NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Office of Archives and History Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Oberlin Cemetery

Raleigh, Wake County, WA6388, Listed 09/11/2018 Nomination by M. Ruth Little, Longleaf Historic Resources Photographs by M. Ruth Little, December 2017



Overall view from west showing the front of cemetery with entrance kiosk



View looking east toward Dunston family plot

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

SLR APPENDED TO END OF FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property		
historic nameOb	perlin Cemetery	
other names/site number <u>Pine</u>	View Cemetery	
2. Location		
street & number <u>1014 Oberlin R</u>	oad	not for publication N/A_
city or town <u>Raleigh</u>		vicinity <u>N/A</u> _
state <u>North Carolina</u>	code <u>NC</u> county <u>Wake</u> code _	<u>183</u> _ zip code <u>27607</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	ation	
request for determination of eligible Places and meets the procedural and	e National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby cert gibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in a professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant or additional comments.)	the National Register of Historic , the propertyX_meets
Signature of certifying official North Carolina Department of Nature State or Federal agency and bureau	Date ural and Cultural Resources	
In my opinion, the property med comments.)	ets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continues	uation sheet for additional
Signature of commenting or other off	icial Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certific	ation	
I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register		
other (explain):		

Oberlin Cemetery Name of Property		Wake County, N. C. County and State	
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources v (Do not include previously listed	d resources in the count)
_X private	building(s)	Contributing Noncontrib	_
public-local public-State	district X site	$\frac{0}{1}$ $\frac{0}{0}$	buildings sites
public-Federal	structure	<u></u>	structures
	object	360	objects
	•	381_	Total
Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property is not part or Historic and Architectural Re County, North Carolina 1865	f a multiple property listing.) esources of Oberlin, Wake	Number of contributing res listed in the National Regis	ster
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Cat:Funerary/Cemetery	Sub:		
Cat: _Funerary/Cemetery_	Sub:		
7. Description			
Architectural Classification	(Enter categories from instructions)		
Materials (Enter categories from	instructions)		
foundation N/A_	·		
walls <u>N/A</u>			
other gravemarkers m	arble granite concrete zinc wood		

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Oberlin Cemetery	Wake County, N. C.
Name of Property	County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	(Enter categories from instructions)
for National Register listing)	Ethnic Heritage: African American
_X A Property is associated with events that have	Social History
made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	Settlement
our history.	Community Development
•	
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
C Property embodies the distinctive	
characteristics of a type, period, or method of	
construction or represents the work of a master, or	Period of Significance
possesses high artistic values, or represents a	<u> 1873-1968</u>
significant and distinguishable entity whose components	
lack individual distinction.	
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield	
information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
	_1873, 1876, ca. 1924
Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)	
A owned by a religious institution or used for	Significant Person
religious purposes.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
B removed from its original location.	N/A
C a birthplace or a grave.	Cultural Affiliation
X D a cemetery.	African American
	, who are a wind to a control of the
F a commemorative property.	
G less than 50 years of age or achieved	Architect/Builder
significance within the past 50 years.	Cooper Bros., Raleigh (monument carver) Wake Monument Company (monument fabricator)
	wake Mondment Company (mondment labricator)
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
0 Major Piblicgraphical Poforonoc	
9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography	
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS)	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) h	as been requested.
previously listed in the National Register	·
previously determined eligible by the National Register	
designated a National Historic Landmark	
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	
Driver I costion of Additional Data	
Primary Location of Additional Data	
X State Historic Preservation Office	
Other State agency	
Federal agency	
Local government	
University _X_ Other	
Name of repository: _Friends of Oberlin Village Collection: Jenn	ifer Hallman Research 1996-2001 in possession of the
Friends of Oberlin Village	iner Hailman Nescarch 1990-2001, in possession of the

Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 2.93	
UTM References (Place additional UTM reference	es on a continuation sheet)
Zone Easting Northing 1 17s 711600 3963950 2	Zone Easting Northing 3 4 See continuation sheet.
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation she	eet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation s	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/titleM. Ruth Little	
organization_Longleaf Historic Resources	date_ <u>March 27, 2018</u>
street & number2312 Bedford Avenue	telephone 919.412.7804
city or town Raleigh	state_ <u>N.C.</u> zip code _ <u>27607</u>
12. Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicati A sketch map for historic districts and properti	ing the property's location. ies having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs Representative black and white photographs o	of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO	for any additional items)
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	
nameOwned by individual families of burial plo	ots
street & number	telephone
city or town	

Wake County, N. C.

Oberlin Cemetery_

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Wake County, North Carolina

Section 7: Description

* Bold words and accompanying inventory numbers indicate counted resources. See the summary of contributing and noncontributing resources at the end of Section 7. The full list of grave markers is located in the Appendix at the end of the nomination.*

Oberlin Cemetery, located at 1014 Oberlin Road in Raleigh, North Carolina, 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 set within a wooded area 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 ca. 1974 at 1012 Oberlin Road opposite the intersection of Mayview Road. The cemetery is bounded along the front (west) border by a paved parking lot behind the Interact building. A gabled wood **kiosk/bench structure** (**noncontributing structure**) built about 2012 serves as the cemetery entrance. A metal fence with decorative brick piers, ca. 2001, marks the north border bounding Oberlin Court, a ca. 2001 mixed use development on Oberlin Road. The fence is separated from the apartments by a private, unnamed road. A chain link fence marks the rear (east) border with the 1956 Occidental Building property (NR 2003) (now Trade Mark Properties) on Wade Avenue; and a chain link fence marks the south border shared with the 1950s Cameron Village Condominiums II on Daniels Street. The cemetery measures 320 feet along the west and east and 450 feet along the north and south borders. 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.¹

The cemetery's appearance is that of a 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 family plots are marked on the ground by stone, brick, or concrete borders; most are unmarked. Narrow dirt walkways separate some rows but most seem to 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. The total number of graves is believed to be approximately 600, however only 139 scattered grave markers, most of stone and concrete, but also including one zinc grave marker and one wood grave marker, are visible. Most graves are marked only by depressions in the earth. Large oak, cedar, and magnolia trees shade the flat terrain, covered by a natural growth of wild grasses, shrubs, and vines. Tree debris left behind by Hurricane Fran in 1996 has been cleared in the past few years, but the damage to a number of grave markers from the hurricane has not been repaired.

The cemetery's original one acre, deeded to the community in 1873, was enlarged prior to 1900. In 1924 John T.

¹ M. Ruth Little, Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers, Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1998, 237.

² John Wall, Ph.D. student, N. C. State University, Oberlin Cemetery Terrestrial Laser Scan, 2017.

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Turner subdivided a narrow strip of property along the south edge of the cemetery as an annex named Pine View Cemetery.³ The 55-foot-wide and 450-foot-deep annex is approximately .57 acre in size, bringing the total size to 2.93 acres. 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 first cemetery survey, compiled by the Works Progress Administration in 1940, lists forty-two grave markers with death dates from 1876 to 1913 (the survey's cut-off date was 1914). In 1994 students at nearby 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 grave markers as well as unmarked burials of individuals listed in the Wake County Death Register. 5

The cemetery's period of historical significance began in 1873, when the cemetery's original one acre was deeded to the community and continues to 1968. Although, new burials continued past 1968, the majority of burials are from the late-nineteenth to the early-twentieth century, and the last 50 years are not of exceptional significance. The **overall site** is **contributing**. The **network of individual family plot boundary curbs** is counted as **one contributing structure**.

Thirty-six of the 139 existing grave markers, discussed below, are contributing primary resources that help to define the cemetery's significance by their early date or importance of individuals to the settlement or development of Oberlin Village or the ability to convey African American burial practices in the South during segregation. They are keyed to the first scaled survey map of the entire cemetery, prepared in 2017 by John Wall of North Carolina State University (Figure 1). Their numbers correspond to the complete cemetery inventory located in the Appendix.

