



**Oberlin  
Historic Landmarks  
6th Edition 2018**

# Oberlin

## Historic Landmarks

A descriptive list of designated landmarks  
and a street guide to their locations



## Oberlin Historic Landmarks

Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission

### **Acknowledgments:**

Text: Jane Blodgett and Carol Ganzel

Photographs for this edition: Dale Preston

### **Sources:**

*Oberlin Architecture: College and Town* by Geoffrey Blodgett

City-wide Building Inventory:

[www.oberlinheritage.org/researchlearn/inventory](http://www.oberlinheritage.org/researchlearn/inventory)

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## Introduction

Each building and site listed in this booklet is an officially designated City of Oberlin Historic Landmark. The landmark designation means, according to city ordinance, that the building or site has particular historic or cultural significance, or is associated with people or events important to the history of Oberlin, Ohio, or reflects distinguishing characteristics of an architect, architectural style, or building type. Many Oberlin landmarks meet more than one of these criteria.

The landmark list is not all-inclusive: many Oberlin buildings that meet the criteria have not yet been designated landmarks. To consider a property for landmark designation, the Historic Preservation Commission needs an application from its owner with documentation of its date and proof that it meets at least one of the criteria.

Some city landmarks are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and three are National Historic Landmarks. These designations are indicated in the text. Downtown Oberlin was designated a National Register Historic District in 2003. In addition, there are a number of sites in Oberlin that are listed on the National Register but are not city landmarks. A list of all Oberlin sites on the National Register of Historic Places, including National Historic Landmarks, is available at [www.oberlinheritage.org/researchlearn/nationalregister](http://www.oberlinheritage.org/researchlearn/nationalregister).

The landmark descriptions in this booklet are arranged by location, as are the references in the centerfold map. They include the map reference number, historical name of the property, property address, date of construction, original or early owners, historical significance, and architectural style. They do not include information about the present owners. A chronological list (1833-1958) may be found on pages 21 and 22.

The following historic landmark buildings are open to the public for tours:

- The Monroe House, the Jewett House, and the Little Red Schoolhouse (all at the Oberlin Heritage Center at 73 S. Professor Street; parking entrance at 20 W. Vine Street). For information call 440-774-1700 or visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org).
- The Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Weltzheimer-Johnson House administered by the Allen Memorial Art Museum. For information call 440-775-8665 or visit [www.oberlin.edu/amam](http://www.oberlin.edu/amam).



### 1 Tappan Square

Town Center  
1833

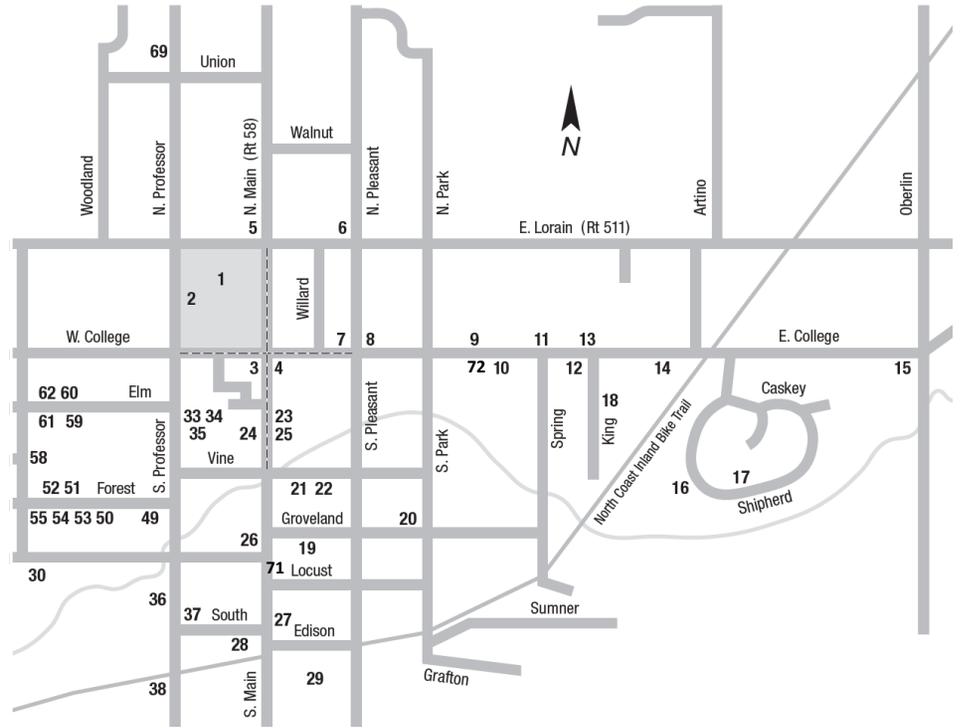
Thirteen-acre square, known as the Campus until the 1940s, contained early college buildings. The Olmsted Brothers of Boston introduced professional landscaping in 1914. Following instructions in the will of Charles Martin Hall, who admired open space and left funds to maintain it, all buildings on the square were razed by 1927. Clark Bandstand in the northeast quadrant built 1987. National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark.



### 2 Memorial Arch

Tappan Square  
(East side North Professor)  
1903

Construction sponsored by American Board of Foreign Missions to commemorate Oberlin missionaries and their children killed in the Chinese Boxer Rebellion. Indiana limestone embedded with polished red granite panels and discs, neo-classical design. Architect: Joseph Lyman Silsbee of Chicago. National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark.



