

Raleigh Department of City Planning
One Exchange Plaza
3rd floor
Raleigh, NC 27602
919-516-2626

www.raleighnc.gov/planning

Fee	_____
Amt Paid	_____
Check #	_____
Rec'd Date:	<u>5.22.12</u>
Rec'd By:	<u>TGT</u>
Completion Date:	_____

(Processing Fee: \$266.00 - valid until June 30, 2011 - Checks payable to the City of Raleigh.)

RALEIGH HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION APPLICATION

This application initiates consideration of a property for designation as a Raleigh Historic Landmark by the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission (RHDC) and the Raleigh City Council. It enables evaluation of the resource to determine if it qualifies for designation. The evaluation is made by the Research Committee of the RHDC, which makes its recommendation to the full commission which in turn makes its recommendation to the City Council. Procedures for administration by the RHDC are outlined in the Raleigh City Code, Section 10-1053.

Please type if possible. Use 8-1/2" x 11" paper for supporting documentation and if additional space is needed. All materials submitted become the property of the RHDC and cannot be returned. Return completed application to the RHDC office at One Exchange Plaza, Suite 300, Raleigh or mail to:

Raleigh Historic Districts Commission
PO Box 829 Century Station
Raleigh, NC 27602

1. Name of Property (if historic name is unknown, give current name or street address):

Historic Name: Oberlin Cemetery
Current Name: same

2. Location:

Street Address: rear of Interact, 1012 Oberlin Rd, Raleigh 27607
NC PIN No.: 1704153164
(Can be obtained from <http://imaps.co.wake.nc.us/imaps/>)

3. Legal Owner of Property (If more than one, list primary contact):

Name: people of Oberlin Village, individual plot owners
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone No: () () - () Fax No. () () - ()
E-Mail: _____

4. Applicant/Contact Person (If other than owner):

Name: M. Ruth Little Longleaf Historic Resources
Address: 2312 Bedford Ave
City: Raleigh State: NC Zip: 27607
Telephone No: (919) (412) - (7804) Fax No. () () - ()
E-Mail: mruthlittle@gmail.com

5. General Data/Site Information:

Date of Construction and major additions/alterations:

1873, ca. 1920

Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings:

N/A

Approximate lot size or acreage:

2.93 acres

Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason:

Original Use:

Cemetery

Present Use:

Cemetery

6. Classification:

A. Category (check all that apply):

Building(s) Structure Object Site

B. Ownership

Private
 Public Local State Federal

C. Number of contributing and non-contributing resources on the property :

	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings	- 0 -	- 0 -
Structures	- 0 -	- 0 -
Objects	13	(post 197)

D. Previous field documentation (when and by whom):

1940 Graves Index - Historical Records Survey of N.C. (WPA)
 1994 Daniels Middle School student survey project
 1996-2001 Jennifer Hallman survey

E. National Register of Historic Places Status:

Check One:

Entered <input type="checkbox"/> Date:	Nominated <input type="checkbox"/>
Determined Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Date:	Determined Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Date:
Nomination Not Requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Removed <input type="checkbox"/> Date:
Significant changes in integrity since listing should be noted in section 10.B. below.	

7. Reason for Request: *The Oberlin Community wishes to have city recognition of the historical significance of Oberlin Cemetery*

8. Is the property income producing? Yes No

9. Are any interior spaces being included for designation? Yes No N/A

10. Supporting Documentation (Attach to application on separate sheets. Please type or print):

A. Photographs/Slides:

At least *two sets of current exterior archival-grade photographic prints* (minimum print size 5"x7") of all facades of the building and at least one photo of all other contributing and non-contributing resources. If interior spaces of the property are being considered for designation, please include two sets of photos for these features. Prints may be created by using archival-grade black and white film photography and processing or digital photography. The minimum standard for a digital print is 5x7 at a resolution of 300 pixels per inch (ppi). This translates into a pixel dimension of 1950 x 1350. Digital images must be printed with an acceptable ink and paper combination as determined by the National Park Service Go to: <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/photopolicy/index.htm>. All photographs must be labeled with the name of the structure, address and date the photograph was taken with pencil or archival-approved photo pen. In addition to prints, all digital images should be submitted on a CD-R in TIF format. Any additional exterior or interior views and views of other structures on the property (color, black and white, or slides) will be helpful.

B. Boundary Map:

Please include a map showing the location of the property. A sketch map is acceptable, but please note street names and number. Any other structures on the property should also be shown. Please include a "North" arrow. Map should be no larger than 11" x 17". A tax map with boundaries marked is preferred, which can be found at: <http://imaps.co.wake.nc.us/imaps/>.

C. Architectural Significance:

Describe the property, including exterior architectural features, additions, remodelings, and alterations. Also describe significant outbuildings and landscape features. If the owner is including interior features in the nomination for the purpose of design review protection; describe them in detail and note their locations. Include a statement regarding the architectural significance of the property.

D. Historic Significance:

Note any significant events, people, and/or families associated with the property. Include all major owners. Note if the property has ever been recorded during a historic building survey by the City of Raleigh or by the NC State Historic Preservation Office. If so, who and when? (See application item 6.D.) Please include a bibliography of sources. Information regarding prior designations can be found by contacting the Survey and Planning Branch of the NC State Historic Preservation Office (NCSHPO) at 919-807-6570, 919-807-6573 or at: <http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us/sbranch.htm>.

E. Special Significance Summary:

Include a one to two paragraph summary of those elements of the property that are integral to its historical, prehistorical, architectural, archaeological, and/or cultural importance.



Oberlin Cemetery, view of central section. Photo by M. Ruth Little, 2012

Raleigh Historic Landmark Designation Application for Oberlin Cemetery

1014 Oberlin Road

Raleigh, N.C. 27607

prepared for

Friends of Oberlin Cemetery

by M. Ruth Little, Longleaf Historic Resources, Raleigh, N.C.

May 2012

minor edits by RHDC staff November 2012

- A. Photographs: enclosed**
- B. Boundary Map: enclosed**
- C. Physical Description**

Oberlin Cemetery is a 2.93-acre cemetery owned by the people of Oberlin Village since 1873. Few people outside of Oberlin Village are aware of its existence because it is hidden behind large buildings in the center of a triangular area bounded by Oberlin Road, Wade Avenue, and Daniels Street. The rectangular tract is accessed by a private driveway at the north side of Interact, formerly the YWCA, built about 1970 at 1012 Oberlin Road opposite the intersection of Mayview Road. The cemetery is bounded along the front (west) border by the paved parking lot to the rear of the Interact building. A metal fence marks the north border bounding Oberlin Court, an apartment development on Oberlin Road; a chain link fence marks the rear (east) border with the Occidental Building property (now TradeMark Properties) on Wade Avenue; and a chain link fence marks the south border shared with Cameron Village Apartments on Daniels Street. The cemetery measures approximately 320 feet along the west and east and 450 feet along the north and south borders. The Cameron Village apartments and the Occidental Building were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s; Oberlin Court was built about 2001. It seems unusual that the cemetery has no street frontage, but when it was established in 1873, Oberlin Road frontage was likely a more appropriate location for residences, institutions, and shops than for a cemetery. Also, African American cemeteries tended to be more private and less visible than white cemeteries.

The cemetery's appearance is that of a quiet, heavily wooded, rural cemetery dominated by a tree canopy. There is no known plat map for the original Oberlin Cemetery, although it is obviously divided into family plots laid out in a grid plan. Some are marked on the ground by stone, brick, or concrete borders, while some are unmarked. There are narrow walkways between some of the rows, while others abut one another. All graves are oriented east-west in the Christian tradition. The cemetery appears to be eleven plots wide, with about twenty rows of plots from front to rear. Family plots are generally 17 x 17 or 18 x 18 feet square. A few plots are larger, such as the 18 x 33 feet Dunston plot (markers 2 – 8). The total number of graves is believed to be approximately 600, however only approximately 145 scattered monuments of stone and concrete, including one zinc monument and one wood gravemarker, are visible. Most graves are marked only by depressions in the earth. The flat terrain is shaded by large oak, cedar, and magnolia trees. The ground contains a natural growth of wild grasses, shrubs, and vines. Hurricane Fran (1996) destroyed a number of the trees and limbs, some of which are still in place on the ground, and damaged numerous monuments.

In 1924 John T. Turner subdivided a narrow strip of property along the south edge of the cemetery as an annex named Pine View Cemetery.¹ The 55-foot-wide and 450-foot-deep annex is approximately .57 acre in size. In the center, on an east-west axis, is a ten-foot unpaved driveway. The annex is subdivided into 135 family plots laid out in a grid plan like the original cemetery. The original cemetery and the annex are jointly referred to as Oberlin Cemetery in this report.

The cemetery's period of historical significance began in 1873 when it was officially established and continues to 1971, the date of the most recent monument in the original section.

¹Wake County Book of Maps 1924-00081: survey plat for Pine View Cemetery, 1924, Larry Tucker, surveyor.

Of the 145 existing monuments, only ten of them post-date 1971. Oberlin Cemetery has received sparse attention from historians and has never received any type of historical designation. The first cemetery survey was completed by the Works Progress Administration in 1940 and lists forty-two monuments with death dates from 1876 to 1913. (The survey's cut-off date was 1914).² In 1994 students at Daniels Middle School studied and cleaned up the cemetery as a student project. N.C. State University graduate student Jennifer Hallman surveyed the cemetery from 1996 to 2001. She compiled a seven-page spreadsheet listing 332 individuals buried between 1876 and 1992. The spreadsheet includes both standing monuments as well as unmarked burials of individuals listed in the Wake County Death Register.³

The first known survey plat of the entire cemetery was prepared in March 2012 for this landmark application (Appendix 1: Oberlin Cemetery Survey). All visible monuments are listed (Appendix 2: Oberlin Cemetery Monument Transcriptions) and keyed to the survey map. The earliest known burial is of child Julia Andrews (1874-1876), listed with other infants on the obelisk of her mother Margaret Andrews (1855-1889) (No. 41). The earliest dated monument is an arched marble headstone for Mary Dickerson (1826-1884) (No. 83), wife of John Dickerson. The second earliest dated monument is a large marble headstone for Mary Dunston (1791-1885) (No. 7); the next oldest dated monument is a tall arched marble headstone for Zylphia Thompson (1804-1888) (No. 82).

