



OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

RPR Number:

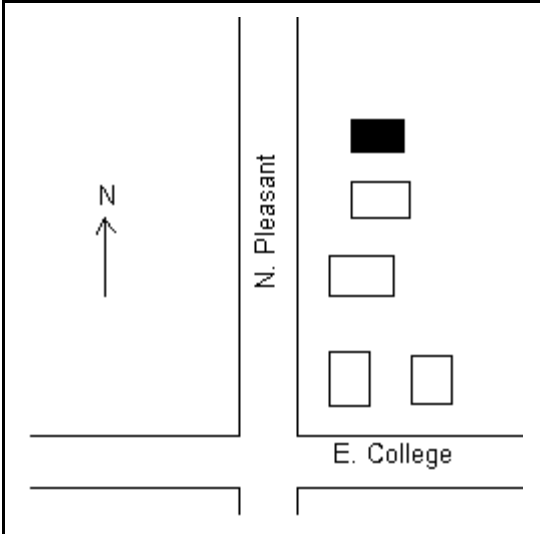
1. No. LOR-02074-21		4. Present Name(s) Joseph and Noreen Romano House		LOR-0207 4-21
2. County Lorain		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Beckwith-Stidley-Romano House		
6. Specific Address or Location 29 North Pleasant		19a. Design Sources		Lorain 2. County
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 900086105012		20. Contractor or Builder		
7. City or Village Oberlin		21. Building Type or Plan Non-discernable House Type		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name: Oberlin 17 398343 4571691 Zone Easting Northing		22. Original Use, if apparent Single Dwelling		
10. Classification: Building		23. Present Use Single Dwelling		2. County
11. On National Register? NO		24. Ownership Private		
13. Part of Established Hist. Dist? NO		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Joseph and Noreen Romano 29 N. Pleasant St. Oberlin, OH, 44074		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
15. Other Designation (NR or Local)		26. Property Acreage unknown		
16. Thematic Associations: Bank Christianity POLITICAL/SOCIAL WELFARE		27. Other Surveys		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
17. Date(s) or Period ca. 1890		28. No. of Stories Two story		
17b. Alteration Date(s) Unknown		29. Basement? Yes		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
18. Style Class and Design No academic style - Vernacular		30. Foundation Material Stone bearing		
18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)		31. Wall Construction Balloon/western/platform frame		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
19. Architect or Engineer		32. Roof Type Cross gable Roof Material Asphalt shingle		
		33. No. of Bays 4 Side Bays 4		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Aluminum or vinyl siding		
		35. Plan Shape Rectangular		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
		36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates: 17. Original/Most significant construct 17b. Substantial alteration/addition		
		37. Window Type(s) 8 over 8 6 over 6		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
		38. Building Dimensions 32' x 59'		
		39. Endangered? NO By What?		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
		40. Chimney Placement Gable end, exterior		
		41. Distance from & Frontage on Road 25'		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
		42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary) This front-gable vernacular house has been dramatically altered. Sanborn maps indicate it originally had a cross-gable plan with corner porches. At the front/west facade of the building, the first story has 6/6 double hung windows at the left and the right. Also at the first story, at center, short 8/8 windows are double hung. The second story includes two 8/8 double hung windows. The attic has a window that has muntins around the perimeter of the window, which create square lights in the corners of the window. The roof itself has a molded cornice and frieze board. At the north elevation, the entry is at the right and is topped with a flat entablature and framed by pilasters, complete with transom and sidelights (all with muntins). The door opens onto a stoop that has steps at both the west and east sides of the stoop. A wooden ramp currently leads to this stoop. Left of the door, an 8/8 window is double hung. Between the first and second stories, at the left, a double hung window is 6/6. At the second story is an 8/8 double hung window. The attic gable has a window matching the attic window at the front of the house. At the right side of the north continued...		
		43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary) The first known occupants of this house were the Beckwith family, who were living here by 1890. Charles T. Beckwith (b. 1839, OH; d. 1905, Oberlin) attended the Oberlin College Preparatory School and was a prominent citizen in town. He was a banker and worked his way up through the Citizen's National Bank as vice president and then president. While living in this house, he served on the city council, was considered a leader in the Republican party, built what was called the 'Beckwith Block' on S. Main (which held the post office until it was sold to the Oberlin Business College in 1903), and served as the Oberlin Board of Education president for nine years. Additionally, under the Beckwith's ownership, this house was the first to install electric service in the town of Oberlin in 1893. In continued...		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
		44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52) This house includes an original carriage house, which mimics the style of the house in its plain frieze board below the roof's eaves. The carriage house has a window in its tall gable and two single-car doors. The house is located on a residential street near single-family and multi-resident dwellings.		
		45. Sources of Information Oberlin Heritage Center Resource Center, City Directories, Oberlin Phone Book and Past Perfect collections program; Lorain County Court House, Auditor Property Record, Internet, http://www.loraincounty.com/auditorindex.shtml, accessed 2009; 'Charles T. Beckwith,' Obituary, Oberlin News, 2/10/1905, pg. 1, c. 4; 'Ellen Clifton Fletcher (Mrs. Charles T.),' Obituary, Oberlin News, 9/26/1929, p. 1, c. 6; 'Through the Window,' Pulse-Lorain County's Magazine, http://www.pulselorainmag.com, accessed continued...		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
		46. Prepared By: Liz Schultz		
		47. Organization: Oberlin Heritage Center		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
		48. Date Recorded: 11/20/2009		
		49. PIR Reviewer:		Joseph and Noreen Romano House 4. Present or Historic Name(s)
		50. PIR Review Date:		