### 3 Carpenter Block

S.W. corner College and Main  
1887

Built gradually over several years following a downtown fire; three tones of brick along College Street facade show building stages; second-story offices, double bay windows look toward Tappan Square, sandstone string courses, stained glass windows. Architect: Frank Weary of Akron. Within Downtown Oberlin National Register Historic District.



### 4 Commercial Block

S.E. corner College and Main  
1882

Built after a great downtown fire, shows new trends in commercial architecture of the time: iron skeleton, smooth pressed brick ("Chicago brick") exterior facing, big plate-glass windows in the store fronts, ornate cornice. Corner occupied by bookstore, later by bank. Architect: Walter Blythe of Cleveland. Within Downtown Oberlin National Register Historic District.

#### Forest Street

- 49 111, Edward Johnson House
- 50 123, A.A. Wright House
- 51 154, Oberlin College President's House
- 52 174, Burklew-Barnard House
- 53 181, Arnold House
- 54 189, Gardner House
- 55 195, Andrews House
- 56 230, Cahill House
- 57 251, Andrus House

#### South Cedar Street

- 58 91, Kennedy House

#### Elm Street

- 59 155, Rice-Moore House
- 60 166, Wattles House
- 61 171, Wright-Carter House
- 62 172, William Evans House
- 63 221, Francis Thompson House
- 64 249, A.G. Comings House
- 65 291, Doolittle House

#### South Prospect Street

- 66 23, Breck House

#### West College Street

- 67 265, Kinney House

#### West Lorain Street

- 68 461, Amasa West House

#### North Professor Street

- 69 270, Glider-Papworth House

# Oberlin, Ohio

## Street Guide to Historic Landmark

### Locations

- 1 Tappan Square
- 2 Memorial Arch
- 3 Carpenter Block
- 4 Commercial Block
- 5 First Church in Oberlin

#### East Lorain Street

- 6 64, Smith-Baumann House

#### East College Street

- 7 64, Hall House
- 8 82, Squire House
- 9 174, Metcalf-Leonard House
- 72 189, Scott/Graham House
- 10 207, Langston House
- 11 228, Stevens-Wood House
- 12 257, Houghton House
- 13 270, Richards House
- 14 315, Burrell-King House
- 15 525, Hart House

#### Shipherd Circle

- 16 116, LeDuc House
- 17 169, Berman-Lermond House

#### King Street

- 18 39, Von Blum-Broadwell House

#### Groveland Street

- 19 37, Hollingsworth House
- 20 128, Rust United Methodist Church

#### Locust Street

- 71 47, Mount Zion Baptist Church

#### East Vine Street

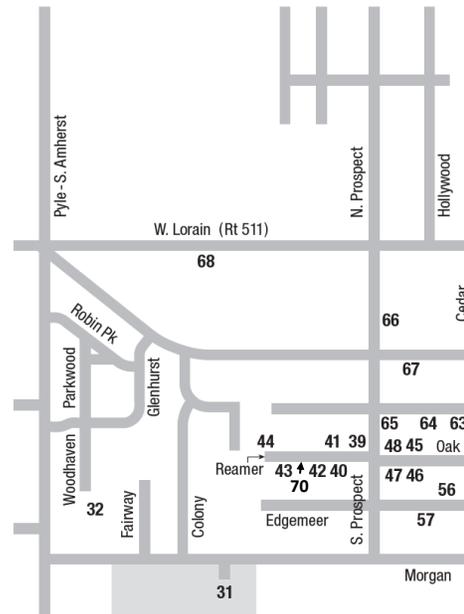
- 21 33, Wilson Evans House
- 22 43, Wack-Dietz House

#### South Main Street

- 23 39, Union School
- 24 68, Post Office
- 25 69, Old City Hall
- 26 162, Christ Episcopal Church
- 27 221, Penfield-Grills House
- 28 240, Railroad Depot
- 29 291, Gasholder Building

#### Morgan Street

- 30 At foot of Cedar St., Old Water Tower
- 31 429, Westwood Cemetery
- 32 534, Weltzheimer-Johnson House



#### South Professor Street

- 33 73, Jewett House
- 34 73 1/2, Monroe House (rear)
- 35 Behind 81 S. Professor, Little Red School-house
- 36 216, Albert Johnson House
- 37 227, Dascomb House
- 38 288, Prucha-Macha House

#### Reamer Place

- 39 310, Savage House
- 40 329, Holmes House
- 41 336, Fiske House
- 42 337, Geiser House
- 70 347, Fitch House
- 43 367, Tucker House
- 44 378, Rogers House

#### Oak Street

- 45 260, Samuel Williams-Stechow House
- 46 273, Cargill-Blanchard House
- 47 279, Manning House
- 48 284, Jellife-Reynolds House



### 5 First Church in Oberlin, UCC

106 North Main  
**1842**

First church in Oberlin, called the Meeting House, was an early center of community life. Charles G. Finney, evangelist and later Oberlin College president, served as pastor for 37 years. For many decades the largest religious structure in the Western Reserve. Site of addresses by nationally prominent speakers. Built from plans by Richard Bond, prominent New England architect; tower from design in Asher Benjamin pattern book. Greek Revival style. National Register of Historic Places.



### 7 Hall House

64 East College  
**1853**

Boyhood home of Charles Martin Hall, who, working in a woodshed formerly attached to the house, discovered electrolytic process for producing aluminum. Later founder of Alcoa and philanthropist who gave generously to Oberlin and other colleges. Early Italianate style with central cupola, ornate milled brackets, stone lintels. National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Chemical Landmark.



