**Ohio Historic Inventory**

**Location of Negatives:** O.H.I.O. Resource Center

**Specific Address or Location:**

356 West Lorain Street

**City or Village:** Oberlin

**Site Plan with North Arrow**

- Lorain Street
- Oberlin

**1. No.** LOR-1712-21  
**2. County** Lorain

**3. Location of Negatives**

O.H.I.O. Resource Center

**Roll No.** 9  
**Picture No.(s)** 18, 19

**4. Present Name(s)**

Johnston House

**5. Historic or Other Name(s)**

**6. Specific Address or Location**

356 West Lorain Street

**7. City or Village** Oberlin

**8. Site Plan with North Arrow**

- Lorain Street

**9. U.T.M. Reference**

- Zone: 17
- Easting: 396940
- Northing: 4571964

**10. Classification:** Building

**11. On National Register?**

**13. Part of Established Hist. Dist.?**

**15. Other Designation (NR or Local)**

**16. Thematic Associations:**

- Dairy Farm, Invention, Financial

**17. Date(s) or Period**

- c. 1889-1890

**17b. Alteration Date(s)**

**18. Style or Design**

- High Style Eastlake

**18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)**

**19. Architect or Engineer**

**19a. Design Sources**

**20. Contractor or Builder**

**21. Building Type or Plan**

- Side Hallway

**22. Original Use, if apparent**

- Single Dwelling

**23. Present Use**

- Double

**24. Ownership**

- Private

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

**26. Property Acreage**

- 3.27

**27. Other Surveys**

**28. No. of Stories**

- Two and a half story

**29. Basement?**

Yes

**30. Foundation Material**

- Stone bearing

**31. Wall Construction**

- Balloon frame/western frame/pla

**32. Roof Type** Cross gable

**33. No. of Bays**

- 5

**34. Exterior Wall Material(s)**

- Insulbrick (composition)

**35. Plan Shape**

- Rectangular

**36. Changes (Explain in #42)**

- Yes

**37. Window Type(s)**

- 1 over 1

**38. Building Dimensions**

- 61 x 20

**39. Endangered?**

- By What?

**40. Chimney Placement**

- Off center within roof surface

**41. Distance from & Frontage on Road**

- Approx. 25

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

This home contains some elements of Eastlake style, particularly in its ornament, although some of the exterior appears to have been altered or covered. The plan shape of the original house resembles a 'T', with the main facade at the center of the crossbar, where side wings are located. The front porch has a hip roof, and double doors are located at the left side. The porch has square supports with decorative scrolled 'brackets' and a spindle...continued...

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

This house was built between 1889-1890 by James E. Johnston (City Directory). James was a farmer who earned a patent on a milk pail he created in 1899 (Oberlin News). He lived here with his family for over 20 years. His wife, Dassalina Melissa (Bates) attended Oberlin College, as did his children: Myra Anna and Vernon Ozro (Holsworth). It is unknown whether their other son, Vergen A. attended the college. Myra Anna Johnston married Francis Patchin Bickford in 1904 (Alumni Register) and they...continued...

**44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)**

A two-car garage is located behind the house, which is in stable condition. Other homes, well maintained, neighbor the house.

**45. Sources of Information**


**46. Prepared By:** Petersen, T Reeves, M Surovy  
**47. Organization:** O.H.I.O.  
**48. Date Recorded:** 08/19/2003
lived together at this house while James was retired, and Francis was the Asst. Sec. and Treas. of Western Reserve Insurance Company in Cleveland. By 1912, Myra had filed for divorce (Oberlin News) and continued to live here with her father. By 1927, the house was occupied by Casius C. Lawson, an investigator, and his wife Alice until around 1936. They had four children: Burdett B, Justin, Pearl E. (a stenographer), and Branden (1930 Census). By 1937, E.B. Sanders, a janitor, lived here with his wife and three kids until it was obtained by Glenn O. Fekins around 1939. By 1942, the Cooks began a lengthy occupancy here. William H. Cook and his wife, Mara (or Myra) lived here with their son, William, Jr., a mail carrier (City Directory). An elderly woman, Marion Dudley joined the Cooks in 1970; she was here for an unknown duration. William Cook, Jr. and his wife, Leah lived here as recently as 1993, and possibly longer (Sugaski).

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

44. Sources (Con't)

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