# Ohio Historic Inventory

**1. No.** LOR-1952-21  
**2. County** Lorain  
**3. Present Name(s)** Chaplin House  
**4. Historic or Other Name(s)**  
**5. Specific Address or Location** 173 Hollywood  
**6. City or Village** Oberlin  
**7. U.T.M. Reference**  
**8. Quadrangle Name:** Oberlin  
**9. Zone**  
**10. Classification:** Building  
**11. On National Register:** NO  
**12. Part of Established Hist. Dist:** NO  
**13. Other Designation (NR or Local):**  
**14. Thematic Associations:**  
**Landscape/Gardens**  
**Women’s Suffrage/Women’s Equality**  
**15. Style Class and Design:**  
**Dominant Style:** Colonial Revival  
**16. Style Class and Design:**  
**17. Date(s) or Period:** 1929  
**18. Style Class and Design:**  
**19. Architect or Engineer:** Yeager (Cleveland)  
**20. Design Sources:**  
**21. Building or Plan Type:** Single Dwelling  
**22. Original Use, if apparent:**  
**23. Present Use:** Single Dwelling  
**24. Ownership:** Private  
**25. Owner’s Name & Address, if known:**  
**26. Property Acreage:**  
**27. Other Surveys:**  
**28. No. of Stories:** Two story  
**29. Basement?:** Yes  
**30. Foundation Material:** Brick bearing  
**31. Wall Construction:** Balloon/ western/ platform frame  
**32. Roof Type:** Gable  
**33. No. of Bays:** 7  
**34. Exterior Wall Material(s):**  
**35. Plan Shape:** Rectangular  
**36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates:**  
**37. Window Type(s):** 6 over 6  
**38. Building Dimensions:** 216’ x 188’  
**39. Endangered?** NO  
**40. Chimney Placement:** Gable end, exterior both gable ends  
**41. Distance from & Frontage on Road:** 35’ approx.  
**42. Condition of Property:** Good/Fair  
**43. Historic Outbuildings & Dependencies:**  
**44. Associated Activity:**  
**45. Affiliated Inventory Numbers:** Historic (OHI)  
**Archaeological (OAI):**  

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

This Colonial Revival style four-over-four house features wings extending to the left and right of the main body of the house at its main facade (the west elevation). The left wing has a 6/6 double hung window, and the right wing has a pair of 6/6 double hung windows. Shutters, held open by a piece of scroll metal, flank each window. The main body of the house has a door at the center, which is comprised of solid wood with panels within it. A broken pediment that has an urn at the center and is flanked by sidelights that have a decorative detail in the windows caps the door. Flat, square pilasters flank the entryway. Below the urn in the pediment, a wrought iron lamp is centered above the door. To the left and right of the entryway, two 6/6 double hung windows with shutters are at the first story. The second story has five 6/6 double hung windows with shutters. The north elevation features a wing that extends out at the first story and has a gable. The far left side of the wing features a 6/6 double hung window. A pair of smaller 6/6 windows is located towards the right. Just left of the center of the wing, a small door (possibly once a coal door or mailbox) is continued...

### History and Significance (Continued on Reverse if necessary)

This house, built in 1929, was moved from its original location at 217 Woodland Avenue to its current site on Hollywood sometime between 1961 and 1968. The house was built for the Chapin family, and was residence to the Chapins for nearly 30 years. William Henry Chapin, born in 1872 in Brownhelm, Ohio, was a 1904 graduate of OC, where he had studied chemistry under Professor Frank Jewett. William Chapin married Bertha Alice Staver in 1906. Bertha, born on a farm near Canton, Ohio, had been educated at Buckel College (now Akron University), from which she received a teaching degree. After receiving his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania (1909), William Chapin returned to OC as a professor of chemistry, when the family settled at 176 Woodland. William is 'credited with transforming the continued...

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

The 2-car, 2-door garage has a front facing gable and is covered in wood clapboard. This house is located in a residential development that receives little vehicular traffic.