The oldest monuments are likely the dozen uninscribed fieldstones clustered primarily in the front (southwest) corner of the cemetery, as well as a few fieldstones scattered throughout the rest of Oberlin Cemetery. Some are tall, some short, perhaps indicating head and footstones.

² Historical Records Survey of Oberlin's Cemetery, by James H. McCuller, 1940, N.C. State Archives, Raleigh. A few of the listed gravestones are no longer visible.

³ Jennifer Hallman, Oberlin Cemetery Register, ca. 1996, Hallman's Oberlin Cemetery Collection.

According to oral tradition, the cemetery started as a slave graveyard, thus these markers could mark slave burials. It is equally possible that these mark late nineteenth-century graves. During Oberlin Village's early years, the cost of purchasing a marble headstone inscribed by a stonecutter would have been prohibitive for most residents. Most nineteenth-century graveyards in Wake County include fieldstones such as these.

One wooden gravemarker still stands at the rear center section of the cemetery. The tall thin headboard (No. 145) has an arched top and no inscription, but likely marks a Reconstruction era burial. Five more arched wooden gravemarkers stood in the front section of the cemetery near the Dunston plot until the 1990s but have now disappeared. None of these had inscriptions. According to oral tradition, these marked slave graves.⁴ A documentary photograph of one of these shows an arched headboard without inscription.⁵ As with the fieldstone monuments, headboards were utilized in Wake County graveyards during the antebellum and postwar years of the nineteenth century.

The monuments with inscriptions have death dates from 1876 to 1971 in the original boundaries of Oberlin Cemetery and from 1911 to 2007 in the Pine View annex. Pre-1940 monuments are generally small marble headstones. Post-1940 monuments are generally of granite, either family monuments, small headstones, or low tablet-type individual markers. A number of concrete headstones for early twentieth-century graves and larger concrete family monuments of the mid-twentieth-century period are scattered through the cemetery. Some monuments are back-dated replacement stones that mark the graves of individuals who died some years earlier. Sometimes these were replacements for older gravestones; some may have

⁴ Jennifer Hallman, "Oberlin Cemetery: Material Culture of the Storm," term paper, N. C. State University, 2002.

⁵ Jennifer Hallman photograph, ca. 1998. Hallman's Oberlin Cemetery Collection.

been the first monuments erected. An example is the flush granite monument for village pioneer Grandison Turner (1853-1928) (No. 11). This stone was likely erected after 1940.

The largest, most decorative, and most expensive pre-1940 monuments are five obelisks with death dates from 1889 to 1915 for Margaret Andrews (d. 1889) (No. 41) and her children; N. G. Dunston (died 1905) (No. 4); Annette C. Andrews (d. 1911) (No. 95); Dr. George W. Williams (d. 1912) (No. 46); and Rev. Plummer T. Hall (d. 1915) (No. 71). Each is of marble except for Rev. Hall's stone of rusticated granite. The obelisk's square, tapered shape originated as a revival of Egyptian and Roman commemorative monuments in the late 1700s, reaching the height of its popularity in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Each Oberlin Cemetery obelisk is set on a granite or marble base that elevates the monument even higher. Margaret Andrews was the wife of Andrew Andrews, an Oberlin farmer remembered for his good fortune in having received a Confederate pension for helping to build the defensive breastworks around Raleigh in March 1865.⁶ Annette Andrews' obelisk and Rev. Hall's obelisk have recessed ovals at the top that likely originally held their porcelainized photographs.

The largest, most stylish group of monuments stands in the Dunston plot (Nos. 2-8) in the center third row section. The large double plot is bordered by six arched granite posts, three on the west side and three on the east side, which support a metal chain. Mary Dunston (1791-1885) (No. 7) is buried beneath a large marble headstone with a deep relief carving of a cross. Her children Annie Dunston (d. 1890 aged forty) (No. 5); John Dunston (d. 1894 aged sixty-six) (No. 6); and B. H. Dunston (d. 1898 aged sixty-eight) (No. 4) have tall arched marble headstones. B. H. Dunston, said to have been a founding member of the local black Masonic lodge, has a

⁶ Willis G. Briggs, "Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction," *The News and Observer*, Raleigh, Aug. 8, 1948.

Masonic symbol in relief on his headstone.⁷ John Dunston's stone has an Odd Fellow's lodge symbol in relief. Annie's has a relief carving of a lily. Norfleet G. Dunston (1855-1905) (No. 3) is buried beneath the tallest obelisk in the cemetery, erected by his wife Elmira (1865-1922), whose inscription is placed beneath Nathaniel's name.⁸ The base of the obelisk is signed "Cooper Bros., Raleigh," the most prominent monument firm in Raleigh from ca. 1894 to 1930. Cooper Brothers may have carved the other Dunston monuments as well.

Simple marble headstones, sometimes with relief decoration at the top, like the stone of George Williams (1858-1910) (No. 30) that contains the symbol of a crown, commemorate many of the pre-1940 graves. One of the last examples is the large arched marble headstone of Thempie Bobbitt, who died in 1928 (No. 86), whose top is adorned with classical relief ornament.

A number of military veterans have government-issue marble monuments: Spanish-American and World War I veterans have headstones, World War II veterans have a lower, thicker monument. Beechman Alford (1880-1967) (No. 110) served in the Spanish-American War of 1898 and has an arched marble headstone. World War I veterans John Anderson (1895-1957) (#9), Frank King (1891-1953) (No. 67), and Jesse Dunston (1892-1956) (No. 140) also have arched marble headstones.

One popular type of headstone for individuals who died in the early 1900s is a well-made cast concrete headstone. There are nine examples: B.J. Curties (d. 1926) (No. 59); Jesse & John Scarver, infants who died one day apart in 1919 (No. 62); Lucy Montgomery (d. 1926) (No. 63); family of Charles W. & Emily Thornton (no date) (No. 96); Susie Parham (d. 1929) (No. 70);

⁷ Hallman, "Oberlin Cemetery: Material Culture of the Storm."

⁸ The rear of the obelisk has the twenty-third psalm inscribed on it, with the words "erected by his wife Elmira Dunston" beneath the psalm.

Charles Crosson (date unknown) (No. 79); Garland Crosson (d. 1928) (No. 78); Elizabeth Manly (d. 1907) (No. 44); and Jesse L. Pettiford (d. 1921) (No. 49). All of these were likely made by the same company using the same mold, because they have an identical segmental-arched headstone shape, the same low-relief depiction of an ivy vine trailing around an anchor at the top (a symbol of a Christian's eternal life), and the same neat uppercase Roman lettering for the inscription. Many of them have simple epitaphs. These are believed to have been made by a stonecutter whose sideline was concrete gravestones. He travelled on the railroad to take orders at a cost of \$3 apiece, and shipped the finished monument by rail to the customers.⁹ These well-made concrete markers have survived in very good condition in Oberlin Cemetery. There are hundreds of them all over North Carolina in both white and African American graveyards.¹⁰ Raleigh's Mt. Hope Cemetery for African Americans contains dozens of this type of concrete headstone.

Unlike African American twentieth-century cemeteries in rural North Carolina, Oberlin Cemetery contains few homemade concrete monuments. There are, however, a distinctive group of four large concrete monuments, imitations of the granite monuments that became popular in the 1920s-1930s across the country, that represent high quality commercial gravestones. These are a double monument for Lula Turner (d. 1911) and John T. Turner (d. 1922) (No 118); the Morgan family monument (no date) (No. 26); the Sara Ivey monument (d. 1911) (No. 66); and the Williams family monument (no date) (No. 37). These were likely made by a local artisan, perhaps an Oberlin village brick mason. Each has the inscription in a smooth rectangular space on the front face, with the remaining surface of the monument finished in a rusticated texture that

⁹ M. Ruth Little, *Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998, 309, n. 7.

¹⁰ *Sticks and Stones*, 242.

contains remnants of white paint. Each sits on a concrete base. Such monuments were less expensive than comparable granite monuments.

The most numerous type of monuments are modern, polished granite, family monuments and individual tablets for people who died from 1934 to the present. These commercially-produced gravestones have standardized thick, rectangular shapes, shallow bases, and simple floral or religious motifs around the centralized inscriptions. Local stonecutters ordered such pre-cut stones from wholesale monument companies such as the Elberton Granite Association, Elberton, Georgia, and then sandblasted the inscriptions themselves. These granite gravestones are typical of twentieth-century cemeteries throughout the United States. Wake Monument Company is said to have provided a number of these monuments.¹¹

The most recent dated monuments in the original Oberlin section are for David Andrews (d. 1970) and his wife Georgia (d. 1971) (Nos. 92, 93), thus this section apparently was full by this date.

Monuments in Pine View annex have death dates from 1911-2007. All are commercial granite type monuments with the exception of two marble headstones encased in stone borders. A decorative brick border encases the marble headstone of Powell Peebles, 1888-1942 (No. 101), and creates a border for the family plot. James Lipscomb (1874-1939) (No. 143) has a marble headstone in a well-built granite block surround that is a part of the granite plot border. Village brick masons probably fabricated both of these handsome borders and monument enclosures.

D. Historic Significance

¹¹ Email from Jennifer Hallman, May 7, 2012. She toured the cemetery about 2001 with Ron Bartholomew, owner of Wake Monument Company, who recalled that his father had made a number of the monuments in the cemetery.

Oberlin Cemetery is one of only four known African American cemeteries in Raleigh. The oldest is the 1798 City Cemetery, whose southeast quadrant was reserved for Negroes and persons of color. Mount Hope Cemetery was established in 1872 in southeast Raleigh for the city's colored population. A third black cemetery, the small Oak Grove Cemetery in Method, containing less than a dozen burials, was documented in 1940 by the WPA graves project.¹² Oberlin Cemetery was officially established in 1873, but may have originated as an earlier slave graveyard. In addition to its significance as an early and rare black cemetery in Raleigh, the cemetery is one of the most significant surviving historic landmark in Oberlin Village, the largest freedmen's village in Wake County during the Reconstruction Era. Middle-class African American artisans owned their own homes and thrived in Oberlin from about 1870 to about 1950.

