Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 E. Hudson St.
Columbus, OH 43211
614/298-2000

Ohio Historic Inventory

1. No. LOR-02065-21
2. County Lorain
3. No. of Historic Name(s) 1
4. Present Name(s) James N. Fox House
5. Historic or Other Name(s) Smith-Lambert-Payne-Morgan House

6. Specific Address or Location
   189 North Main

7. City or Village Oberlin

8. Classification: Building

9. U.T.M. Reference
   Quadrangle Name: Oberlin
   17 398115 4572426
   Zone Easting Northing

10. Classification: Building
11. On National Register? NO
12. Style Class and Design
   ca. 1877
13. Part of Established Hist. Dist? NO
14. Other Designation (NR or Local)

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16. Thematic Associations:
   English
   Governmental Administration
      Knights of Pythias
17. Date(s) of Period
   ca. 1877
18. Style Class and Design
   No academic style - Vernacular
19. Architect or Engineer
20. Contractor or Builder
21. Building Type or Plan
   Upright and Wing
22. Original Use, if apparent
   Single Dwelling
23. Present Use
   Residential/Domestic
24. Ownership Private
25. Owner's Name & Address, if known
   James Neal Fox
   189 North Main St.
   Oberlin, OH 44074
26. Property Acreage unknown
27. Other Surveys
28. No. of Stories One and a half story
29. Basement? Yes
30. Foundation Material Rock-Faced concrete block
31. Wall Construction Balloon/western/platform frame
32. Roof Type Gable
   Roof Material
   Asphalt shingle
33. No. of Bays 4
   Side Bays 2
34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Aluminum or vinyl siding
35. Plan Shape Square
36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates:
   17. Original/Most significant construct
   17b. Some alteration
   37. Window Type(s)
      2 over 2
      6 over 6
   38. Building Dimensions 33' x 43'
   39. Endangered? NO
      By What?
   40. Chimney Placement
      Off center within roof surface
   41. Distance from & Frontage on Road 35'
   42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)
   This vernacular, upright and wing house was updated c. 1950. The facade (west) includes its upright portion to the right, which has two 2/2 windows at the first story and two 6/6 windows at the second story. Windows at both stories have metal awnings above them, and shutters flanking them. A vent is in the gable. At the wing portion (left side of facade), the porch is recessed. Concrete steps and a metal railing lead to the porch, which has a metal balustrade and metal supports. The door near the right, which appears to be original, is comprised of wood with a window in the upper half, above filled wood panels. An updated screen door covers the door. A historic 2/2 window is left of the door. At the south elevation, the right side is made up of the garage. The basement has historic windows. The house has a window at the right side of the first story (obscured). At the second story, there is another window (obscured). The north elevation includes the attached garage, which is slightly visible at the rear of the house; it has a shed roof, and its door faces north. At the main body of the house, a 6/1 window is located at the left, and a 6/6 window is at the right. continued...
   43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)
   The first known occupants of this house were Milton and Esther Smith in 1877 when the house was listed as 49 North Main. Milton (b. 1830 OH, d. 1905) was a teamster and contractor. Esther Ann (nee Richardson; b. 1838 PA, d. 1904) and Milton had five children, Dr. Orrin Joseph (b. 1858), Livingston G. (b. 1859), Nettie Esther (b. 1863), Uelliah Nancy (b. 1866), and Morgan S. (b. 1869). In 1883 Joseph Richardson also lived with the Smths. The Smiths are listed at this house in city directories through 1896, with the exception of the 1894 city directories. In the 1894 city directories, Mrs. Anna Motychka in listed at this residence with her daughter, also called Anna, who was a student at the Oberlin Conservatory from 1892-1895. A man named Theophilus Kuhricht is also listed at this residence continued...
   44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)
   This house is located on a residential portion of North Main Street, a busy thoroughfare in Oberlin.

45. Sources of Information
   Oberlin Heritage Center Resource Center, City Directories, Oberlin Phone Books, Master Genealogist, and Past Perfect collections program; Lorain County Court House, Auditor Property Record, Internet, http://www.loraincounty.com/auditorindex.shtml, Accessed 2009; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Oberlin, Ohio; Oberlin High School Alumni Website, http://www.oberlin-high.org, Accessed 2009; 'Miss Grace Mae Morgan's funeral was to be 2 p.m. today' Oberlin News Tribune, 4/4/1963, p. 3; 'Harry Morgan,' continued...