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### Sources of Information

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #: 

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Union</th>
<th>Hollywood</th>
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Sports fields

54. Farmstead Plan:

Door Selection: Single centered

Door Position: Flush

Orientation: Lateral axis with multiple smaller lateral extension

Symmetry: Bilateral symmetry
teaching of chemistry at Oberlin and elsewhere, largely by means of his well-received textbook, Second Year College Chemistry (1922). Both Chapins were active members of First Church, and Bertha became involved in the Oberlin Women's Club, the WCTU, and the League of Women Voters. She also wrote a ten-inch column in the Elyria Chronicle-Telegram for many years, earning eight dollars a week. The Chapins had four children: Almon Joel (OHS 1926), Mary Elizabeth, called 'Bid,' (OHS 1928), Margaret (OHS 1931) and Herbert. In 1927, the family bought an acre and a half of land across the street and a few lots north of that residence. For two years the Chapins grew a potato crop on the lot, but plans of erecting a new home there were also discussed. In the meantime, tragedy struck the Chapins when Herbert, William and Bertha's ten-year-old son, was killed in an automobile accident in March, 1928. Herbert was bicycling to Prospect school when he swerved to avoid a patch of ice and was struck by a car traveling in the same direction. In the wake of this misfortune, plans for the new house - this house, 217 Woodland - accelerated, offering a distraction amidst grief and promising a new start. The house plan determined upon at this stage was not one under previous consideration. Mr. Yeager, an architect from Cleveland, provided the plans for a four-bedroom colonial, with eight rooms plus a solarium. An Oberlin contractor, Dan Gayer, was hired to build the house. William Chapin maintained a large vegetable garden on the lot, while Bertha Chapin became devoted to a flower garden filled with 200 rose bushes. Elizabeth and Almon both left home shortly thereafter, Elizabeth to attend nursing school in Chicago, Almon to study mechanical engineering at Stanford University. Margaret chose to attend a college closer to home, starting at OC in 1932. Elizabeth married a doctor, Behle Basil Burns, in 1933 in Chicago. That same year Almon graduated from Stanford and proceeded with a year of graduate study. In 1934 Almon married Mildred Locke, a childhood neighbor on Woodland Avenue. During this time (from at least 1933 to 1938) Fred Foreman, an assistant professor of geology and geography, boarded with the Chapins. Margaret graduated from OC in June 1936 with a degree in art history and studio art. That very month, the Oberlin News-Tribune reported a surprise party on the occasion of William and Bertha Chapin's thirtieth wedding anniversary, with 75 friends and neighbors gathered at their home. Shortly after during that summer, the Chapin family was again visited with trauma. William Chapin suffered a massive stroke in August. Though he recovered, his speech and peripheral vision were afterwards impaired, forcing an early retirement from teaching at OC. Two years later, Margaret was married to an OC classmate, Edward Patterson, who went on to graduate from Harvard Law School the next year in 1939. Bertha and William Chapin continued to reside at this house at 217 Woodland until 1958, when they relocated to California to a retirement home close to their daughter Elizabeth. Oberlin College had long been attempting to buy their house; it was the last holdout as the block bordered by Union, North Professor, West Lorain and Woodland had gradually been purchased by OC and the houses taken down or removed to expand the campus. The Chapins finally accepted OC's offer in the late 1950s. The College did not move the house immediately, however. By 1961 OC was renting it to the Rev. Dr. Roger Hazelton, then serving as the Dean of the Graduate School of Theology. Rev. Hazelton resided here with his wife, Bonnie Jean, their son David, a student, and two additional children. It is unclear how long the Hazeltons lived in this house; the family left Oberlin, though, in 1965, when Rev. Hazelton resigned from his position as Dean. Shortly after, the OC Board of Trustees voted to close the Graduate School of Theology. Sometime between 1961, when the city directory lists the Hazeltons at this address, and 1968, when the OC dormitory Zehiel House was constructed on the lot, the house was moved one block to the west to sit at 173 Hollywood. By 1970, George Langeler, Dean of Students at OC, was living in this house on Hollywood Street. He shared the house with William Blount, a physician, William's wife Marlene, and two children. The Blounts are no longer listed at this address in the 1973 phone book, but George Langeler continued to reside here until 1998. He served as Dean of Students from 1966 to 1988. Among other noteworthy accomplishments, as Dean in 1969 Langeler approved Dascomb Hall's transition to becoming the first coed college dormitory in the nation.

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