### 6 Smith-Baumann House

64 East Lorain  
**c. 1890**

Home of Henry F. Smith, who opened Gem Pharmacy in 1893, became vice-president of People's Bank in 1906, served on city council, and in 1922 was elected mayor. Smith sold the property to Albert and Zaidee Baumann in 1948. Queen Anne style with tower, wrap-around porch, and foyer chimney encircling a stained-glass window.



### 8 Squire House

82 East College  
**1901**

Home of Merton M. Squire, president of State Savings Bank. Later owned by Lois R. Cummings, kindergarten teacher who rented to boarders. Social activist Shirley R. Johnson and architect Douglas Johnson lived in a first-floor apartment in the 1940s. Good example of Queen Anne style, with wrap-around porch, octagonal two-story tower and bay windows.



**9 Metcalf-Leonard House**

174 East College  
1850

Home of Charles Metcalf, mayor of Oberlin in the 1880s. Later home of the Reverend D.L. Leonard, author of a one-volume history of Oberlin College, and his son Dr. Fred Leonard, professor of physical education at the college. Purchased in 1968 by Oberlin College mathematics professor George Andrews and his wife Marlene, who lived here for 41 years. Greek Revival style, with corner pilasters, dentil cornice.



**10 Langston House**

207 East College  
1856

Home of Oberlin College graduate John Mercer Langston, Ohio's first African-American lawyer, a prominent abolitionist, civil rights leader, minister to Haiti, and Republican congressman from Virginia. Gable roofed, early Italianate style with elongated windows and double-leaf doors. National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark.



**11 Stevens-Wood House**

228 East College  
1862

Home of George Stevens, an early Oberlin postmaster. H. Delos Wood bought the house in 1881, and it remained in the Wood family for more than 90 years. Fine example of brick Italianate with low-pitched hip roof and wide eaves with brackets. Porches replaced in 1913.



**12 Houghton House**

257 East College  
1906

Home to Morton Andrew Houghton, Oberlin postmaster from 1914 to 1923 and from 1933 to 1949. Earlier he had attended the Oberlin Academy and College and had purchased (with James Wood) the Oberlin Concrete and Coal Co. Foursquare with Queen Anne elements: broad front porch with fluted columns, second story projecting bay with roof coming to a point for a tower effect.

	1893	Waterworks Tower, Morgan at south end of Cedar	30
c.	1895	Penfield-Grills House, 221 South Main	27
	1897	Breck House, 23 South Prospect	66
	1897	A.G. Comings House, 249 Elm	64
	1897	Doolittle House, 291 Elm	65
	1901	Squire House, 82 East College	8
	1903	Memorial Arch, Tappan Square (east side North Professor)	2
	1905	Cargill-Blanchard House, 273 Oak	46
	1905	Glider-Papworth House, 270 North Professor	69
	1905	Mount Zion Baptist Church, 47 Locust	71
	1906	Houghton House, 257 East College	12
	1906	Manning House, 279 Oak	47
c.	1907	Jelliffe-Reynolds House, 284 Oak	48
	1908	Andrus House, 251 Forest	57
c.	1908	Burklew-Barnard House, 174 Forest	52
	1908	Fiske House, 336 Reamer	41
	1908	Rogers House, 378 Reamer	44
	1908	Savage House, 310 Reamer	39
	1911	Kinney House, 265 West College	67
	1911	Richards House, 270 East College	13
	1913	Williams-Stechow House, 260 Oak	45
	1915	Rust United Methodist Church, 128 Groveland	20
	1919	Geiser House, 337 Reamer	42
	1919	Old City Hall, 69 South Main	25
	1920	Oberlin College President's House, 154 Forest	51
c.	1921	Holmes House, 329 Reamer	40
	1934	Post Office, 68 South Main	24
	1935	Tucker House, 367 Reamer	43
	1937-39	Fitch House, 347 Reamer	70
	1939	Von Blum-Broadwell House, 39 King	18
	1950	Weltzheimer-Johnson House, 534 Morgan	32
	1953	LeDuc House, 116 Shipherd	16
	1958	Berman-Lermond House, 169 Shipherd	17

## Chronological List of Oberlin Landmarks (1833–1958)

		Landmark Booklet No.
	1833 Tappan Square	1
	1837 School House, Behind 81 South Professor	35
	1842 First Church in Oberlin (United Church of Christ), 106 North Main	5
	1847 Wack-Dietz House, 43 East Vine	22
	1850 Metcalf-Leonard House, 174 East College	9
	1852 Burrell-King House, 315 East College	14
	1853 Hall House, 64 East College	7
	1853-54 Dascomb House, 227 South Professor	37
	1856 Wilson Evans House, 33 East Vine	21
	1856 Langston House, 207 East College	10
	1859 Christ Episcopal Church, 162 South Main	26
	1862 Stevens-Wood House, 228 East College	11
	1864 Westwood Cemetery, 429 Morgan	31
	1866 Railroad Depot, 240 South Main	28
	1866 Monroe House, 73 1/2 South Professor	34
	1871 Rice-Moore House, 155 Elm	59
c.	1873 Hollingsworth House, 37 Groveland	19
	1873 Prucha-Macha House, 288 South Professor	38
	1874 Francis Thompson House, 221 Elm	63
	1874 Union School, 39 South Main	23
	1875 Hart House, 525 East College	15
	1876 Edward Johnson House, 111 Forest	49
	1877 William Evans House, 172 Elm	62
	1880 Arnold House, 181 Forest	53
	1880 Wright-Carter House, 171 Elm	61
	1880 A.A. Wright House, 123 Forest	50
	1881 Amasa West House, 461 West Lorain	68
	1882 Commercial Block, S.E. corner College and Main	4
c.	1883-87 Scott/Graham House, 189 East College	72
	1884 Jewett House, 73 South Professor	33
c.	1884 Wattles House, 166 Elm	60
	1885 Albert Johnson House, 216 South Professor	36
	1886 Gardner House, 189 Forest	54
c.	1886 Cahill House, 230 Forest	56
	1887 Carpenter Block, S.W. corner College and Main	3
	1889 Oberlin Gas Lighting Company Gasholder Building, 291 South Main	29
c.	1890 Kennedy House, 91 South Cedar	58
c.	1890 Smith-Baumann House, 64 East Lorain	6
	1893 Andrews House, 195 Forest	55



