh and his wife Della W. moved in followed by Lucy M. Mellin around 1904. Sometime between 1904 & 1907, Mellin moved out and Reverend Charles W. Riggs, his wife, Electa C., and their three children moved into this house (City Directories). Riggs was born in Constantinople, Turkey, a graduate from the Oberlin College Seminary, and was blind from a bout of scarlet fever at age four. He and his family left the house sometime between 1920 & 1927, and on Aug. 18 1925 (his 36th wedding anniversary), Riggs died in Fukien, China ('Oberlin News'). Around 1929, the city directories show that the Bliss family first moved into this house. The directories list a C. C. Bliss as the first Bliss resident in 1929, and the next year Eugene C. Bliss, a fire truck driver, and his wife Ruth C. also are listed there (perhaps C. C. Bliss was their father or relative). The Bliss family left between 1973 and 1979 when L.A. Kane bought the house.  

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

45. Sources (Con't)  

1. No. LOR-1854-21
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   Riggs-Bliss House

Roll No. 5
Picture No.(s) 24,25