In July 1873, Nicholas Pettiford of Wake County sold a one-acre tract of land to the trustees of Oberlin Cemetery: John Manuel, Coffee Williams, Mingo G. Croom, Seth Nowell, and Nelson Turner, for forty-five dollars. The land is described as being in the village of Oberlin and bounded on the east by property of the late G. W. Mordecai, on the south by Albert Pettiford's lot, and fronting on Luvinia Pettiford's lot. The deed specified that the land is to be sold in lots for burials; failure to use the property as a cemetery will cause it to revert to the trustees. Others mentioned in the deed are Lemuel Hinton, Isham Ferrell, R. L. Pettiford, and James D. Morgan, although they do not seem to be trustees (Wake County Deed Book 40, page 445). The cemetery was expanded to approximately two acres prior to 1900. The deed for this expansion has not been located. About 1900 John Turner donated a little over a half-acre at the south edge of Oberlin Cemetery to become Pine View Cemetery. The plat, containing 135 plots

¹² Its exact location is unknown.

flanking a main drive, was registered in 1924, although Lula Turner was buried in the annex in 1911. Because Pine View is an annex to Oberlin Cemetery, the entire cemetery will be referred to as Oberlin Cemetery in this report.

The earliest beginnings of the settlement along present-day Oberlin Road, about two miles west of the State Capitol in Raleigh, have been attributed to the actions of a small group of white families at the end of the Civil War, who sold home sites to former slaves. At this time Oberlin Road was a “commanding ridge less than two miles distant from the State Capitol” known as the New Hillsboro Road. It extended north-south from Hillsboro Road skirting the farmland of Paul C. Cameron (son of Duncan Cameron, who died in 1854), whose house stood across from St. Mary’s College. The New Hillsboro Road was renamed Oberlin Road in the early 1870s. According to oral tradition, the Camerons gave home sites along this road to their emancipated slaves, who founded the Oberlin community. No deeds from the Cameron family to early Oberlin settlers have been identified except for Morgan Latta’s purchase of property along Parker Street in 1891 from Cameron heirs to establish his school, known as Latta University.¹³ The last remnant of Cameron land was the 160-acre tract owned by Annie Cameron Smallwood of New York City, purchased in 1947 by J. W. Willie York for the Cameron Village commercial development.¹⁴

Raleigh merchant Lewis W. Peck is the first documented seller of lots to African Americans in Oberlin village. His subdivision of his farm along the New Hillsboro Road, beginning in 1866, is easily traceable in deeds. Local historian Elizabeth Reid Murray stated that Lewis Peck was among the first landowners to make building lots available in what became

¹³ Murray, *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 2, 267.

¹⁴ Elizabeth Reid Murray, *Wake Capital County* (Raleigh: Capital County Publishing Company, 1983), Vol. 1, 645; Linda Harris Edmisten, *J. W. Willie York: His First Seventy-Five Years in Raleigh* (Raleigh, N.C., 1987), 67.

Oberlin Village, and that an early name for the community was “Peck’s Place.” Murray called former slave James H. Harris “a strong promoter of Wake County’s village of Oberlin.”¹⁵ *Culture Town*, an African American oral history of Raleigh published in 1993, states that Oberlin village was established in 1866 on the former Lewis Peck farm by former slave James H. Harris, but includes no documentation of this assertion.¹⁶

Examination of census records and a Civil War map indicate that the first village houses, churches, school, and cemetery were constructed in the early 1870s. An 1865 Civil War map of Raleigh (Appendix 3) shows the boundaries of Peck’s farmland on both sides of the New Hillsboro Road, surrounded by vast undifferentiated woodland between present-day Hillsborough Street and present-day Fairview Road.¹⁷ A sample of deeds in which white Raleigh merchant Lewis W. Peck sells property to African Americans includes the following transactions. Norfleet Jeffries paid \$95 to Peck in March 1867 for 1.9 acres on Oberlin Road (Wake County Deed Book 25, 183). Seth Nowell paid \$43.75 to Peck in 1867 for 1 3/4 acres (Wake County Deed Book 27, 41). Nowell operated a public dray hauling business from the freight depot. Thomas Williams, a carpenter for Thomas Briggs, bought a 1 3/4 acre lot for \$90 at 317 Oberlin Road, adjacent to Norfleet Jeffries’ property, in 1869 (Wake County Deed Book 27, 427).¹⁸ Henry Jones purchased one acre from Peck for \$50.¹⁹

¹⁵ *Wake Capital County*, Vol. 1, 645.

¹⁶ Linda Simmons-Henry and Linda Harris Edmisten, *Culture Town: Life in Raleigh’s African American Communities* (Raleigh, N.C.: Raleigh Historic Districts Commission, 1993) 18.

¹⁷ Map of the Rebel Lines at Raleigh N.C., 1865, National Archives, War Department Records. Illustrated in *Wake Capital County*, Vol. 1, 495.

¹⁸ 1880 U.S. Census, population schedule, Wake County; Briggs, “Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction.” In 1948 it was the home of his grandson T. H. Williams.

¹⁹ Briggs, “Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction.”

A second tract, the William Boylan land, north of the Peck Farm, was sold in 1869 to various developers. These included sheriff Timothy F. Lee, a Union soldier from Brooklyn who settled in Raleigh after the war, and by the Raleigh Cooperative Land & Building Association (Raleigh CLBA), whose president was James H. Harris. These entrepreneurs subdivided the property into lots and sold them to African Americans.²⁰ Many African American families purchased lots in the settlement in the 1860s and 1870s: by the mid-1880s some lots had been bought and sold multiple times. For example, in 1869 John Dickerson signed a \$400 contract with the Raleigh CLBA for a house and lot (Wake County Deed Book 27, 459). The property must have been foreclosed, since commissioners C. M. Busbee and S. F. Mordecai sold it in 1882 to Andre Syme (Book 82, 586). Syme sold it the next year to Louise Gill (Wake County Book 78, 13). George and Lucy Gill sold it to John Turner in 1886 (Wake County Deed Book 88, 619). The earliest dated monument in Oberlin Cemetery is for John's wife, Mary Dickerson (1826-1884) (No. 83).

James H. Harris (1829-1891), born a slave in Granville County, became Wake County's most prominent nineteenth-century African American leader. His apprenticeship to an English upholsterer named Wagstaff in Warrenton taught him his trade, as well as how to read and write. Harris secured his freedom and moved to Raleigh in 1849, where he plied his trade as mattress maker and upholsterer. To escape racial oppression, he moved in 1856 to Oberlin, Ohio, where he studied at Oberlin College for several years, then lived for several years in Canada aiding fugitive slaves who managed to reach freedom through the "Underground Railroad." In 1862 he spent a year in Liberia and other African countries. At the end of the Civil War in 1865 he returned to Raleigh and worked to aid the freedmen of his native state. For many years he served

²⁰ Briggs, "Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction."

as a Raleigh city alderman. In 1868 he served on the State Constitutional Convention, and was elected to represent Wake County in the state House of Commons in the same year. From 1872 to 1874 he served in the State Senate.²¹ Harris aided the Raleigh freedmen not only through governmental channels but through his own commercial ventures. He was a director of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, which made loans to Negroes to purchase land and build homes. The company's president was North Carolina governor W. W. Holden. Harris founded the Wake Land and Building Association and the Raleigh Cooperative Land and Building Association (Raleigh CLBA), which loaned money to a number of black families in Oberlin village to build houses.²² The CLBA operated for a decade before going into receivership. Other companies that loaned money to freedmen to build houses in Oberlin Village were the North Carolina Land Company and the Wake County Cooperative Business Company.²³

Exact dates for the construction of the earliest dwellings in the village are not known, but some early residents, including drayman Seth Nowell, John Dickerson, carpenter John Flagg, Daniel Green, Norfleet Jeffries, James Morgan, and minister Wilson Morgan were still living in Raleigh's East Ward, a traditionally African American area, in 1870.²⁴ Raleigh Township, the area where Oberlin village developed, to the west of Raleigh's West Ward, did not contain any concentration of black residents in 1870, although black laborer Daniel Green lived in the Raleigh township. During the 1870s Oberlin took shape and by 1880 some 150 black households lived in a cluster in the Raleigh township. These households include Norfleet Jeffries, Thomas

²¹ "Hon. James Henry Harris," *Educator*, May 1, 1875, copy in Hallman's Oberlin Cemetery Collection (this was probably copied from the Charles H. Hunter Scrapbook in the Duke University Archives ; Obituary of James H. Harris, *Raleigh Gazette*, June 6, 1891, copy in Hallman's Oberlin Cemetery Collection.

²² Briggs, "Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction," *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 1, 645. Gov. Holden was impeached in 1870 during the tumult of Reconstruction politics.

²³ *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 1, 645.

²⁴ 1870 U. S. Census, population schedule, Wake County, Raleigh East Ward.

Williams, John Dunston, Daniel Green, Plummer T. Hall, blacksmith Willis Haywood, tinner R. L. Pettiford, shoemaker Charles Manly, farmer Grandison Turner, farmer Andrew Andrews, house carpenter John Flagg, machinist John Dunston, drayman Seth Nowell, preacher W. W. Morgan, brick mason James S. Morgan, and brick mason John Manuel. These men and their families, as well as 135 other families, represent Oberlin Village's first decade of growth. Some of them had purchased lots in the late 1860s, but did not build their houses until after 1870.

Residents of the new village named it "Oberlin," generally believed to have been chosen because of James Harris's connection to Oberlin College, associated with freedom and educational opportunities for Negroes. Raleigh's *Daily News* printed a letter in March 1872, signed "Many Citizens," stating that "our flourishing little village" was named Oberlin.²⁵

Oberlin village's early growth was remarkable. The Raleigh Township section of the 1880 U. S. census lists 177 families (approximately 750 people) residing in the Oberlin Road area, 161 families defined as black or mulatto. The whites included the state fairgrounds keeper, a small number of farmers, and the staff and teachers at St. Mary's School for girls. While most of the men worked as farm laborers, the second largest occupation was brick mason, with house carpenter ranking third and farmer ranking fourth. The settlement also included five ministers, four shoemakers, two butchers, four "teamsters," a blacksmith, a cabinetmaker, a tinner, a barber, a pressman, and a harness maker. Most of the women worked as well, primarily as laundresses, although other occupations were seamstresses, cooks, servants, nurses, and farm laborers. Daniel Green was employed as a cemetery sexton (likely for the Oberlin Cemetery).²⁶

²⁵Wake: *Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 1, 644.

²⁶Wake: *Capital County*, Vol. 2, 38; Vol. 1, 645.

