This Side Hallway residence with Italianate elements has historically been altered but maintains much of its historical character. The south elevation has three strong bays, the leftmost two of which are composed of vertically-aligned 6/1 double hung windows. The right bay is composed of a 6/1 double-hung window over the door element. There is also a three-panel window, probably casement, in the gable. The front door is of wood and glass, with slightly more than the top half cut out as a rectangular window with a carv ed wooden panel below. The door has an approximately-rectangular transom with the top edges beveled. The front door opens onto a small front porch, which, judging from the woodwork, is historic, but judging from the concrete block and stone foundation, must have been rebuilt. The porch has a stone block floor and one stone and two concrete steps, with metal handrails, that enter it from the front. The porch has a wooden square lattice balustrade at the sides, with the openwork forming a three by six pattern of outlined squares. The porch is topped with a flat roof, reaching to one story, supported by tall wooden posts with edges beveled beginning...continued...

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)
This house is located on a residential street. Across the street are athletic fields adjacent to Langston Middle School. Behind the house sits a two-story cinder-block structure, include a two car garage on the ground level, which used to be associated with this address. It is now a separate apartment, 56 1/2 Walnut.

45. Sources of Information

46. Prepared By: Patricia Murphy 47. Organization: Oberlin Heritage Center 48. Date Recorded: 12/05/2006 49. PIR Reviewer:
8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan:

Door Selection:
Two doors asymmetrical

Door Position:
Flush

Orientation:
Gable end axis

Symmetry:
Bilateral symmetry

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #:.
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)

at just below balustrade height. At the porch’s cornice, there is an unadorned segment at the top, followed by an openwork pattern similar to that of the balustrade, only composed of two rows of seven open spaces. This element is supported by a plain bracket below the openwork element and facing the opposite post. Above this, the roof is also supported by brackets, facing outward from the supporting posts. These brackets are much more ornately carved, with almost arabesque undulating arches. To the east of the main segment of the house is a smaller section, recessed from the main south elevation. The south elevation of this recessed portion also has a door with a Greek Revival-inspired possibly-new door surround, including slightly-triangular pediment. This segment of the building is one story in height and is surrounded on two sides by a porch that begins at about the midway point of the two-story element. The porch has the same sort of balustrade as does the front porch, but historic maps suggest that it was about half its present size from 1911 till at least 1942, after which point it must have been enlarged. The side porch has a slightly-gabled roof and a thick unadorned entablature, supported by beveled posts like those on the front porch, but without the carved brackets or decorative woodwork at top. The porch has a wooden floor and front steps with a metal handrail, which enter the porch to the left, aligned with the south-facing door. The back steps to this porch are obscured. To the west of the south elevation is another small one-story projecting element, with a 2/2 double hung window visible on its south elevation. The east elevation of the structure is featureless until the side porch begins, at which point there is also a single 6/1 double hung window followed by a smaller 1/1 double hung window over the porch, and a wood and glass, possibly original, door followed by a three by three-paned replacement window on the first story under the porch’s roof. The screen door on this side door also appears to be original to the house. At the rear, there is a one-story historic addition with a shed roof and a double casement window with three panes in each half. There is an attached modern carport at the very back of the residence. The west elevation begins with two vertically-aligned windows, the bottom one of which is a double hung window and the top one of which is obscured, followed by a 6/6 double hung window over the first floor projecting element, which has another 6/6 double hung window, aligned with that in the second story, in its west elevation. There is a one-story historic addition at the rear of the projecting element. This addition has a shed roof, onto which the projection’s slight cornice is not followed, and a single 6/6 double hung window. Windows are visible in the basement. The majority of the alterations are visible from the north elevation, which appears to have had at least part of its foundation replaced by concrete blocks. The north elevation also has another door and at least one double casement window like that on the east elevation.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

Oberlin College. Platt was a teacher and abolitionist and is known for her work among the Pawnee Indians in Nebraska. As well as participating in the Underground Railroad wherever she settled, she also founded a new school for Native Americans in Nebraska. Platt died in 1914, and there is no tenant listed for the house in the 1916, 1920, and 1927 directories. Residence was finally resumed in 1929 with Mrs. Louise Webber, who was an Oberlin College librarian in the theology department. She soon moved out, with the 1933 directories listing Mrs. Ada Smith and her daughter Eva as the residents. The Smith family immigrated from England in 1921 and Ada held a job at the Oberlin Savings Bank. Several years later in 1937, Eva moved out and Ada’s daughter Alice with husband Henry Dana Edmonds took Eva’s place. Edmonds made a living as a mechanic and Alice was an office assistant and stenographer. After the Smith family moved out between 1938 and 1939, the house was again vacant until 1942, when Mrs. John Morris moved in. However, she only lived there a very short time period and the house is not listed in the 1943 and 1944 directories. In 1948 the house was bought by the Hanmer family. The head of the household, Merle J., graduated from Oberlin High School in 1925 and worked primarily as a millwright at Republic Steel. The Hanmer family was very large with eight children, but all had moved out of the house by 1973. The Hammers, Merle and his wife Minnie, continued to live in the house until their deaths; Minnie died in 1994 at Oberlin Memorial Hospital, and Merle passed away in 2002 at Welcome Nursing Home. Upon Merle’s death, possession of the house passed to his son David Hanmer.

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

45. Sources (Con’t)

indagoids/html/PlattElvira.htm, Accessed October 2006.;