This vernacular side hallway includes a full front porch at its front/west facade that wraps to the part of the south elevation. The porch is likely not original to the house, though it is still historic, as it is a Craftsman style porch. The porch extends out from the house to the right. The perimeter of the porch is surrounded by a wood shingle half-wall and battered columns sit on top of the wall. Lattice is below the porch and wood steps with a metal railing lead up to the porch. A gable juts out from the hip roof of the porch to mark the entry. The exterior brick chimney cuts through the center of the gable. The chimney has square windows to its right at the first and second stories. A smaller 1/1 double hung window is to the right. At the second story, two 1/1 double hung replacement windows have historic shutters. The far right side of the elevation is set back within the porch and has another door. At the north elevation, an exterior brick chimney cuts through the center of the gable. The chimney has square windows to its right at the first and second stories. Left of the chimney, a square window is in the first story of the continued...

This house was built at least by 1873 when Riland L. Reeves, an African American shoemaker, was listed as living here. He is unknown if his wife Georgianna (nee Adams) or any of their children lived here: Augusta, Joseph, Lorin, Georgianna, Charles, Riland, Jr. The next family to occupy this house did so for many years, beginning in 1883. Jacob J. Berg (b. 1851, Germany; d. 1944, Oberlin) had come to the United States as a child and in 1879 he married Fannie M. (nee Reeve; b. 1861, OH; d. 1929, Oberlin). They lived in Russia Township, outside of Oberlin, for a brief time before moving to this house. Jacob was an apprenticed carpenter, working at one time for A. B. Chase Organ Company in Norwalk, where he was a finisher for organ cases. He worked around town on various projects and was continued...

This house has no outbuildings and is located on a residential street, and is across from the back side of Langston Middle School.
1. No. LOR-02079-21
2. County Lorain
3. Site Plan with North Arrow
4. Present Name(s) Woods House
5. Historic or Other Name(s) Reeves-Berg-Clark House

Report Associated With Project:
NADB #: 

54. Farmstead Plan:

Door Selection:
Two doors asymmetrical

Door Position:
Flush

Orientation:
Lateral axis with lateral smaller extension

Symmetry:
Bilateral asymmetry
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con’t)

north-facing gabled section. Set back from the gabled section, at the second story, a 1/1 window is double hung. A one-story addition at the far left has a hip roof and a 1/1 double hung window. The south elevation includes a one-story portion that projects out from the main body of the house, but shares a roofline with the front porch. This one-story projecting section has a square window at the left and a pair of square windows at the right. The second story, in the south-facing gable, has a 1/1 window with non-historic shutters.

43. History and Significance (Con’t)

known to be a skilled wood carver. He was interested in the local weather and kept a diary of records for sixty years, which gained attention in the local newspapers. He was also a member of the Odd Fellow Lodge and the Vine Rebekah Lodge. Jacob and Fannie remained in this house until their deaths. Jacob and Fannie had two daughters: Alma E. (b. 1881) and Orra E. (b. 1885). In the 1910 census, Orra was identified as a stenographer. In 1912 Orra married Charles Jacob Clark (b. 1881, WV; d. 1947, Oberlin) and they took up residence in this house with Orra's parents. Charles was a Spanish-American War veteran and later became the commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in 1922. He worked as an automobile mechanic and ran his own repair shop on N. Pleasant before becoming a police officer. He worked as the village night watchman and then transferred to Oberlin College, where he also worked as a night watchman and the police foreman. Charles made news while employed at the college because he spent many years collecting state sales tax stamps around town, which he assembled into a charitable donation for the Gates Memorial Hospital in Elyria to finish new rooms for children. He was also a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge. In 1930, a composition written by Orra entitled My Desert Lily made news when it was broadcast on the radio. Orra remained in this house after her husband's death and through 1970. In 1970, she shared part of the house (as 129 ½ N. Pleasant) with Stewart Edelstein who was an employee at US Steel; he was also a student at Oberlin College. By 1973, neither Orra Clark or Stewart Edelstein were listed at this address. In that year Ernest Swartz, an employee of the college, lived here. Clifford Sumpter lived here from at least 1979 to 2003 and Michael Sumpter was listed from 2004 to 2006. According to the county auditor, Leona M. Woods has been the owner since 1995.

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

45. Sources (Con’t)