**13 Richards House**

270 East College  
**1911**

Home of Mary and Erwin Richards, missionaries to Africa. Designed to be large enough so that Mary could rent rooms to students to supplement her income in later years. Erwin Richards died in 1929 and she took in students until 1964. Two-and-one-half story clapboard house with spacious front porch, large three-window bay on west side, and raised sandstone foundation. Vernacular gable-ell plan.



**14 Burrell-King House**

315 East College  
**1852**

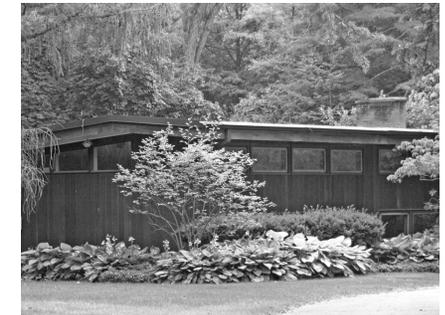
Home of Jabez Lyman Burrell, Oberlin College trustee, abolitionist, and philanthropist. Later home of Henry Churchill King, Oberlin College president from 1902 to 1927. The house is now owned by Oberlin College and houses the Community Music School. Greek Revival style with neo-Georgian porches added by King. Sandstone lintels, wide cornice returns, and multi-paned windows are part of the original house. National Register of Historic Places.



**15 Hart House**

525 East College  
**1875**

Home of Flavius Hart, Oberlin businessman, who ran a feed and cider mill next to his house and later owned a small furniture factory and store downtown. One of Oberlin's few Democrats, he became postmaster in 1894. Second Empire style, molded cornice with brackets, elongated windows, one of two surviving brick Mansard houses in Oberlin.



**16 LeDuc House**

116 Shipherd  
**1953**

Home of history professor Thomas H. LeDuc and his wife Kathryn K. LeDuc, lecturer in English at Oberlin College, who lived here 40 years. Max Ratner was the architect of this Mid-century Modern house and of several other houses in Oberlin. Ratner and Johnson's houses were mostly built on concrete slab, with a low roof, wide eaves and ribbon windows. The angled gable roof is the most visible feature of this L-shaped house, with rows of windows following the roofline.



**17 Berman-Lermond House**

169 Shipherd  
**1958**

Home to viola professor William Berman and his family through 1970. Subsequent residents include Harbison Pool, employed by the local school system and Oberlin College; and Charles A. Lermond, owner of the Loom Shed weaving shop at 26 S. Main Street, and his wife Martha, secretary for the chemistry department at Oberlin College. Mid-century Modern style with one-story gabled roof that slopes down in the rear, all windows in the house are awning windows



**18 Von Blum-Broadwell House**

39 King  
**1939**

Built by John Von Blum, Oberlin College graduate and lawyer. Hartley and Dorothy Broadwell bought it in 1948; Hartley co-owned Janby Oil Company, Oberlin's first modern gas station, at 90 South Main. Their son Howard and his wife Jean were the next owners. Colonial Revival with door to the extreme left of main facade, filled fanlights above door and first floor windows. Architect: Leonard L. Broida of Cleveland.



**69 Glider-Papworth House**

270 North Professor  
**1905**

Designed and built by Fred Glider, an Oberlin graduate carpenter. His daughter, Margaret Papworth, administrative assistant in the Oberlin College Conservatory for 51 years, was born in the house and lived here all her life. House remains in its original form. Colonial Revival, Tuscan columns, slate roof.



**70 Fitch House**

347 Reamer Place  
**1937-39**

Florence Mary Fitch was first known resident of this house. She came to Oberlin College from Stratford, CT and graduated in 1897. She was first woman to graduate with an MA & PHD in philosophy from the University of Berlin, Germany. She was Dean of College & Graduate Women at Oberlin College and founded the Women's League at Oberlin College which was designed to adjudicate matters relating to the lives of women undergraduates. Tudor/English Revival style.



**19 Hollingsworth House**

37 Groveland  
c. **1873**

Home of Richard Hollingsworth, a carpenter who lived here for 30 years beginning about 1895. Gable end facing street with bracketed first-floor bay and second-floor double windows, fleur-de-lis and clover patterned gingerbread under cornice, arched sidelights in doorway, Vernacular Gothic style.



**20 Rust United Methodist Church**

128 Groveland  
**1915**

Oldest predominately black congregation in Oberlin moved to frame building on this site in 1875 as Second Methodist Episcopal Church. Present building has two remnants of the earlier church: the bell and a small hand-made rose window on the east wall. Mission style influence with square tower, arched belfry, low roofline with broad eaves.



**71 Mount Zion Baptist Church**

47 Locust Street  
**1905**

In 1886, the Mount Zion Baptist Church of Oberlin began holding cottage prayer meetings in the homes of three families: McGee, Martin, and Dickerson. These families felt they needed more freedom of worship than they received at First Baptist Church. By 1893, the members of this congregation had raised enough money to build their own church. New church was dedicated on July 16, 1905. Vernacular style church with a square tower and a slightly flared pyramidal roof.



