**Tristan Carrier House**

**197 North Main**

**6. Specific Address or Location**
197 North Main

**6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number**
0900076101022

**7. City or Village**
Oberlin

**8. County**
Lorain

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

**10. Classification:** Building

**11. On National Register?** NO

**12. Alteration?** YES

**13. Part of Established Hist. Dist?** NO

**14. Alteration Date(s)**
ca. 1902

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

**16. Thematic Associations:**
PRIVATE/College

**Library**

**Social/Fraternial Organizations**

**17. Date(s) of Period**
ca. 1902

**18. Style Class and Design**
No academic style - Vernacular

**Element**
Colonial Revival

**19a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)**

**19b. Architect or Engineer**

**20. Design Sources**

**21. Building Type or Plan**
Four-over-Four

**22. Original Use, if apparent**
Single Dwelling

**23. Present Use**
Single Dwelling

**24. Ownership**
Private

**25. Owner's Name & Address, if known**
Tristan J. Carrier
197 North Main St.
Oberlin, OH 44074

**26. Property Acreage**
unknown

**27. Other Surveys**

**28. No. of Stories**
Two story

**29. Basement?**
Yes

**30. Foundation Material**
Stone bearing

**31. Wall Construction**
Balloon/western/platform frame

**32. Roof Type**
Hip

**33. Roof Material**
Asphalt shingle

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

**35. Plan Shape**
Rectangular

**36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates:**
- Original/Most significant construct
- Substantial alteration/addition

**37. Window Type(s)**
1 over 1

**38. Building Dimensions**
32' x 72'

**39. Endangered?** NO

**By What?**

**40. Chimney Placement**
Center

**41. Distance from & Frontage on Road**
25 - 30'

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

This vernacular house exhibits stylistic traits that hint at Colonial Revival influences. The west (front) elevation has three windows, all with the top sash markedly smaller than the bottom one, on each story; those on the second story are evenly-spaced 1/1 double hung windows, while the first story has only one true 1/1 double hung window, to the left of the door. The other two windows on the first story are located to the right of the door and are 1/1 double hung with the top pane surrounded by small square pieces of stained glass separated by muntins. The door is located left of center and is recessed behind two one-story-high simple square pilasters. The door is flanked with sidelights, each composed of four glass panes placed above the wooden panel. The storm and screen doors both appear to be original. The storm door is of wood, with a large rectangular cut-out window dipping slightly below the door's midway point. The screen door is also wood and has a similar, but slightly larger, rectangular cut-out filled with the screen, and it has three narrow wooden strips that run horizontally across the cut-out region about two-thirds of the way up the door. The continued...

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

A house has been listed at this address since 1873, although the current house has Colonial Revival elements that indicate it may have been built ca. 1900. C. L. Curtis, an agent for pianos and organs, resided here in 1873 with Angeline L. and W. O. Curtis, presumably family members. Mrs. A. B. Fitch also lived here that year (at this time the address was listed as 51 North Main). In 1877 P. J. Smith, clerk, lived here. In 1883 Mrs. Sarah Harris and her son, William, are listed here. Sarah had four other children (Edward, Graham, Hiram, and Sarah), but they are not listed in the city directory. Mrs. Harris and son are only listed here in 1883. The next available city directory from 1886 to 1887 lists Elwood Austin as the resident (also listed as 'Edward'). Elwood was born in 1857 in continued...

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

There is a non-historic garage associated with this house, which is located on a residential portion of North Main Street, a busy thoroughfare in Oberlin.

**45. Sources of Information**

1. No. LOR-02068-21

2. County Lorain

4. Present Name(s) Tristan Carrier House

5. Historic or Other Name(s) Dresser-May House

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

N

N, Main

Walnut

54. Farmstead Plan:

Door Selection: Single off center

Door Position: Recessed

Orientation: Other

Symmetry: Bilateral asymmetry

Report Associated With Project:

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

The porch covers the first story of this elevation and has a low-pitch shed roof with a plain wide frieze board with a molded cornice, and aligned with the door, a pediment. The porch stairs, of poured concrete with metal handrails, are also placed directly in front of the door. The porch has a wooden floor, wooden solid horizontal railings, and square columns supporting the porch roof at the corners, on both sides of the stairs, and where the porch joins the wall. The area under the porch is filled with latticework. The northern elevation has three bays in the original segment, and one in the one-story rear addition. The three windows, all 1/1 double hung, on the first story in the original section of the house, are all located near its rear; the windows on the second story, also all 1/1 double hung, are more evenly distributed, with one at the front and one at rear. The wall flares at the juncture between the first and second stories, and a stringcourse is present but somewhat obscured because of the current surface treatment. The stringcourse extends onto the front porch just below its entablature, and may encircle the entire porch (west elevation obscured by gutter). Behind the original section of the house is a one-story front gabled addition, with wooden double doors on its north elevation. The foundation is slightly different but appears to be historic. The addition has one 1/1 double hung window, and another window that has been covered with clapboard. The southern elevation has two bays in the original segment of the house, each comprising two 1/1 double hung windows in the first story and a single 1/1 double hung window in the first story. Behind this element is a porch, probably original, in the recessed area between the gabled rear element and the house. The porch has some ornamental carving and appears to be original to the house.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

