### LOR-1633-21

**1. No.** LOR-1633-21  
**2. County** Lorain  
**3. Location of Negatives** O.H.I.O. Resource Center  
**4. Present Name(s)**  
**5. Historic or Other Name(s)** Thompson House  
**6. Specific Address or Location**  
221 Elm Street  
**7. City or Village** Oberlin  
**8. Site Plan with North Arrow**

![Site Plan](Image)  
**9. U.T.M. Reference**  
- **Quadrange Name:** Oberlin  
- **Roll**: 17  
- **Picture No.(s)** 33,34  
**10. Classification:** Building  
**11. On National Register?**  
**12. Part of Established Hist. Dist?**  
**13. Other Designation (NR or Local)**  
**14. No. of Stories** Two story  
**15. Basement?** Yes  
**16. Thematic Associations:** Lumber Related Industries, Coal, COMMERCE  
**17. Date(s) or Period** c. 1870-1877  
**17b. Alteration Date(s)**  
**18. Style or Design** High Style Italianate, Elements  
**18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)**  
**19. Architect or Engineer**  
**19a. Design Sources**  
**20. Contractor or Builder**  
**21. Building Type or Plan** Other House Type  
**22. Original Use, if apparent** Single Dwelling, , ,  
**23. Present Use** Single Dwelling, ,  
**24. Ownership** Private  
**25. Owner's Name & Address, if known**  
**26. Property Acreage** .21  
**27. Other Surveys**  
**28. No. of Stories** Two story  
**29. Foundation Material** Stone bearing  
**30. Roof Type** Hip  
**31. Wall Construction** Balloon frame/western frame/pla  
**32. Roof Material** Standing seam (me  
**33. No. of Bays** 3  
**34. Exterior Wall Material(s)** Clapboard or weatherboard  
**35. Plan Shape** Rectangular  
**36. Changes** Addition Altered Moved  
**37. Window Type(s)** 4 over 4,  
**38. Building Dimensions** 54 x 24  
**39. Endangered?** By What?  
**40. Chimney Placement** Lateral Exterior  
**41. Distance from & Frontage on Road** Approx. 30'  

**42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)**  
This house displays several elements typical in Italianate house types. Carved brackets appear at the cornice. Although the house does not have a cupola, a slightly raised platform is located on the roof. The front elevation contains a porch, which is recessed from the main body of the house. Below its roof is a frieze with square blocks carved into it. The front double doors have windows in their upper half, and have a curved transom above continued...  

**43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)**  
This house was constructed around 1870-1877 for Francis Melvin Thompson & his family (Holsworth, City Directories); the property card dates it at 1874. Francis lived here with his wife, Mary Elvira (Cole), and their children: Merton Edmund, Stephen, Bessie Cole, Mary E & William Wilbert (City Directory). Francis was a farmer when he first moved into this house, but was a coal & lumber dealer in the majority of his years here (City Directory). He was the owner of a store on South Main Street continued...  

**44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)**  
A detached one and one-half story carriage house is located behind the house. The house is located on a street of other well-maintained homes.  

**45. Sources of Information**  

**46. Prepared By:** Petersen, T Reeves, M Surovy  
**47. Organization:** O.H.I.O.  
**48. Date Recorded:** 08/19/2003
referred to as Cole & Thompson, Thompson & Sherburne, & Watson & Thompson Hardware (City Directories). While living here, Merton was a student & Stephen was a clerk (City Directory). William worked with his father who was a bookkeeper at Watson & Thompson Hardware in 1899 (City Directory). Francis & Mary Elvira lived here until their deaths in 1904 & 1907, respectively (Westwood). Their daughter, Mary E continued to live here after her parents’ deaths & was joined in the house by her sister Bessie by 1907 (City Directory). Bessie (Thompson) Anderson was the widow of Dr. W. Percy Anderson, and she was a nurse (Holsworth). In addition to the sisters Mary & Bessie, in 1908 Gertrude E. Greenwood, Mrs. J.H. Pope, & Helen Clarissa (Finney) Cox lived here (City Directory). Helen Cox was the daughter of renowned preacher Charles Grandison Finney (Holsworth). She was a First Lady of Ohio due to the fact that her husband, Jacob Dolson Cox was the 28th governor of Ohio in 1866-68 and she lived in this house as a widow (Ohio Biography). Helen also gave Christ Church in Oberlin a memorial window in 1901 (Oberlin News). She may have lived here until her death in 1911 at age 83. By 1916, Frank W. Tobin is listed at this house in the city directories. He proposed a city waterworks, was on the board of the Oberlin Bank Co., owned the Pay building at S. Main St., was president of the Exchange Club, and was on the OC Prudential Committee; he had a wife named Mabel E. Brown and a son Frank Wallace Jr. By 1927, Paul N and Helen Durham MacEachron had moved in with their four children. Paul was a graduate of Grinnell College and attended Oberlin's Graduate School of Theology while working at First Congregational Church and coaching at the Oberlin Academy. Paul and Helen had been away from Oberlin at Dezhou, while Paul taught at Grinnell-in-China, but returned to Oberlin in 1925, which may be when they moved into this house. In Oberlin, Paul was a professor of Physical Education and coached football and basketball. He died on 6/1/1930 when he fell off a cliff along Chance Creek in Brownhelm township. By 1933, Miss Maude Tobin lived here; she may have been the same Maud [sic] Tobin who was a sister to Frank Tobin (and possibly an earlier occupant of this residence). From 1935-37, H.E. and Catherine Weaver lived here with their 2 children. H.E. was an assistant professor at OC and Catherine was a teacher. The next known occupants were Mrs. H.R. Anders and her children Gerta A, Hanns K, and Winfred H, who attended OHS. The Anders lived here from around 1939 to 1944. By 1956, the Tumblesons moved in and shared the house with Mrs. Louise K Ellis and brothers Frank and James Ellis, who were students. The Ellis family is only listed in the 1956 directory; the Tumblesons are listed through 1961. Carl S. Tumbleson became president of the Oberlin School of Commerce in 1952, which maybe be when the family moved into this house. Carl lived here with his wife Emily and his son and daughter-in-law Robe and Ruth Tumbleson. Robert was vice president of the Oberlin School of Commerce, and Ruth worked there as well. The School of Commerce was relocated to 124 E College St. under the Tumblesons’ successful leadership but floundered and eventually closed in 1973 after the deaths of Carl and Robert in 1971 and 1966, respectively. By 1970, Dr. Philip W. Silver, an associate professor at OC, lived here. In 1969, Philip lectured on ‘The Aesthetics of Ortega y Gasset and the Generation of 1927: Mary Durling acquired the property in 1978, restored it, and lived here until 200 when she sold the house to Jeffrey J and Catherine Grey.

43. History and Significance (Con’t)

44. Sources (Con’t)

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