### OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

**NO.** LOR-02025-21  
**County:** Lorain  
**Street:** 281 Grafton  
**City or Village:** Oberlin  
**Placename:** Smith House

#### 1. No.  LOR-02025-21  
#### 4. Present Name(s)  
**Smith House**

#### 2. County  
**Lorain**

#### 5. Historic or Other Name(s)  
**Smith House**

#### 6. Specific Address or Location  
**281 Grafton**

#### 9. U.T.M. Reference  
- **Lot:** 398938  
- **Zone:** Eastern  
- **Zone:** 4570692  
- **Easting:** 900097000029

#### 11. On National Register?  
**NO**

#### 15. Other Designation (NR or Local)  
**NO**

#### 16. Thematic Associations:  
**MANUFACTURING/INDUSTRIAL**

#### 17. Date(s) or Period  
**c. 1948**

#### 18. Style Class and Design  
**Colonial Revival**

#### 19. Architect or Engineer  
**African American**

#### 20. Contractor or Builder  
**Unknown**

#### 21. Building Type or Plan  
**Cape Cod Cottage/Williamsburg Colonial**

#### 22. Original Use, if apparent  
**Single Dwelling**

#### 23. Present Use  
**Single Dwelling**

#### 24. Ownership  
**Private**

#### 25. Owner's Name & Address, if known  
**Willie Mae Smith**  
**281 Grafton St.  
Oberlin, OH, 44074**

#### 26. Property Acreage  
**Unknown**

#### 27. Other Surveys  
**Unknown**

#### 28. No. of Stories  
**One and a half story**

#### 29. Basement?  
**Yes**

#### 30. Foundation Material  
**Concrete block**

#### 31. Wall Construction  
**Balloon/western/platform frame**

#### 32. Roof Type  
**Gable**

#### 33. No. of Bays  
**4 Side Bays**

#### 34. Exterior Wall Material(s)  
**Asphalt shingle**

#### 35. Plan Shape  
**Rectangular**

#### 36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates:  
- **17:** **Original/Most significant construct**
- **17b:** **Substantial alteration/addition**

#### 37. Window Type(s)  
**1 over 1**

#### 38. Building Dimensions  
**32' x 36'**

#### 39. Endangered?  
**NO**

#### 40. Chimney Placement  
**Center**

#### 41. Distance from & Frontage on Road  
**40'**

#### 42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)

The north, or front, facade of this Cape Cod style Colonial Revival has a replaced door at the center of the first story. To the left of the door, a 1/1 window is double hung, while a fixed window to the right is flanked by narrow 1/1 double hung windows. The full front porch has metal supports and railings. Below the porch roof, along the perimeter of the roof, a solid wood trim has arched cuts cut into it. Two gabled dormers in the roof have 1/1 double hung windows. At the far right of the first story, an addition, which is possibly an enclosed porch, has two large, 1/1 double hung replacement windows and a flat roof. Vertical siding covers the exterior of the first story within the porch. The rest of the house appears to have horizontal aluminum siding. At the west elevation, the enclosed porch/addition dominates the first story. The door, which is a modern replacement, has steps with metal railings leading up to it. The door is slightly left of center and has two windows to its left and three windows to its right. In the second story, two small 1/1 windows are double hung. The attic gable contains a vent. All windows and the door at this elevation have metal continued...

#### 43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)

According to city directory research, this house was built circa 1948. The first known occupants in that year were Jess J. Smith and his wife Willie Mae, both African American residents. They are listed with one child in 1948 and two children in 1961. Jess J. was a carpenter and foundry worker. Jess was buried in Westwood Cemetery in 1993 and Willie Mae Smith is the current owner.

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#### 44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)

This house has a one-car garage, which has a pedestrian door to the right of the car door. A porch-type hood is attached to the east side of the garage. The garage is covered in vertical wood siding. The house is situated on the outskirts of town. The street is residential near this house, but becomes increasingly rural as one heads east on the road. This house is the last house on Grafton Street, before the road changes names to Parsons Road, as it extends east into New Russia Township.

#### 45. Sources of Information

1. No. LOR-02025-21
2. County Lorain
3. Reference Project NADB #:
4. Present Name(s) Smith House
5. Historic or Other Name(s) Smith House

54. Farmstead Plan:
   - Door Selection: Altered
   - Door Position: Flush
   - Orientation: Lateral axis
   - Symmetry: Bilateral symmetry

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

Report Associated With Project:

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

awnings, although the hood above the door is flat, rather than angled, as above the windows. The far right side of the east elevation has a 1/1 double hung window. The left side has a smaller 1/1 double hung window with an awning. The second story has two 1/1 double hung windows and a louvered vent in the attic. A nearly-flat-roofed, one-story addition at the rear of the house has a stoop visible, which has a metal hood above the door.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

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

45. Sources (Con't)