This vernacular, side hallway house is side-gabled. At the front/east elevation, the door is situated to the far right. The door is comprised of wood, with a large window that is decorated by a simple mullion border. At the center of the elevation, as well as to the left, 1/1 double hung windows are double hung. The second story has 1/1 double hung windows at the left and right. The center window is smaller than the others, and is 1/1 double hung. The front porch does not extend the full width of the house; it falls just short of doing so and extends across the three bays of the facade. The porch has stone steps surrounded by brick half-walls leading up to the wood floor of the porch. The porch has vinyl siding covering the half-wall around its perimeter, with large, square columns atop the wall. Square lattice is below the wall. The porch appears to post-date the house, but is likely historic. The porch has a hipped roof and exposed rafter tails. The north elevation includes a door at the center of the ground level. The door appears to be historic and continued...
No.
Lorain County
Present Name(s) rental property
Historic or Other Name(s) Fobes-Spaulding-Keiser House

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan:
Door Selection: Single off center
Door Position: Flush
Orientation: Lateral axis
Symmetry: Bilateral symmetry

Report Associated With Project:
NADB #: 
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)

The exterior features of the house are comprised of wood and a window. The door also has a 1/1 double hung window above it, between the first and second stories, as well as another window above it, in the attic. At the first story, to the left, the elevation contains a large rectangular window. To the right, a set of three small, 1/1 windows are double hung. The second story has a 1/1 double hung window at both the left and right of the elevation. A slight ell at the northwest corner of the house has a west-facing door, concrete steps, and a metal railing. The south elevation has an exterior chimney, which is covered in a smooth stucco and is located right of center. To the right of the chimney, the first and second stories both have 1/1 double hung windows. To the immediate left of the chimney, at the first story, a square window abuts the chimney. Paired 1/1 double hung windows are at the far left of the first story. A single 1/1 double hung window is located at the far left of the second story. The attic gable has a 1/1 double hung window.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

had several children (only some of whom lived at this address): Willie, Harley, Bertha, Otis, Worthy, Ella, Cecile, and Frances. The 1894 city directory identifies a man named Burt Beard at the address. In 1895, Mrs. C. E. Bell was listed here; she lived here with her son Charles W. Bell through 1897. The 1899-1900 city directory lists George Wiers as the resident of this address, as does the 1900 census. George Wiers (b. 1849, NY) was married to Agnes (nee Pease, b. 1854, NY). The Wiers had two sons (Frankie and Richard) and three daughters (Bertha, Georgie and Merriell). The 1900 census listed Georgie as a bookbinder and Bertha as a printer (they were 17 and 22 years old at the time of that census, respectively). Over the years, George Wiers worked as a carriage maker, at one time for Cook Brothers. Agnes Pease Wiers was a member of the Elyria Knights of Columbus. In 1902 Miss Mary Pease, a dressmaker, and Muriel Pease, were listed as residents. The next known residents of this house were the Fobes family, who lived here from at least 1904 through 1910. Hiram Fobes was listed as a Life and Accident Insurance Agent. Hiram (b. 1853, Wayne, Ohio; d. 1915) attended Oberlin High School (class of 1871) and the Oberlin College Preparatory school (1870-72). He had a daughter named Lillie in 1882 with an unidentified woman. He married Ida J. (nee Mack, b. 1859, OH; d. 1912) and they had two children: Ralph Azel (1895-1985) and Ruth Christina (1896-1983). Christina Fobes (nee Fitch, b. 1822; d. 1913), Hiram’s mother, also lived at this house with the family until her death in 1913. Ida passed away in 1912, which was said to be difficult for Hiram to bear, and he died in his house on North Pleasant in 1915. In 1916, new residents, the Spauldings, occupied the house. The city directory and census lists Ellsworth W. Spaulding (b. 1862, Henrietta Twp., Ohio) as a mason contractor, plasterer, and bricklayer. His first wife was Agnes L. (nee Johnson; b. 1862, d. 1913) and they had four children: Bessie Claire (b. 1884), Earl Ellsworth (b. 1886, d. 1923), Carl W. (b. 1889), and Bruce J. (b. 1895). He married his second wife, Abigail ‘Abbie’ (nee Lauderbach, b. 1887 in Ohio) in 1916, the same year they moved into this house. Abbie also had a son named Charles Renwick (b. 1908). The only child known to live in this house was Charles, who worked as a manager at a dry cleaning business. The Spauldings lived in this house through 1936. In 1916 Wait Wright, a machinist, also lived in the house. Next the Keiser family moved into this house. The city directory and newspaper identify Edwin L. (or Elias) and Blanche D. Keiser at this house. Mr. Keiser (b. 1876, d. c. 1945) was a salesman. Blanche was a receptionist and assistant clerk at the Allen Hospital, particularly after her husband's death, in the late 40s and the 50s. The Keisers had two children: Malcolm Leroy (b. 1912 in PA, d. 1998) and Helen Romaine (b. 1916 in PA, d. 1968). While at this house, Malcolm was a graduate student and became a chemist. Helen studied to be a teacher and was listed as teaching in Gross Point, MI in the 1942 city directory. Following Mr. Keiser’s death, Blanche is listed here through 1956. The next known occupants were Dorothy J. and Paul B. Yale. Paul was an assistant professor at Oberlin College and they lived here with their three children in 1961. The 1970 directory lists Richard D. Brown, assistant professor at Oberlin College, in this house. Ju Hsi Chou was a resident in 1973. Dr. Chou was a curator of Chinese art at the Cleveland Museum of Art and has worked in a variety of positions for Oberlin College. Rev. Willis H. Ludlow was a resident from at least 1979 to 1982. Ludlow was the campus minister of Oberlin College until he was dismissed in 1984. The next known resident was Judith L. Widrig, a pianist who lived here circa 1994. David S. Morgan lived here from about 1994 to 1999. The current owner of the property is Oberlin College and it is used as a rental.

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

45. Sources (Con't)

in Elyria Wednesday,' Oberlin Tribune, 3/16/1923, Pg. 1; 'Christina Fobes,' Obituary, Oberlin News, 2/19/1913, Pg. 1 Col. 3; 'Hiram Fobes has New Girl,' Oberlin News, 12/8/1896, Pg. 3 Col. 4; 'Hiram Fobes,' Obituary, Oberlin News, 3/10/1915, Pg. 1 Col. 2; 'Ida Fobes,' Obituary, Oberlin News, 2/7/1912; Pg. 1 Col. 3; 'Agnes L. Spaulding (Mrs. E. W.),' Obituary, Oberlin News, 12/24/1913, Pg. 1, Col. 7; 'Earl Spaulding,' Obituary, Oberlin News, 3/15/1923, Pg. 1 Col. 5; Ellsworth Spaulding Married Abigail Lauderbach,' Oberlin News, 7/15/1916, Pg. 5 Col. 2.