### Presti's of Oberlin

**Address:** 580 W. Lorain Street

**City or Village:** Oberlin

**Date:** November 21, 1937

**Architect:** Eugene J & Rebecca Presti

**Original Use:** Restaurant/bar

**Present Use:** Restaurant/bar

**Building Type:** Restaurant/Bar

**Zoning:** Unknown

**Stories:** One story

**Basement:** Yes

**Foundation:** Concrete block

**Roof Type:** Flat

**Wall Construction:** Balloon frame/western frame/pla

**No. of Bays:** 6

**Exterior Wall Material(s):** Running Stretcher bond

**Plan Shape:** Irregular

**Changes:** Addition Yes Altered Yes Moved

**Alteration Date(s):** 1937; 1955; 1967

**Style or Design:** Colonial Revival

**Style of Addition or Elements(s):**

**Altered:**

**Moved:**

**Endangered?** By What?

**Chimney Placement:** Off center within roof surface

**Distance from & Frontage on Road:** Dist: 10' & Frontage: unknown

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This flat roofed vernacular building has several elements of the Colonial Revival style. A cornice runs along the top of the building about two feet under the roofline. Columns, which break up sections of the brick exterior, are located at the corners of the building and around the bay window located on the recessed back right side. Decorative brackets are located underneath the bay window. French doors each with nine panes are located on the outside of the building.

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John & Bess Presti opened 'Presti's,' an Italian restaurant & tavern, here on November 21, 1937 (Presti's). There was an existing house at the location, which they renovated when they added on the dining area. Their son, Gene Presiti, estimated that this original house may have been close to one hundred years old at the time, based on the woodwork. The family lived in the house while they used the other part of the building for the restaurant & bar. Presti's did not lie within the Oberlin City Directories, O.H.I.O Resource Center. Lorain County Court House, Auditor Property Record, Internet, http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor/index.shtml, Accessed 2004.; Presti, Gene, interviewed by Nat Tuohy, 6/28/04.; Presti's of Oberlin Home Page, Internet, http://www.prestis.com/continued..

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**Sources of Information**


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**Prepared By:** Clark, Surovy, Tomazic, Tuohy

**Organization:** O.H.I.O./Oberlin Heritage Center

**Date Recorded:** 08/02/2004
right of the bay window while three; six-light windows placed side by side are situated to the left. Two more windows of the same arrangement are located to the left of a single nine-paned door on the protruded section. Plain slip brick sills are located under the windows. The single door also has three narrow sidelights on each side of it. The east elevation contains no windows, but there is a sign located on the protruded section that reads “Presti’s” written in an uphill script letters. This writing is also located on the vintage sign posted in front of the building. The west elevation reveals an addition attached in the rear. This section has a brick foundation and is covered with wood shingles and contains several one-over-one windows. A wood ramp is located on the north (rear) elevation. The house lost its second story during one of the remodeling or construction periods (Lothrop). Concrete is the exposed wall material on the north elevation of the main building. Therefore, the foundation material of the main section is either brick or concrete.

limits, which explains how it was able to avoid Oberlin's alcohol prohibitions. From around 1950 to 1954, Presti's operated as a gas station, with a room on the left side for the restaurant, a picture of the gas station hangs in the lobby (Blodgett). Its address was changed from 480 to 580 between 1956 & 1961. By 1956, John had died, but Bess was still living here & their sons, Eugene (Gene) J & John B managed the restaurant (City Directory). This building went through further renovations in 1955 & 1967 (Gene Presti). Presti's is currently owned by Gene & his wife Rebecca S (Property Card).

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1. No. LOR-1828-21
2. County Lorain
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O.
4. Present Name(s) Presti's of Oberlin
5. Historic or Other Name(s) Presti's Restaurant