Edwards-Michaels House

6. Specific Address or Location
71 S Prospect St

20. Contractor or Builder

21. Building Type or Plan
Gabled Ell

22. Original Use, if apparent
Single Dwelling

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)

At the main facade, which faces west, of this vernacular Gabled Ell, the gable is steep and extends to the first story along the right roofline. The main entry is located at the far right of the front-gabled end, which is actually near the center of the elevation. The door is made of wood and has four tall, narrow windows in the upper third of the door. The door is situated behind a modern screen door. To the left of the entry, three adjoining windows are 6/1 double hung, and the center window is slightly larger than the two flanking it. The second story of the gabled portion has a pair of 6/1 double hung windows with shutters. A small, 6-light window is situated in the attic gable. The side-gabled portion of the house, towards the right, is recessed. It has two adjoining 6/1 windows at the first and second stories. The second story windows have shutters. A huge, wrap-around porch is surrounded by simple wood posts and a simple wood railing. The porch is not original, as indicated by its asphalt roof, which is different from the historic slate roof of the house. It was added after 1970 by the Michaels family. The north elevation has two double hung windows at... continued...

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

This house was built between 1916 and 1920, when the first known residents, James and Ella Edwards moved in. James worked as an insurance and real estate salesman. The couple's daughter, Gertrude, was married in 1915 and likely never lived in the home. James was an important Republican political figure in Oberlin. During his time in the home James was reelected several times as Agricultural Society President, President of the county fair board, President of the Northern Ohio Fair Circuit and President of the Business Men's Club, formally known as the Commerce Secretary. Under his leadership the county fair board dissolved thousands of dollars of debt to be in the black by the end of his tenure. James Edwards was also the first City Council chairman under Oberlin's new City Manager continued...

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

Outbuilding: 2-car garage; not original or historic. This house is located on a quiet, residential street.

45. Sources of Information

46. Prepared By: Patricia Murphy 47. Organization: Oberlin Heritage Center 48. Date Recorded: 06/19/2007 49. PIR Reviewer: RLK 50. PIR Review Date: 06/12/2008
Report Associated With Project:
NADB #: 

Door Selection:
*Single centered*

Door Position:
*Flush*

Orientation:
*Gable with lateral wing*

Symmetry:
*Bilateral asymmetry*
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con’t)

the first and second stories, which are 6/1. The basement features an original metal coal door in the foundation. At the south elevation, which features a gable end, there are 6/1 windows at the first and second stories. The second story has shutters. The attic has a smaller, six-light window. At the rear corner of the house, the porch continues to wrap around to the back of the building.

43. History and Significance (Con’t)

Government. In 1928 the City Council thanked Mr. Edwards with a resolution of appreciation. Finally in 1929, in a run for reelection, Edwards won the primary by a coin flip. Professor Cony Sturgis moved in next, in 1929, with his wife Anne, an assistant professor. Mr. Sturgis taught romance languages, and later became the head of the Spanish department, while Ms. Sturgis taught classics. During his time at Oberlin, Professor Cony Sturgis developed use of the Dictaphone as a method of teaching Spanish. On May 15, 1941 the house was mentioned listed for sale in the Oberlin News-Tribune. On June 12, 1941 the News-Tribune reported that the Mr. and Mrs. Sturgis had moved to Ithaca, New York, likely leaving the house vacant. The October 12 edition of the News Tribune reported that Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Robinson had rented the home. On January 21, 1943 the News-Tribune reported that Miss Ruth Easton, a secretary’s office assistant, and Miss Gertrude Ransom, the secretary to the College secretary, had purchased this house, but did not plan to move in until July. As planned the women did move in, and Reverend Van der Pyl moved in with them. In September 1943 the Reverend passed away at the age of 77. In October, 1943, the paper reported that the widowed Mrs. G. A. Lawrence would be moving into the home as well. On March 2, 1944 the paper reported that the property had been transferred to Allan B. Cole, an assistant professor of history at the College, who moved in with his wife. His tenure at Oberlin was short however as he had left the school by 1945. The next known resident was Mrs. Lettie Graham, a widow who arrived by 1948. She continued to live in the home until the early 1970’s when Richard Michaels, his wife Jan, and three sons, Matt, Tony, and Joe, moved in. The Michaels family continued to live here until 2005. Dick Michaels was the head of Oberlin’s physical education department from 1980 until 1983, and was coach of the swimming team until he retired at the end of the 2005 season. Jan Michaels was a special education teacher. In 2006 Jeffery and Elizabeth Ramsey bought this house. Jeffrey Ramsey has been the head football coach for the Oberlin Yeomen since 1999; he has been considered ‘the catalyst in reviving Oberlin’s long-struggling program.’

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

45. Sources (Con’t)