The two blocks of Oberlin Road between present-day Mayview Road and Bedford Avenue, containing two churches, the public school, and the cemetery, was the village center. Rev. Wilson W. Morgan, a prominent Republican who was a Wake County representative in the General Assembly from 1870 to 1872, donated a parcel to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1874 for the use of the church. Trustees were Mingo G. Croom, N. S. Farrer, L. B. Hinton, S. B. Cravan, and Henry Forter. (Wake County Deed Book 37, 227). The first sanctuary was built about 1873. This congregation, now Wilson Temple AME Zion Church, 1023 Oberlin Road, occupies a brick Gothic Revival-style sanctuary built in 1910-1911.

The village cemetery was established across Oberlin Road from the church in 1873. Oberlin Baptist Church, 806 Oberlin Road, was founded as Mount Moriah Church in the 400 block of Oberlin Road and became Oberlin Baptist Church on its present site in 1880. The founder and first pastor, Rev. Plummer T. Hall, built a house at 814 Oberlin Road between 1878 and 1893 that served as the parsonage. (This house is one of three buildings in Oberlin Village listed in the National Register of Historic Places).²⁷ The first Oberlin School operated in the Methodist church. By 1882 the village school operated in a one-room building.²⁸ In 1883 R. L. Pettiford and his wife Sarah sold a one-acre lot on Oberlin Road in front of the cemetery for a school, and the original one-room school was enlarged to three rooms. It was described in a newspaper article at the time: “The finest and most imposing building in the place [Oberlin village] is the new graded school. That building is of wood about 100 x 30 ft., attractively

²⁷ Rev. Plummer T. Hall House, Raleigh Historic Landmark, Raleigh Historic Development Commission website.

²⁸ *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 1, 645; Vol. 2, 39.

painted and well furnished.”²⁹ (The frame school was replaced by a 2-story brick school in 1916.) A. B. Pettiford owned a general store in Oberlin in the 1890s.³⁰

Other early Oberlin residents were Willis Graves, James S. Morgan, Haynes Clark, Thomas Crosson, Henderson Poole, James Shepard, Henry Williams, Willis Wilder, Alfred Vincent, John James, Grandison Turner, and Andrew Andrews.³¹ In the late 1880s brick mason Willis Graves built a two-story frame Queen Anne style house at 802 Oberlin Road that is one of two in Oberlin Village listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Graves was a leader in Wilson Temple and a justice of the peace. James S. Morgan, a mulatto bricklayer, and his wife Rosa Morgan, a washer woman, resided in Oberlin by 1880. About 1900 James and Rosa built themselves a substantial two-story house at 1015 Oberlin Road that still stands.³² Their son Wilson W. Morgan also practiced the bricklayer trade.³³ Grandison Turner was a farmer in 1880; his daughter Belle was a teacher in 1920.³⁴ Andrew Andrews, a farmer, lived next to Grandison Turner. Andrews’ claim to fame was that he drew a Confederate pension because he helped build the breastworks around Raleigh in March 1865.³⁵ Dr. James E. Shepard, founder and first president of North Carolina Central University in Durham, was born on Oberlin Road in 1875. Shepard, who established, with John Merrick, the N. C. Mutual Insurance Company and the Farmers & Mechanics Bank in Durham in the late 1890s, became one of the wealthiest and most

²⁹ *The News and Observer*, Raleigh, Dec. 17, 1884; *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 2, 39. The school stood until the mid-1900s. In the 1970s the Oberlin Road YWCA was built on the school site. The Y closed down in the early 2000s and the building is now the offices of Interact, a social services agency.

³⁰ *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 2, 39, 690.

³¹ Briggs, “Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction.”

³² *Culture Town*, 22.

³³ 1930 U. S. Census, population schedule, Wake County.

³⁴ 1880 Census, 1920 U. S. Census, population schedule, Wake County.

³⁵ Briggs, “Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction.”

successful African American businessmen in the United States. He remained president of NCCU until his death in 1947.³⁶

A number of Oberlin's earliest settlers are represented by existing cemetery monuments. Andrew Andrews's wife Margaret Andrews (1855-1889) and six of their children who died in early childhood are buried beneath a handsome marble obelisk (No. 41). Rev. Plummer T. Hall (1849-1915), has a handsome obelisk (No. 71). Grandison Turner (1853-1928) has a low granite monument (No. 11). Haynes Clarke (1848-1919) has a monument (No. 52). Dr. George W. Williams (1872-1912), son of carpenter Thomas Williams, has a handsome obelisk (No.46). Jessie L. Pettiford (1865-1921) (No. 49), son of R. L. Pettiford, a tinner, and Sarah Pettiford, a seamstress, was also a tinner.³⁷ His headstone is of concrete. Charles H. Hunter (1855-1956), who lived to the age of 101 years, worked as a delivery wagon driver; his wife Simora [or Senora] was a laundress. Hunter's tombstone is a granite tablet (No. 57).

The Dunston family erected the largest and most stylish gravestones in Oberlin Cemetery from the 1880s to the early 1900s. Several members of the family lived in Oberlin Village; others apparently lived in southeast Raleigh but chose to be buried in Oberlin Cemetery. The matriarch, Mary Dunston (1791-1885), is commemorated by a large handsome marble headstone. Her son B. H. Dunston (c. 1830-1898) was a farmer. In 1880 he was listed as a bar keeper. His brother John Dunston (1828-1894), worked in a machine shop. N. G. Dunston (1855-1905) is commemorated by the largest monument in the plot—a marble obelisk with the Masonic

³⁶ www.blackpast.org, accessed Apr. 9, 2012. Dr. James E. Shepard (1875-1947).

³⁷ 1880 census; 1920 census.

symbol. He does not appear in the Oberlin village section of the 1880 or 1900 U.S. Census, although another Norfleet Dunston, a farmer born in 1836, lived in Oberlin at this time.³⁸

Burials in the cemetery were apparently supervised from its establishment in 1873 until at least the early 1900s. The 1880 census lists Daniel Green, living in Oberlin, as a cemetery sexton (likely for Oberlin Cemetery). The last known Oberlin Cemetery superintendent was Oliver Brown, listed in the 1905-1906 and 1907-1908 city directories.³⁹

In the late nineteenth century funerals of prominent individuals functioned as public ceremonies. The *News and Observer* reported the funeral procession of drayman Adan William to the Oberlin cemetery in 1880. William had belonged to the Oak City Blues, Oberlin Vance Guards, and East Raleigh Guards, and his fellow draymen formed a funeral procession to the cemetery.⁴⁰

At least one Oberlin man served in the Spanish-American War of 1898 and is buried beneath a government-issue marble headstone: Beechman Alford (1880-1967) (No. 110). African Americans enlisted in the Spanish-American War in order to prove themselves worthy of the rights and obligations of citizenship.⁴¹

Oberlin village's pace of growth slowed considerably in the early 1900s, but it continued to prosper as a largely African American community until the late twentieth century. The 1914 Sanborn Insurance Map shows the village as a linear settlement with houses set close together along Oberlin Road, with large rear lots with outbuildings, physically separated from white

³⁸ 1880, 1900 U.S. Census, population schedule, Wake County.

³⁹ *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 2, 38: summary of the 1880 census for Oberlin Village; Hill, *Raleigh City Directory*, colored cemeteries, page 25.

⁴⁰ Mar. 9. 1880, *The News and Observer*, Raleigh, noted in Elizabeth Norris file on Oberlin Cemetery, Olivia Raney Library.

⁴¹ "North Carolina's Third Regiment," p. 23 (article, source unknown, in Hallman Oberlin Cemetery Collection)

housing in the new subdivision of Cameron Park at the south end of Oberlin Road. A few small stores are located close to the road.⁴²

When Willis Briggs's history of Oberlin Village was printed in *The News and Observer* on August 8, 1948, the village had a population of approximately 1,000, housed in about 100 Negro residences along Oberlin Road and about seventy-five houses along the streets to the west. Briggs considered Oberlin to be the premier African American suburb of Raleigh. He reported that its citizens were "esteemed by both races for their industry, frugality and high character. Oberlin has ever been free from disorder: not a single recalled major crime stains its record."⁴³ Yet even as he wrote, the Smallwood tract was being converted into the mixed-use Cameron Village development.

By 1960 the encroachment of Raleigh and the rezoning of land along Oberlin Road for commercial usage began to erode the village's identity as an independent African American community. Commercial buildings associated with Cameron Village lined the blocks of Oberlin Road up to Everett Street. The construction of the Wade Avenue four-lane boulevard about 1965 destroyed a number of community houses. In the 1980s the erection of a large office building on a sizeable tract at the corner of Roberts Street and Oberlin Road replaced several dwellings. The Latta House on Parker Street, associated with Latta University in the 1890s and early 1900s, burned about 2007. Today only the four houses designated as Raleigh Historic Landmarks: the Hall House, Turner House, Morgan House, and Graves House, along with the village's two churches, Wilson Temple United Methodist Church and Oberlin Baptist Church, survive along Oberlin Road to mark the village.

⁴² Sanborn Insurance Map of Raleigh, 1914, sheets 71 and 72. Accessed on microfilm, N. C. State Archives, Raleigh.

⁴³ Briggs, "Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction."

E. Summary of Historic and Artistic Significance

Oberlin Cemetery is a repository, both literally and symbolically, of the pioneers born into slavery who established a thriving black village outside Raleigh. These industrious families included a high concentration of artisans, especially house carpenters and brick masons. It is also the resting place of their children and grandchildren who were educated in the village school and took their places in the independent, well-regarded settlement. Oberlin retained its African American, owner-occupied, middle-class status until a few years after World War II when it was absorbed into Raleigh's suburbs. The cemetery meets the criteria of historical and artistic significance as a Raleigh Historic Landmark. It has local historical significance as one of four African American cemeteries in the city of Raleigh. Its documented period of significance begins ca. 1873 with its establishment and ends in 1971 when the original section of the cemetery was full. If the oral tradition that it was a slave graveyard on the Cameron plantation is true, the cemetery is one of only two antebellum slave graveyards remaining in Raleigh (the other is City Cemetery). Artistically, the monuments represent the work of professional stonecutters in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including the Cooper Brothers monument company of Raleigh, as well as the work of local artisans who built the concrete monuments and the stone and brick plot borders.