The oldest grave markers are likely the **seven uninscribed fieldstones** (Nos. 1-7) in a row in the front (southwest) corner of the cemetery. Pairs of tall and short stones serve as head and footstones. Most nineteenth-century graveyards in Wake County include uninscribed fieldstones like these. Their dates are unknown, but may be family members of the Pettifords who owned the cemetery site prior to 1873.⁶

One tall thin wooden **headboard** (No. 89) with an arched top and no inscription, stands in the center rear and likely marks a Reconstruction era burial. Five more arched wooden grave markers stood in the front section of the cemetery near the Dunston plot until the 1990s but have now disappeared. None of these had inscriptions. A

³Wake County Book of Maps 1924-00081: survey plat for Pine View Cemetery, 1924, Larry Tucker, surveyor.

⁴ James H. McCuller, Historical Records Survey of Oberlin's Cemetery, 1940, N.C. State Archives, Raleigh. A few of the listed gravestones are no longer visible.

⁵ Jennifer Hallman, Oberlin Cemetery Register, ca. 1996, Hallman's Oberlin Cemetery Research.

⁶ Wake County Deed Book 22, 187-188, 1858 deed from George W. Mordecai to Jesse Pettiford.

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documentary photograph of one of these shows an arched headboard. As with the fieldstone grave markers, wooden headboards were utilized in Wake County graveyards during the nineteenth and early-twentieth century.

Inscribed grave markers 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 grave markers are generally small marble headstones. Post-1940 grave markers are generally commercially-produced granite family grave markers, small headstones, or low tablet-type individual markers. A number of concrete headstones for early twentieth-century graves and larger concrete family grave markers of the mid-twentieth-century period are scattered through the cemetery. Some grave markers are back-dated stones that mark the graves of individuals who died some years earlier. These may have replaced older grave markers or may have been the first grave markers erected. An example is the flush granite grave marker for village pioneer and farmer **Grandison Turner** (1853-1928) (No. 18), likely erected after 1940.

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. 43). The earliest dated individual grave marker is an arched marble headstone for **Maria Dickerson** (1826-1884) (No. 81), wife of John Dickerson. The second earliest dated grave marker is a large marble headstone for **Mary Dunston** (1791-1885) (No. 15); the next oldest dated grave marker is a tall arched marble headstone for **Zylphia Thompson** (1804-1888) (No. 71).

The largest and most decorative pre-1940 grave markers are five obelisks with death dates from the latenineteenth to the early-twentieth century for Margaret Andrews (d. 1889) (previously mentioned above) and her children; **N. G. Dunston** (died 1905) (No.11); **Annette C. Andrews** (d. 1911) (No. 66); **Dr. George W. Williams** (1872-1912) (No. 46), son of carpenter Thomas Williams; and **Rev. Plummer T. Hall** (1849-1915) (No. 85). All are marble except for Rev. Hall's rusticated granite grave marker. The obelisk's square, tapered shape originated as a revival of Egyptian and Roman commemorative grave markers in the late 1700s, reaching the height of its popularity in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Each of these obelisks is set on a granite or marble base that elevates the grave marker 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. The obelisks of Annette Andrews and Rev. Hall have recessed ovals at the top that likely originally held their porcelainized photographs. Rev. Hall, founder and first pastor of Oberlin Baptist Church, built his parsonage at 814 Oberlin Road next to the church between 1878 and 1893 (NR 2002).

The Dunston plot in the center third row section contains the highest quality group of commercial marble grave markers of any family plot. The large double plot is bordered by six arched granite posts, three on the west side

⁷ Jennifer Hallman photograph, ca. 1998. Hallman's Oberlin Cemetery Research.

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

⁹ The Dunston plot includes grave markers numbered 8 through 15, although not all the grave markers are counted as contributing objects.

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and three on the east side, which support a metal chain. Matriarch Mary Dunston (1791-1885) (previously mentioned above) is buried beneath a large marble headstone with a deep relief carving of a cross. **Annie Dunston** (d. 1890 aged forty) (No. 13); **John Dunston** (d. 1894 aged sixty-six) (No. 14); and **B. H. Dunston** (d. 1898 aged sixty-eight) (No. 12), have tall arched marble headstones. Annie has a relief carving of a lily; B. H. Dunston, a farmer, said to have been a founding member of the local black Masonic lodge, has a Masonic symbol; and Dunston, who worked in a machine shop, has an Odd Fellow's lodge symbol in relief. ¹⁰ N. G. Dunston (1855-1905) (previously mentioned above) is buried beneath the tallest obelisk in the cemetery, erected by his wife Elmira (1865-1922), whose inscription is placed beneath N.G.'s name. ¹¹ The base of the obelisk is signed "Cooper Bros., Raleigh," the most prominent grave marker firm in Raleigh from ca. 1894 to 1930. Cooper Brothers may have carved the other Dunston grave markers as well. Several members of the family lived in Oberlin Village; others apparently lived in southeast Raleigh but chose to be buried in Oberlin Cemetery.

Most pre-1940 grave markers are simple marble headstones, sometimes with relief decoration at the top, like the stone of **George Williams** (1858-1910) (No. 35) that contains the symbol of a crown. One of the last examples of this type is the large arched marble headstone of **Thempie Bobbitt**, died 1928 (No. 72), whose top is adorned with classical relief ornament.

Sixteen examples of commercial cast concrete headstones for individuals who died in the early 1900s were likely made by the same company. All use similar molds, segmental-arched headstone shapes, neat uppercase Roman lettering for the inscription, and a low-relief depiction of ivy vine trailing around an anchor at the top (a symbol of a Christian's eternal life). A number have simple epitaphs. Examples are **J. D. Chavis**, died 1926 (No.127), with a low-relief Masonic emblem at the top; **Jesse & John Scarver**, infants who died one day apart in 1919 (No. 67); **Susie Parham** (d. 1929) (No. 90); **Jessie L. Pettiford** (1865-1921) (No. 52); and one headstone with three names: **Daniel Williams**, died 1912, **Edward Haywood**, died 1912, and **Henrietta Haywood**, died 1908 (No. 38). Commemorating three individuals, one with a different surname, on one gravestone is atypical. A stonecutter whose sideline was concrete gravestones is believed to have made them in the 1920s. He travelled on the railroad to take orders at a cost of \$3 apiece, and shipped the finished grave marker by rail to the customers. ¹²

Like most twentieth-century African American cemeteries in rural North Carolina, Oberlin Cemetery contains a distinctive group of handmade concrete grave markers, likely made by local artisans in imitation of the commercial granite grave markers popular in the 1920s-1930s across the country. Examples are a double grave marker for **Haynes Clark** (1848-1919) and his **wife Sallie** (1837-1917) (No. 56); a double grave marker for **Lula Turner** (d. 1911) and **John T. Turner** (d. 1922) (No. 97); the **Morgan family grave marker** (no date)

¹⁰ Hallman, "Oberlin Cemetery: Material Culture of the Storm," Hallman's Oberlin Cemetery Research.

¹¹ 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.

¹² M. Ruth Little, *Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998, 309, n. 7.

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(No. 27); the **Sara Ivey grave marker** (d. 1911) (No. 88); and the **Williams family grave marker** (no date) (No. 36). Each has a concrete base supporting a thick grave marker with an inscription in a smooth rectangular space on the front face. The remaining surface of the grave marker is finished in a rusticated texture that contains remnants of white paint. Such grave markers, likely fabricated by a local artisan, were less expensive than comparable granite grave markers.

Fifty-three grave markers are modern polished granite family grave markers and individual tablets for people who died from 1934 to the present or replacement markers on older graves. These commercially-produced gravestones have standardized thick, rectangular shapes, shallow bases, and simple floral or religious motifs around the centralized inscriptions. One of these, a granite tablet, commemorates **Charles H. Hunter** (1855-1956) (No. 58). Local stonecutters ordered such pre-cut stones from wholesale grave marker companies such as the Elberton Granite Association, Elberton, Georgia, 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 grave markers. ¹³

Grave markers in Pine View annex have death dates from 1911-2007. Most are commercial granite type grave markers, with a scattering of marble and concrete gravestones. **Beechman Alford** (1880-1967) (No. 118) has a marble headstone issued by the government in honor of his service in the 1898 Spanish-American War. Two grave markers are built into distinctive decorative masonry plot borders. Brick encases the marble headstone of **Powell Peebles**, 1888-1942 (No. 134), and creates a border for the family plot. **James Lipscomb** (1874-1939) (No. 126) 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 grave marker enclosures.

