This house is an example of Queen Anne style. The porch at the northeast corner sticks out from the house & wraps around to the north elevation. The porch has a front-facing gable with decorative woodwork in the gable. The balustrade below the porch roof is simple & is supported by brackets off the simple, square supports. A simple balustrade runs along the lower perimeter of the porch. Steps lead up to the porch & are modern concrete with iron railings. At the far right of the 1st story, a door is set far back & has many small, square lights in the upper 2/3 of the window & filled wood panels below. A large 1/1 window is located left of the door, but it is not set back. Both the window & door are located at the porch. Left of the porch, a window is set high in the 1st story & features a segmental arch & sunburst pattern in the spandrels. This window used to contain stained glass panes which were removed by Oberlin College upon its ownership. 2 1/2 double hung windows are located left of the arched window. At the 2nd story, left of the porch, 2 1/2 double hung windows are at the left & a small sleeping porch is located at the right, with a door & 1/1 double hung continued...

According to city directories, this house was built between 1883-1886, when Oren Franklin Carter was listed as the first resident with his wife, Emily (nee Brown). Very shortly it became apparent that, given its proximity to Plum Creek, it was wise to build this house with 'a very high foundation': just after it was constructed, this house and its residents bore witness to the Oberlin flood of 1887. The Oberlin Weekly News described the damages wrought by the raging creek in detail: At O. F. Carter's new residence, which has a very high foundation, the water came within two feet of the floor, inundating the cellar.... The high water mark on a tree in front of Mr. Carter's premises indicate a depth of seven feet in the street. He thinks the rise was about four feet in 15 minutes.' O. F. continued...
window at the far right. A turned spindle post is located at the corner of this 2nd story porch. To the right of the 2nd story porch is a 1/1 double hung window. The attic has a front-facing gable with 3 small, square windows that have square lights around the border of each window. A full cornice return is located below the windows. Directly above the windows, the gable of the roof features a cornice with a small entablature below it. Above the cornice, the decorative gable contains stick-style detailing. Between the 1st & 2nd story, a cornice runs along the house & the wood shingles of the exterior bell out above that cornice. The south elevation has 3 1/1 double hung windows at the 1st & 2nd stories; they are not symmetrical. An addition at the southwest corner of the house projects out & has an east-facing 1/1 double hung window. The gable has a full cornice at the bottom & decorative, stick-style detailing in the upper part of the gable, as well as a cornice below it. The north elevation features the porch at the far left, with a door that has 6 lights in the upper half & filled panels below. To the right, 2 1/1 double hung windows are located at the porch. A pair of 1/1 double hung windows is near the center of the 1st story. The far right of the elevation is set back & has 2 1/1 double hung windows (the right window is smaller). The rear porch is visible & has simple posts & balusters. The posts have chamfered corners. The 2nd story features a 1/1 double hung window at the right & a projecting, gabled bay the full height of the elevation. The bay has a 1/1 double hung window at the 1st story & a 6/1 double hung window in the attic, with a cornice above & stick-style detailing above the window. The main gable of this elevation has 2 double hung windows with decorative upper sashes, with square muntins around their borders. Stick-style details are located above the windows.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

Carter himself had a rather harrowing experience: 'Mr. Carter saw that the water was rising and went to the barn for his horse. The water rose so rapidly that he started for Dr. Allen's yard but was obliged to swim his horse to reach the land.' O. F. 'Frank' Carter was a very influential member of the Republican party in Oberlin and a member of the Republican Executive Committee & Chairman of the county Republicans. He was chosen to be the County Treasurer & held the office of mayor (he died in office in 1910). Other prominent positions he held include: Founder & President of Oberlin's first Credit Association, President of Oberlin Board of Commerce, President of the Park Board, Trustee of Oberlin Hospital Association, & a member of the Blind Claims Commission, the Board of Education & the Village Council. He favored innovation, as shown through his efforts to prospect for natural gas and his promotion of the Oberlin, Lorain & Wellington Line. He was noted by Philips to be one of the first three people in town to have both a private telephone line (at a previous residence) & electricity (at this house). Frank was born in NY, attended the Oberlin Preparatory Academy, married his wife Emily in 1860, had a daughter named Carrie Jane, owned a hardware store known both as Carter & Hatch and as Carter & Huckins at various times, located at 10 S. Main. When Frank died in 1910, Emily moved out (she lived until 1922); they are both buried in Westwood Cemetery. They were replaced in this house by salesman Carl Herbert & Hortense P. Dudley, who lived here with their daughters Winifred & Barbara from approx. 1911-1926. Carl attended the OC conservatory, owned the Shuart Grader Co. with W.A. Heusner, & worked in manufacturing & road machinery as the secretary & treasurer of the Ohio Road Machinery Co. By 1927, Capt. George H. & Charlotte A. Bowen lived here & the house was known as Yacht Club Men's Dormitory. George was captain of a Clyde steamer named 'Queen of the Lakes' for one year before his death in 1930. Charlotte continued to be the matron of Yacht Club for 10 years. In 1940, the director of Yacht Club switched from Mrs. Bowen to Mrs. Dora Ralston (widow of J.W. Ralston) & it became a women's dormitory. Dora was joined by Mrs. Georgiana Clark in this house around 1948. By 1956, George W. & Mildred E. Arthrell moved into the house with their 2 children. George was a tester at Bendix Westinghouse & Mildred was a teacher in the city schools. By 1965, the Arthrells had vacated the house, but the house retained the name Arthrell House when Oberlin College took possession of it for student housing. In 1970, Carl G. Breuning maintained the house as the buildings & grounds superintendent at OC.

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

45. Sources (Con't)