**72 Scott/Graham House**

189 East College Street  
c. **1883-1887**

Strong Eastlake, Gothic and Queen Anne influences can be seen on this large, imposing house with a two-story carriage house. Residents of this house included C.E. Berry and his wife Henrietta and daughter Lena; Martha Louise Gage Street and her children; William Van Fossen and his wife Eva and their children; and Charlotte Scott, often with boarders. Mrs. Scott lived here from 1916 through 1942.



**65 Doolittle House**

291 Elm  
1897

Home of Charles P. Doolittle, teacher at the Oberlin College Conservatory from 1885-1911 and college superintendent of buildings and grounds for 18 years. In 1895 he developed bicycle paths around Tappan Square and north out of Oberlin. Professor of history Robert S. Fletcher, who wrote a definitive history of early Oberlin, bought the house in 1931. Colonial Revival/Shingle-style house with symmetry of line and fenestration, well-defined cornice, and broad-hipped roof.



**66 Breck House**

23 South Prospect  
1897

Home of F.H. Breck, wine manufacturer. The Rev. Nathan Wesley Grover and wife Frances purchased the house in 1907. Son Frederick Grover taught botany at Oberlin College, and daughter Eulalie Osgood Grover was a noted author of children's books. Later occupants include Oberlin College Conservatory professor of organ Frederick Stiver and Dr. L.H. Trufant, long-time family physician, president of Allen Hospital and a founding member of the Oberlin Rotary Club. Queen Anne – Colonial Revival transitional style.



**21 Wilson Evans House**

33 East Vine  
1856

Home of Wilson B. Evans, African-American carpenter and cabinetmaker, participant in the Wellington Rescue, and brother-in-law of Lewis Leary who died at Harpers Ferry. Gathering place for African-American community and local abolitionists. Italianate style. Porch added in 1927. National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark.



**22 Wack-Dietz House**

43 East Vine  
1847

Home of Chauncey Wack, tavern keeper and prominent Democrat, witness in trial of Wellington Rescuers. Later the home of the Dietz family. Father Peter Dietz was a famous early 20th-century "labor priest." Greek Revival style with later Italianate wing.



**67 Kinney House**

265 West College  
1911

Home of Carl W. Kinney, editor of Tribune newspaper (later merged into News Tribune). After 1956 home of German professor Joseph Reichard and his wife Anita Reichard, Oberlin College dean of women in the late 1960s. Hip roof, broad eaves, and open floor plan suggest Prairie School influence. Architect: Joseph Lyman Silsbee, who was Frank Lloyd Wright's first professional mentor.



**68 Amasa West House**

461 West Lorain  
1881

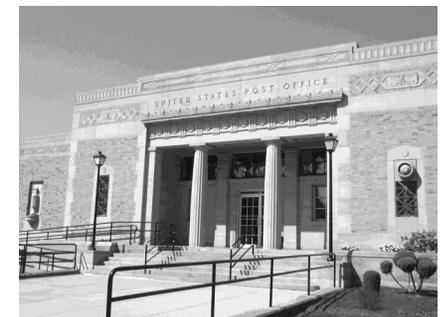
Home of Amasa West, who farmed the land from West Lorain to Morgan and delivered coal in town until 1919. House often opened to tourists during the Depression, then a duplex; land subdivided in the 1950s for the Robin Park development. Now a combined professional office and residence. Red brick Italianate style.



**23 Union School**

39 South Main  
1874

Built in 1873-74 for all grades. Two new schools for lower grades were built in 1887, and in 1903 the Union School was granted a high school state charter. The last class graduated in 1923. From then until 1961 it was an Oberlin College classroom building, Westervelt Hall. Gothic Revival with Italianate influence in symmetry, cornice embellishments, and oculus window. Architect: Walter Blythe of Cleveland. National Register of Historic Places



**24 Post Office**

68 South Main  
1934

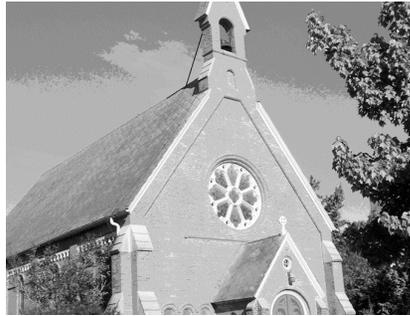
Built here through influence of Oberlin College trustee Grove Patterson, editor of Toledo newspaper and friend of U.S. Postmaster, this building's Neoclassical exterior was first in Oberlin to follow federal government guidelines for public buildings. Tan brick trimmed with Kipton sandstone, fluted Doric columns framing entry, sculptural urns flanking portico. Architect: Alfred Hahn of Toledo. Within Downtown Oberlin National Register Historic District.



**25 Old City Hall**

69 South Main  
1919

When new, this Oberlin Town Hall accommodated the fire department (north side of first floor), the city clerk, the clerk of Russia Township, the mayor's and other offices, the waterworks laboratory, and the council chamber. A brown brick building of Prairie and Art Deco design with stone trim. Architect: "Mr. Walters" of Cleveland – probably George Charles Walters.



**26 Christ Episcopal Church**

162 South Main  
1859

The second of Oberlin's churches. Gothic Revival, buttresses, round arches. 20th-century stained-glass windows by artists Kenyon Cox and Margaret Kennedy. Architect: Frank Wills (English born, from New York City, helped spread the Gothic Revival style in America). National Register of Historic Places.