Summary of Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

- 1. Kiosk/bench structure (ca. 2012) noncontributing structure.
- 2. Overall site (1873, 1924 annex) contributing site.
- 3. Network of individual family plot boundary curbs (19th-20th century) contributing structure.
- 4. Seven uninscribed fieldstones (no date) (Nos. 1-7) seven contributing objects.
- 5. Headboard (no date) (No. 89) contributing object.
- 6. Grandison Turner grave marker (1853-1928) (No. 18) contributing object.
- 7. Margaret Andrews grave marker (1855-1889) (No. 43) contributing object.
- 8. Maria Dickerson grave marker (1826-1884) (No. 81) contributing object.
- 9. Mary Dunston grave marker (1791-1885) (No. 15) contributing object.
- 10. Zylphia Thompson grave marker (1804-1888) (No. 71) contributing object.
- 11. N. G. Dunston grave marker (d. 1905) (No.11) contributing object.
- 12. Annette C. Andrews grave marker (d. 1911) (No. 66) contributing object.

¹³ 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.

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- 13. Dr. George W. Williams grave marker (1872-1912) (No. 46) contributing object.
- 14. Rev. Plummer T. Hall grave marker (1849-1915) (No.85) contributing object.
- 15. Annie Dunston grave marker (d. 1890, aged forty) (No. 13) contributing object.
- 16. John Dunston grave marker (d. 1894, aged sixty-six) (No. 14) contributing object.
- 17. B. H. Dunston grave marker (d. 1898 aged, sixty-eight) (No. 12) contributing object.
- 18. George Williams grave marker (1858-1910) (No. 35) contributing object.
- 19. Thempie Bobbitt grave marker (d. 1928) (No. 72) contributing object.
- 20. J. D. Chavis grave marker (d. 1926) (No.127) contributing object.
- 21. Jesse & John Scarver grave makrer (d. 1919) (No. 67) contributing object.
- 22. Susie Parham grave marker (d. 1929) (No. 90) contributing object.
- 23. Jessie L. Pettiford grave marker (1865-1921) (No. 52) contributing object.
- 24. Grave marker for Daniel Williams, died 1912, Edward Haywood, died 1912, and Henrietta Haywood, died 1908 (No. 38) contributing object.
- 25. Grave marker for Haynes Clark (1848-1919) and his wife Sallie (1837-1917) (No. 56) contributing object.
- 26. Lula Turner (d. 1911) and John T. Turner (d. 1922) (No. 97) contributing object.
- 27. Morgan family grave marker (no date) (No. 27) contributing object.
- 28. Sara Ivey grave marker (d. 1911) (No. 88) contributing object.
- 29. Williams family grave marker (no date) (No. 36) contributing object.
- 30. Charles H. Hunter grave marker (1855-1956) (No. 58) contributing object.
- 31. Beechman Alford grave marker (1880-1967) (No. 118) contributing object.
- 32. Powell Peebles grave marker (1888-1942) (No. 134) contributing object.
- 33. James Lipscomb grave marker (1874-1939) (No. 126) contributing object.

Statement of Integrity

Oberlin Cemetery retains a high degree of integrity of setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, in addition to possessing demonstrable significance under Criterion A. Although mid- and late-twentieth-century buildings stand on all four sides of the cemetery, each of these buildings is set off from the cemetery boundaries by open space that allows the cemetery to retain its integrity of feeling. On the west side is a large paved parking lot, on the north and south are private paved driveways, and on the east is a grassy lawn. The overall layout and design of the cemetery remain intact. The tree canopy creates an atmosphere of quiet and seclusion within the overall urban environment. Rural cemeteries, especially African American ones, typically featured wood or uncut fieldstone markers, which are ephemeral and easily moved, or unmarked graves. The loss of these markers over time is a normal part of a cemetery's physical evolution. Integrity of workmanship and materials is present in the locally made concrete monuments, most of which are in good condition.

ONPS Form 10-900-a OMB No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Statement of Archaeological Potential

Archaeological features may be an important element of the significance of the cemetery. Cemetery features documented as having information potential include the location and grouping of graves, both marked and unmarked; the use and quantity of commercial markers, fieldstone, or impermanent markers; funerary art; and inscriptions indicating identity, cultural affiliation, birth and death dates, and cause of death. Information concerning African American culture, as well as the demographic history of the Oberlin Village community, can be obtained from Oberlin Cemetery. Also, please note that cemeteries and unmarked graves are protected by North Carolina General Statutes 65 and 70. This should be considered in any landscaping or restoration activities in the cemetery.

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Section 8: Statement of Significance

Oberlin Cemetery is locally significant under National Register Criterion A as a reflection of the community's development, with which the areas of settlement, community development, African American ethnic heritage, and social history are all inextricably combined. The only cemetery in the community, Oberlin Cemetery is a literal and symbolic repository of the African American pioneers, many born into slavery, who established the enduring black village of Oberlin outside Raleigh during the Reconstruction Era. As a segregated black cemetery from Reconstruction through the Jim Crow era, it embodies African American traditions and socioeconomic circumstances. Oberlin Cemetery retains physical qualities characteristic of late-nineteenth and earlytwentieth century African American cemeteries, including its layout, landscaping, and types of vernacular and homemade grave markers. Among those buried at the cemetery are Oberlin's earliest settlers and most influential residents. Oberlin Village retained its African American, owner-occupied, middle-class status until the early 1970s when it began to be absorbed into Raleigh's suburbs. While the tangible resources of the Oberlin community are rapidly dissolving due to development pressures, the cemetery remains a physical resource representing the history of the Reconstruction and the Jim Crow eras. The cemetery's period of significance begins in 1873, the date the cemetery was deeded to the trustees of Oberlin Cemetery, thus marking its official use as a cemetery, and ends in 1968, as the last 50 years are not of exceptional significance. It meets Criteria Consideration D because it derives its primary significance from its important historic associations with the settlement and development of the freedman's village of Oberlin, African American ethnic heritage, and the social history of burial practices from Reconstruction to the end of segregation in the Jim Crow South.

The historic context for Oberlin Cemetery is provided in section E of the related Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic and Architectural Resources of Oberlin, Wake County, North Carolina, 1865-1952." The cemetery's context in "The Cultural and Social Life of Oberlin" is specifically called out in section E, page 15. It is discussed in section F, page 35-36 as meeting the registration requirements under Criterion A for African American ethnic heritage and social history. The cemetery illustrates important cultural and social aspects of the historical development of Oberlin and, since the oldest graves date from the last quarter of the nineteenth century, is an important record of the early development of Oberlin.

Historical Background, Settlement, and Community Development Context¹⁴

In the mid-1800s Oberlin Road, known as the Hillsboro Road, ran along a ridge some two miles from the State Capitol in downtown Raleigh. By 1871 it was known as the New Hillsborough Road, and was renamed Oberlin Road in the early 1870s. It extended north-south from Hillsboro Road skirting the plantation of Paul C.

¹⁴ For a full history of Oberlin Village, please refer to the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), "Historic and Architectural Resources of Oberlin, Wake County, North Carolina, 1865-1952."; For a more recent history of Oberlin Village, refer to M. Ruth Little's 2017 Oberlin Village Historic Overlay District Report, Raleigh Historic Development Commission at rhdc.org/sites/default/files/OberlinVillageReportRevised.pdf.