Approximately eighty-eight monuments commemorate individuals buried in the original boundaries of Oberlin Cemetery, where burials largely ceased about 1971 when it had filled up. These rough fieldstones, one wooden headboard, homemade concrete headstones, skillfully carved marble headstones and obelisks, and family plot borders of fieldstones, cut granite, brick, and concrete have artistic significance as African American funerary sculpture reflecting Oberlin village, Raleigh's largest freedman's community, established during Reconstruction. With a

population of approximately 1,000 by the end of the 1800s, Oberlin was a proud rural community of artisans who owned their own homes and supported two churches, a village school, social institutions, and commercial establishments. One wooden gravemarker and a dozen rough fieldstone monuments reflect antebellum or Reconstruction era burials. Most of the gravemarkers were carved by skilled stonecutters and reflect the affluence of the villagers. These are likely the work of the W. A. Cooper Brothers monument firm of Raleigh, which operated from about 1894 to 1930, and such earlier local stonecutters as Lougee and Goodwin, in business in Raleigh from at least 1884 until absorbed by Cooper Brothers. Among the most artistically important gravestones are the ornately decorated marble headstone with deep relief cross for Mary Dunston (died 1885) and the marble headstone with lily for Annie Dunston (died 1890). A group of handsome concrete family monuments and of stone and brick plot enclosures likely reflects the craftsmanship of the large number of Oberlin brick masons and other artisans.

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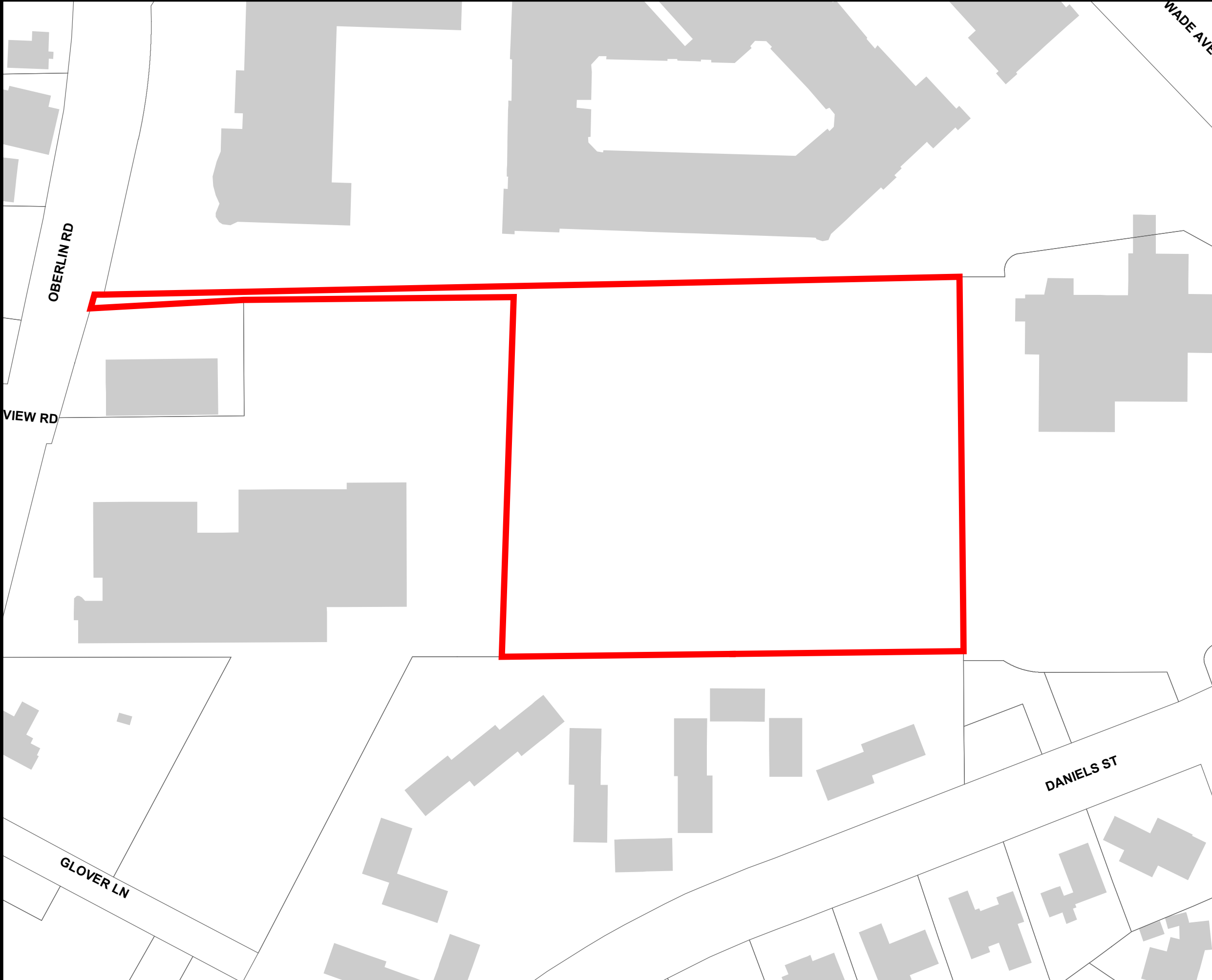
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Raleigh Historic Landmark

OBERLIN CEMETERY

1014 Oberlin Road
Raleigh, Wake County
North Carolina

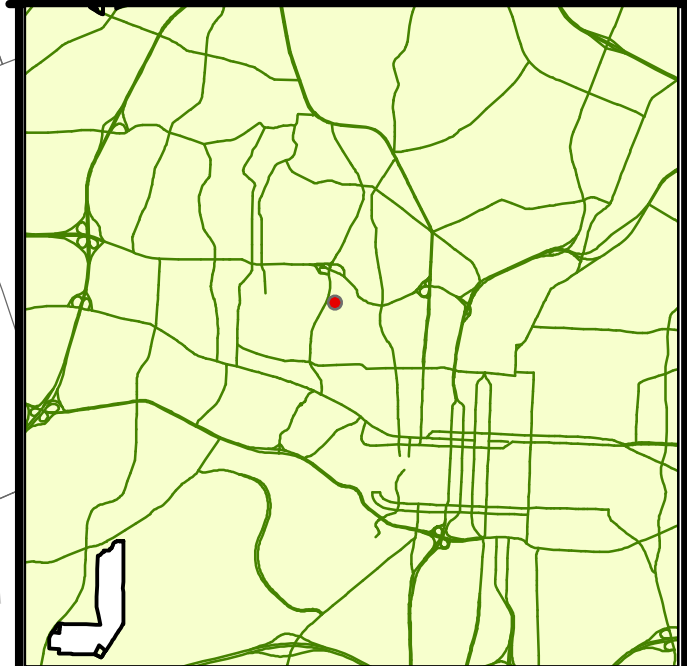
1 inch = 83 feet



City of Raleigh



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Appendix 2: Oberlin Cemetery Monument Transcriptions

Collected March 2012 by Karen and Geron Ryden and Ruth Little

1. Head and footstone (uninscribed fieldstones. Plot has rough granite border)
2. "In memory of Anna B. Dunston Starling 1903-1941" (granite monument)
3. Dunston plot: N. G. Dunston born May 15, 1855 Died June 4, 1905
Elmira Dunston born 1865 died Oct. 5, 1922 (granite obelisk with Masonic emblem on shaft. Rear face has epitaph: "The Lord is my shepherd...." And the inscription: "erected by his wife Elmira Dunston")
4. B. H. Dunston died Jan. 1, 1898 aged 68 yrs. Inscription "Blessed are the pure...." (arched marble headstone with Masonic symbol in relief at top. This is set in a marble base and is broken.
5. Annie Dunston died July 19, 1890 aged 18 years. Epitaph "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." (arched marble headstone set in marble base with relief lily at top
6. John Dunston died Nov. 20, 1894 aged 66 years. Epitaph "Asleep in Jesus Blessed" (arched marble headstone with Odd Fellows symbol of three links of a chain)
7. Mary Dunston 2-----1791 to 8-2-1885. (large ornate marble headstone on marble base with deep relief decoration and an image of a cross at the top. This is very illegible due to weathering.
8. Johnnie Dunston no date. Small three-dimensional marble lamb on a marble base, with a marble footstone inscribed "J.D."
9. John Anderson North Carolina Pvt 441 Res Labor BNQMC Dec. 25, 1895-May 25, 1957 (low marble monument)
10. Jessie Badie Turner May 29, 1860 – August 18, 1910 (granite flush monument)
11. Grandison Turner Aug. 10, 1853 – Feb. 4, 1928 (granite flush monument)
12. Mary Walker Turner Sept. 4, 1886 – Feb. 11, 1911 (granite flush monument)
13. Illegible marker—bring mirror
14. Samuel J. Webb July 15, 1863-Aug. 6, 1931
15. In memory of the family of Ezekiel Webb
16. Robert Williams May 5, 1919 aged 49 yrs
17. Priscilla Hunter Sept. 1, 1845-Oct. 16, 1917
18. June 22, 1922
19. Nora Taylor died Aug. 15, 1926 aged 28 yrs
20. Decapitated lamb headstone, name unknown
21. Anderson family monument (zinc—name plates are missing)
22. Francis Slade father of Sabine & Augusta Taylor Oct. 24, 1882-Oct. 23, 1913 (broken marble headstone)
23. Mary L. Morgan August 27, 1908-Apr. 2, 1949 (polished granite headstone)
24. Wilson W. Morgan June 18, 1879-April 23, 1950 (polished granite headstone)
25. Hortense S. Morgan March 11, 1885-Jan 30, 1934 (polished granite headstone)
26. Morgan family monument
27. Undecipherable monument in Morgan plot
28. Alonza M. Haywood born June 7, 1870 Died July 15, 1958 (In 1900 census he was a blacksmith)