Ohio and married Orabelle H. (also seen as ‘Arabella’) nee Brown in 1879. In previous directories Elwood was listed as a farmer. He is not listed at this residence after 1887, but his wife is listed here through 1890. She probably lived here until her death in 1892. Orabelle attended the Oberlin College Preparatory School and lived here with her son, George Bovard Palmer, from a previous marriage. George is listed here in the 1890 city directory. Orabelle also shared the house with Nancy E. Brown. Since Orabelle’s maiden name was Brown, it is possible Nancy was a relative. In 1890 an E. M. Anderson was also in the house. Nancy Brown lived here through 1900, when she died. In 1894 Dr. John Austin and his wife Sarah Elizabeth (nee Bedortha) lived in the house with Nancy Brown. How these Austins were related to Edward Austin is unclear. During Nancy’s residency, she was accompanied by William Emil Hagy in 1895-96, a student at Oberlin College who may have also lived with his wife Ellen Kinsey. E. Pearl Austin and Ella Austin were both residents from 1894-1897. They may have been related to Nancy Brown and Orabelle Austin. Pearl and Ella’s cousin, Lydia A. Rice (nee Brown), another likely relative, also lived here from 1894-1900. Lydia attended the Oberlin College Preparatory School from 1859-1863. She was the widow of two husbands, William Townsend (d. 1867, the same year they were married) and Peter J. Rice (d. 1889, after 17 years of marriage). She died in 1928 and is buried at Westwood Cemetery in Oberlin. No one is listed at this address in 1902. The next known occupants of the house were Rufus Cushman Dresser and Marion F. Buell in 1904. Rufus was from Goshen, MA and studied at the Oberlin College Preparatory School from 1849-1851. They had a son named Howard Dresser, but he is not listed at this residence. The next known residents of the house were Adaline (or Adelaide) Dye, the widow of Henry S. Dye. The Dyes are listed at this house between 1908 and 1910. Adaline was born in 1836 in Ohio and died in 1923; she is buried at Westwood Cemetery. Marion worked as a clerk and as a saleslady of dry goods, and at one time she worked at E. P. Johnson dry goods. Alonzo C. and Mary Packard were also listed in the house in 1908. By then Alonzo was a retired farmer. He was born in Ohio in 1837, and married Mary C. in 1868 (she was born in 1841). The couple had two children, Lois Winnifred (b. 1871) and Mary Gertrude (b. 1879). By 1916, the residents were Mrs. E. C. and Clara Leonard, and the Orlen Chipman May family. Orlen May appears to have lived here nearly until his death at Welcome Nursing Home in 1957. Orlen worked as a newspaper printer and a foreman and superintendent of the Oberlin News/Oberlin Printing Company. He also received a 25-year veteran jewel from the Oddfellows in December of 1924. He was married to Lena M. nee Chapman; b. 1876. Lena was a chaplain for the Vine Rebekah Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. She appears to have lived here until her death in 1949. She is buried at Westwood Cemetery. Orlen and Lena had three children, Catherine Fern (b. 1902), Gordon Chapman (b. 1904) and Beulah Harriet (b. 1908). Beulah remained at this house for many years, near to her death in 1995. Beulah attended Oberlin High School and Oberlin College before receiving her degree in library science from Western Reserve University. She worked as a librarian for almost 30 years before retiring in the early 1970s. She continued to volunteer her time at the library during retirement and at the Allen Memorial Hospital gift shop. She was a member of many organizations such as the Northeast Ohio Educators Association, the Oberlin Ohio Educators Association, the Literary and Social Club, the Pinochle Club, and was an active member at First United Methodist Church’s Naomi Circle. She also had a foster son, Paul Rimelspach. After Beulah’s death, the property was sold to David A. Cornicelli between 1995 and 1997. In 1999, David Cornicelli sold the property to Stephan Jost, who sold it to Tristan Carrier in 2001. Tristan Carrier is the current owner and resident.

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

45. Sources (Con’t)