### OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. No.</th>
<th>LOR-1903-21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. County</td>
<td>Lorain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Present Name(s)</td>
<td>Sears-Smith House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Historic or Other Name(s)</td>
<td>Sears-Smith House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Specific Address or Location</td>
<td>46 King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. City or Village</td>
<td>Oberlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. U.T.M. Reference</td>
<td>Quadrange Name: Oberlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. 17 398876 4571659</td>
<td>Zone Easting Northing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Part of Established Hist. Dist. NO</td>
<td>15. Other Designation (NR or Local)</td>
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</tbody>
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#### 19a. Design Sources
- 20. Contractor or Builder
- 21. Building Type or Plan
  - Bungalow Dormer Front
- 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
  - 0.35
- 27. Other Surveys
- 28. No. of Stories
  - One and a half story
- 29. Basement?
  - Yes
- 30. Foundation Material
  - Stone bearing
- 31. Wall Construction
  - Balloon western/platform frame
- 32. Roof Type
  - Gable
  - Asphalt shingle
- 33. No. of Bays
  - 2 Side Bays 3
- 34. Exterior Wall Material(s)
  - Stone
  - Wood shingle

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

According to the current resident, the stones comprising this front dormer bungalow originally came from a Methodist church in Oberlin that burned down. Three stone pillars support the full recessed front porch, with two more jutting out from the edges of the house. A shorter pillar extends a few feet above the stone porch wall to flank the steps. Recessed within the porch, the first story of the main (east) facade includes the front door at right and two 9/1 double hung windows on the left; in these, as well as many other windows in the house, the muntins create a Craftsman-style pattern in the upper pane with 8 smaller lights surrounding one larger central light. Above the porch, the central shed dormer contains a ribbon of 9/1 windows with the same patterned muntins. This dormer is sided with wood shingles. The gable end stone chimney divides the southern elevation in half; the wide eaves allow the chimney to extend from the exterior of the elevation to the interior of the gable end of the roof. Each side of the chimney contains two windows in the stone first story. All of these windows have the same Craftsman pattern; those on the left are 9/1 double hung continued...

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

This house first appears in census records in 1930; it was probably built between then and 1929, when it does not appear in the city directory. According to the current resident, the house's deed indicates that the stone that comprises this house and surrounding fence originated from a Methodist church that burned down on Main Street. Such an incident did indeed take place. In 1917 the First Methodist Episcopal Church, located at 51 N. Main, was 'gutted by fire,' with 'only walls left standing.' The remnants of the church were not immediately dismantled, as plans for the site's future as the location of Hall Auditorium were being debated. Plausibly, then, the stones from those still standing walls could have been later moved and used to construct this house especially since the first known continued...

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### 44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

This house is located on a residential street that ends in a cul-de-sac and thus receives very little traffic. The garage to the west of the house echoes the house in its stone and shingle exterior wall composition; the fence to the rear also derives its stones from the same church as the house.

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### 45. Sources of Information

- 'Sears is chosen City Manager,' Oberlin News, 7 June 1928, p. 1, c. 4.;
- 'New City Manager begins duties here,' Oberlin News, 23 August 1928, p. 1, c. 5.;
- 'George M. Smith buys business,' Oberlin News, 30 June 1927, p. 4, c. 4.;
- Blodgett, Geoffrey, 'Oberlin Architecture, College and Town: A continued...'

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### 46. Prepared By: Patricia Murphy
### 47. Organization: Oberlin Heritage Center
### 48. Date Recorded: 11/30/2006
### 49. PIR Reviewer: 
### 50. PIR Review Date: 

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #: 

Door Selection: Single off center
Door Position: Recessed
Orientation: Lateral axis
Symmetry: Bilateral asymmetry
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)

while those on the right are smaller squares with 9 lights. Like the dormer, both this and the north gable are sided with wood shingles above the stone of the first story. The south gable includes 1 rectangular 9-lighted Craftsman window right of the chimney, and a pair of 9/1 double hung windows as well as a small, square window with 9 lights to the left. Facing north, in the first story are 1 large and 4 small 9/1 double hung Craftsman-patterned windows in the center, and 1 newer 2/2 double hung window in the more recent enclosed back porch on the left. The north gable also contains five windows, with two smaller windows to either side and a larger window in the center.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

resident, by 1930, was city manager Leon A. Sears. Coming from Albion, Mich., Sears was chosen as city manager after the departure of former manager D. F. Herrick, who also came to Oberlin from Albion. Sears and his wife, Gladys, lived at 169 Woodland upon their arrival in Oberlin. A baby girl was born to them in 1929. By 1930 the Sears family resided in this house, where they stayed until Leon Sears departed from his post as city manager in 1935 to serve with the Rural Electric Administration in Washington, D.C. Among his accomplishments during his tenure in Oberlin was the creation of the Oberlin Municipal Light and Power System. After Sears' departure, George M. Smith and his wife Margaret began a long occupancy in 1935, remaining here until the 1960s. George purchased the Peabody Implements store in 1927 and worked as the proprietor of the business, renamed Smith Implement Co., until his retirement in the 1940s. Noting the business transaction in 1927, the Oberlin News mentioned that 'Mr. Smith was born on a farm and has a knowledge of the farming business.' The 1961 city directory lists George Smith but not Margaret, who passed away in 1957. George Smith died in 1969. By 1970, the house sat vacant. Koste Belcheff, a music instructor at the Oberlin Conservatory, lived here for a time in the early 1970s.

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

45. Sources (Con't)