**61 Wright-Carter House**

171 Elm  
1880

Home of J.N. Wright, prosperous timber merchant from upper Michigan, whose daughter married H.H. Carter, Oberlin College Conservatory piano professor. Purchased in 1967 by Oberlin College English professor Dewey Ganzel and editor Carol Ganzel, who lived here for almost 40 years. Handsome brick-work and Swiss chalet-style details in broad eaves and bold timber work around porch.



**62 William Evans House**

172 Elm  
1877

Home of William Evans, a Welsh mason who emigrated with his bride to the United States in 1865 and made money designing railroad bridges. Numerous owners and boarders lived in this house. Brick house with gently arched stone caps over windows, decorative porthole in the gable. Vernacular Italianate with square bracketed columns, cornice returns.



**27 Penfield-Grills House**

221 South Main  
c. 1895

Home of local carpenter L.H. Penfield and his family, later purchased by Charles Bilhart, a telegrapher for the B&O Railroad. Bilhart's son-in-law Elver Grills, who worked for Republic Steel, and daughter Eva moved into the house in 1935; Eva lived there until 1992. Vertical wooden decorations under cornice, semicircular design under the gable peak, high gabled hood decorated with scrollwork, wood lattice, triangular pediment on window above. Vernacular interpretation of Stick and Gothic Revival styles.



**28 Railroad Depot**

240 South Main  
1866

Served as Oberlin's passenger depot from 1866 to 1949. The first railroad line in Lorain County went through Wellington in 1849; a spur reached Oberlin in 1852. About ten years later the rail line was altered to connect Oberlin to the county seat, Elyria, cutting travel time from two hours to 20 minutes. The site is significant for its history of Oberlin's first era of rapid transportation to the world beyond the town. Broad bracketed eaves and board-and-batten siding. National Register of Historic Places.



**63 Francis Thompson House**

221 Elm  
1874

Home of coal and lumber dealer Francis Melvin Thompson, his wife Mary Elvira (Cole), and their children. He owned the South Main Street store called Cole & Thompson, later Watson & Thompson Hardware. Subsequent residents include Helen Clarissa (Finney) Cox, daughter of Charles Grandison Finney and widow of Ohio governor Jacob Dolson Cox; Frank W. Tobin, board member of the Oberlin Bank, college prudential committee member; and the Tumbleson family: Carl S., president



**64 A.G. Comings House**

249 Elm  
1897

The Comings family lived in this house for 40 years – Andrew and Emilie Comings from 1897-1927, and their son Charles and his wife Elizabeth until 1938. The A.G. Comings & Son bookstore was at 37 West College Street until 1959. Both Andrew and Charles served as school board and town council members, and as mayor. Later owners include Professor of Music History Richard Murphy, whose family owned the house for 37 years. Queen Anne style with wrapping porch, bay windows.



**57 Andrus House**

251 Forest  
**1908**

Home of the Reverend Jonathan Andrus, later of the Yocom family, local merchants. From 1966-1978 home of Nordson executive Evan Nord. He and his wife Cindy worked for historic preservation and other philanthropic causes, including the Oberlin Early Childhood Center. Prairie style influence with horizontal lines, wide overhang hip roof with clay tiles. Architect: Daniel Reamer, son of the developer of Reamer Place.



**58 Kennedy House**

91 South Cedar  
**c. 1890**

Home of H.P. Kennedy, carpenter and town councilman. The many people who have lived here include Professor Francis D. Kelsey, who formed Oberlin College's first botany department. Under his direction the college herbarium became a national resource for botanists. In 2003 Oberlin College art curator Stephen Borys and his wife Hazel bought the house and restored it following architect Susan Henderson's plan. Folk Victorian gable-ell plan, leaded glass windows, turned porch posts.



**29 Gasholder Building**

291 South Main  
**1889**

Built by Albert H. Johnson, president of the Oberlin Gas Lighting Company, to store coal gas. This gas was first used for lighting and heating and later for cook stoves. (Oberlin was the first town in the area to enjoy gas-lit streets.) The company provided gas for heating until 1918, when natural gas became available. A surviving example of 19th-century functionalism, round brick with conical slate roof. National Register of Historic Places.



**30 Waterworks Tower**

Morgan at south end  
of Cedar  
**1893**

Part of Oberlin waterworks created in 1886-1893 and supplied by Vermilion River. Standpipe atop the stone tower was used for water storage. Quarried sandstone laid in regular courses, with tool marks from quarrying still visible.



**59 Rice-Moore House**

155 Elm  
**1871**

Oberlin College president James Fairchild had the house built by craftsman J.S. Wright, who lived here until 1874, when it was sold to Fenelon B. Rice, early director of Oberlin College Conservatory. Later home of David R. Moore, history professor. Frame Italianate style, hip roof with brackets, decorative cornice, wrapping porch.



**60 Wattles House**

166 Elm  
**1884**

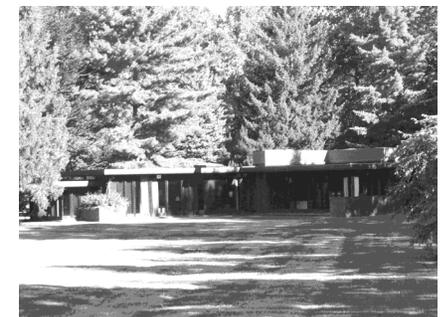
In 1885 this house was the home of Esther Wattles, a widow, and her three young daughters. Esther and her husband John (died 1859) were abolitionists of Quaker background who worked in Kansas and Ohio, assisting John Brown, educating former slaves, and advocating for women's rights. George and Ada Hastings, both pianoforte teachers in the conservatory, moved in about 1916, and their family occupied the house for 90 years. Queen Anne style with Stick Style posts and diagonal beams on the wraparound porch.



