### Ohio Historic Inventory

**Address:**
99 Spring St.

**City or Village:**
Oberlin

**County:**

**Roll #:** 5

**Exp #:** 20

**Facing:** Front

**Property Acreage:**

**Building Type or Plan:**

**Original Use, if apparent:**

**No. of Stories:** 2

**Basement?:** Yes

### Description of Environment and Outbuildings

- Gravel driveways on both sides of the house lead to a four-car garage in the north side of the backyard. The house sits on a small incline above the street.

### History and Significance

**Mrs. Maria E. Rockwell** lived here from 1890 through 1894. Meritt Darius Sperry moved in during 1894 and stayed through 1896. Sperry co-owned Hart & Sperry Furniture and Undertaking with Maria Rockwell’s brother-in-law, F. A. Hart. Maria had married A. B. Rockwell around 1884, but was probably widowed by the time she lived here, and eventually moved in with the Hart family on East College St. She worked as a clerk in a store. Census records do not specify which store, but it is possible she worked for her brother-in-law at Hart & Sperry, a firm that lasted until at least 1900. M. D. Sperry had attended the Oberlin College (cont.)

### Summary

- The house is situated on a small incline above the street.
- The porch has a screen door at each end, and the house has it.
- The porch is gabled with its end facing the street, but a screened-in porch covers the whole first floor of the façade with a flare.
- The house is located on a small incline above the street.
- The house is assessed via a screen door at each end, and the house has it.
- The house is gabled with its end facing the street, but a screened-in porch covers the whole first floor of the façade with a flare.
- The house is located on a small incline above the street.

### Further Descriptions

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**References:**

51. Condition of Property
- **Excellent**
- Ruin
- **Good/Fair**
- Destroyed/Burned
- Deteriorated

52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barn Type(s)</th>
<th>Corn Crib or Shed</th>
<th>Summer Kitchen</th>
<th>Silo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Smoke House</td>
<td>Spring House</td>
<td>Ice House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Designed Landscape Features</td>
<td>Privy</td>
<td>Garage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OAI Completed?</th>
<th>___________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

54. Farmstead Plan

55. Archaeological Feature:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Archaeological Feature</th>
<th>Observed</th>
<th>Expected on Basis of Archival Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cistern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Structural Rubble</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Formal Trash Dump</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Preparatory Department from 1889 through 1891, and married Myrtle E. Thimblebee in 1893 (Holsworth). After leaving the furniture and undertaking business in the early 20th century, he founded the M. D. Sperry and Co. Grocery at 25 E. College, before 1913. One of his employees, Bert A. Locke, bought a share in the store and by 1923 the Sperry & Locke grocery was at 11 S. Main (Locke). Sperry and Locke both died in 1938 (Holsworth).

Farmer William J. Saxton lived at 99 Spring St. from 1897 through 1900. He and his wife, Eleanor (Nellie), had both attended the Oberlin College Preparatory Department in the 1870s, and had 8 children before moving to Interlochen, Michigan (Holsworth). Henry B. Peabody lived here in 1902. From 1902 through 1940, Harley O. and Mary E. Worcester lived here with their children: Dorr, Myron, and Fay. Harley was a carpenter. Woodrow Wilson Teets lived here in 1942, followed by G. H. Webber and G. C. Yasher in 1956 and J. B. Locke and R. C. Exner in 1961 (City Directories).