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Cameron, son of Duncan Cameron. Duncan's house stood across from St. Mary's College; he died in 1854. George W. Mordecai gained ownership of some portion of the Cameron land that included the present site of Oberlin Cemetery when he married Paul C. Cameron's daughter Margaret in 1853. 16

The Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), "Historic and Architectural Resources of Oberlin, Wake County, North Carolina, 1865-1952," provides settlement context for the freedmen's villages of Wake County from 1865 to 1880, including Oberlin Village, in Section E, pages 1-10. It mentions the oral tradition that Oberlin was established after the Civil War when the emancipated slaves of the Cameron, Bennehan, and Mordecai families, three of Raleigh's most prominent antebellum plantation owners and slave holders, were given home sites along Oberlin Road. Research for this nomination documents that free blacks established a settlement along Oberlin Road around the future site of Oberlin Cemetery in the 1850s prior to the Civil War. George W. Mordecai sold a tract of this land to Jesse Pettiford, a free black, in 1858 for \$160 (Wake County Deed Book 22, 187-188). The 16-acre tract was located on the east side of the New Hillsboro Road (Oberlin Road) and was bounded by William Boylan's land. The deed describes it as the "tract of land on which said Jesse Pettiford now lives." In 1860, Jesse Pettiford (1792-1869), a mulatto from Virginia, resided there with his wife and four children, Dicey, Angeline, Luvenia, and Nathan. His son Roscoe L. Pettiford, a 24-year-old railroad foreman, lived next door. Free black mulatto neighbors John Emanuel, a brick mason, Robert Snellings, and farmer Luvenia Snellings surrounded the Pettifords. ¹⁷ Jesse Pettiford hired surveyor Fendol Bevers to survey and divide his property into lots for his heirs shortly before his death in 1869. ¹⁸

A portion of Jesse Pettiford's homestead became Oberlin Cemetery. The 1865 "Map of Rebel Lines at Raleigh," delineating Jesse's farm tract and two dwellings, georectified to current maps, reveals that the cemetery overlies a portion of the Pettiford plot. In 1873, son Nicholas Pettiford sold his one-acre tract, perhaps already containing a family graveyard, for \$45 to the trustees of Oberlin Cemetery: John Manuel, Coffee Williams, Mingo G. Croom, Seth Nowell, and Nelson Turner. It is described as being in the village of Oberlin and bounded on the east by property of the late George W. Mordecai, on the south by Albert Pettiford's lot, and fronting on Luvenia Pettiford's lot (Wake County Deed Book 40, page 445). The deed specified that the land was to be sold in lots for burials; failure to use the property as a cemetery would 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.

Oberlin Village was officially established in the late 1860s when white landowners, including Lewis W. Peck and Timothy F. Lee, subdivided land along Oberlin Road south of the Pettiford property and sold lots to newly freed African Americans. Peck's property, as well as Pettiford's property, appears on the 1865 Map of Rebel

¹⁵ Murray, Wake Capital County, Vol. I, 645.

¹⁶ George W. Mordecai Papers, 1767-1916-UNC Chapel Hill. Finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/00522/.

¹⁷ Murray, *Wake Capital County*, Vol. I, 665n; 1860 U.S. Census, Northwest District, Wake County, N.C. Household 405, www.ancestry.com.

¹⁸ Jesse Pettiford estate, 1870, North Carolina State Archives, www.ancestry.com.

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Lines at Raleigh, mentioned above. The village's prosperity resulted from the commercial incentive of the mostly white landowners and the partly benevolent agency of a Reconstruction Era alliance of white and black Republicans, whose political power ended when the Democrats regained control of the legislature in 1876. Raleigh merchant Lewis W. Peck is the first documented post-Civil War seller of lots to African Americans in Oberlin Village; an early name for the community was "Peck's Place." The 1865 Civil War map delineates 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. His subdivision of his farm beginning in 1866 is easily traceable in deeds. ¹⁹ Peck's earliest known sales along Oberlin Road are to William Armstead, Robert Wyche, and Talitha Norwood in 1866; to Isham Ferrell, Alfred Patterson, Thomas Williams, Seth Nowell, Norfleet Jeffries, Monroe Smith, and Asa Hunt in 1867; and to Henry Jones in 1868. Peck died in 1891. ²⁰ Sheriff Timothy F. Lee, a Union soldier from Brooklyn who settled in Raleigh after the war, subdivided the next known development, at the northwest corner of Hillsboro Street and Oberlin Road, and sold lots between 1869 and 1872 to such early settlers as John James, James Shepherd, and Betsy Hinton. ²¹

The Raleigh Cooperative Land and Building Association (RCLBA), a lending corporation incorporated in 1869 by James H. Harris, president, and J. Brinton Smith, treasurer, at the present-day St. Paul AME Church in Raleigh, was one of a number of lending corporations that helped freedmen buy land and build houses. Harris served as its president, Smith as its treasurer. Harris (1829-1891), known as "a strong promoter of Wake County's village of Oberlin," was one of Wake County's leading black politicians. He aided Raleigh freedmen not only through governmental channels but through his own commercial ventures. Born in Granville County, North Carolina as a slave, Harris earned his freedom, traveled to Ohio where he is said to have studied at Oberlin College, then moved about the U.S. and Canada assisting slaves escaping the South. During the war he commissioned the 28th Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops in Indiana. Upon his return to Raleigh, he served as a delegate to the 1865 "Colored Men's Convention" and helped organize the Union League, an association of black men allied with the Republican party. RCLBA's other incorporator, J. Brinton Smith, was a white school teacher from the North, an officer of the Freedman's Commission of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and served as the first principal of the school that became St. Augustine's College, which opened in 1868 in Raleigh. The RCLBA loaned money to a number of black families in Oberlin village to build houses and

¹⁹ Murray, Wake Capital County, Vol. I, 643-645; 1865 "Map of Rebel Lines at Raleigh N.C," National Archives.

²⁰ Wake County Deeds; Wake County Grantor Index, Lewis W. Peck; Lewis W. Peck Estate File, N.C. State Archives.

²¹ Murray, Wake Capital County, Vol. I, 630, 643.

²²Wake Capital County, Vol. 1, 645; Crow, Escott, and Hatley, A History of African Americans in North Carolina, 85; "James Harris Obituary," Raleigh Gazette, June 6, 1891; Logan, The Negro in North Carolina 1876-1894, 29, 110. Harris served as a Raleigh alderman, directed the Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind for four years, published the North Carolina Republican newspaper in the early 1880s, and the Raleigh Gazette in the mid-1890s.

²³History of St. Augustine's, www.st-aug.edu/history.html accessed Nov. 23, 2016; Briggs, "Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction."

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operated for a decade before going into receivership.²⁴

During the 1870s, Oberlin residents built houses, named their settlement "Oberlin," and established a church, a school, and a cemetery in the 800-1000 blocks of Oberlin Road between present-day Roberts Street and to the north of Mayview Road. Some early residents who bought lots in the late 1860s, including drayman Seth Nowell, carpenters John Dickerson and John Flagg, shoemaker John James, blacksmith Willis Haywood, Norfleet Jeffries, James Morgan, and minister Wilson Morgan, still lived in Raleigh's East Ward, a traditionally African American area, in 1870. Raleigh's *Daily News* printed a letter in March 1872, signed "Many Citizens," stating that "our flourishing little village" was named Oberlin. The name is generally believed to honor James Harris's connection to Oberlin College, associated with freedom and educational opportunities for African Americans.²⁵

By 1880, some 150 black households lived together in the Raleigh township containing Oberlin Village, a significant-sized African American settlement for the time. These include Norfleet Jeffries, Thomas Williams, John Dunston, Daniel Green, Reverend 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. ²⁶

In the 1800s and early 1900s, Oberlin Cemetery was physically expanded under the management of sextons and functioned actively in village life. The 1880 census lists Oberlin resident Daniel Green as a cemetery sexton. Prior to 1900, the cemetery's original acre expanded to approximately two acres, although a deed for this expansion has not been located. The last known Oberlin Cemetery superintendent was Oliver Brown, listed in the 1905-1906 and 1907-1908 city directories. In the early 1900s John T. 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 flanking a main drive, was registered in 1924, although Lula Turner was buried in the annex in 1911.²⁷ Throughout Oberlin's history, funerals of prominent individuals functioned as public ceremonies. The News and Observer reported on the funeral of drayman Adan William at Oberlin cemetery in 1880. William's fellow draymen in the Oak City Blues, Oberlin Vance Guards, and East Raleigh Guards, marched with his body in a musical funeral

²⁴ Briggs, "Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction;" *Wake Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 1, 643, 645; *Daily Standard*, Raleigh, March 8, 1869; "Cooperative Movement," *The Weekly Standard*, Mar. 24, 1869; "Raleigh Co-operative Land and Building Association," *The Raleigh News*, Feb. 11, 1873. Governor W. W. Holden served as president of the National Freedmen's Saving and Trust Company, and Harris was a director. Gov. Holden was impeached in 1870 during the tumult of Reconstruction politics. Other corporations involved in Oberlin Village were the North Carolina Land Company and the Wake County Cooperative Business Company.

