A thick layer of trees heavily obscures this vernacular Side Hallway house, making the details difficult to discern. The door is located at the far left of the main facade (south) and could be original (appears to be wood); it is covered by a modern screen door. The door has wood surrounds and a shed hood with simple brackets. Wood steps lead up to the door, and a metal fence outlines a small portion of the front yard, at the house, and is about 4' x 14'. At the first story, 6/6 windows are at the right and center of the elevation. The second story has one 1/1, which may be a replacement (obscured). The attic gable has a small vent. Glass block windows have been added to the basement. At the east elevation, which is also heavily obscured, two 6/6 windows appear to be at the first and second stories. An exterior chimney is to the right of the windows. At the rear, a one-story addition is covered both in shingles (closest to the house) and wood clapboard (farthest from the house); this is in contrast from the rest of the house, which is covered in aluminum siding. In the gabled portion, a door is at the left, with steps and a metal rail leading up to it. A 6/6 continued...

This house was built before 1873, the year it first appears in the city directory. A Mrs. Emily Fairbanks is listed as the first resident. By 1877, Isaac Simms, a laborer, and his family resided here. Isaac Simms' obituary states that he 'was born a slave in Maryland, but escaped from bondage and came North before the war, where he has ever since lived, for the most of the time in Oberlin.' He and his wife Maria had two children, Edward W. and William H., both born in Canada during the Civil War. Isaac's son Ed went on to serve in the U.S. Army as one of the famed 'Buffalo Soldiers,' in the 9th U.S. Colored Cavalry in the 1880s and 1890s. The next resident listed in the city directory is Rev. J. F. Hargrave, in 1883. According to the census, Benjamin G. Green was an occupant of this continued...

A building at the rear of the property is heavily obscured by trees, and could quite possibly be historic. This structure is notable in its side gable, standing seam, metal roof. The exterior is covered in wood shingles. This structure appears too large to be a modern garage; it seems feasible that it may have been a small barn. This house is located on a residential street that receives a fair amount of vehicular traffic.

Sources of Information
8. Site Plan with North Arrow

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan:

- Door Selection: Corner
- Door Position: Flush
- Orientation: Gable end axis
- Symmetry: Bilateral asymmetry

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #: 
window is located right of the door. At the west elevation, in the original part of the house, 6/6 windows are at the left side of the house, in the first and second stories. A rectangular window sits high in the wall to the right. The rear addition (which is covered in aluminum siding) appears to actually be two additions (the portion farthest back has a lower, steeper roof).

43. History and Significance (Con't)

house by 1880, and his family continued to live here through 1926. Benjamin worked as a day laborer and a gardener. Born in Mercer County, Ohio, Benjamin Green had both African-American and Native American ancestry - Benjamin Onsley, a member of the Narragansett tribe who fought with Massachusetts colonial troops during the Revolutionary War, was his maternal grandfather. The Green family came to Oberlin in 1846. Benjamin Green fought in the Civil War, serving in the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry starting in May 1863. He was apparently discharged due to sudden deafness three months later. Two diverging accounts exist explaining this incident, one tying the deafness to a wound suffered to the head during battle, the other to an injury received while bathing with his company. Benjamin was married to Mary J. Gayters in 1866. The Greens had three children, Henry L., Richard, and Elizabeth. Mary also had a son, Charles E., fathered by a white man when she had been a slave. Charles was employed by the railroad. He died in 1885 and is buried at Westwood. In 1897, a Frank Norton, who worked as a laborer, is listed as boarding with the Greens. For a time starting in 1908, Henry L. Green lived here with his parents and his four children, George, Mildred, Richard, and Ethel. Henry's first wife, Ethel, had died in 1908. By 1909, Henry had remarried, to Eve. His family resided here through 1910, moving to another house on East Lorain by April of that year. Benjamin Green suffered for the remainder of his life from deafness, ringing in his head, and discharge from his ears due to the wartime injury. He died in 1925. Mary Green stayed in Oberlin until 1926, when she left for Chicago to live with her son. By 1929, Clyde Roland Godette had moved into this house. He lived here with his wife, Thelma (nee Thomas) and Thelma's daughter Lillian Jones from a previous marriage. The Godettes left within four years, as the 1933 city directory lists Cicero Williams, a farm laborer, and his wife Lucy as occupants. By 1939 Fredrick Jones, an employee at the Statler Hotel, and his wife Naomi were residing in this house. Their first child was born between 1942 and 1948. The Jones family occupied the house through 1956. By 1961 Richard S. and Shirley Williams and two children had moved in. Richard worked as an electronics technician at NASA. The Madison family had replaced the Williams family here by 1970. Robert Madison was a civil engineer at the FAA. He and his wife Ann had four children.

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

45. Sources (Con't)