## Ohio Historic Inventory: Rice-Davidson Greenhouse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Historic or Other Name(s)</th>
<th>Type of Use</th>
<th>City or Village</th>
<th>U.T.M. Reference</th>
<th>Residential/Domestic Use</th>
<th>Zoning Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>4-21</td>
<td>Lorain</td>
<td>Rice-Davidson Greenhouse</td>
<td>Rental Property</td>
<td>Oberlin</td>
<td>090076104046</td>
<td>RESIDENTIAL/DOMESTIC</td>
<td>Building Zone Easting</td>
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### 1. Specific Address or Location

**184 1/2 East Lorain**

### 6b. Lot, Section or VMD Number

**090076104046**

### 16. Thematic Associations:

**AGRICULTURE**

**Residential**

### 17. Date(s) of Period

**ca. 1897-1910**

### 19a. Design Sources

- **Myrna Smith**
  - **174 E. Lorain St., Oberlin, OH, 44074**

### 20. Contractor or Builder

- **Unknown**

### 21. Building Type or Plan

- **Non-discernable House Type**

### 22. Original Use, if apparent

- **NON USE**

### 23. Present Use

- **RESIDENTIAL/DOMESTIC**

### 25. Owner's Name & Address, if known

- **Myrna Smith**
  - **174 E. Lorain St., Oberlin, OH, 44074**

### 29. Basement?

- **No**

### 31. Wall Construction

- **Concrete block**

### 32. Roof Type

- **Gable**

### 33. No. of Bays

- **1 Side Bays 3**

### 34. Exterior Wall Material(s)

- **Concrete/Cinder block**

### 35. Plan Shape

- **Rectangular**

### 40. Chimney Placement

- **Off center within roof surface**

### 41. Distance from & Frontage on Road

- **80’**

### 51. Condition of Property

- **Good/Fair**

### 52. Historic Outbuildings & Dependencies

- **Structure Type**
  - **Associated Activity**

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

This vernacular house was formed from the remains of a greenhouse structure that used to stand on this property. The building has a concrete block exterior and its windows and doors appear to be historic. At the main facade (south elevation), the front porch is a single bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located off-center to the left. The porch has a front-facing gable and simple, square, wood supports and balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. The second story contains a 1/1 double hung window. The roof's gable has a low pitch and within the gable is horizontal bay, located of...
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### Site Plan with North Arrow

![Site Plan with North Arrow]

### Farmstead Plan:

- **Door Selection**: Single off center
- **Door Position**: Flush
- **Orientation**: Gable end axis
- **Symmetry**: Bilateral asymmetry

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**Report Associated With Project:**

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

directory with the following advertisement: 'Plants and cut flowers of all descriptions. Decorations for entertainments and weddings. Funeral designs of all descriptions, neatly and promptly attended to at reasonable rates.' The next proprietor of the greenhouse at this location was Virgil Edward Rice, most certainly a relation to A. E. Rice. Virgil had attended Oberlin College and married Helena Merthe. He was the proprietor of the Rice Greenhouse from 1894 through 1908. He and 'Lena' and their son Earl lived at nearby 174 East Lorain. His 1897 advertisement was nearly identical to that of the 1891 ad with the addition of 'New improved and enlarged buildings.' It is possible that this structure was built at this time. It is also possible that it was built following a fire in 1902. In 1916 Rice sold the business to William A. Humm and Paul Wainwright, who changed the name to Humm and Wainwright. In 1920 the business was called Humm and Jones, owned by William Humm and Alvin Jones. In 1924 Humm sold the the 'florist plant' to Corning D. Ryals of Elyria. Ryals’ Greenhouse operated through at least 1929. From 1933 to 1942 it was called Davidson Floral Company and owned by R. J. Davidson. Robert James and Maude (nee Geist) Davidson and their family took up residence in 174 E. Lorain. By 1939 Robert had retired and Louis Hecock and Roy Hoffner continued to manage Davidson Floral Co. By 1942 Louis and Lucille Hecock were living in 174 E. Lorain. In 1943 and 1944 Robert’s Greenhouses was listed at 174 E. Lorain Street (named for Robert F. McLaughlin). In 1943 there was another fire at the greenhouse. In 1945 Rev. Normal and Eva Mae Crosby purchased the business and called it Crosby Greenhouses. Normal was also pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist church. They planned to convert the flower greenhouse to one that exclusively produced tomatoes. The last known listing for a greenhouse at this location appears in the 1948 city directory. By 1970 the building was owned by Henry Smith and had been converted into a residence numbered 184 1/2. Anna Morton was the first occupant listed, from approximately 1970 through 1981. The current owner is Myrna Smith, who also owns another house on this property, 184 East Lorain, as well as 174 East Lorain Street.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

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

45. Sources (Con't)