LOR-0207
4-21
Lorain
2. County
Joseph and Noreen Romano House
4. Present or Historic Name(s)
29 North Pleasant
6. Specific Address or Location

1. No. LOR-02074-21	4. Present Name(s) Joseph and Noreen Romano House
2. County Lorain	5. Historic or Other Name(s) Beckwith-Stidley-Romano House

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan :



Door Selection:
Altered

Door Position:
Flush

Orientation:
Gable end axis

Symmetry:
Bilateral symmetry

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #:



1. No. LOR-02074-21	4. Present Name(s) Joseph and Noreen Romano House
2. County Lorain	5. Historic or Other Name(s) Beckwith-Stidley-Romano House

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

elevation, at the second story, a gabled dormer has an 8/8 double hung window. In the one-story rear addition, two 8/8 windows are double hung. Another dormer (with a shed roof) is in the addition, to the left of the north-facing gable. This dormer has an 8/8 double hung window. At the south elevation, the first story includes a historic door at the far left; the door has a large window in its upper portion. Concrete steps lead up to the stoop, which has a metal rail. An 8/8 double hung window is to the right of the door. Near the center of the first story, and to the right, 8/8 windows are double hung. The second story includes a gabled section at the center, which has an 8/8 double hung window and a window in the attic (this matches the windows at the other gables at the attic). Left of the south-facing gabled section, a gabled dormer has an 8/8 double hung window. Right of the gabled portion, an exterior brick chimney runs up the elevation. A gabled dormer is right of the chimney and includes a window (obscured). Another window appears to be right of the chimney. A door may possibly open somewhere near the chimney, as evidenced by the concrete steps and stoop that are visible, however, this portion of the house is obscured.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

1904, Charles was the victim of a famous scandal in which a woman named Cassie Chadwick scammed him and the Oberlin Citizen's National Bank out of thousands of dollars by claiming to be Andrew Carnegie's illegitimate daughter. Her claims were false, but Charles Beckwith was shamed (and died a few months later before he stood trial) and the bank went under. Andrew Carnegie, though uninvolved, felt so badly for the college, which had lost \$50,000 in the ordeal, that he donated \$150,000 in order for the college to build a new library. In 1861 Charles had married Ellen Clifton (nee Fletcher; b. 1840, NY; d. 1929, Oberlin). Ellen attended the Oberlin College Literary School and the couple had five children: Eugene Fletcher (b. 1862; d. 1863), Louise 'Louie' Maria (b. 1864), Charles Clifton (b. 1868), Frank Fletcher (b. 1871), and John W. (b. 1875). Ellen and Louie were members of the D.A.R. and the two women continued to live in this house after Charles' death. In 1902 John and his wife Marie also lived in the house, at which time John was manager of the Oberlin Gas and Electric Company. In the early 1930s, Charles, Jr. and his wife, Anna Marina (nee Wilkinson; b. 1875, Mexico) also lived in this house. Charles and Anna had two children, Ellen Anita (b. 1909) and Charles Emelio (b. 1917; d. 1996); however, it is not known if these children lived in this house. Ellen lived in this house with her daughter, Louie, until her death in 1929, and Louie continued to live in this house through 1940. The next occupants were the Stidley family in 1941. Reverend Leonard Albert Stidley (b. 1898; d. 1958, Oberlin) was a professor at the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology and later became the Dean of the School of Theology. As dean, he brought the Schaffler College of Religious and Social Work from Cleveland into Oberlin's school of Theology, which increased enrollment in the college's seminary. He was very involved as a leader in the Methodist church in town. He published many symposia such as: Trends in Religious Education, Religion and Public Education, and The Use of the Bible. He led services at the First Methodist Church and gave seasonal talks, such as his Lenten speech, 'What Every Christian Ought to Know about Man.' He was also a member of the Chamber of Commerce. His wife Constance (b. 1898; d. 1999 WI) was also involved in the Methodist church and held regular meetings for the Methodist Woman's Society for Christian Service in the Stidley home. She was also involved in the local Girl Scout Council. They had a son, Leonard H., and daughter, Constance Hill (b. 1929). When Rev. Stidley died suddenly in 1958, he was honored through the funding of two stained glass windows in the apse of Fairfield Chapel at Oberlin College in his memory. The Stidleys appear to have remained at this house through the Reverend's death (they are listed in the 1956 city directory). In 1961, Henry J. and Patricia F. Freas moved in and lived here with their two children. Henry was the treasurer at Ridge Tool. The Freas family lived here through 1973. Milton S. Jordan lived here from at least 1979 through 1988. The current owners, Joseph and Noreen Romano, have lived here since 1988. Joseph Romano is the Visual Resources Curator at Oberlin College's Allen Memorial art Museum.

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

45. Sources (Con't)

7/10/2009; 'Graduate School of Theology (1833-1966): Biography/Administrative History,' Oberlin Archives, <http://www.oberlin.edu/archive/holdings/finding/RG11/adminhist.html>, accessed 7/10/2009; http://www.religiouseducation.net/reach/2003/2003_cent_REACH.rtf, accessed 2009; Krajicek, David J., 'Cleveland's Grifter Queen,' 5/24/2009, <http://www.nydailynews.com>, accessed 7/10/2009; 'Cassie Chadwick Dies in Prison,' The New York Times, 10/11/1907; 'L.A. Stidley To Preach Sunday,' Oberlin News-Tribune, 8/17/1944, p. 3; 'Says True Religion May Clash with National Interests,' Oberlin News Tribune, 1/12/1942, p. 2; 'Closing of Citizens National Bank,' Oberlin News, 12/2/1904, p. 1.