



OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

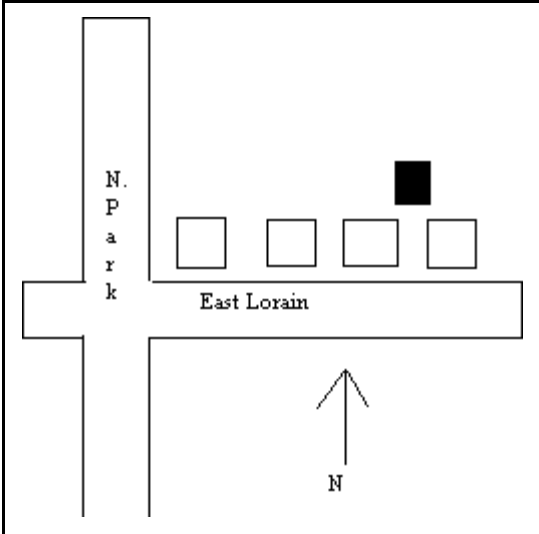
RPR Number:

1. No. LOR-02164-21		4. Present Name(s) Rental Property		4-21 LOR-0216
2. County Lorain		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Rice-Davidson Greenhouse		
6. Specific Address or Location 184 1/2 East Lorain		19a. Design Sources		2. County Lorain
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 0900076104046		20. Contractor or Builder		
7. City or Village Oberlin		21. Building Type or Plan Non-discernable House Type		4. Present or Historic Name(s) Rental Property
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name: Oberlin 17 398625 4572168 Zone Easting Northing		22. Original Use, if apparent OTHER USE		
10. Classification: Building		23. Present Use RESIDENTIAL/DOMESTIC		6. Specific Address or Location 184 1/2 East Lorain
11. On National Register? NO		24. Ownership Private		
13. Part of Established Hist. Dist? NO		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Myrna Smith 174 E. Lorain St. Oberlin, OH, 44074		2. County Lorain
15. Other Designation (NR or Local)		26. Property Acreage 1.12		
16. Thematic Associations: AGRICULTURE Residential		27. Other Surveys		4. Present or Historic Name(s) Rental Property
17. Date(s) or Period ca. 1897-1910		28. No. of Stories Two story		
17b. Alteration Date(s) ca. 1970		29. Basement? No		6. Specific Address or Location 184 1/2 East Lorain
18. Style Class and Design No academic style - Vernacular		30. Foundation Material Unknown		
18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)		31. Wall Construction Concrete block		2. County Lorain
19. Architect or Engineer		32. Roof Type Gable Roof Material Unknown		
		33. No. of Bays 1 Side Bays 3		4. Present or Historic Name(s) Rental Property
		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Concrete/Cinder block		
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)				
<p>This vernacular house was formed from the remains of a greenhouse structure that used to stand on this property. The building has a concrete block exterior and its windows and doors appear to be historic. At the main facade (south elevation), the front porch is a single bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal wood siding. The east elevation has a 1/1 double hung window at the left side of the first story and a small wood and glass door to the right. Remaining marks on the side of the building indicate where gable ends of the greenhouse rows butted against this structure. The second story has two pairs of windows, each with 9 lights. A small, one-story, two-car garage extends from the east elevation at the rear of the house. The west elevation is obscured by the neighboring house. It contains two pairs of windows at the left and right of the first story and a small, one-story, rear addition.</p>				
43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)				
<p>This building appears to be the only remaining structure that was once part of a larger greenhouse on this property. The earliest Sanborn map of this location, in 1911, shows this greenhouse with a hall running north to south along the western edge, with seven gabled 'houses' extending east from this hall. This later expanded to nine houses. There appeared to be a building front or shop at the south end, Lorain Street, and a structure near the northwest corner, which is this remaining building. The greenhouse was sometimes listed in city directories at 174, 176, 182, and 183 East Lorain. The house associated with the greenhouse was sometimes listed as 172 or 174 East Lorain. The first record of a florist being on this property was in 1891, when A. E. Rice was listed in the city continued...</p>				
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)				
<p>The house, which is set far off the street, contains no outbuildings and is located on a street that receives mainly local traffic and is surrounded by other residences.</p>				
45. Sources of Information				
<p>O-High Alumni, Internet, http://www.oberlin-high.org, Accessed December 2010; City Directories, Oberlin Heritage Center Resource Center; Holsworth, Pat. Oberlin Pioneer Database; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Gordon, Stephen C. 'How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory.' Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, 1992; McAlester, Virginia and Lee. 'A Field Guide to American Houses.' New York: Alfred K. Knopf Inc., 2000; 'Alumni Register: Graduates and Former Students, Teaching and Administrative continued...</p>				
46. Prepared By: Liz Schultz		47. Organization: Oberlin Heritage Center		6. Specific Address or Location 184 1/2 East Lorain
49. PIR Reviewer:		48. Date Recorded: 12/31/2010		
		50. PIR Review Date:		