29. Lemetta J. Hinton Haywood wife of Allen Haywood Oct. 5, 1864 – Dec 3, 1929
30. George S. Williams born Dec. 25, 1868 Died July 28, 1910
31. Gladys Williams born Aug. 4, 1901 Died July 25, 1911
32. Ophelia Sheppard born Oct. 6, 1905 died Sept. 4, 1906
33. Concrete headstone with 3 names: Daniel Williams d. 1912 age 55; Edward Haywood died Dec. 6, 1912 aged 55 yrs; Henrietta Haywood died Nov 17, 1908 age 45 yrs
34. No name concrete headstone and footstone, fallen over headstone
35. S. Patrick McGuire April 15, 1856 – May 11, 1906
36. Ella McGuire died May 21, 1946
37. Williams family
38. Headstone
39. Headstone
40. L. A. Busbee died Dec. 4, 1906 aged 17 years
41. Andrews marble obelisk: Margaret born 1855 died June 1, 1889; Washington 1878-1883; Maggie 1875-1883; Julia 1874-1876; Cynthia 1875-1878; Hattie 1889-1891; Mildred W. 1895-1900
42. Serena McIlhenry died July 1, 1921 age 90 years
43. Chapman Alexander died Aug. 4, 1893 Sophia died Sept. 19, 1898
44. Elizabeth Manly died Nov. 17, 1907 aged 30 years
45. Theodore F. Williams April 11, 1875-Sept. 13, 1931
46. Dr. George W. Williams July 16, 1872-March 5, 1912 (obelisk)
47. Pettiford/Hardy family monument
48. Dr. William B. Pettiford M.D. Aug. 4, 1898-Kam 26. 1956
49. Jessie L. Pettiford Sept. 16, 1865-Nov. 11, 1921
50. Stanley family
51. Adeline G. Manuel born Mar 11, 1886 Sept. 29, 1929 wife of ____ Manuel
52. Haynes Clarke 1848-1919 Sallie 1837-1917
53. Henry C. Manly June 27, 1856-July 13, 1913/Susie S. Manly Sept. 6, 1888-June 15, 1908
54. Broken concrete headstone died at 70 yrs
55. Trice family monument
56. Sidney B. Manly died March 5, 1922
57. Charles H. Hunter May 28, 1855-Dec 18, 1956 (low granite "tablet")
58. Andrew Grant Apr 27, 1887-Jan. 29, 1918 (arched marble headstone against Coker Towers fence)
59. B. J. Curties died June 2, 1926 aged 65 yrs (arched concrete headstone)
60. Our mother-Tempie Curtis d. 1935 (low marble headstone)
61. Robert H. Grant Apr 27, 1908-Dec. 3, 1937 (commercial marble headstone)
62. Jessie died March 3, 1919 aged 2 yrs; John died Mar 2, 1919 aged 1 day children of Joseph & Mary Scarver. At rest. (arched concrete headstone)
63. Lucy Wimbish Montgomery born March 2, 1896 died Feb. 8, 1926 (arched concrete headstone)
64. Jerry Hinton died May 26, 1920 aged 110 years (arched concrete headstone)
65. John Wimbish Sr. died Mar 28, 1936

66. Sara Ivey 1846-1911
67. Frank King Pvt 804 Stev Co QMC World War I February 28, 1891-December 2, 1953
68. Concrete stone near chain link fence in rear left
69. J. E. Jackson (concrete headstone with pebbles)
70. Susie Parham died Jan 4, 1929 aged 41 yrs epitaph: "Honored Beloved"
71. Rev. P. T. Hall born Oct 1849 died May 4, 1915. Epitaph: I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (rusticated granite obelisk)
72. Julia Barnwell Courdine died Dec. 30, 1922 aged 79 yrs (arched marble headstone)
73. Edward Cook died 1924 (Gothic Revival marble headstone)
74. Unknown (homemade concrete headstone, no inscription)
75. Small arched granite headstone, inscription illegible
76. Marble base—top is missing
77. Gideon Hinton Oct. 19, 1876; Mary H. Hinton May 10, 1886-Oct. 31, 1955 (this is in Pine View annex)
78. Garland Crosson born July 30, 1885 died Oct. 18, 1928 "May the resurrection find thee on the bosom of thy God"
79. Charles Crosson Died Nov 13, 19__ aged 65 years (broken marble)
80. "Death where is thy sting? Grave where is thy victory?" broken concrete
81. Emmanuel Bridgeford born Mar 4, 1886 Died Mar 28, 1906
82. Zylphia Thompson Sep 4, 1804-Nov 20, 1888 (tall arched marble headstone under magnolia tree)
83. Mary wife of John Dickerson June 25, 1826-Jan 29, 1884 (arched marble headstone)
84. Edward Hester died Feb 28, 1929 "Where loyal hearts and true stand ever in the light. All rapture through and through in God's most holy sight"
85. Walter Allen Dunston May 12, 1892-Jan 16, 1955/Virginia Bryant Dunston Sept 23, 1893-Sept 4, 1956
86. Thempie Bobbitt "in remembrance of our dear mother who departed this life Aug 28, 1928" (arched marble headstone)
87. Higgs family monument (marble)
88. Thomas Higgs 1884-1946 "Let us dwell together and love one another" (granite headstone)
89. Fleming son of Burke & Iola Hinton born Apt. 19, 1912 Died Jan 24, 1924 "We will meet again" (arched concrete headstone)
90. Charles E. Flagg 1876-1954
91. Susie T. Flagg 1878-1965
92. Georgia H. Andrews 1895-1971 (granite headstone)
93. David W. Andrews 1880-1970
94. William E. Andrews July 18, 1876-Dec 30, 1957 (granite headstone)
95. Annette C. Andrews Jan 15, 1885-July 6, 1911 "She was the sunshine of our home" (marble obelisk)
96. In memory of the family of Charles W. & Emily Thornton
97. Irving B. Battle Jr. Mar 1, 1900-May 27, 1934

Pine View annex:

98. Mattie L. Cruse Dec 11, 1914-Sept. 18, 1941 (arched marble headstone)
99. Adron Curtis Cruse 1888-1941 (granite headstone)
100. Alonzo Jones 1877-1944 /Mary A. Jones 1877-1970
101. In memory of my husband Powell Peebles born May 16, 1888 departed this life May 19, 1942
102. In memory of Henry Jose C. Peebles Dec. 6, 1962-Dec. 23, 1981
103. Curties Snelling Jr. Oct 10, 1884-Nov 24, 1947
104. In memory of our dear sister Nellie Bobbitt died Mar 15, 1938
105. Frank Howard died May 20, 1950 "gone but not forgotten" (105-107 in plot with chain link fence)
106. Ella Howard Feb 11, 1883-Feb 2, 1971 "Beloved Mother"
107. Dorothy Peebles Barker Nov. 11, 1906-Feb 2, 2001 "Beloved Mother and Grandmother"
108. Allen family Alcora J. Allen Apr 15, 1903-Jan 5, 1959/William Floyd Allen Sr Mar 5, 1891-June 22, 1965
109. Lizzie Alford 1877-1949
110. Beechman Alford-- Co H 49 Regt Inf Sp Am War Feb 6, 1880-May 20, 1967 (government issue marble headstone)
111. Essie L. Smith Nov. 17, 1917-Aug 17, 1969
112. Joesina Alford Tillman Nov 21, 1907-Apr 23, 1984
113. Alford family stone
114. Plummer T. Hall Mar 12, 1886-Dec 15, 1941
115. John V. Turner Jan 22, 1924-Nov 25, 2007 "educator"
116. "Mama" Tulia Marie Hall Turner Oct. 1, 1902-June 7, 2000
117. John Jerome Turner Nov. 11, 1898-Oct 6, 1971
118. John Turner Sep 1, 1922/Lula Turner died 1911
119. Mary Jane Dickerson Turner June 1863-March 26, 1955 "Among the founders, early member St. Paul AME Church, Eastern Star Lodge, Oberlin Village since 1888"
120. Dunston died Sept. 11, 1931
121. Very large headstone fallen on its inscription
122. Gertrude B. Haywood 1889-1981 "Rest in Peace"
123. Eliza Height Parham May 10, 1899-Apr. 20, 1970
124. Claude Snellings Oct 15, 1890-Aug 12. 1970
125. Small obelisk
126. Smith family
127. Marshall H. Smith July 16, 1914-April 15, 1929
128. Estelle Smith Oct. 27, 1925-April 12, 1934
129. William T. Osbourne U S Army Jan 17, 1922-Oct 5, 2002
130. Amelia T. Smith Aug 13, 1906-Jan 22, 1956
131. Estelle T. Smith Dec. 22, 1878-Sept 9, 1957
132. James S. Smith Sr Jan 16, 1874-Jan 27, 1970
133. James Smith Jr. Feb 29, 1905-Oct 14, 1960

134. Pulley
135. Curtis
136. Catherine Trice July 29, 1914-Dec 23, 1984
137. James Ricks Feb 9, 1865-Oct 3, 1932
138. Mattie Williams Jan 22, 1894-Dec 10, 1970
139. Oliff, wife of Parker Poole, died Feb 17, 1929 age 79 years GBNF
140. Jesse Dunston Pvt 51 Co 153 Depot Brigade WWI Feb 11, 1892-Nov 23, 1956
141. J. D. Chavis died Mar 17, 1926 age 65 years
142. Virginia Hogan
143. James Lipscomb 1874-1939
144. Joe G. Opoland Oct 8, 1880-Apr 30, 1982
145. Wood headboard with arched top. No visible inscription. A fieldstone rests against the base. This headboard is the only remaining wooden marker in place. It likely marks a 19th century grave.

Pine View annex: funeral home identification with no monument:

T____ Morgan, d. 1932. Metal funeral company urn with identification tag

Mrs. Martha Hopkins, d. May 9, 1937, aged 27. Raleigh Funeral Home Inc., metal funeral company urn.

