

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) Little Red School House (O.H.I.O.)		<input type="checkbox"/> Coded										
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource		5. Historic or Other Name(s) School House												
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>Roll #</th> <th>Exp. #</th> <th>Facing</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Front 2</td> <td>12A</td> <td>SW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rear 2</td> <td>11A</td> <td>NE</td> </tr> </table>		Roll #	Exp. #	Facing	Front 2	12A	SW	Rear 2	11A	NE				
Roll #	Exp. #	Facing												
Front 2	12A	SW												
Rear 2	11A	NE												
6. Specific Address or Location 73 1/2 South Professor		17. Date(s) or Period 1837	17b. Alteration Date(s)	30. Foundation Material Brick										
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 09-00-085-112-037		18. Style or Design Vernacular	High Style <input type="checkbox"/>	31. Wall Construction Post & Beam										
7. City or Village Oberlin		18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)	Elements <input type="checkbox"/>	32. Roof: Type Gable Pitch Moderate Material Wood Shingle										
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		19. Architect or Engineer		33. No. Bays										
		19a. Design Sources		Front 1 Side 2										
		20. Contractor or Builder Bradstreet Stevens		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Wood, Shiplap										
9. U.T.M. Reference		21. Building Type or Plan Other Building: One-Room Schoolhouse		35. Plan Shape Rectangular										
Zone Easting Northing		22. Original Use, if apparent Education		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Restoration, Moved										
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10. <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure		24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		38. Bldg. Dims. 20 ft. X 25 ft.										
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known O.H.I.O. 73 1/2 South Professor Street Oberlin OH 44074		39. Endangered? No Explain:										
11. On National Register? No		26. Property Acreage 0.544		40. Chimney Placement Off Center Within Ridgeline										
12. N.R. Potential? No		27. Other Surveys in Which Included		41a. Distance from road										
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No		28. No. of Stories 1		41b. Frontage on road										
14. Dist. Potential? No		29. Basement? No												
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)		42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features This vernacular, single story building has a plain, rectangular plan and gable roof. Each gable end has a single bay while each side has two bays. The only entrance faces west in the center of the gable end. Above the entrance doorway, a casement window with six lights is below the gable peak. Evidence of an identical casement window can be seen in a boarded window opening on the opposite gable end. The windows on the sides of the building are sixteen-over-sixteen, double-hung, and are arranged slightly off-center. The exterior walls have rough-cut shiplap siding, painted red to reinforce that this is a red schoolhouse. A sign near the main entrance also titles the building as such. The building originally had a chimney that is no longer apparent from the outside. (cont.)												
16. Thematic Association(s) Education: Public; Village & Commerce		43. History and Significance In January 1835 the Oberlin Society appointed three community leaders to develop plans for construction of a schoolhouse for Oberlin children. At a price of \$215.00 Bradstreet Stevens built this building in 1836-37, on a lot just north of First Church, on North Main Street. The schoolhouse provided a learning space for 18 students, male and female, but it was immediately overcrowded, as there were more than 200 school age children by 1836. College professors' wives and others opened schools in their own homes and college buildings throughout the community for the many students the schoolhouse could not accommodate. (cont.)												
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) This building is located at the Oberlin Heritage Center, a collection of four buildings that are used to interpret the history of Oberlin. The schoolhouse is set back from the road in an open area.		46. Prepared by M. Fedelchak Harley; L. Preville												
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 Manual.		47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.		48. Date Recorded 8-10-2000										
		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	<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)

The walls and ceiling of the interior space were completely renovated and the high foundation is not original. A sandstone walk has recently been constructed to provide wheelchair access.

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

After fourteen years of service this building was obsolete as a schoolhouse and in 1851 a new graded school was built on Professor Street. It then was purchased by Elizure Leonard, who moved it to 73 South Main Street, next to his home. In 1897 C.E. Mason purchased the building, and he added a front porch, rear shed, and interior partition wall. This building served these men as a residence, a tailor shop and a sign-painter's shop.

In 1957 a fire severely damaged the building, and the City purchased it and planned to demolish it. A group of local residents, led by Clifford Barden, were able to raise the \$4,000 needed to save the building. They had it moved to a new site in the park on the eastside of Vine Street, overlooking Plum Creek. It was then moved to the west side of Vine and located in Wright's Park, across from Midas Muffler and 90 South Main. The schoolhouse was painted and other improvements were made to return it to a more original condition in time for the community's 125th anniversary celebration in 1958. The newly formed Oberlin Historical Society was now the new owner. In 1968 the building was moved to a site on the west side of the Monroe House, and in 1997 it was moved to its present location at the Oberlin Heritage Center. At that time a new foundation was built. The building continues to go through repairs and improvements as its appearance and structure is repaired. Sandstone steps and an inclined walkway are the most recent improvements. It is interpreted as part of the Heritage Center's tour and education programs (O.H.I.O. Docent Manual).

This building is significant for its record of a small pioneer community's provision for the education of its children, for its century of adaptive reuse, and for its history of preservation efforts led by an active community of concerned citizens.