

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) Oberlin Heritage Center: Monroe House <input type="checkbox"/> Coded										
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Shurtleff House; Monroe House; Siddall House										
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>Roll #</th> <th>Exp. #</th> <th>Facing</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Front 1</td> <td>29</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rear 1</td> <td>30</td> <td>NE</td> </tr> </table>		Roll #	Exp. #	Facing	Front 1	29	S	Rear 1	30	NE		
Roll #	Exp. #	Facing										
Front 1	29	S										
Rear 1	30	NE										
6. Specific Address or Location 73 1/2 South Professor		17. Date(s) or Period 1866	17b. Alteration Date(s)									
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 09-00-085-112-038		18. Style or Design Italianate	High Style <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elements <input type="checkbox"/>									
7. City or Village Oberlin		18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)										
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		19. Architect or Engineer										
		19a. Design Sources										
		20. Contractor or Builder										
9. U.T.M. Reference		21. Building Type or Plan Unknown										
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>Zone</th> <th>Easting</th> <th>Northing</th> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> </table>		Zone	Easting	Northing	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	22. Original Use, if apparent Residential				
Zone	Easting	Northing										
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>										
10. <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object		23. Present Use Office, museum										
11. On National Register ? No		24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private										
12. N.R. Potential ? No		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known O.H.I.O. PO Box 455 Oberlin OH 44074										
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No		26. Property Acreage .544										
14. Dist. Potential ? No		27. Other Surveys in Which Included										
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)		28. No. of Stories 2										
16. Thematic Association(s) Education: Higher & Social Movements: Abolition		29. Basement? Yes										
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features This Italianate Style house has a low-pitched roof with a square cupola. The eaves of the roof are wide and dentils surround the cornice. Its double-hung, narrow, arched windows are both paired and single with round-arched, hand-carved stone window hoods. The symmetrical front façade has double doors with arched glass panels and arched transom framed by thin square columns resting on a shallow front porch. There are four dominant rooms on each floor. A curved steep staircase connects the central hallway with the second floor rooms. This house was moved to prevent destruction and later restored with reproduction furniture and wallpaper that reflect the style of the time. (cont.)												
43. History and Significance This house was built at 47 College Place for General Giles Shurtleff, who commanded the first African American regiment from Ohio in the Union Army (the 127th Ohio Volunteer) and his wife Mary Burton. In 1870 the house was sold to James Monroe and Julia Finney Monroe, who lived in the house for 60 years. Monroe was a graduate of both Oberlin College (1846) and the Oberlin Theological Seminary (1849). After a brief career as a minister, Mr. Monroe returned to Oberlin and was a professor until 1862. Throughout his teaching career, James Monroe was (cont.)												
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) Monroe House is tucked back from South Professor Street along the busy rear parking lot behind the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. The neighborhood has many historic homes that are well maintained, but rehabilitations and conversions to rental threaten the neighborhood's historic integrity.												
45. Sources of Information Lorain County Courthouse: Lorain County tax records. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files; O.H.I.O. Docent Manuel.		46. Prepared by M. Fedelchak-Harley; J. Heaton; L. Preville										
		47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.										
		48. Date Recorded 1-20-2000										
		49. Revised by										
		50a. Date Revised										
		50b. Reviewed by										

51. Condition of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruin
<input 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)

A portion of the rear wing of the house did not survive the move. Presently the building is the office headquarters of O.H.I.O. , and is open to the public for tours.

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

Oberlin's most skilled orator in the struggle against slavery and racism, and a successful fund-raiser for the college. In 1856 he was elected to the Ohio General Assembly for four years, then to the State Senate for two. In 1858 he traveled to West Virginia in an unsuccessful attempt to bring home the body of John Copeland, hung for his participation in John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry. After the death of his first wife, Monroe accepted the position of American consul in Rio de Janeiro for seven years. In 1865 he married Julia Finney, daughter of Charles Finney, college president, and moved her and his children to Brazil. In 1870 they returned to Oberlin to live out their lives in this house. He went to congress for ten years (1870-1880), declined re-nomination and returned to teaching at the college, which he continued to do until 1896. James Monroe died in 1898 and Julia Finney Monroe in 1930. She lived in the house until her death, though she deeded it to the college in 1916. From 1940 to 1960 the house was leased to a local physician, Dr. A.C. Siddall. He was a family practitioner and gynecologist, who had his practice in the house. In 1960 expansion of the Conservatory of Music required that the house be moved 100 yards to its present location. O.H.I.O. took the title in 1982 after it was vandalized at its new site and then renovated (O.H.I.O. Docent Manuel). Currently, O.H.I.O. operates the house as a museum, and uses it for it for office space and as a Resource Center.

Though moved and altered, this house is significant for its long association with James Monroe, a national leader in the struggle for abolition and black franchise. His wife, Julia Finney Monroe, was also an important member of the community. She was the daughter of the noted college president, Charles Grandison Finney, and a spokesperson for community improvement. In more recent times, the house was known as the home and office of the community's obstetrician. Monroe House was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin Historic Landmark in September of 1975.