

# 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)		<input type="checkbox"/> Coded
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource				5. Historic or Other Name(s) West House; Gerber House		
	Roll #	Exp. #	Facing			
Front	3	16	S			
Rear	3	17	N			
6. Specific Address or Location 461 West Lorain				17. Date(s) or Period 1881		17b. Alteration Date(s)
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 09-00-084-101-080				18. Style or Design Vernacular		High Style <input type="checkbox"/>
7. City or Village Oberlin				18a. Style of Addition or Element(s) Italianate		Elements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Site Plan with North Arrow				19. Architect or Engineer		30. Foundation Material Stone
				19a. Design Sources		31. Wall Construction Brick
				20. Contractor or Builder		32. Roof: Type Hip Pitch Low Material Composite Shingle
9. U.T.M. Reference				21. Building Type or Plan Other		33. No. Bays Front 3 Side 3
Zone		Easting		22. Original Use, if apparent Residential		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Red Brick-Running Bond
Northing				23. Present Use Psychiatric Office		35. Plan Shape Irregular
10. <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure				24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Restored
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object				25. Owner's Name & Address, if known		37. Window Type(s) Double-hung; 1 over 1
11. On National Register ? No		12. N.R. Potential ? No		26. Property Acreage .810		38. Bldg. Dims. 34 ft. x 40 ft.
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No		14. Dist. Potential ? No		27. Other Surveys in Which Included Sugaski (93)		39. Endangered? No Explain: Well maintained
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)				28. No. of Stories 2		40. Chimney Placement 1 Off-center along ridge line
16. Thematic Association(s) Agriculture				29. Basement? Yes		41a. Distance from road
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features						41b. Frontage on road .72 acres
<p>This two-story, hipped-roof, Italianate Style house is known for the brick pattern of the front facade reading "1881." Each window is an original one over one double-hung topped with segmental arched lintels. The front porch has some ornamental woodwork along the porch roof. Its original stone slabs have been veneered with concrete. The interior space has been altered creating narrowed hallways and tight corners, but much of the original woodwork can still be seen. The bricks on much of the house have been repointed and the rear has a treated lumber deck and stairway leading to the second story rear private residence. A rectangular cap covered with slate shingles sits on top (cont.)</p>						
43. History and Significance						
<p>Built in 1881 by Amasa West, from New York State, this house was built on a 62-acre lot he purchased for \$1700 that stretched from West Lorain Street to Morgan Street, bordered by Pyle Road. The farm remained intact until the 1930s when subdivision began. Amasa West was a farmer and coal wagon driver; he built this home for \$800 (student paper). Occupancy, however, was unclear as the address does not appear in the city directories until 1956 and Amasa West, teamster, was listed at different addresses: 22 East College in 1888; 32 Mechanic in 1899; (cont.)</p>						46. Prepared by M. Fedelchak-Harley; J. Heaton; L. Previll
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)						47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.
<p>Lorain Street is State Route 511, a busy thoroughfare for traffic into and through town. The residential areas are interrupted by commercial buildings and have experienced loss of integrity due to conversions to rental and alterations.</p>						48. Date Recorded 1-25-2000
45. Sources of Information						49. Revised by
<p>Lorain County Courthouse: Lorain County tax records. Oberlin Public Library: Oberlin City Directories. Oberlin College Library Special Collections: Oberlin City Directories. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin H.P.C. files; "The Amasa West 1881 House," Oberlin College student paper, 1984, Updated March 1999; Oberlin City Directories.</p>						50a. Date Revised
						50b. Reviewed by

51. Condition of Property

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good/Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed/Burned
<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	Date _____

54. Farmstead Plan



52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

<input type="checkbox"/> Corn Crib or Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> Silo
<input type="checkbox"/> Smoke House	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring House	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice House
<input type="checkbox"/> Designed Landscape Features	<input type="checkbox"/> Privy	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

OAI Completed? \_\_\_\_\_

Archaeological Feature:	Observed	Expected on Basis of Archival Research
Well	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Privy	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Cistern	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Foundation	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Structural Rubble	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Formal Trash Dump	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Other _____	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>

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

of the center of the roof and may be part of the original house. Its purpose is unknown. This building has been restored and converted into office space.

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

and 50 East Vine in 1908. In the 1930s the Gerber family ran a "tourist home" here, the family charged one dollar, per person, per night, and extra for breakfast. In the mid-1930s the house was divided into a duplex and the family began other remodeling and the subdivision of the property. In the late 1940s Mrs. Gerber, with help from her brother, William Gauman, petitioned the city for annexation. After annexation, Mr. Gauman built Robin Park on what was once part of the farm and in the early 1960s the barn was torn down to build West College Street Apartments (Student Paper). Mrs. Gerber was identified in 1956 and 1961 as homeowner and occupant, other residents included Robert J. (county agent) and Anne (saleswoman Jack & Jill Store) Hartle in 1961 (City Directory).

This house is significant for its association with agriculture and post World War II community development through the conversion of farmland to single-family housing. This house was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin Historic Landmark in November of 1997.