**OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY**

- **Historic or Other Name(s):** Persons House, Van Deren House, Wilkinson House, Harding House, Marts House, Hart House, Thompson House

- **Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52):**
  - The front yard is full of rosebushes, and a driveway from Union Street leads to a two-car garage in the backyard, topped by a weathervane.

- **History and Significance:**
  - Edward Rutheven Persons and his daughter, Ida Della, who had attended the Oberlin Conservatory, lived here from 1890 until Edward’s death in 1896 (City Directories, Holsworth). Later that year, Ida married B. Royal Cheney and moved to Beloit, Wisconsin. Edwin shared the house with A. C. and Mary Van Deren from 1894 through 1896 while Van Deren and Persons were in business together selling jewelry and cutlery. In 1899, Samuel H. Wilkinson lived here. He had founded Wilkinson and Watson Hardware in 1894 with M. J. Watson, and the store is still open today, as Watson’s Hardware. Samuel lived here (cont.)

- **Sources of Information:**
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

43. History and Significance (Continued from page 1.)

with his brother, W. H., his sister, Belle, and Samuel’s son Emilio Valenzuela Wilkinson, who was a student at the Oberlin Academy and went on to attend the College before going to Akron to become a traveling salesman for the B.F. Goodrich Co. Samuel’s daughter, Anna Marina, also lived in the house with her husband, Charles Clifton Beckwith. Charles Beckwith had attended the Oberlin Conservatory and later worked as a bookkeeper (Holsworth). After Samuel Wilkinson’s death in 1900, Reverend P. E. Harding lived here in 1902, followed by Reverend William G. and Irene A. Marts from 1908 through 1910. Bert S. Hart lived here from 1927 until 1942. Mrs. Agnes Thompson lived here from 1942 through 1961 with her son, James (City Directories).