**OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY**

**1. No.**

**2. County**

**4. Present Name(s)**

**Johnson House**

**5. Historic or Other Name(s)**

**Johnson House**

**3. Location of Negatives**

**O.H.I.O. Resource**

**Roll #**

**31a**

**Facing**

**Roll #**

**3a**

**Facing**

**Front**

**31a**

**Facing**

**Rear**

**30a**

**Facing**

**6. Specific Address or Location**

**216 South Professor**

**7. City or Village**

**Oberlin**

**If Rural, Township & Vicinity**

**8. Site Plan with North Arrow**

**9. U.T.M. Reference**

**Quadrangle Name**

**Northing**

**10. Structure**

**Building**

**Object**

**11. On National Register?**

**Yes**

**12. N.R. Potential?**

**Yes**

**13. Part of Esth Hist Dist?**

**No**

**14. Dist. Potential?**

**Yes**

**15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)**

**NR: Oberlin College thematic nomination**

**16. Thematic Association(s)**

**Parochial/private education: Higher & Commerce**

**17. Date(s) or Period**

**1855**

**17b. Alteration Date(s)**

**18. Style or Design**

**Queen Anne**

**High Style**

**18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)**

**High Style Elements**

**19. Architect or Engineer**

**George Horatio Smith**

**19a. Design Sources**

**20. Contractor or Builder**

**21. Building Type or Plan**

**Other**

**22. Original Use, if apparent**

**Residential**

**23. Present Use**

**College Dormitory**

**24. Ownership**

**Public**

**Private**

**25. Owner’s Name & Address, if known**

**Oberlin College**

**40 N. Professor**

**26. Property Acreage**

**7.380**

**27. Other Surveys in Which Included**

**McQuillin (77)**

**28. No. of Stories**

**3**

**29. Basement?**

**Yes**

**30. Foundation Material**

**Stone**

**31. Wall Construction**

**Wood Frame**

**32. Roof**

**Type**

**Varied**

**Pitch**

**Steep**

**Material**

**Slate**

**33. No. Bays**

**Front**

**6**

**Side**

**7**

**34. Exterior Wall Material(s)**

**Fishscale shingles, clapboard**

**35. Plan Shape**

**Irregular**

**36. Changes (Explain in #42)**

**Some alteration-restored**

**37. Window Type(s)**

**Double-hung; 1 over 1**

**38. Bldg. Dims.**

**39. Endangered?**

**Yes**

**Explain:**

**Foundation problems**

**40. Chimney Placement**

**Multiple along ridgeline and edge**

**41a. Distance from road**

**41b. Frontage on road**

**7 acres**

**42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features**

This Queen Anne style three-story house has a truncated hip roof with a gambrel rear exposure and intersecting gables. A steep eight sided tower capped with a finial is the highest point of the roof. The exterior covering of the house varies from horizontal, vertical and diagonal weather board to imbricated shingles and large roundels. In the interior, lavishly carved banisters and millwork are found on every floor along with high ceilings. The double doors of the main entrance open onto the grand central hallway from a front porch with turned porch posts and a shed roof. Most of the chimneys are located flush or exterior along the gable or gambrel ends, and the double-hung (cont.)

**43. History and Significance**

I.M. Johnson, president of the First National Bank of Oberlin had two sons, Edward and Albert H. Edward was a successful clothing merchant. Albert worked as a cashier in his father’s bank before becoming owner of the Oberlin gasworks and eventually president of the Arkansas Midland Railroad. In the early 1880’s he purchased this property where the Dascomb house stood. He moved that house across the street (where it remains) and hired Cleveland architect George Horatio Smith to design this house. Albert lived here for 14 years until he was (cont.)

**44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)**

This house is in a neighborhood of historic homes, but conversions to rental and rehabilitations threaten the neighborhood’s integrity. Northwest of the house a large wood frame barn with mansard roof and carriage doors still stands. It has six-over-six double hung windows, shed dormers and is covered in wood shingles. The two story central portion of the barn is flanked by one and one-half story wings. (cont.)

**45. Sources of Information**


**46. Prepared by**

M. Fedelchak-Harley; J. Heaton; L. Previll

**47. Organization**

O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.

**48. Date Recorded**

1-20-2000

**49 Revised by**

50a. Date Revised

50b. Reviewed by
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

... one over one windows are replacements. Some of the foundation lines are concrete near the entrances. The brick of the basement is deteriorating and has had some new tuckpointing work done in recent years. This building continues use as a student dormitory and retains much of its original millwork and detail.

43. History and Significance (Continued from page 1.)

... killed in a Colorado train accident. Charles Martin Hall purchased the Johnson house in 1911 and gave it to the college. It housed the Oberlin Academy until 1916 when it became a student dormitory (Blodgett). The directors of Johnson House were identified as Mrs. Annie F. Crafts (1929 & 1933); Mrs. Winifred C. Lane (1937 & 1939); Mrs. Jessie K. Heinrich (1942); Mrs. Florence E. Sandberg (1961) (City Directories).

This house is significant for its massive size, attention to Queen Anne styling and unique architect-designed details; it is also significant for its association with Oberlin College and the college's history as a recipient of graduate philanthropy. Johnson House was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin Historic Landmark in September of 1975. The house and barn were listed on the National Register in 1978 as buildings in Oberlin College's thematic nomination. It was restored in 1981.