



History of Oberlin Village

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minor edits by RHDC staff November 2012

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.¹ 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.²

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

¹ Murray, *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 2, 267.

² 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.

landowners to make building lots available in what became 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.”³ *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.⁴

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.⁵ 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).⁶ Henry Jones purchased one acre from Peck for \$50.⁷

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.⁸ 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).

³ *Wake Capital County*, Vol. 1, 645.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Map of the Rebel Lines at Raleigh N.C., 1865, National Archives, War Department Records. Illustrated in *Wake Capital County*, Vol. 1, 495.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Briggs, “Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction.”

⁸ Briggs, “Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction.”

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 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.⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹

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 1870.¹² 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 Williams, John Dunston, Daniel Green, Plummer T. Hall,

⁹ "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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 1, 645.

¹² 1870 U. S. Census, population schedule, Wake County, Raleigh East Ward.

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.¹³

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).¹⁴

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, 814 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

¹³ *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 1, 644.

¹⁴ *Wake: Capital County*, Vol. 2, 38; Vol. 1, 645.

is one of two buildings in Oberlin Village listed on the National Register of Historic Places).¹⁵ The first Oberlin School operated in the Methodist church. By 1882 the village school operated in a one-room building.¹⁶ 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 painted and well furnished.”¹⁷ (The frame school was replaced by a brick school in 1916.) A. B. Pettiford owned a general store in Oberlin in the 1890s.¹⁸

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.¹⁹ 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.²⁰ Their son Wilson W. Morgan also practiced the bricklayer trade.²¹ Grandison Turner was a farmer in 1880; his daughter Belle was a teacher in 1920.²² 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 1865.²³ 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 successful African American businessmen in the United States. He remained president of NCCU until his death in 1947.²⁴

¹⁵ Rev. Plummer T. Hall House, Raleigh Historic Landmark, Raleigh Historic Development Commission website.

¹⁶ *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 1, 645; Vol. 2, 39.

¹⁷ *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.

¹⁸ *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 2, 39, 690.

¹⁹ Briggs, “Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction.”

²⁰ *Culture Town*, 22.

²¹ 1930 U. S. Census, population schedule, Wake County.

²² 1880 Census, 1920 U. S. Census, population schedule, Wake County.

²³ Briggs, “Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction.”

²⁴ www.blackpast.org, accessed Apr. 9, 2012. Dr. James E. Shepard (1875-1947).

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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

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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.