### Ohio Historic Inventory

**No.** LOR-01997-21  
**County** Lorain  
**Address:** 65 E Vine St  
**Present Name(s):** Rental Property  
**Historic or Other Name(s):** Johnson House  

#### 6. Specific Address or Location
- **Address:** 65 E Vine St  
- **Lot, Section, or VMD Number:** 900086103016  
- **City or Village:** Oberlin  
- **U.T.M. Reference:** 17 398228 4571295  

#### 10. Classification: Building  
- **On National Register?** NO  

#### 11. Part of Established Hist. Dist? NO  

#### 15. Other Designation (NR or Local)  
- **Historic District Name:** None  
- **NR or Local Designation:** None  

#### 16. Thematic Associations:  
- **African American**  
- **World War II**  

#### 17. Date(s) or Period:  
- **c. 1920s**  
- **Alteration Date(s):**  

#### 18. Style Class and Design  
- **Element:** Craftsman/Arts and Crafts  
- **Roof Type:** Gable  
- **Asphalt shingle**  

#### 19. Architect or Engineer  

#### 20. Contractor or Builder  

#### 21. Building Type or Plan  
- **Single Dwelling**  

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

#### 23. Present Use  
- **Single Dwelling**  

#### 25. Owner's Name & Address, if known  

#### 26. Property Acreage  
- **0.15 acres**  

#### 27. Other Surveys  

#### 28. No. of Stories  
- **One and a half story**  

#### 29. Basement? YES  

#### 30. Foundation Material  
- **Stone bearing**  

#### 31. Wall Construction  
- **Balloon/Platform frame**  

#### 32. Roof Material  

#### 33. No. of Bays  
- **2 Side Bays**  

#### 34. Exterior Wall Material(s)  
- **Aluminum or vinyl siding**  

#### 35. Plan Shape Square  

#### 36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates:  
- **Original/Most significant construction:** 17b  

#### 37. Window Type(s)  
- **8 over 1**  
- **2 over 2**  

#### 38. Building Dimensions  
- **26' x 40'**  

#### 39. Endangered? NO  
- **By What?**  

#### 40. Chimney Placement  
- **Gable end, exterior**  

#### 41. Distance from & Frontage on Road  
- **15'**  

#### 42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features  
- **This Craftsman Bungalow features a full front porch at the north facade. The porch is recessed below the roof, and has an altered (c. 1960) door at the right. 2/2 windows and shutters flank a large window left of the door. The porch has square supports and a wall around the perimeter of the house with vinyl siding. Cement steps and a brick wall lead up to the porch. The brick wall has stone caps and a metal railing. A wide, shed dormer in the roof has two pairs of 1/1 windows. The east elevation has an exterior chimney near its right side, and a small, square window, with four lights, flanks it. To the left of the chimney, there is an 8/1 window. At the far left, in an addition, there is a 1/1 replacement window. The second story has two original 8/1 windows. At this elevation, the original basement windows are visible, yet the original foundation has been covered in a plastic, faux-brick siding. The original foundation appears to be rock-faced stone. The west elevation has a door at ground level, near the center. The door is solid, and has been replaced. A rectangular window is set high in the wall at the left side of the first story and it has six lights. A continued...**  

#### 43. History and Significance  
- **A house constructed sometime in the 1860s or 1870s formerly stood on this site, and was the longtime home of Merwin Samuel Spencer and his wife Margaret. It is unclear from city directory records when the current bungalow replaced that former structure - it could have been between Merwin Spencer's death in 1912 and the occupancy of the next family listed at this address, the Johnsons, who lived here by 1916, or the house could have been rebuilt sometime during the residency of the Johnsons, which ended in 1933. Frank F Johnson was a laborer and painter; he resided here with his wife Mayme and their three children, Harold, Janis and Margina, all future OHS and OC graduates. By 1935 the Johnson family left and Mrs. Geneva Tuck, an African American, and her daughter Danginiara, moved in. continued...**  

#### 44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings  
- **Outbuildings: None. The 1922 Sanborn shows a small garage once sat at the south side of the lot. However, this structure no longer exists. This house is located on a corner lot, with neighboring residences. A public park, Martin Luther King, Jr. park is across the street, and a church is kitty-corner from the house.**  

#### 45. Sources of Information  

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**Prepared By:** Patricia Murphy  
**Organization:** Oberlin Heritage Center  
**Date Recorded:** 06/23/2007  
**PIR Reviewer:** RLK  
**PIR Review Date:** 06/09/2008
1. No. 2. County 4. Present Name(s) 5. Historic or Other Name(s) 7. Rental Property Lorain Johnson House

8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan:

- Door Selection: Single off center
- Door Position: Recessed
- Orientation: Lateral axis
- Symmetry: Bilateral asymmetry

Report Associated With Project:

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

A pair of 1/1 windows is right of the door. At the second story, a 6/6 window is near the center. The far right side of the second story has a 9/1 window, which is set higher than the other window. An addition (at the far right) is set back from the main body of the house and has a 1/1 vinyl, replacement window. The rear (south) elevation includes an enclosed porch (it may instead be an addition). The 1922 Sanborn map shows a section of the house here, and does not indicate that this was a porch. This enclosure has a historic wood door at the right, with a window in its upper half and filled panels below. A modern screen door covers the door, and a cement step with small metal railings lead up to the door. To the far left and center of the enclosed portion, there are two pairs of square, awning windows. The second story has an original, small shed dormer at the right with two square, awning windows. According to Sanborn maps, a different, larger house was once located on this lot until at least 1911, however, by 1922, the current house was built on this lot.

43. History and Significance (Con't)

While records from 1929 and 1930 indicate that Geneva was married to Archibald R. Tuck, he remarried in 1937 and is not listed in the directory at this address, making it likely that the couple divorced just prior to Geneva's occupation of this house. By 1937, Warren S. Shaw, a mail carrier, Portia Shaw and their three children Laura J., Warren S. Jr., and Allen E. resided here. According to records, Warren Sr. sued for divorce in 1931, but city directories indicate that they continued to live together long afterwards - or, perhaps, that the house was still listed in Warren's name, though he lived elsewhere. By 1939 Franklin Hatter, an African American cook turned laborer, moved here with Jeanne, his wife, and their two children. In 1943 Mr. Hatter was drafted into the Navy to fight in World War II. That same year Jeanne divorced Mr. Hatter. In early 1944 Jeanne purchased a home on South Pleasant St., thereby leaving the house. It is unclear when Franklin Hatter moved out; the 1944 directory lists no residents at the address. The Robinsons resided here: John, a foreman for All Am Co., Evelyn, and their child. By 1956 Leeother Johnson, a manager with National Tube, moved in along with his wife Azalia E, living here at least through 1961. By 1970 Mrs. Mable Thompson had moved into the house. She continued to live here until 1989. In 1993 the current owners Alfred and Dzidra Cecil purchased the home, although their residence is in Wakeman, OH. The current residents, Claude and Mrs. Spence, have lived in the home since around 1998.

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

45. Sources (Con't)