Appendix 3: Oberlin Cemetery Monument Inventory

Collected March 2012 by Karen and Geron Ryden and Ruth Little

Edited by RHDC Staff

1. (fieldstones. Plot has rough granite border) Head and footstone
2. Granite Monument -
"In memory of Anna B. Dunston Starling 1903-1941"
3. granite obelisk with Masonic emblem on shaft -
Dunston plot: N. G. Dunston born May 15, 1855 Died June 4, 1905 Elmira Dunston born 1865 died Oct. 5, 1922 (. Rear face has epitaph: "The Lord is my shepherd...." And the inscription: "erected by his wife Elmira Dunston")
4. (arched marble headstone with Masonic symbol in relief at top. This is set in a marble base and is broken.
B. H. Dunston died Jan. 1, 1898 aged 68 yrs. Inscription "Blessed are the pure....."
5. (arched marble headstone set in marble base with relief lily at top
Annie Dunston died July 19, 1890 aged 18 years. Epitaph "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."
6. (arched marble headstone with Odd Fellows symbol of three links of a chain)
John Dunston died Nov. 20, 1894 aged 66 years. Epitaph "Asleep in Jesus Blessed"
7. (large ornate marble headstone on marble base with deep relief decoration and an image of a cross at the top.
Mary Dunston 2-----1791 to 8-2-1885. This is very illegible due to weathering.
8. Small three-dimensional marble lamb on a marble base, with a marble footstone
Johnnie Dunston no date. inscribed "J.D."
9. (low marble monument)
John Anderson North Carolina Pvt 441 Res Labor BNQMC Dec. 25, 1895-May 25, 1957
10. (granite flush monument) -
Jessie Badie Turner May 29, 1860 – August 18, 1910
11. (granite flush monument) -
Grandison Turner Aug. 10, 1853 – Feb. 4, 1928
12. (granite flush monument) -
Mary Walker Turner Sept. 4, 1886 – Feb. 11, 1911
13. Material?
Illegible marker—bring mirror
14. Material?
Samuel J. Webb July 15, 1863-Aug. 6, 1931
15. Material?
In memory of the family of Ezekiel Webb
16. Material?
Robert Williams May 5, 1919 aged 49 yrs

17. Material?
Priscilla Hunter Sept. 1, 1845-Oct. 16, 1917
18. Material?
June 22, 1922
19. Material?
Nora Taylor died Aug. 15, 1926 aged 28 yrs
20. Material?
Decapitated lamb headstone, name unknown
21. (zinc—name plates are missing)
Anderson family monument
22. (broken marble headstone)
Francis Slade father of Sabine & Augusta Taylor Oct. 24, 1882-Oct. 23, 1913
23. (polished granite headstone)
Mary L. Morgan August 27, 1908-Apr. 2, 1949
24. (polished granite headstone)
Wilson W. Morgan June 18, 1879-April 23, 1950
25. (polished granite headstone)
Hortense S. Morgan March 11, 1885-Jan 30, 1934
26. Material?
Morgan family monument
27. Material?
Undecipherable monument in Morgan plot
28. Material?
Alonza M. Haywood born June 7, 1870 Died July 15, 1958 (In 1900 census he was a blacksmith)
29. Material?
Lemetta J. Hinton Haywood wife of Allen Haywood Oct. 5, 1864 – Dec 3, 1929
30. Material?
George S. Williams born Dec. 25, 1868 Died July 28, 1910
31. Material?
Gladys Williams born Aug. 4, 1901 Died July 25, 1911
32. Material?
Ophelia Sheppard born Oct. 6, 1905 died Sept. 4, 1906
33. Concrete headstone
with 3 names: Daniel Williams d. 1912 age 55; Edward Haywood died Dec. 6, 1912 aged 55 yrs;
Henrietta Haywood died Nov 17, 1908 age 45 yrs
34. concrete headstone and footstone
No name, fallen over headstone
35. Material?
S. Patrick McGuire April 15, 1856 – May 11, 1906
36. Material?
Ella McGuire died May 21, 1946

37. Material?
Williams family
38. Material?
Headstone
39. Material?
Headstone
40. Material?
L. A. Busbee died Dec. 4, 1906 aged 17 years
41. marble obelisk
Andrews: Margaret born 1855 died June 1, 1889; Washington 1878-1883; Maggie 1875-1883;
Julia 1874-1876; Cynthia 1875-1878; Hattie 1889-1891; Mildred W. 1895-1900
42. Material?
Serena McIlhenry died July 1, 1921 age 90 years
43. Material?
Chapman Alexander died Aug. 4, 1893 Sophia died Sept. 19, 1898
44. Material?
Elizabeth Manly died Nov. 17, 1907 aged 30 years
45. Material?
Theodore F. Williams April 11, 1875-Sept. 13, 1931
46. (obelisk) Material?
Dr. George W. Williams July 16, 1872-March 5, 1912
47. Material?
Pettiford/Hardy family monument
48. Material?
Dr. William B. Pettiford M.D. Aug. 4, 1898-Kam 26. 1956
49. Material?
Jessie L. Pettiford Sept. 16, 1865-Nov. 11, 1921
50. Material?
Stanley family
51. Material?
Adeline G. Manuel born Mar 11, 1886 Sept. 29, 1929 wife of ____ Manuel
52. Material?
Haynes Clarke 1848-1919 Sallie 1837-1917
53. Material?
Henry C. Manly June 27, 1856-July 13, 1913/Susie S. Manly Sept. 6, 1888-June 15, 1908
54. concrete headstone
Broken died at 70 yrs
55. Material?
Trice family monument
56. Material?
Sidney B. Manly died March 5, 1922

57. (low granite "tablet")
Charles H. Hunter May 28, 1855-Dec 18, 1956
58. (arched marble headstone against Coker Towers fence)
Andrew Grant Apr 27, 1887-Jan. 29, 1918
59. (arched concrete headstone)
B. J. Curties died June 2, 1926 aged 65 yrs
60. (low marble headstone)
Our mother-Tempie Curtis d. 1935
61. (commercial marble headstone)
Robert H. Grant Apr 27, 1908-Dec. 3, 1937
62. (arched concrete headstone)
Jessie died March 3, 1919 aged 2 yrs; John died Mar 2, 1919 aged 1 day children of Joseph & Mary Scarver. At rest.
63. (arched concrete headstone)
Lucy Wimbish Montgomery born March 2, 1896 died Feb. 8, 1926
64. (arched concrete headstone)
Jerry Hinton died May 26, 1920 aged 110 years
65. Material?
John Wimbish Sr. died Mar 28, 1936
66. Material?
Sara Ivey 1846-1911
67. Material?
Frank King Pvt 804 Stev Co QMC World War I February 28, 1891-December 2, 1953
68. Concrete stone near chain link fence in rear left
69. (concrete headstone with pebbles)
J. E. Jackson
70. Material?
Susie Parham died Jan 4, 1929 aged 41 yrs epitaph: "Honored Beloved"
71. rusticated granite obelisk)
Rev. P. T. Hall born Oct 1849 died May 4, 1915. Epitaph: I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (
72. (arched marble headstone)
Julia Barnwell Courdine died Dec. 30, 1922 aged 79 yrs
73. (Gothic Revival marble headstone)
Edward Cook died 1924
74. (homemade concrete headstone)
Unknown, no inscription)
75. Small arched granite headstone, inscription illegible
76. Marble base—top is missing
77. Material?
Gideon Hinton Oct. 19, 1876; Mary H. Hinton May 10, 1886-Oct. 31, 1955 (this is in Pine View annex)

78. Material?
Garland Crosson born July 30, 1885 died Oct. 18, 1928 "May the resurrection find thee on the bosom of thy God"
79. (broken marble)
Charles Crosson Died Nov 13, 19__ aged 65 years
80. broken concrete
"Death where is thy sting? Grave where is thy victory?"
81. Material?
Emmanuel Bridgeford born Mar 4, 1886 Died Mar 28, 1906
82. (tall arched marble headstone)
Zylphia Thompson Sep 4, 1804-Nov 20, 1888 under magnolia tree)
83. (arched marble headstone)
Mary wife of John Dickerson June 25, 1826-Jan 29, 1884
84. Material?
Edward Hester died Feb 28, 1929 "Where loyal hearts and true stand ever in the light. All rapture through and through in God's most holy sight"
85. Material?
Walter Allen Dunston May 12, 1892-Jan 16, 1955/Virginia Bryant Dunston Sept 23, 1893-Sept 4, 1956
86. (arched marble headstone)
Thempie Bobbitt "in remembrance of our dear mother who departed this life Aug 28, 1928"
87. (marble)
Higgs family monument
88. (granite headstone)
Thomas Higgs 1884-1946 "Let us dwell together and love one another"
89. (arched concrete headstone)
Fleming son of Burke & Iola Hinton born Apt. 19, 1912 Died Jan 24, 1924 "We will meet again"
90. Material?
Charles E. Flagg 1876-1954
91. Material?
Susie T. Flagg 1878-1965
92. (granite headstone)
Georgia H. Andrews 1895-1971
93. Material?
David W. Andrews 1880-1970
94. (granite headstone)
William E. Andrews July 18, 1876-Dec 30, 1957
95. (marble obelisk)
Annette C. Andrews Jan 15, 1885-July 6, 1911 "She was the sunshine of our home"
96. Material?
In memory of the family of Charles W. & Emily Thornton

97. Material?

Irving B. Battle Jr. Mar 1, 1900-May 27, 1934

Pine View annex:

98. (arched marble headstone)

Mattie L. Cruse Dec 11, 1914-Sept. 18, 1941

99. granite headstone)

Adron Curtis Cruse 1888-1941 (

100. Material?

Alonzo Jones 1877-1944 /Mary A. Jones 1877-1970

101. Material?

In memory of my husband Powell Peebles born May 16, 1888 departed this life May 19, 1942

102. Material?

In memory of Henry Jose C. Peebles Dec. 6, 1962-Dec. 23, 1981

103. Material?

Curties Snelling Jr. Oct 10, 1884-Nov 24, 1947

104. Material?

In memory of our dear sister Nellie Bobbitt died Mar 15, 1938

(105-107 in plot with chain link fence)

105. Material?

Frank Howard died May 20, 1950 "gone but not forgotten"

106. Material?

Ella Howard Feb 11, 1883-Feb 2, 1971 "Beloved Mother"

107. Material?

Dorothy Peebles Barker Nov. 11, 1906-Feb 2, 2001 "Beloved Mother and Grandmother"

108. Material?

Allen family Alcora J. Allen Apr 15, 1903-Jan 5, 1959/William Floyd Allen Sr Mar 5, 1891-June 22, 1965

109. Material?

Lizzie Alford 1877-1949

110. (government issue marble headstone)