46. Prepared By: Liz Schultz
47. Organization: Oberlin Heritage Center
48. Date Recorded: 11/20/2009
49. PIR Reviewer: SMT
50. PIR Review Date: 01/25/2010
1. No. LOR-02065-21
2. County Lorain
3. Report Associated With Project:
4. Present Name(s) James N. Fox House
5. Historic or Other Name(s) Smith-Lambert-Payne-Morgan House
6. 8. Site Plan with North Arrow
7. 54. Farmstead Plan:

Door Selection:
Single off center
Door Position:
Flush
Orientation:
Gable with lateral wing
Symmetry:
Bilateral symmetry
in 1894. Perhaps the Miltons were mistakenly listed and shared the house with the Motychkas and Mr. Kuhricht, or perhaps the Motychkas and Mr. Kuhricht are mistakenly listed at this address. The next known residents of the house were Charles Lambert and his family. The Lamberts were immigrants from England. Charles (b. 1855, d. 1921) immigrated to the US with his first wife, Jane (b. 1857, d. 1905) in 1882. Charles worked as a laborer (also identified as a day laborer and street laborer) and remarried another Englishwoman after the death of his first wife. His second wife was Mary W. (b. 1852, d. 1918). Mary had immigrated to the US in 1883. They were married in 1906. After the death of his second wife, Charles continued to live at 189 N. Main with his nephew, Charles W. Payne. A man named Robert Eames had also lived with the Lamberts in 1897. Charles Lambert died in 1921 and the family of Charles Payne then occupied the house for many years. Charles Payne was also born in England and came to the United States in 1888. After his death in 1925 his wife Annie M. (nee Musson) is listed at this address through 1948. It may be assumed she lived here until her death in 1954 (she is buried at Westwood). Charles and Annie Payne had two children, William Clarence (b. 1906) and Florence (b. 1908). William Clarence Payne married Jeannette (nee Van Amburgh) in 1833. He worked as a time keeper and as a clerk at General Industries in Elyria. Clarence and Jeannette lived at this house for a short time (in 1933 they are listed here). They shared the house with Clarence's mother, Annie, and his sister, Florence. As Annie Payne continued to live here, from 1937-1948 she is listed sharing the house with Mr. Harry Edward 'Bill' Morgan, Jr. and his wife, Florence. It is possible that Florence Morgan is Annie's daughter, Florence Payne. Harry Morgan was born in 1907, was an alumnus of Oberlin High School, and worked as a mail carrier for the US Post Office, and continued to work as the director of the mail room and graphic services at Oberlin College during his retirement. He had two children with his wife, Florence, and lived at this house very close to his death in 1990. Harry and Florence's sons were Larry and Keith. Harry and Florence were greatly involved in the Oberlin community and belonged to the First United Methodist Church, the Knights of Pythias, the Pythian Sisters, as well as El Doce Card Club. At one point he was chosen as the vice president of local postal workers in the 1940s. Florence was deeply involved in the Pythian Sisters, and served several notable positions in the organization, including that of manager, press correspondent, president, and sunshine committee member. Some of the events she organized included a Valentine party, a sleigh ride, a pot luck, and many installment ceremonies. The installment ceremonies were a big event in Oberlin, and at least one was a formal occasion in which the women wore blue lace gowns. In addition to her responsibilities with the Pythian Sisters, Florence served on the Red Cross during World War II, and was active in her children's education by attending PTA meetings at Pleasant School and acting as a room mother. Harry Morgan died in 1990 but continued to be listed here through 1999, presumably because Florence continued to live here until her own death in the late 1990s. In the 1990s ownership of the house changed hands between Florence Edna Morgan, her son, Larry Morgan, and Miriam V. Kazar. Ms. Kazar owned the house until 2006 when it was sold to Laura L. Jones and Gary Williams, who also in 2006 transferred ownership to James Neal Fox. As of 2009 Fox is not listed in city phone books as living at this property.