

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) Plum Creek Walkway		<input type="checkbox"/> Coded	
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr.		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Johnston Walk			
Roll #	Exp. #				Facing
Front	3				7
6. Specific Address or Location Between 141 and 159 South Professor Street, along Plum Creek		17. Date(s) or Period c. 1910-1930	17b. Alteration Date(s)	30. Foundation Material Not Applicable	
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 0900-085-113-015		18. Style or Design Not Applicable	High Style <input type="checkbox"/>	31. Wall Construction Not Applicable	
7. City or Village Oberlin		18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)	Elements <input type="checkbox"/>	32. Roof: Type Not Applicable Pitch Not Applicable Material Not Applicable	
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		19. Architect or Engineer Unknown	33. No. Bays		
		19a. Design Sources Unknown	Front	Not Applicable	
		20. Contractor or Builder Unknown	Side	Not Applicable	
9. U.T.M. Reference		21. Building Type or Plan Not Applicable	34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Not Applicable		
Zone	Easting	Northing	35. Plan Shape Not Applicable		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	36. Changes (Explain in #42) Unknown		
10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure		23. Present Use Park	37. Window Type(s) Not Applicable		
<input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object		24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	38. Bldg. Dims. Not Applicable		
11. On National Register? No		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known	39. Endangered? No Explain:		
12. N.R. Potential? Yes		40. Chimney Placement Not Applicable			
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No		26. Property Acreage unknown (irregular)	41a. Distance from road approx. 20'		
14. Dist. Potential? Yes		27. Other Surveys in Which Included	41b. Frontage on road 0'		
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)		No			
16. Thematic Association(s) Political/Social Welfare - Public Spaces & City Planning,		28. No. of Stories Not Applicable			
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features This asphalt walkway extends along the south bank of Plum Creek, between the front yard of the Shurtleff House and Wright Park. Near the western end of the walkway, there is a plaque mounted on a rock, which reads, "Johnston Walk; In honor of Adelia A. Field Johnston whose vision made possible this community parkway."		29. Basement? Not Applicable			
43. History and Significance This walkway is named for Adelia Antoinette Field Johnston because of her leadership of the Oberlin Village Improvement Society, the organization that cleaned up Plum Creek and created this walkway. Throughout most of the 19th century, Plum Creek had been used as a dump by many Oberlin residents and businesses. In 1903, the Oberlin Village Improvement Society (OVIS) was founded in accordance with the principles of the City Beautiful movement, the civic improvement fervor that swept the nation following the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Giles Waldo Shurtleff served as the first president of the OVIS, (cont.)					
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) Except at the very ends, the walkway is very secluded by the woods along Plum Creek.					
45. Sources of Information O.H.I.O. Resource Center: 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 Center Files. Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pat Holsworth, Oberlin Pioneer Database. Oberlin College Yearbooks, O.H.I.O. Resource Center. Barbara S. Christen, "City Beautiful in a Small Town," 1994.		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

<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	_____	_____
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.)

but he was replaced after his death in 1904 by Adelia A. Field Johnston, who remained president until her death in 1910. Johnston had graduated from Oberlin College in 1856, and served as Dean of the Women' s Department, Professor of Medieval History, and matron of Baldwin Cottage, retiring in 1902. She was the driving force of the OVIS during her tenure as president, and one of her main projects was the massive clean-up of Plum Creek. Johnson purchased and arranged for the donation of as much land along the Creek as possible, and donated it to the City of Oberlin as the nucleus of a greenway along the Creek. After her death in 1910, the newly-formed Park Board built on the foundation laid by Johnston and established park land along most of Plum Creek' s course through Oberlin (Christen). The walkway along the Creek from Professor Street to Wright Park (on Main Street) was named after Johnston because of her indispensable role in cleaning up the Creek and setting it aside for park use.