**Kessler House**

**Address:** 355 Reamer Place

**City:** Oberlin

**County:** Lorain

**Description:**
This house is an example of a Dutch Colonial Revival with a Four Over Four plan. The main facade includes a door at the center with a pediment hood above, which has an arch in it. The door is wood with four small lights. Cement steps and an iron rail lead up to the entry. Windows in sets of three are to the right and left of the door; they are comprised of an eight-over-one window flanked by four-over-one windows. The lower half of the exterior continued...

**History and Significance:**
English immigrant & carpenter Jack Annable built this house in 1923 for the Kessler family (Rice). Maurice Kessler (or Koessler) was a professor of Violin & Ensemble at the Oberlin Conservatory & resided here with his wife Juliette & their 2 children, Ralph Rigaux & Ellen Florence 'Fleurette' (City Directory, O-High Alumni, Archives). Ralph graduated from OHS & attended Oberlin College; he also served in the U.S. Army in World War II from 1942-45 (O-High Alumni). Fleurette also graduated from continued...

**Sources of Information:**
'General Catalog of Oberlin College: 1833-1908,' 523.; Blodgett, Geoffrey, 'Oberlin Architecture, College and Town: A Guide to Social History,' Oberlin College, 1985.; City Directories, O.H.I.O Resource Center.; Holsworth, Pat, Oberlin Pioneer Database.; Lorain County Court House, Auditor Property continued...
is brick, and the upper half is wood clapboard; the wing to the left is also comprised of wood clapboard. The second story has three eight-over-one windows, and had shutters that were removed in September of 2003. A band of asphalt shingles runs between the first and second stories. At the left side of the elevation, a wing contains a pair of six-over-one windows with shutters. The wing at the right side of the elevation is a screened-in porch with lattice below and a square support; it has a flat roof and exposed rafters. The west elevation includes the screened-in porch at the first story. Double doors allow entrance from the house to the porch. A first story brick portion extends from behind the house. The second story has eight-over-one windows to the left and right. A fanlight is in the attic. The east elevation includes the wing at the first story. The exterior of the addition is wood clapboard with a brick foundation and a six-over-one window. The exterior chimney runs up the wall at the main body of the house and is flanked by eight-over-one windows at the second story and windows shaped like a quarter of a circle in the attic.

OHS (O-High Alumni). Juliette was an artist, proven through the 1944 ‘Juliette Kessler Exhibition,’ which was displayed at Allen Memorial Art Museum (Archives). By 1956, the Kessler family moved down the street & the Schmidts replaced them (City Directory). Paul Frederic Schmidt was a professor of philosophy at Oberlin College starting in 1951, which may be when he moved in (Alumni Register). Paul, his wife Rebecca, & 4 children resided here through 1961, possibly until 1965 when the Woods purchased the house (City Directory, Property Card). Walter Gleason Wood, a textbook representative from CV Mosby Publishing Co., was a lifelong resident of Oberlin, graduated from OHS, & attended Oberlin College. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII (Alumni Register, O-High Alumni). Lee Barbara (Aspinwall) Wood attended both the College & the Conservatory to become a music teacher. By 1980 she taught music at Eastwood School on 198 College (Alumni Register). The Woods had 2 children, Elizabeth & Melissa.

1. No. LOR-1787-21
2. County Lorain
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Cen

Roll No. 16
Picture No.(s) 35,36

4. Present Name(s)

5. Historic or Other Name(s)
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