Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 E. Hudson St.
Columbus, OH 43211
614/289-2000

OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

1. No. LOR-01988-21
2. County Lorain
3. Historic or Other Name(s) Akers House

4. Present Name(s)

5. Historic Name(s)

6. Specific Address or Location 49 Spring St
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 900088112009
6b. City or Village Oberlin
6c. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name: Oberlin
               17 398790 4571462
6d. Zone Northing
6e. Easting
6f. Address No.
6g. House Number
6h. Street Name
6i. Residential Street that receives 6/6
6j. School
6k. Other
6l. Historic Exterior Feature
6m. Historic Interior Feature
6n. Archaeological Site
6o. City
6p. Town
6q. Street
6r. Subdivision
6s. Subdivision Number
6t. Location
6u. Source

7. Building

8. Acknowledgment

9. Part of Established Hist. Dist. NO

10. On National Register? NO

11. Classification: Building

12. Thematic Associations:
   - College
   - Hotel/Inn
   - General Merchandise

13. Date(s) of Period c. 1873
14. Alteration Date(s)
15. No. of Stories Two story
16. Style Class and Design No academic style - Vernacular
17. Style in Additions or Elements(s)
18. Architect or Engineer

19. Design Sources
20. Contractor or Builder
21. Building Type or Plan Side Hallway
22. Original Use, if apparent Single Dwelling
23. Present Use Single Dwelling
24. Ownership Private
25. Owner's Name & Address, if known

26. Property Acreage Unknown
27. Other Surveys
28. No. of Stories
29. Basement? Yes
30. Foundation Material Concrete slab
31. Wall Construction Balloon/western/platform frame
32. Roof Type Gable
33. Roof Material Asphalt shingle
34. Exterior Wall Material(s)
35. Plan Shape Rectangular
36. Characteristic Features Keys to symbols
37. Window Type(s) 6 over 6
38. Building Dimensions 21' x 40'
39. Endangered? NO
   By What?

40. Chimney Placement Lateral Exterior
41. Distance from & Frontage on Road 25'
42. Condition of Property: Good/Fair
43. Historic Outbuildings & Dependencies Structure Type
44. Associated Activity
45. Affiliated Inventory Numbers Historic (OHI)
46. Archaeological (OAI)

47. Sources of Information

48. Date Recorded: 06/19/2007
49. PIR Reviewer: RLK Murphy
50. PIR Review Date: 06/12/2008

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

The front (west elevation) of this vernacular, Side Hallway house features a full front porch with a flat roof. The porch has simple post supports and turned rails in the balustrade. Lattice runs below the porch. The door at the far left appears to be original. The door has a glass window above three filled, square panels. The screen door is made of wood. The door is flanked by narrow sidelights. To the right of the door (at the center and far right of the first story), tall, narrow windows appear to open like French-style doors. The second story has three 6/6 windows. The attic has a small vent. The south elevation has a 6/6 window at the far left side of the first story. The second story has a 6/6 near the center of the elevation. The exterior, painted chimney is situated to the right. To the immediate right of the chimney, at both stories, double hung windows have wood muntins. These windows presumably 6/6 (the angle one has in viewing them from the sidewalk makes it difficult to determine the window type), but they could be 4/4. This house includes original, wood basement windows. Two additions are attached to the rear of the house. The addition closest to continued...

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

This house was constructed before 1873, when it was inhabited by first known residents carpenter Peter G. Akers, his wife Mary B. Akers, and a number of their children. In 1882 their son George Akers died from diphtheria at age 22. Also in 1882, Mary passed away at age 64, and Mr. Akers moved out of the house around that time. The home’s next residents were David and Mary Gage, and a merchant, Allen Newton. By 1886 Mr. Newton had moved away leaving the home to the Gages. By 1891 a new family had moved in, Frances Wilder and her sister-in-law Celia C. Durand, two widows living together. These two women each had a number of children with whom they shared the home. One of the children, George Harrison Durand, went on to be a professor at Oberlin 1899-1912. By 1894 William Gerrish and his wife, continued...

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

Outbuilding: None. This house is located on a residential street that receives little traffic.

45. Sources of Information

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #: 

Door Selection: Corner

Door Position: Flush

Orientation: Gable end axis

Symmetry: Bilateral symmetry
the house is taller and has a hip roof. The rear-most addition is smaller and has a flat roof. The larger addition has a 4/4 window and the smaller addition has a 6/6 window. The addition has a concrete block foundation. Near the center of the north addition, a projecting addition has a hipped roof and a 6/6 window near the center of the addition. To the right of the addition (in a portion not shingled, as in the rest of the house; rather, it has vertical siding), there is a simple, six-light window. Also in this portion, a door with simple, filled wood panels faces west. Two 6/6 windows are at the second story, above the addition (on the main body of the house). The rear addition is shorter than the main body of the house and has a door that faces north, as well as a small 6/6 window in the second story.

Julia Elizabeth, moved into the home. Julia Elizabeth in fact was the daughter of David and Mary Gage and had lived in the home previously with her parents. William Gerrish went on to help with the city's sewage and despite his skill at the job, faced controversy over his refusal to treat the water without a fair salary. After Mr. Gerrish and his wife left by 1896 this house remained vacant for a few years. By 1902 Charles Bradstock, a carpenter, and his wife Mary, and daughter Ima moved in, residing here for a short time until the Welsh and Kidd families took up occupancy by 1904. Chester Welsh, a carpenter and his wife Henrietta lived here for a very short time. The Kidd family, Charles, a teamster, his wife Evelyn, son Earl and daughter Julia stayed slightly longer, leaving by 1908. Henry Hass and his wife Mae moved in next, but left by 1910. Phillip Carmea and Jennie E. Steele resided here for a short time around 1910. When Mrs. Steele passed away in 1912 from apoplexy at age 70, she had already moved to North Pleasant Street. The 1916 directory lists the residents as John Shaffstall, an auto mechanic, and his wife Freda. By 1920 the home was shared by two families, Mrs. Mary Arnett, and her sons Everett and Ralph, and the Leonards, Kelly and Bernice, and their three children. By 1927 both the Arnets and Leonards had left and the house was occupied by William Papworth, a mail carrier and graduate of OHS, and his wife Minnie, also an OHS graduate who went on to be a long time worker at Ben Franklin. They had a daughter, Shirley Jane Papworth, who followed her parents' path and graduated from OHS. Shirley Jane moved to Florida in 1944 to assist with the war effort. In Florida she met her future husband Paul Metcalf. In 1948 Minnie passed away leaving the house to William. William had moved out by 1956 when the Homesteads arrived. Richard A Homestead was a treasurer of B & H Co. - he lived here with his wife Beatrice T and their son Allen R., a student. By 1961 Richard Homestead had become the president of B & H as well as a manager at the Oberlin Inn. Beatrice Homestead worked as the dining room manager at the Inn. By 1970 Richard A. Born, a manager at Watson Hardware, his wife Frances, and their two children occupied this house. Richard Born continued to live here until 2003 when he sold the home to its current owners, Vincent De Leon Perez and Lucia A Marco Martinez.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (Cont)

45. Sources (Cont)