²⁵Murray, Wake Capital County, Vol. 1, 644.

²⁶ 1870 U. S. Census, population schedule, Wake County, Raleigh East Ward; 1880 U.S. Census, population schedule, Wake County, Raleigh township.

²⁷ Since Pine View is an annex, the entire cemetery is referred to as Oberlin Cemetery in this report.

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procession to the cemetery.²⁸

Oberlin Village's pace of growth slowed in the early 1900s but continued to prosper as a largely African American community throughout the Jim Crow segregation era that ended in the 1970s. When Willis Briggs's history of Oberlin Village appeared in *The News and Observer* in 1948, the village had a population of approximately 1,000, housed in about 100 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." 29

Even as Briggs wrote his article, the Smallwood tract southeast of Oberlin Village was being converted into the Cameron Village commercial and residential development, one of Raleigh's largest mid-twentieth century amenities. By 1960 Raleigh's encroachment 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, a mid-twentieth-century commercial and residential development, lined the blocks of Oberlin Road up to Everett Street. Construction of the Wade Avenue four-lane boulevard in the early 1960s destroyed a number of community houses.

Although Oberlin Cemetery has remained in use for burials up to the present, it has gradually become more neglected. Its only legal access is a 12-foot-wide grassy portion of land that begins at Oberlin Road and leads to the northwest corner of the cemetery. This was granted by Ross L. Pettiford in his will, probated in 1909. ³⁰ This access is no longer used. The owners of Interact, currently housed in the old YMCA building, allow cemetery visitors informal access via its parking lot, but this would be cut off if the building were sold to a new owner who wanted to develop the entire parcel. In 2011 a group of neighbors formed the Friends of Oberlin Village as a non-profit to protect, restore, and celebrate the cemetery and the village core. They clean and maintain the cemetery grounds regularly, and succeeded in having the cemetery designated a Raleigh Historic Landmark in 2013. A group of science and history professors at nearby North Carolina State University use the cemetery as a learning laboratory for their students. Anthropology professor Dru McGill guides his students in cemetery research projects. Graduate student John Wall recently completed a terrestrial laser scanning survey that located approximately 600 graves and mapped the surviving grave markers. ³¹

²⁸ March 9, 1880, *The News and Observer*, Raleigh, noted in Elizabeth Norris file on Oberlin Cemetery, Olivia Raney Library, Raleigh.

²⁹ Willis Briggs, "Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction," *The News and Observer*, Raleigh, N.C., Aug. 8, 1948.

³⁰ Ross L. Pettiford Will, probated 1909. Accessed by Smith, Moore, Leatherwood LLC on Ancestry.com on 6/13/2017.

³¹ Wall, Oberlin Cemetery Terrestrial Laser Scan, 2017.

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African American Ethnic Heritage and Social History: the Jim Crow Era and Rural African American Burial Practices

All aspects of life and death in Oberlin Village reflected strict segregation, both during Reconstruction and under the strict laws and social norms of the Jim Crow South from the late 1800s to the 1960s. White and black cemeteries were strictly segregated throughout Raleigh's history. The southeast quadrant of Raleigh's 1798 City Cemetery, reserved for African Americans, is the city's oldest African American cemetery. In 1872, when this section of City Cemetery had filled, the city established the segregated Mount Hope Cemetery in southeast Raleigh for the black population. About the same time the two freedmen's communities of Method and Oberlin Village established their own cemeteries: Oak Grove Cemetery, 4303 Beryl Road and Oberlin Cemetery, 1014 Oberlin Road. 32

Historic African American cemeteries throughout North Carolina are characterized by distinctive physical qualities. Each quality reflects either tradition or socioeconomic circumstance, sometimes both: a general absence of an overall planned layout that incorporates visible pathways, natural rather than designed landscape, grave markers made from uninscribed fieldstones, uninscribed wood, or home-made or locally-made markers of cast concrete. These cemeteries also tend to contain a high number of unmarked graves, either because the original marker disappeared over time or the graves were never marked to begin with. Family plots often have no marked borders.³³

African American cemeteries in Raleigh share several common characteristics of African American cemeteries found throughout North Carolina. Oberlin Cemetery is shaded by a wooded tree canopy of native oaks, cedars, magnolias and other small volunteer trees. No evidence of any deliberate plantings or lawn can be found. Only about one-quarter of known graves have markers, although many impermanent markers such as fieldstones or wood headboards may once have existed. The twenty-eight handmade or locally-made grave markers, characteristic of African American cemeteries, include fieldstone head and footstones, a wooden headboard, handmade cast-concrete grave markers, and commercially-made vernacular cast concrete markers. Few high-style Victorian monuments mark graves, as their cost would have been prohibitive for most Oberlin Village families. Some of the family plot borders are home-made from concrete block or fieldstones. Oak Grove Cemetery in the nearby Method community of Raleigh contains the same types of grave markers, except for wood headboards. Such inexpensive grave markers exist in rural white nineteenth and early twentieth-century cemeteries in North Carolina, but their usage is more prevalent in African American cemeteries of the era because of the greater economic constraints of African Americans.

Existing grave markers at Oberlin Cemetery mark the graves of a number of Oberlin Village's early settlers. Their occupations are typical of African Americans after Emancipation. Most of the men worked as farm

³² M. Ruth Little, Mount Hope Cemetery National Register Nomination, 2009. http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/WA3792.pdf.

³³ M. Ruth Little, Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers, 248-268.

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laborers, with the next most dominant occupations being brick mason, house carpenter, and farmer. Most of the women worked as well, primarily as laundresses, although other occupations were seamstresses, cooks, servants, nurses, and farm laborers. ³⁴ The earliest individual identified by a dated grave marker is the child Julia Andrews, who died in 1876, and is included on the obelisk of her mother **Margaret Andrews** (1855-1889) (No. 43). Margaret's husband, Andrew Andrews, a farmer, lived next to farmer Grandison Turner. According to oral tradition, Andrews drew a Confederate pension because he helped build the breastworks around Raleigh in March 1865. 35 Other early interments, with marble headstones, are **Maria Dickerson** (died 1884) (No. 81), Mary Dunston (1791-1885) (No. 15), and **Zylphia Thompson** (died 1888) (No. 71). A granite obelisk (No. 85) commemorates the **Rev. Plummer T. Hall** (1849-1915), founder and first pastor of Oberlin Baptist Church. Hall built his parsonage at 814 Oberlin Road (NR 2002) between 1878 and 1893 next to the church. N. G. Dunston (died 1905) (No. 11) and Annette C. Andrews (died 1911) (No. 66), also have obelisk monuments. Other Dunstons in the same plot as N. G. Dunston have large, decorative marble headstones: **Annie Dunston** (d. 1890) (No. 13), **John Dunston** (d. 1894) (No. 14), and **B. H. Dunston** (d. 1898) (No. 12). Annie has a relief carving of a lily; B. H. Dunston, a farmer, said to have been a founding member of the local black Masonic lodge, has a Masonic symbol; and Dunston, who worked in a machine shop, has an Odd Fellow's lodge symbol in relief. Two early settlers have replacement granite tablets: Grandison Turner (1853-1928) (No. 18); and Charles L. Hunter (1855-1966) (No. 58). Hunter worked as a delivery wagon driver and lived to the age of 101 years; his wife Simora [Senora] was a laundress.

