

OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 E. Hudson St. Columbus, Ohio 43211
614/297-2470



1. No.	2. County LOR	4. Present Name(s) First Hospital (Blodgett)	<input type="checkbox"/> Coded
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr.		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Spear House, Caskey House, Williams House, Oberlin Hospital, Vaughan House, Harvey House, Holbrook House	
Roll #	Exp. #	Facing	
Front 4	5		
S. Side 4	6		

6. Specific Address or Location 21 South Cedar Street	17. Date(s) or Period 1898	17b. Alteration Date(s) c. 1907	30. Foundation Material Sandstone
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 0900-085-107-005	18. Style or Design Colonial Revival		31. Wall Construction Balloon Frame/Western Frame/Platform
7. City or Village Oberlin	18a. Style of Addition or Element(s) High Style <input type="checkbox"/> Elements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		32. Roof: Type Truncated Hip Pitch Moderate Material Asphalt Shingle
8. Site Plan with North Arrow	19. Architect or Engineer Unknown		33. No. Bays Front 3 Side irregular
	19a. Design Sources Unknown		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Wood, Beveled Siding Wood, Shingle (on dormers)
	20. Contractor or Builder Unknown		35. Plan Shape L-Shaped
	21. Building Type or Plan American Foursquare		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Additions
	22. Original Use, if apparent Multiple Dwelling, Rooming House		37. Window Type(s) Mullion with Transom, 8 over 8, 6 over 6
9. U.T.M. Reference	23. Present Use Single Dwelling		38. Bldg. Dims. 32 x 44
Zone	Easting	Northing	39. Endangered? No Explain:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	40. Chimney Placement Off Center Within Ridgeline
10. <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		41a. Distance from road approx. 25'
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object	25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Ronald J. DiCenzo 21 South Cedar Street Oberlin OH 44074		41b. Frontage on road 109 ft.
11. On National Register? No	26. Property Acreage .45		
12. N.R. Potential? Yes	27. Other Surveys in Which Included No		
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No	28. No. of Stories 2 and 1/2		
14. Dist. Potential? Yes	29. Basement? Yes		
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)			
16. Thematic Association(s) Social Welfare - Health Care, Private Education - College			

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features
This American Foursquare house is well-ornamented in the Neo-Colonial style. Slim, fluted Doric columns support the low-pitched roof over the porch, which covers the first floor of the façade. The first floor facade has one octagonal bay window on each side of the front door. There is a one-story addition on the south side of the house, with a low-pitched roof and a large Chicago-style window surrounded by the same ornamental shutters that surround all the other first- and second-floor windows. There is a hipped dormer on each of the north, west, and south sides of the roof.

43. History and Significance
This house was built in 1898 for Mary Spear, the widow of Charles V. Spear, benefactor of Oberlin College's Spear Library (Blodgett). She lived on Elm Street, but used 21 S. Cedar as a boarding house. Professor William G. Caskey and his wife Flora lived here from 1899 until at least 1902 (City Directories). Mrs. Spear sold the house in 1903 to Alice Williams, whose husband George had been killed in the Boxer Rebellion in China (Blodgett). Mrs. Williams rented the house to H. H. Kung, who graduated from the College in 1906 and returned to his native China to become a wealthy banker (Blodgett). In 1907, (cont.)

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)
The house is surrounded by an elaborately landscaped yard, including small ornamental ionic columns. The driveway on the south side leads to a gabled garage in the backyard.

45. Sources of Information
Blodgett, Geoffrey. Oberlin Architecture, College and Town: A Guide to its Social History. Oberlin College, 1985. O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr: Oberlin City Directories. Lorain County Courthouse, Auditor Property Records, 2001. Internet. <http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor/index.shtml>. Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files. O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr Files. Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pat Holsworth, Oberlin Pioneer Database. Oberlin College Yearbooks. Dale Preston, "Oberlin Hospital Chronology," 2002.

46. Prepared by H. Petersen, M. Franck, D. Musson, and O.H.I.O. Interns
47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.
48. Date Recorded 12/16/2002
49. Revised by
50a. Date Revised
50b. Reviewed by

51. Condition of Property

- Excellent Ruin
 Good/Fair Destroyed/Burned
 Deteriorated Date _____

54. Farmstead Plan



52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

- Corn Crib or Shed Summer Kitchen Silo
 Smoke House Spring House Ice House
 Designed Landscape Features Privy Garage

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s) _____

OAI Completed? _____

Archaeological Feature:	Observed	Expected on Basis of Archival Research
Well	_____	_____
Privy	_____	_____
Cistern	_____	_____
Foundation	_____	_____
Structural Rubble	_____	_____
Formal Trash Dump	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____

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

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

Mrs. Williams leased it to the Oberlin Hospital Association (OHA) for use as the town' s first hospital (Blodgett). 204 citizens were members of the OHA, and their regulations stipulated that "The Hospital shall be a private institution supported by the fees of members of this Association, voluntary contributions, and the receipts from those patients who are able to pay for their board and care" (Preston). When the hospital opened on Aug. 17, 1907, it had 8 beds, and room charges were \$10 per week, including "board, medicine, dressings, and the divided attention of one nurse" (Preston). To raise funds, the OHA hosted an annual fair (Preston). Allen Memorial Hospital opened in 1925 and the Cedar Street house reverted to residential use (Blodgett). Dr. H. F. Vaughan moved in during the late 1920s and stayed until at least 1933, and Oberlin College electrician R. P. Harvey and his wife Helen lived here from 1935 until at least 1942 (Directories). Alice Williams herself returned to live in the house during the 1930s, and in 1942 her former tenant H. H. Kung bought the house and deeded it to the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association on the condition that Mrs. Williams could remain in the house for the rest of her life. She died in 1952, and Religion Professor Clyde A. Holbrook moved in, added a room to the south side of the house for his Great Dane, and stayed until 1966 (Blodgett). The house deteriorated during a long string of short-term renters, but it has been restored beautifully by the current owner (Blodgett).