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8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan :



Door Selection:
Single off center

Door Position:
Flush

Orientation:
Gable end axis

Symmetry:
Bilateral asymmetry

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #:



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42. *Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)*

43. *History and Significance (Con't)*

directory with the following advertisement: 'Plants and cut flowers of all descriptions. Decorations for entertainments and weddings. Funeral designs of all descriptions, neatly and promptly attended to at reasonable rates.' The next proprietor of the greenhouse at this location was Virgil Edward Rice, most certainly a relation to A. E. Rice. Virgil had attended Oberlin College and married Helena Merthe. He was the proprietor of the Rice Greenhouse from 1894 through 1908. He and 'Lena' and their son Earl lived at nearby 174 East Lorain. His 1897 advertisement was nearly identical to that of the 1891 ad with the addition of 'New improved and enlarged buildings.' It is possible that this structure was built at this time. It is also possible that it was built following a fire in 1902. In 1916 Rice sold the business to William A. Humm and Paul Wainwright, who changed the name to Humm and Wainwright. In 1920 the business was called Humm and Jones, owned by William Humm and Alvin Jones. In 1924 Humm sold the the 'florist plant' to Corning D. Ryals of Elyria. Ryals' Greenhouse operated through at least 1929. From 1933 to 1942 it was called Davidson Floral Company and owned by R. J. Davidson. Robert James and Maude (nee Geist) Davidson and their family took up residence in 174 E. Lorain. By 1939 Robert had retired and Louis Hecock and Roy Hoffner continued to manage Davidson Floral Co. By 1942 Louis and Lucille Hecock were living in 174 E. Lorain. In 1943 and 1944 Robert's Greenhouses was listed at 174 E. Lorain Street (named for Robert F. McLaughlin). In 1943 there was another fire at the greenhouse. In 1945 Rev. Normal and Eva Mae Crosby purchased the business and called it Crosby Greenhouses. Normal was also pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist church. They planned to convert the flower greenhouse to one that exclusively produced tomatoes. The last known listing for a greenhouse at this location appears in the 1948 city directory. By 1970 the building was owned by Henry Smith and had been converted into a residence numbered 184 1/2. Anna Morton was the first occupant listed, from approximately 1970 through 1981. The current owner is **Myrna Smith, who also owns another house on this property, 184 East Lorain, as well as 174 East Lorain Street.**

44. *Description of Environment and Outbuildings (Con't)*

45. *Sources (Con't)*

Staff, (1833-1960).' Oberlin: Oberlin College, 1961; Lorain County Auditor Property Record, Internet, <http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor/index.shtml>, Accessed December 2010; 'Fire Destroys Greenhouse,' Oberlin News, March 18, 1902; 'Rice Sells Greenhouse to Humm-Wainwright Company,' Oberlin News, May 10, 1916; 'Humm Sells Florist plant to Elyria C. D. Ryals,' Oberlin News, December 4, 1924; 'Spectacular Fire Destroys Part of Greenhouse Work Shop,' Oberlin New-Tribune, December 2, 1943; 'Crosbys Buy the Davidson Greenhouses,' Oberlin New-Tribune, September 20, 1945.