This address was originally 21 South Water when it was built in the early 1870s. The first listed resident is John M. Gardner, a druggist who owned a drugstore called J. M. Gardner and Co. In October of 1907 Gardner, along with several other druggists, was accused of breaking the Beal law, which put heavy restrictions on medicines containing alcohol. Gardner admitted he had broken the law, but the transgression was not serious and the fines were suspended on good behavior. Gardner was never married. Edward and S. H. Davis, a clerk, are listed as living with Gardner. Mrs. H. R. Reckerd is the next resident to move into the house, and she occupied it between the years of 1886 and 1887. By 1890 Miss Ella F. Brown, a librarian at the Oberlin Conservatory, was the occupant. She was quickly continued...

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52) This house is located on a residential street without much traffic. A modern two-car garage stands on the rear left of the lot.

45. Sources of Information
8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan:

- Door Selection: Corner
- Door Position: Flush
- Orientation: Gable dominant with lateral smaller extension
- Symmetry: Bilateral symmetry

Report Associated With Project:

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

with six lights, which are probably original. The south elevation has a 1/1 double hung window in each story at the right. The window in the first story is visibly smaller than the original frame, suggesting a replacement. Further to the rear, the small one-story wing contains one 1/1 double hung window facing south.

43. History and Significance (Con’t)

replaced in 1891 by the Pittenger family, which consisted of M. A., and her sons William and Lou. Mrs. F. B. Boyd and her daughter May shared the house with the Pittengers. In 1894, the occupant is listed as Fred A. Regal and his wife Elsie. Fred earned his living as a stationary engineer. By late 1894 the house was vacant. In 1895 the Wiers family had moved in. The man of the house, George, was a carriage maker. He had several children with his wife Agnes. One of their children, Frankie, would cause a big scandal in Oberlin in 1909 when she eloped from her husband with the hired help. By 1897, the Wiers had left the house and Milo Davis and his family had moved in. Davis earned a living by working as a plumber, tinner, steamfitter, and as an employee of the Oberlin Gas and Electric Company. Davis was a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security, a mutual benefit fraternal organization that promoted temperance and disapproved of drugs and crime. He had a wife named Flora and a son named Everett, who was a driver for the US Express Company. For the years 1899 to 1900, Flora's mother, Mrs. Jane Fish, lived with the Davis family. The Davis family occupied the house until 1920. The next listed resident in 1929 is Clarence H. Bowman, an African American who made a living as painter, laborer, delivery man, and janitor. Also living with him were his wife Annabel and their five children. By 1933 the Bowman family had been replaced by Charles A. Jones, a chauffer, and his wife Jennie. In 1937 Mrs. Roberta Sadler, her daughter Lottie (Charlotte), and Miss Belle, a maid, had taken over the house. Roberta worked with the WPA sewing center. By 1942, the Suttions, an African American family from Kentucky, moved in. Albert W. Sutton worked at a tile manufactory in New London, as did his son John H. - his wife Geneva and daughter Minnie Carolyn worked as cooks, and his daughter Azalia as a domestic. In 1948 Azalia, her brother John, then a truck diver for Oberlin Trucking Company, and their mother Geneva Sutton, by then widowed, resided here. By 1961 Albert Halloway, a supervisor at a detention home, and his wife Deloris, along with the widow Mrs. Asuncion Board, were also occupying the house. In 1970 Ken Templeton, a student, occupied the house. The current owner, who has owned the house since 1993, is Craig Thodt. Thodt is a 1981 OHS graduate.

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

45. Sources (Con’t)

Oberlin News, 17 Feb. 1899, p. 1, col. 5.; 'Druggists Will Fight,' The Oberlin News, 15 Oct. 1907, p. 6, col. 4.; 'Fines are suspended in three of the Beal Law Cases,' The Oberlin News, 12 Nov. 1907, p. 4, col. 3.;