### 27 King Street

**Historic Name(s):** Harkness House

**Thematic Associations:**
- College, Christianity, Governmental Administration

**Architect or Engineer:**
- Luther D. Harkness

**Original Use, if apparent:**
- Single Dwelling

**Present Use:**
- Single Dwelling

**Ownership:**
- Private

**Description of Environment and Outbuildings:**
- This is a good example of Dutch Colonial Revival architecture. The full front porch has Tuscan columns atop rock-faced ashlar bases and turned balusters. Cement steps and an iron rail lead up to the porch. The central entry door has panels of windows in the upper half, and is flanked by sidelights. Fifteen-over-fifteen windows are located left and right of the door. The porch roof is hip, and dentil molding runs below the roof. The second story continued...

**History and Significance:**
- Luther D. Harkness, an office assistant for OC built this house in 1903 (Oberlin News) & lived here with his wife Jennie W. Harkness until their deaths in 1919 & 1917, respectively (Westwood). The next residents, the Huntleys lived here, until around 1937; this included retired missionary Rev. Dr. George A. Huntley and his wife, Jean. During their occupancy, Margaret and William E. Utterback & their children are also listed here. William was a professor at the OC (they are only listed here in the 1933 continued...

**Description of Environment and Outbuildings:**
- This house is in very good condition, as are the surrounding homes. A two-car, detached garage with a front-facing gable is located behind the house, which is situated at the long-end of a cul-de-sac that includes houses from a wide span of years.

**Sources of Information:**
- Surovy, Maria, Interview with Scott Broadwell, 30 November 2003.; ‘New editor Oberlin News; mgr, printing company,’ ‘Oberlin News,’ 9 August 1911: 4; ‘New house on King Street,’ ‘Oberlin News,’ 22 May 1903: 5; Blodgett, Geoffroy, ‘Oberlin Architecture, College and Town: A Guide to Social History,’ continued...
features a front-facing gambrel bay at the right side with a window in its right half and a projecting bay window to the left. Dentils run below the roof of the projecting bay, and transoms run above its windows. A gable dormer is located left of the gambrel bay, and a semi-circular window is located above the dormer’s primary window. The south elevation has a gambrel roof over the second story, which projects over the first story and has exposed brackets. Two fifteen-over-one windows can be found in the second story. Arched windows are visible at the left and center of the first story, flanking the chimney, with additional windows to the left. The chimney is exterior at the first story, but disappears behind the wall of the second story. The southeast corner of the house projects in a polygonal shape, and contains another exterior chimney. The first story details of the south elevation are difficult to see, due to foliage. The north elevation contains two one-over-one windows in the second story. The first story of this elevation is also obscured by foliage. In 1989, Oberlin architect Ann MacKay & Andy Allen, designed an addition with ‘imaginative back rooms...contemporary kitchen & bar...north breakfast nook. Central atrium with skylight...south family-dining room with fireplace,’ & screened-in porch off the addition (House Tour). The house contains a living room, den, dining room, kitchen and bath downstairs & the stairway is opposite the front door (House Tour). Upstairs are 4 bedrooms and a bathroom, with a back stairway that leads to the kitchen (House Tour). The basement has a bath and unfinished cement floor, with its main space occupied by the furnace & laundry (House Tour).

43. History and Significance (Con’t)

Following the Huntleys, Wilbur H. Phillips, author of ‘Oberlin Colony, The Story of a Century,’ in 1933, lived here from around 1929 until his death (1939). He was editor of the Oberlin News, manager of a printing company, mayor of Oberlin, and in the Oberlin Fuel Administration (Oberlin News). The next listed residents were Ilse and Wolfgang F. Stechow in 1942 (City Directory). In 1956, Alice Rudekoff, widow of Clyde T, lived here (City Directory). She was here briefly, until Ellis L & Marian E VanAttas moved in with their 3 children. Ellis was an associate professor at OC and lived here from 1961-1978 or 79 (Surovy). For one year, around 1962, the Tobias family sub-let the house while the VanAttas were on sabbatical in Seattle (Surovy). The next owner was Rudd Crawford, from around 1978-1988; he was a math teacher for Oberlin Public Schools, and his wife, Lisa taught at the Conservatory (Surovy).

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

45. Sources (Con’t)

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