Beechman Alford-- Co H 49 Regt Inf Sp Am War Feb 6, 1880-May 20, 1967

Material not identified on 111-144

111. Essie L. Smith Nov. 17, 1917-Aug 17, 1969

112. Joesina Alford Tillman Nov 21, 1907-Apr 23, 1984

113. Alford family stone

114. Plummer T. Hall Mar 12, 1886-Dec 15, 1941

115. John V. Turner Jan 22, 1924-Nov 25, 2007 "educator"

116. "Mama" Tulia Marie Hall Turner Oct. 1, 1902-June 7, 2000

117. John Jerome Turner Nov. 11, 1898-Oct 6, 1971

118. John Turner Sep 1, 1922/Lula Turner died 1911

119. Mary Jane Dickerson Turner June 1863-March 26, 1955 "Among the founders, early member St. Paul AME Church, Eastern Star Lodge, Oberlin Village since 1888"
120. Dunston died Sept. 11, 1931
121. Very large headstone fallen on its inscription
122. Gertrude B. Haywood 1889-1981 "Rest in Peace"
123. Eliza Height Parham May 10, 1899-Apr. 20, 1970
124. Claude Snellings Oct 15, 1890-Aug 12. 1970
125. Small obelisk
126. Smith family
127. Marshall H. Smith July 16, 1914-April 15, 1929
128. Estelle Smith Oct. 27, 1925-April 12, 1934
129. William T. Osbourne U S Army Jan 17, 1922-Oct 5, 2002
130. Amelia T. Smith Aug 13, 1906-Jan 22, 1956
131. Estelle T. Smith Dec. 22, 1878-Sept 9, 1957
132. James S. Smith Sr Jan 16, 1874-Jan 27, 1970
133. James Smith Jr. Feb 29, 1905-Oct 14, 1960
134. Pulley
135. Curtis
136. Catherine Trice July 29, 1914-Dec 23, 1984
137. James Ricks Feb 9, 1865-Oct 3, 1932
138. Mattie Williams Jan 22, 1894-Dec 10, 1970
139. Oliff, wife of Parker Poole, died Feb 17, 1929 age 79 years GBNF
140. Jesse Dunston Pvt 51 Co 153 Depot Brigade WWI Feb 11, 1892-Nov 23, 1956
141. J. D. Chavis died Mar 17, 1926 age 65 years
142. Virginia Hogan
143. James Lipscomb 1874-1939
144. Joe G. Opoland Oct 8, 1880-Apr 30, 1982
145. Wood headboard with arched top.
No visible inscription. A fieldstone rests against the base. This headboard is the only remaining wooden marker in place. It likely marks a 19th century grave.

Pine View annex: funeral home identification with no monument:

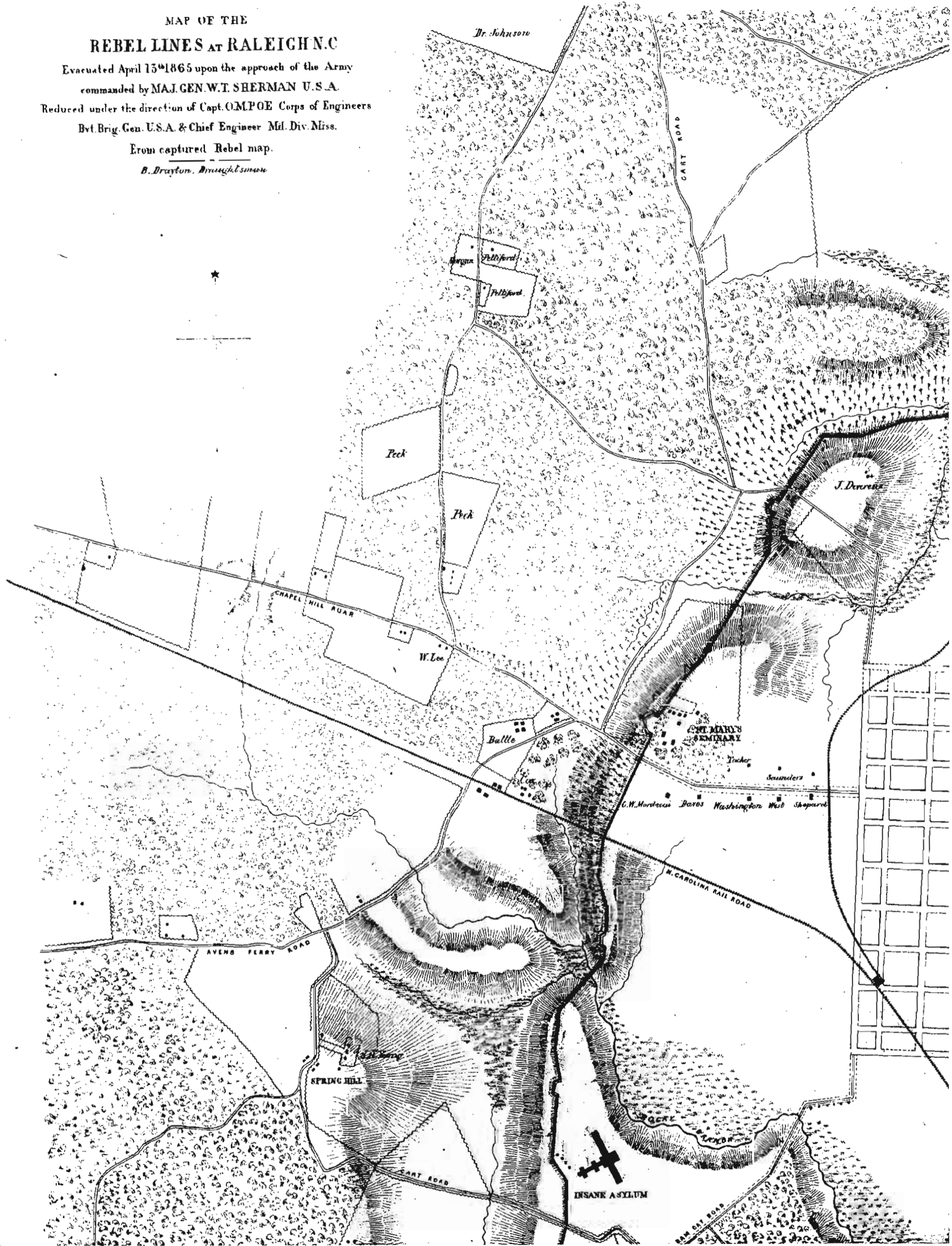
T____ Morgan, d. 1932. Metal funeral company urn with identification tag

Mrs. Martha Hopkins, d. May 9, 1937, aged 27. Raleigh Funeral Home Inc., metal funeral company urn.

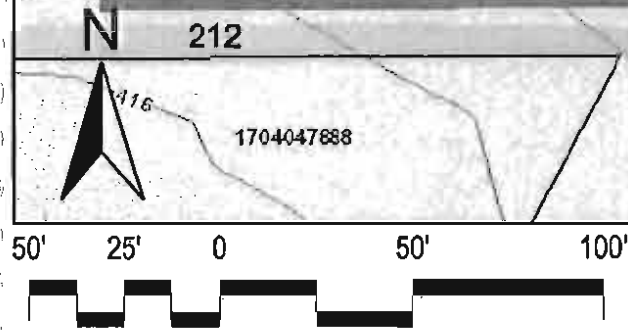
MAP OF THE
REBEL LINES AT RALEIGH N.C

Evacuated April 15th 1865 upon the approach of the Army
commanded by MAJ. GEN. W.T. SHERMAN U.S.A.
Reduced under the direction of Capt. O.M. POE Corps of Engineers
Bvt. Brig. Gen. U.S.A. & Chief Engineer Md. Div. Miss.
From captured Rebel map.

B. Drayton, Draughtsman



Map of Rebel Lines at Raleigh
1865
Nat. Archives, War Dept. Records



This map was obtained from Cith of Raleigh and Wake County iMaps (<http://maps.raleighnc.gov/imapsraleigh/index.html#>) in 2012

Oberlin Cemetery
 2.93 acres (including Pine View annex)
 1012 Oberlin Road (rear)
 Raleigh, North Carolina

Longleaf Historic Resources



OberlinCem_westcenter_fieldstone_rl-2012



OberlinCem_westcenter_rl-2012



OberlinCem_view of northeast section_rl-2012



OberlinCem_westcenter1_rl-2012



OberlinCem_nw section_rl-2012



OberlinCem_southwestcorner_rl_2012



OberlinCem_northcenter section_rl-2012



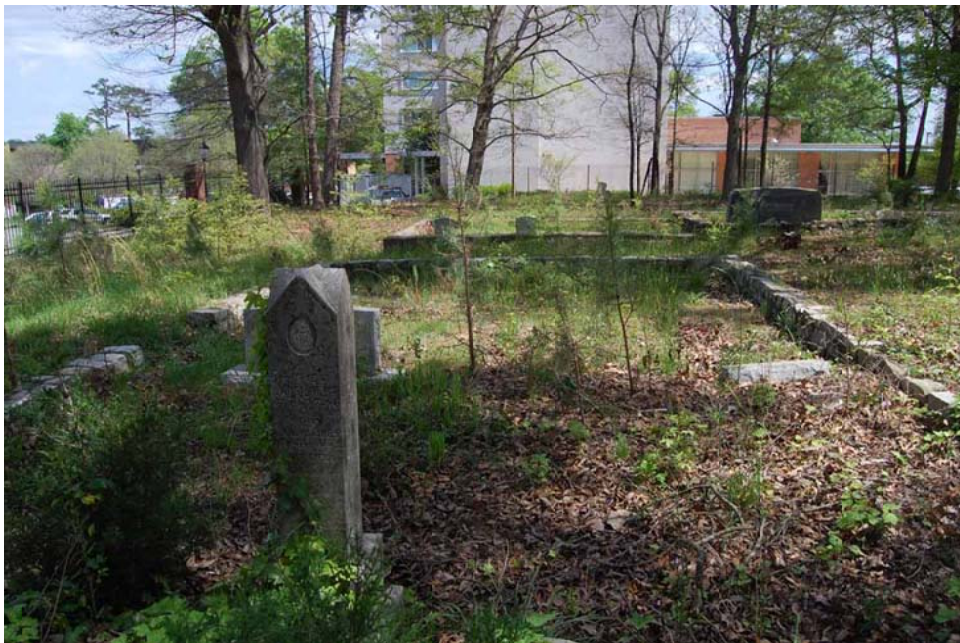
OberlinCem_northwestsection_rl-2012



OberlinCem_northeast corner_rl-2012



OberlinCem_northeast section_rl-2012



OberlinCem_northeast section2_rl-2012



OberlinCem_northeast section1_rl-2012



OberlinCem_center section1_rl-2012



OberlinCem_fieldstonemarkerswestcenter_rl_2012



OberlinCemeterynorthwestcorner



OberlinCem_center section_rl-2012