63 Spring St

17

398793

4571417

Oberlin

Building

18. Style Class and Design

No academic style - Vernacular

19. Architect or Engineer

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This vernacular, Upright and Wing has been altered by additions. The front (west) facade features replacement windows. In the upright portion, there are two 1/1 windows at the first and second stories. A shorter, front-facing gable near the center of the elevation contains the recessed entry, and the wood and glass door. A square post sits at the corner of the small porch. Brick steps with cement caps lead up to the porch, and one of the metal railings has become detached. Left of the door, the two 1/1 windows have been replaced. A vent is situated in the top of the gable. To the far left of the facade, a wing that extends out has a wide window with shutters. The north elevation includes the wing, which has a north-facing gabled end with a horizontally sliding window with shutters and a vent in the gable. To the far right, there is a 1/1 window. The south elevation has one 1/1 replaced window with shutters at the far right side of the first story. The basement windows are original.

This house was constructed between 1860 and 1873, when the first known residents, the Chapmans, moved in. Mrs. A. E. Chapman worked as a dressmaker, and while no occupation is shown for Mr. D. W. Chapman in 1873, the 1877 directory indicates he was a carpenter; however it also shows him living on Groveland St. In 1875 L B Pettis, a jewelry store owner, sold this house to S. Snyius. S. Snyius likely rented this home in 1877 to Jennie Smith, the widow of Phillip Smith, a photography artist. In 1880 the house was bought back by Mr. Pettis who then sold it to Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Smith continued to reside here through 1883, with two of her children, Leota and Eugene. By 1886 John Butler, a tailor, and his wife moved into the house along with their children. Mrs. Butler died in 1888. By 1890 Samuel continued...
1. No. LOR-01990-21
2. County Lorain
3. Present Name(s) Rental Property
4. Historic or Other Name(s) Chapman-Powers House

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan:

- Door Selection: Single centered
- Door Position: Protruding
- Orientation: Gable dominant with lateral smaller extension
- Symmetry: Bilateral asymmetry

Report Associated With Project:
NADB #: 
Ethelbert Powers, a blacksmith and Civil War veteran, began a thirty year occupancy of the house. Samuel E. resided here with his wife Lucy Van Ness Powers, a former OC student, and his children: Ira, also a blacksmith, George Van Ness, William Ethelbert, and George. Samuel E.'s daughter-in-law Elida Powers, Ira's wife, also lived here in 1890, and around that year, Ira and Elida had a daughter, Lucy Powers. In 1892 George Powers married Mary J. Hecock. They had a son, Samuel L, in 1893. By 1894 William Powers worked as a plumber and George Powers was working as a painter, plumber and steamfitter. A woman named Stella Behner was also listed at this address in the city directory that year. In 1896 Ira's daughter Lucy passed away from croup, and George Powers had a daughter, Loretta Elizabeth. Ira and his family moved out of this house that year as well. By 1897 Milton S. Behner, a teamster, was listed at this address as well, along with his wife Stella. In 1900 George's daughter Mable, born in 1897, passed away - he had three more children during his residency in this house, George A. (1899), Frank T. (1904), and Kenneth Van Ness (1909). Samuel A. married Ada in 1905 and had two daughters, Edith and Anne, before he left this house in 1910 - George and his family had moved on by 1909. By 1910 Samuel E. Powers, then retired, and wife Lucy had a nearly empty nest - the only child left was Pearl Dale, by far the youngest, born in 1903. In 1913 Lucy published the first of a number of poems in the Oberlin News. The first such poem was about solders camping at Washington in the Civil War. In 1914 she published a poem in memoriam to an important doctor in Oberlin, W. C. Bunce. That year she also published a poem in support of prohibition. In 1918 Lucy published yet another poem, this one detailing the life of an African American woman who recently passed away. The Powers residency seems to have ended sometime between 1920 and 1927 - by that year, Guy J. Munger, a salesman, had moved in with his wife Mildred. In 1931 the Mungers had a son. By 1933 Maynard Gott, a janitor and future labor leader at OC, and his wife Ruth were the occupants. By 1935 Clayton and Alice Hoffner moved in. Clayton worked as a projectionist at the Apollo Theater and the couple had two children. Clayton Hoffner likely moved out of the house between 1944 and 1948 when the directory lists the house as vacant. By 1956 Jay Gallion from the City Light Department, wife Lucy and three children resided here. By 1973 Maynard Gott, a janitor and future labor leader at OC, and his wife Ruth were the occupants. By 1970 Leona Bristow took up residence here, moving out by 1973. The 1973 directory lists Rev. Charles B Mayle, an African American from the Christian Missionary Alliance, at this address. He served as Pastor for that church from 1976 until 2002 when he retired. Around 2000 David L Payne Jr. bought the home from Rev. Mayle. In December, 2006 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development purchased the home. Currently the house is listed for sale.