Dr. George W. Williams (1872-1912), son of carpenter Thomas Williams, has a handsome marble obelisk (No. 46). One Oberlin man, **Beechman Alford** (1880-1967), served in the Spanish-American War of 1898 and is buried beneath a government-issue marble headstone (No. 118). **George Williams** (1858-1910) (No. 35) and **Thempie Bobbitt** (died 1928) (No. 72) have simple marble headstones typical of most of the pre-1940 grave markers in Oberlin Cemetery.

A number of vernacular grave markers are contributing resources for Oberlin Cemetery's African American ethnic heritage and social history. A group of seven **uninscribed fieldstones** (Nos. 1-7) and an uninscribed **headboard** (No. 89) commemorate unknown individuals. Another group of early settlers have handmade cast concrete monuments by an anonymous local artisan: **Haynes Clark** (1848-1919) (No. 56); **Sara Ivey** (1846-1911) (No. 88); **Lula Turner** (died 1911) and **John T. Turner** (died 1922), both on the same monument (No. 97); and two family monuments for the **Williams** (No. 36) and **Morgan** (No. 27) families.

A group of early Oberlin residents are commemorated by commercial cast concrete headstones. **Jesse L. Pettiford** (1865-1921) (No. 52), a tinner, was the son of Roscoe L. Pettiford, also a tinner, and his wife Sarah, a seamstress. ³⁶ **J. D. Chavis** (died 1926) (No. 127) has a Masonic emblem on his marker. **Jessie and John**

³⁴Wake: Capital County, Vol. 2, 38; Vol. 1, 645. 1880 U.S. Census, population schedule, Wake County, Raleigh Township.

³⁵ Briggs, "Oberlin Village Emerged During Reconstruction."

³⁶ 1880, 1920 census, Wake County.

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Scarver, brothers who both died in 1919, the sons of Joseph and Mary Scarver, share a grave marker (No. 67). **Daniel Williams** (died 1912), **Edward Haywood** (died 1912), and **Henrietta Haywood** (died 1908) share a single grave marker (No. 38). **Susie Parham** (died 1929) has an individual grave marker (No. 90).

Powell Peebles (1888-1942) (No. 134) and **James Lipscomb** (1874-1939) (No. 126) have homemade masonry monuments encasing marble headstones, built into matching family plot borders likely made by masons in the Oberlin community.

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NPS Form 10-900-a OMB No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Section 10: Boundaries

The boundary of Oberlin Cemetery is the tax parcel (PIN #1704153164) shown on the accompanying 2018 Tax Map obtained from the City of Raleigh and Wake County Imaps, delineating the 2.93 acre cemetery with its thirteen foot wide access road, at a scale of one inch = 100 feet.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the entire Oberlin Cemetery: the original one acre deeded in 1873, the enlarged area added at an unknown date, and the ca. 1924 Pine View annex. The 13-foot wide driveway from Oberlin Road to the northwest corner of the cemetery is the only legal access. It was created in 1909 when Ross L. Pettiford's will was probated.

NPS Form 10-900-a OMB No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Photographs:

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Photographer: M. Ruth Little

Date: December 2017

Location of negatives: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh

- 1. Overall view from west showing the front of cemetery with entrance kiosk (A)
- 2. Overall view showing front row of uninscribed fieldstone grave markers (Nos. 1-7) (B)
- 3. Uninscribed fieldstone headstone and footstone in front row (C)
- 4. View looking east toward Dunston family plot (D)
- 5. View looking north toward Oberlin Court development (E)
- 6. Grandison Turner (1853-1928) (No. 18) polished granite tablet (F)
- 7. Daniel Williams, Edward Haywood, Henrietta Haywood (died 1912, 1912, and 1908 (No. 38), early 20th century commercial cast concrete headstone (G)
- 8. Annette Andrews (1885-1911) (No. 66) marble obelisk (H)
- 9. Wooden headboard, uninscribed (No. 89) (I)
- 10. Overall view of northeast section of cemetery (J)
- 11. John Dunston (died 1894) (No. 14), marble headstone (K)
- 12. Lula Turner (died 1911) and John T. Turner (died 1922) (No. 97), handmade cast concrete monument (L)
- 13. James Lipscomb (1874-1939) (No. 126) locally made granite block grave marker (M)
- 14. Beechman Alford Jr. (1880-1967) (No. 118), soldier in 1898 Spanish-American War, government-issue marble headstone (N)

Note: Letters at the end of each entry in the photo log correspond to the letters on the Oberlin Cemetery Map of Contributing Grave Markers.

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Section Appendix Page 20 Oberlin Cemetery Wake County, North Carolina

Appendix: Complete Inventory of Grave markers in Oberlin Cemetery

Note: The following inventory contains a total of one hundred thirty-nine grave markers, recorded by M. Ruth Little in December 2017. The main section of the cemetery is listed first; Pine View annex follows. The list begins in the southwest corner and proceeds north for each "row." All ninety-three grave markers in the main section have pre-1972 death dates.

Inv.#	Name of deceased (bd.) If only one date (death date)	Type and description of grave marker
1	Unknown person	Uninscribed fieldstone headstone and
		footstone.
2	Unknown person	Uninscribed fieldstone headstone and
		footstone.
3	Unknown person	Uninscribed fieldstone headstone and
		footstone.
4	Unknown person	Uninscribed fieldstone headstone and
		footstone.
5	Unknown person	Uninscribed fieldstone headstone and
		footstone.
6	Unknown person	Uninscribed fieldstone headstone and
		footstone.
7	Unknown person	Uninscribed fieldstone headstone and
		footstone.
8	Johnnie Dunston	Small three-dimensional marble lamb on a
		marble base, with a marble footstone
		inscribed "J.D." No date.
9	Unknown person	Very large headstone fallen on its inscription.
10	Anna B. Dunston Starling (1903-	Polished granite grave marker.
	1941)	
11	N. G. Dunston (May 15, 1855-June 4,	Tall granite obelisk with Masonic emblem on
	1905); Elmira Dunston (1865-Oct. 5,	shaft. Signed "Cooper Bros., Raleigh." The
	1922)	rear face contains an epitaph "The Lord is my
		shepherd" and an inscription: "erected by
		his wife Elmira Dunston."
12	B. H. Dunston (Jan. 1, 1898)	Arched marble headstone with Masonic
		emblem in relief at top. This is set in a marble
		base and is broken. Dunston was 68 years old.

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13	Annie Dunston (July 19, 1890)	Arched marble headstone set in marble base with lily in relief at top. Annie was 18 years old.
14	John Dunston (Nov. 20, 1894)	Arched marble headstone with Odd Fellows emblem (a chain with 3 links). John was 66 years old.
15	Mary Dunston (1791-July 2, 1885)	Large, ornate marble headstone with deep relief decoration and an image of a cross at the top, set on marble base. Very illegible due to weathering.
16	John Anderson (Dec. 25, 1895-May 25, 1957)	Low government-issue arched marble grave marker. "North Carolina Pvt 441 Res Labor BNQMC."
17	Jessie Badie Turner (May 29, 1860-August 18, 1910)	Flush polished granite grave marker.
18	Grandison Turner (Aug. 10, 1853- Feb. 4, 1928)	Flush polished granite grave marker.
19	Mary Walker Turner (Sept. 4, 1886- Feb. 11, 1911)	Flush polished granite grave marker.
20	Lemetta J. Hinton Haywood (Oct. 5, 1864-Dec. 3, 1929)	Thick marble grave marker separated from its marble base. Wife of Allen Haywood. "Mother"
21	Alonza M. Haywood (June 7, 1870- July 15, 1958)	Thick marble grave marker on marble base.
22	Samuel J. Webb (July 15, 1863-Aug. 6, 1931)	Flush granite grave marker with granite border around grave.
23	Ezekiel Webb	Small marble pedestal with gate of heaven relief. "In memory of the family of Ezekiel Webb."
24	Mary L. Morgan (August 27, 1908- Apr. 2, 1949)	Polished granite headstone.
25	Wilson W. Morgan (June 18, 1879- April 23, 1950)	Polished granite headstone.
26	Hortense S. Morgan (March 11, 1885- Jan. 30, 1934)	Polished granite headstone.
27	Morgan	Double cast concrete family grave marker with rusticated finish made by a local artisan.