**31 Westwood Cemetery**

429 Morgan  
**1864**

One of Ohio's early landscaped cemeteries. Created to honor Civil War dead and other local citizens, famous and obscure. Six Oberlin College presidents are buried here, as are several escaped slaves. Designed by H.B. Allen, an engineer experienced in forming rural cemeteries, with curving lanes in the romantic English landscape tradition inspired by Andrew Jackson Downing.



**32 Weltzheimer-Johnson House**

534 Morgan  
**1950**

Built for Mr. and Mrs. Charles Weltzheimer and restored in 1968 by Ellen Johnson, Oberlin College art professor. Architect: Frank Lloyd Wright, who promoted vision of modern Usonian homes built close to nature. This Usonian house has brick and redwood walls, flat roof, and interior long low-ceilinged bedroom corridor with unique ornamentation along clerestory and eaves. House now owned by Oberlin College, and tours are offered through the Allen Memorial Art Museum.



**33 Jewett House**

73 South Professor  
**1884**

Home of Frank Fanning Jewett, Oberlin College chemistry professor and teacher of Charles Martin Hall, and his wife Frances Gulick Jewett, who wrote several books on personal and community hygiene. Architecture marks transition from Italianate to Queen Anne style. House now part of the Oberlin Heritage Center and open for tours. National Register of Historic Places.



**34 Monroe House**

73 1/2 South Professor  
**1866**

First Oberlin home of General Giles Shurtleff, town's leading Civil War hero, later a classics professor at Oberlin College. After 1870 home of James Monroe, Oberlin College professor, abolitionist, fund-raiser, orator, state representative and senator, American consul in Brazil, and Congressman (1870-1880). In 1960, to make way for a new Oberlin College Conservatory building, the house was moved 100 yards to its present location. Fine example of Italianate style.



**53 Arnold House**

181 Forest  
**1880**

Home of George Arnold, a grain merchant, who, in 1881 helped build Oberlin's first inter-city telephone exchange. For several decades in the early 20th century, home of Simon Fraser MacLennan, Oberlin College professor of psychology, philosophy, and comparative religion. Red brick Italianate style with brackets under cornice, brick decorative arches over windows, elegant portico, double-leaf doors.



**54 Gardner House**

189 Forest  
**1886**

Home of John Gardner, local pharmacist, who lived here until 1917. Well preserved Queen Anne style with large bay window facing street, stained glass window, front door with sidelights and transom, diagonal clapboard siding below first story windows, hip roof with arched window in gable at center front.



**35 School House**

Behind 81 South Professor  
**1837**

First schoolhouse for children of Oberlin, originally built near site of First Church, later used as dwelling on South Main. Restored in 1958, moved to present site in 1997. Pioneer-era one-room school.



**36 Albert Johnson House**

216 South Professor  
**1885**

Home of Albert H. Johnson, banker, railroad president, Oberlin's most prominent capitalist. Now an Oberlin College dormitory. Elaborate example of Queen Anne style, with tower, bay windows, columned porch, stick work. National Register of Historic Places.



**55 Andrews House**

195 Forest  
**1893**

Built for organ and composition professor George Whitfield Andrews, who taught in the Oberlin College Conservatory from 1882 to 1931. His daughter and son-in-law, violin professor Reber Johnson, maintained the home until 1964 when it was sold to the college and divided into apartments. In 1977 James Caldwell and his wife Catharina Meints, conservatory professors, bought and restored the house. Queen Anne Victorian with tower and Eastlake detailing, stained glass windows.



**56 Cahill House**

230 Forest  
c. **1886**

Home of Civil War veteran Dr. Timothy Cahill and his three sons. The sons invented the Telharmonium, a machine that produced music to be transmitted via telephone lines to multiple listeners. The house was remodeled in 1915 for owner Mrs. H.S. Bennett, giving it the appearance of a Craftsman style bungalow, with elements from an 1886 house. Vernacular style gabled house with ell, craftsman influence in porch and windows.



**49 Edward Johnson House**

111 Forest  
**1876**

Home of clothing merchant Edward P. Johnson, brother of Albert H. Johnson who later built the house at 216 South Professor. In the 1920s it served as a boarding house for Oberlin College men. Italian-villa style with bracketed tower rising to a flat octagonal crown, tall French windows, and front door of intricate symmetrical design.



**50 A.A. Wright House**

123 Forest  
**1880**

Home of two prominent Oberlin academic families: A.A. Wright, professor of botany and geology, built the front of the house on property formerly part of the 1840s college farm that his father managed. In the 1920s Lloyd W. Taylor, professor of physics, and his wife Esther B. Taylor, a forceful temperance activist, bought the house; she lived in it until 1975. Vernacular interpretation of Queen Anne style, with angular flaring roofline, decorative chimney, and chestnut and walnut woodwork.



**37 Dascomb House**

227 South Professor  
**1854**

Home of James Dascomb, Oberlin College science professor, whose wife, Marianne Dascomb, was head of college's women's department. House originally stood across the street on site of Albert Johnson House. For many decades home to Oberlin College professor of English Warren Taylor and his wife Adele, leader in several community organizations. Gothic Revival style, with pointed-arch windows, bargeboards. National Register of Historic Places.