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Elizabeth Morgan (1820-1901)	Low angled cast concrete grave marker. "Mother."
Unknown child (Sept. 3, 1891-Oct. 15, 1895)	Lamb headstone for a child of Savina and Exum Taylor.
Nora Taylor (Aug. 15, 1926)	Commercial cast concrete headstone. Aged 28 years.
Anderson	Small, ornate zinc obelisk for the Anderson family. Name plates are missing.
Frank Slade (Oct. 24, 1882-Oct. 23, 1913)	Broken marble headstone. "Father of Sabine & Augusta Taylor."
Priscilla W. Hunter (Sept. 1, 1845- Oct. 16, 1917)	Thick rusticated granite grave marker with vine relief.
Robert Williams (May 5, 1919)	Commercial cast concrete headstone with anchor and ivy relief. Aged 49 years.
George E. Williams (Dec. 25, 1868-July 28, 1910)	Pointed arch marble headstone with crown in relief and a marble base.
Williams family grave marker	Thick cast concrete grave marker with rusticated finish.
Ophelia Sheppard (Oct. 6, 1905-Sept. 4, 1906)	Small arched commercial cast concrete headstone.
Daniel Williams (1912); Edward Haywood (Dec. 6, 1912); Henrietta Haywood (Nov. 17, 1908)	Well-preserved commercial cast concrete headstone with 3 names. Daniel was aged 55, Edward was aged 55, and Henrietta was aged 45. Well-preserved.
S. Patrick McGuire (April 15, 1856- May 11, 1906)	Thick marble grave marker with floral relief.
Ella McGuire (May 21, 1946)	Thick marble grave marker.
Julia Green (Jan. 1, 1882)	Round-arched marble headstone. Daughter of W. C. Green. Aged 2 years.
L. A. Busbee (Dec. 4, 1906)	Small marble headstone. Aged 17 years.
Margaret Andrews, Julia Andrews, Maggie Andrews, Cynthia Andrews, Washington Andrews, Hattie Andrews, and Mildred W. Andrews	Well-made marble obelisk. Margaret: (1855- June 1, 1889) Julia 1874-1876 Maggie 1875-1883 Cynthia 1875-1878 Washington 1878-1883 Hattie 1889-1891 Mildred 1895-1900
	Unknown child (Sept. 3, 1891-Oct. 15, 1895) Nora Taylor (Aug. 15, 1926) Anderson Frank Slade (Oct. 24, 1882-Oct. 23, 1913) Priscilla W. Hunter (Sept. 1, 1845-Oct. 16, 1917) Robert Williams (May 5, 1919) George E. Williams (Dec. 25, 1868-July 28, 1910) Williams family grave marker Ophelia Sheppard (Oct. 6, 1905-Sept. 4, 1906) Daniel Williams (1912); Edward Haywood (Dec. 6, 1912); Henrietta Haywood (Nov. 17, 1908) S. Patrick McGuire (April 15, 1856-May 11, 1906) Ella McGuire (May 21, 1946) Julia Green (Jan. 1, 1882) L. A. Busbee (Dec. 4, 1906) Margaret Andrews, Julia Andrews, Maggie Andrews, Cynthia Andrews, Washington Andrews, Hattie

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44	Serena McIlhenry (July 1, 1921)	Tall arched marble headstone with flower relief and a marble base. "Our Mother." Aged 90 years.
45	Theodore F. Williams (April 11, 1875-Sept. 13, 1931)	Thick marble grave marker with relief ornament. "In memory of my husband." "He served others."
46	Dr. George W. Williams (July 16, 1872-March 5, 1912)	Gothic-Revival-style marble obelisk with relief ornament.
47	Chapman Alexander (Aug. 4, 1893) Sophia Alexander (Sept. 19, 1898)	Thick marble grave marker with laurel wreath in relief and "A" monogram.
48	Elizabeth Manly (Nov. 17, 1907)	Commercial cast concrete headstone. Aged 30 years.
49	Pettiford/Hardy	Large, thick polished granite family grave marker.
50	Dr. William B. Pettiford (Aug. 4, 1893-Jan. 26, 1956)	Flush polished granite grave marker with emblems of the Masons and of a medical doctor.
51	Stanley family	Thick polished and rusticated granite family grave marker.
52	Jessie L. Pettiford (Sept. 16, 1865- Nov. 11, 1921)	Small arched commercial cast concrete headstone.
53	Henry C. Manly (June 27, 1856-July 13, 1913) Susie S. Manly (Sept. 6, 1888-June 15, 1908)	Tall, thick pointed-arch marble headstone with relief crown and a marble base.
54	Adeline G. Manuel (Mar. 14, 1885- Sept. 29, 1919)	Tall arched marble headstone on a marble base. Wife of Z. M. Manuel.
55	Trice Family	Flush polished marble grave marker. No date.
56	Haynes Clarke (1848-1919) Sallie Clarke (1837-1917)	Thick cast concrete grave marker with rusticated finish on concrete base. "Father," "Mother."
57	Sidney B. Manly (March 5, 1922)	Thick marble grave marker with arched top with "F. L. T." in three links of chain, the Oddfellows emblem. Marble base.
58	Charles H. Hunter (May 28, 1855- Dec. 18, 1956)	Low rusticated granite tablet.
59	Andrew Grant (Apr. 27, 1880-Jan. 29, 1918)	Small arched marble headstone.

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60	B. J. Curties (June 2, 1926)	Commercial cast concrete headstone. Aged 65
	T 1 5 1 (1 0 1025)	years.
61	Tempie Curtis (Aug. 8, 1935)	Low marble headstone. "Our mother."
62	Robert H. Grant (Apr. 27, 1908-Dec. 3, 1937)	Thick rusticated and polished granite grave marker.
63	Irving B. Battle Jr. (March 1, 1900- May 27, 1934)	Low slanting rusticated granite grave marker on a granite base.
64	Georgia H. Andrews (1895-1971) David W. Andrews (1880-1970)	Polished and rusticated double granite grave marker.
65	William E. Andrews (July 18, 1876- Dec. 30, 1957)	Granite headstone.
66	Annette C. Andrews (Jan. 15, 1885- July 6, 1911)	Marble obelisk with an oval recess for a photograph, which is missing. "She was the sunshine of our home."
67	Jessie Scarver (March 3, 1919) John Scarver (March 2, 1919)	Commercial cast concrete headstone. The children of Joseph and Mary Scarver. Jessie was three years old, John was one day old. "At rest."
68	Lucy Wimbish Montgomery (March 8, 1896-Feb. 8, 1926)	Commercial cast concrete headstone.
69	Charles W. Thornton Emily Thornton	Commercial cast concrete headstone utilized as family grave marker. No dates.
70	Fleming Hinton (Apr. 19, 1912-Jan. 14, 1924)	Arched commercial cast concrete headstone. Son of Burke and Iola Hinton. "We will meet again."
71	Zylphia Thompson (Sept. 7, 1804- Nov. 20, 1888)	Tall arched marble headstone under magnolia tree. "Our Mother."
72	Thempie Bobbitt (Aug. 22, 1928)	Thick arched marble headstone with classical relief ornament and a marble base. "In remembrance of our dear mother."
73	Charles E. Flagg (1876-1954)	Arched polished and rusticated granite grave marker on a base.
74	Susie T. Flagg (1878-1965)	Arched polished and rusticated granite grave marker on a base.
75	Higgs family	Large rusticated and polished granite grave marker.