**38 Prucha-Macha House**

288 South Professor  
**1873**

P. R. Tobin, harness maker, the first identified owner of this house, lived here in 1873-1874. Long-term residents were Vaclav Prucha, a tailor, and his family (1908-1942). Other residents include city council clerk Mary Macha and her husband Theophilus (1956-1961). Two-story gable entry with one-story wing; arched windows and 10-paned bay window.



**51 College President's House**

154 Forest  
**1920**

Built for Oberlin College physics professor Samuel R. Williams, bought by Oberlin College in 1927 for president's home. Symmetrical 18th-century New England Georgian style; warm red brick, hip roof, central pavilion with broad pilasters. Architect: Clarence Ward, Oberlin College art professor. National Register of Historic Places.



**52 Burklew-Barnard House**

174 Forest  
**c. 1908**

Dentist John E. Barnard and wife Clara lived here with F.E. Burklew, owner of Oberlin Tire Shop. Later owners include Oberlin College professor of French W. Hayden Boyers, who founded the college's Gilbert & Sullivan Players in 1949; professor of mathematics E.P. Vance; and the college's assistant director of development in the 1960s, Walter Reeves. Craftsman style with full front porch and exposed rafters below broad eaves.



**39 Savage House**

310 Reamer  
**1908**

Home of Charles W. Savage, Oberlin College's first director of athletics. He worked to make amateur competitive athletics an integral part of a college education. First house on Reamer Place. Late Stick-and-Shingle Queen Anne style with flared, curved second-story shingles. Architect: Charles Hopkinson of Cleveland. Architect Stanley Mathews designed a series of fire-escape porches at the back of the house to accommodate student roomers.



**40 Holmes House**

329 Reamer  
**1921**

Home of Oberlin College chemistry professor Harry Nicholls Holmes and his family from about 1921 to 1956. Subsequent residents include Doctors Joseph and Dorothy Luciano – he a pediatrician at the Oberlin Clinic and she a neurophysiologist – and in 1995 Oberlin College associate vice president David Love. A good example of four over four Colonial Revival; center door has fanlight and sidelights.



**41 Fiske House**

336 Reamer  
1908

Home of George Walter Fiske, professor of theology and religious education in the Graduate School of Theology. He pioneered in teaching religious education and sociology as background for church social work. Craftsman style bungalow with broad roof extending over porch and brackets under the eaves.



**42 Geiser House**

337 Reamer  
1919

Home of Professor Carl Geiser, appointed first professor of political science and chairman of that new department at Oberlin College in 1907. Instrumental in beginning the city manager form of government in Oberlin in 1923. Served on city council from 1926-1931. Son of German immigrants, Geiser was a controversial figure for supporting Germany in both World Wars, particularly after he was awarded the Order of the German Eagle by Hitler in 1938. Colonial Revival with Mediterranean-style addition.



**45 Williams-Stechow House**

260 Oak  
1913

Home of Samuel R. Williams, Oberlin College physics professor. The house was sold in 1917 to Mary E. Sinclair, mathematics professor, Oberlin College graduate and first woman to earn a PhD in mathematics from the University of Chicago. In 1944 she sold the house to Oberlin College professor Wolfgang Stechow, renowned scholar of Northern Baroque painting. Elements of Craftsman style with hip roof, wide overhanging eaves, exposed rafters, bargeboards in dormer and porch.



**46 Cargill-Blanchard House**

273 Oak  
1905

Home of Maude and Oberlin College treasurer Wade Cargill. After 46 years, in 1952, the Cargills sold the house to organ builder Homer Blanchard and his wife Gwen. In 1964 the Blanchards sold the house to the Blodgett family, who lived here for 44 years. Geoffrey Blodgett was an Oberlin College professor of American history whose published works included books and articles on Oberlin history. Foursquare Colonial Revival. Built from plans by Keith Company Architects of Minneapolis.



**43 Tucker House**

367 Reamer  
1935

One of several Oberlin houses built by John Bernard Annable. Until the late 1960s home to Oberlin College physics professor Forest G. Tucker and his family. In 1970 professor of religion H. Thomas Frank and his family moved in. Colonial Revival four over four style; porches on east and west elevations.



**44 Rogers House**

378 Reamer  
1908

Home of Oberlin College professors Charles (zoology) and Rose (German) Rogers from 1916 until 1950. Subsequent residents include Leonard C. Barr, vice president of Nelson Stud Welding Co. in Lorain and executive vice president of Gregory Industrial; and Ernie Roberts of E.H. Roberts Company. Tudor Revival style, with simulated half-timbering. Architect: probably Daniel A. Reamer, son of the developer of Reamer Place.



**47 Manning House**

279 Oak  
1906

Home of Oberlin College Conservatory violin professor Edward Manning, a pupil of the American composer Edward MacDowell. Subsequent residents included Charles R. and Elizabeth L. Comings; professor of geology George Hubbard and his wife; their long-term boarder Herbert Rugg, editor of Current Religious Thought; and William and Mary Bigglestone. He was the first archivist at Oberlin College. Vernacular style, wood shingles on second floor, clapboard siding on first, with full front porch with Tuscan columns.



**48 Jelliffe-Reynolds House**

284 Oak  
c. 1907

Probably built by Frank W. Hartman. Residents included psychology professor George Ross Wells; long-time English professor Robert Archibald Jelliffe; and Russell Reynolds, founder of the National Association of College Stores, and his wife Harriet, who worked for the World Council of Churches in Oberlin and was a community activist. Vernacular style with Colonial Revival elements, a full front porch, front door to the left. Believed to be the first house in Oberlin to have aluminum siding, which was removed in 1993.