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76	Thomas Higgs (1884-1946)	Flush granite grave marker "Let us dwell together and love one another."
77	Jerry Hinton (May 26, 1920)	Arched concrete headstone. Aged 110 years.
78	John Wimbish Sr. (March 28, 1936)	Thick arched marble headstone on a base.
79	Garland Crosson (July 30, 1885-Oct. 18, 1928)	Commercial cast concrete headstone. "May the resurrection find thee on the bosom of thy God."
80	Charles Crosson (Nov. 17, 19??)	Cast commercial concrete headstone, top half is missing. Aged 65 years.
81	Maria Dickerson (June 12, 1826-Jan. 29, 1881)	Arched marble headstone. Wife of John Dickerson.
82	Julia Barnwell Courdine (Dec. 30, 1922)	Arched marble headstone on a marble base. Aged 79 years.
83	Edward Cook (1924)	Gothic Revival-style marble headstone
84	Emmanuel Bridgeford (Mar. 4, 1886-Mar. 28, 1936)	Heart-shaped marble grave marker.
85	Rev. P. T. Hall (October 1849-May 4, 1915)	Rusticated granite obelisk with niche for a porcelain photograph, but missing. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."
86	Walter Allen Dunston (May 12, 1892- Jan. 16, 1955) Virginia Bryant Dunston (Sept. 23, 1893-Sept. 4, 1956)	Double flush rusticated and polished granite grave marker.
87	Edward T. Hester (Feb. 28, 1929)	Double marble grave marker with Masonic emblem over Edward's name. The other half was never inscribed. "Where loyal hearts and true stand ever in the light. All rapture through and through in God's most holy sight."
88	Sara Ivey (1846-1911)	Small thick cast concrete grave marker with a rusticated finish.
89	Unknown person	Wooden headboard with arched top, no inscription. A fieldstone rests against the base.
90	Susie Parham (Jan. 4, 1929)	Commercial cast concrete headstone. Aged 41 years. "Honored Beloved."
91	J. E. Jackson	Flush angled concrete headstone with pebbles. No dates.

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92	Frank King (Feb. 28, 1891-Dec. 2, 1952)	Government issue arched marble headstone. "Pvt 804 Stev Co QMC World War 1."
93	C. S.	Handmade concrete stone with "C. S." cast into the top.
	PINE VIEW ANNEX	
94	John V. Turner (Jan. 22, 1924-Nov. 25, 2007)	Flush polished granite grave marker with flag, eagle, and sun symbol in relief. "educator."
95	Tulia Marie Hall Turner (Oct. 1, 1902-June 7, 2000)	"Mama". Polished granite ledger with a cross in relief.
96	John Jerome Turner (Nov. 11, 1898- Oct. 6, 1971)	Polished granite ledger with a cross, a Masonic emblem, the three link chain Oddfellows emblem, and an American flag in relief. Also a granite tablet at the top inscribed "North Carolina Sgt Med Det 313 Engineers World War I."
97	John T. Turner (Sept. 1, 1922) Lula Turner (1911)	Double cast concrete family grave marker, rusticated with traces of white paint, made by local artisan. Above John's name is a Masonic emblem; above his daughter's name is the three link chain symbol of the Odd Fellows order.
98	Mary Jane Dickerson Turner (June 1863-March 26, 1955)	Polished granite tablet. "Among the founders, early member St. Paul AME Church, Eastern Star Lodge, Oberlin Village since 1888"
100	Eliza Height Parham (May 10, 1899- Apr. 20, 1970)	Thick marble headstone on marble base.
101	Gertrude B. Haywood (1889-1981)	Polished granite tablet. "Rest in Peace."
102	Claude Snellings (Oct. 15, 1890-Aug. 12, 1970)	Thick polished and rusticated granite headstone on granite base.
103	Plummer T. Hall (Mar. 12, 1886-Dec. 15, 1941)	Polished and rusticated granite grave marker on base.
104	Smith family grave marker	Polished and rusticated granite grave marker on base.
105	James Smith Jr. (Feb. 29, 1905-Oct. 14, 1960)	Flush polished granite tablet.
106	Marshall H. Smith (July 16, 1914- April 15, 1929)	Flush polished granite tablet.

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107	Estelle Smith (Oct. 27, 1925-April 12, 1934)	Flush polished granite tablet.
108	William T. Osbourne (Jan. 17, 1922- Oct. 5, 2002)	Government-issue flush bronze tablet. "U S Army."
109	Amelia T. Smith (Aug. 13, 1906-Jan. 22, 1956)	Flush polished granite tablet.
110	Estelle T. Smith (Dec. 22, 1878-Sept. 9, 1957)	Flush polished granite tablet.
111	James S. Smith Sr. (Jan. 16, 1874- Jan. 27, 1970)	Flush polished granite tablet.
112	Catherine Trice (July 29, 1914-Dec. 23, 1984)	Polished and rusticated granite headstone on base, with praying hands in relief. "Beloved Mother."
113	Curtis	Thick polished and rusticated granite headstone on base. No date.
114	Pulley	Thick polished and rusticated granite headstone on base. No date.
115	James Ricks (Feb. 9, 1865-Oct. 3, 1932)	Decorative marble grave marker shaped like a scroll.
116	Oliff Poole (Feb. 17, 1929)	Small commercial cast concrete headstone. Aged 79 years. Wife of Parker Poole. "Gone but not forgotten."
117	Lizzie Alford (1877-1949)	Flush marble tablet.
118	Beechman Alford (Feb. 6, 1880-May 20, 1967)	Government-issue arched marble headstone. "Co H 49 Regt Inf Sp Am War"
119	Beachman Alford Jr. (1915-1960)	Marble tablet.
120	Essie L. Smith (Nov. 17, 1917-Aug. 17, 1969)	Thick polished granite tablet.
121	Joesina Alford Tillman (Nov. 21, 1907-Apr. 23, 1984)	Polished granite tablet.
122	William Floyd Allen Sr. (Mar. 5, 1891-June 22, 1965) Alcora J. Allen (Apr. 15, 1903-Jan. 8, 1959)	Polished and rusticated granite family grave marker.
123	Mattie Williams (Jan. 22, 1894-Dec. 10, 1970)	Polished and rusticated granite grave marker. The grave has a flush concrete ledger with an embedded marble tablet.

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124	Jesse Dunston (Feb. 11, 1892-Nov.	Government-issue arched marble headstone.
105	23, 1956)	"Pvt 51 Co 153 Depot Brigade WWI."
125	Virginia Hogan (1904-1930)	Small marble obelisk with wreath in relief at
		top. Aged 26.
126	James Lipscomb (1874-1939)	Marble headstone enclosed by a well-built
		random granite block grave marker built into
		the granite block plot border. "Father."
127	J. D. Chavis (Mar. 17, 1926)	Commercial cast concrete headstone with
		Masonic emblem in relief. Aged 65 years.
128	Frank Howard (May 20, 1950)	Polished and rusticated granite headstone.
		"Father." "gone but not forgotten."
129	Ella Howard (Feb. 11, 1883-Feb. 2,	Polished and rusticated granite headstone.
	1971)	"Beloved Mother."
130	Dorothy Peebles Barker (Nov. 11,	Polished and rusticated granite grave marker
	1906-Feb. 2, 2001)	with praying hands in relief. "Beloved
		Mother and Grandmother."
131	Mrs. Martha Hopkins (May 9, 1937)	Plot with fieldstone border and a fieldstone
		grave marker with a metal urn with paper
		name plate.
132	Nellie Bobbitt (Mar. 15, 1938)	Polished and rusticated granite headstone. "In
		memory of our dear sister."
133	Curties Snelling Jr. (Oct. 10, 1884-	Polished granite tablet set in concrete block
	Nov. 24, 1947)	grave marker built into concrete block plot
		border.
134	Powell Peebles (May 16, 1888-May	Marble headstone set in a decorative concrete
	19, 1942)	brick grave marker built into a decorative
		concrete brick plot border. "In memory of my
		husband."
135	Henry Jose C. Peebles (Dec. 6, 1962-	Polished and rusticated granite headstone with
	Dec. 23, 1981)	praying hands in relief.
136	Alonzo Jones (1877-1944)	Polished granite tablet containing both names.
	Mary A. Jones (1877-1970)	
137	Mattie L. Cruse (Dec. 11, 1914-Sept.	Arched marble headstone with three flowers
	18, 1941)	in relief.
138	Adron Curtis (1888-1941)	Low polished granite grave marker.
139	Gideon Hinton (Oct. 19, 1876)	Polished and rusticated granite family grave
137	Mary H. Hinton (May 10, 1886-Oct.	marker with both names.
	31, 1955)	
	0-, 1/00/	

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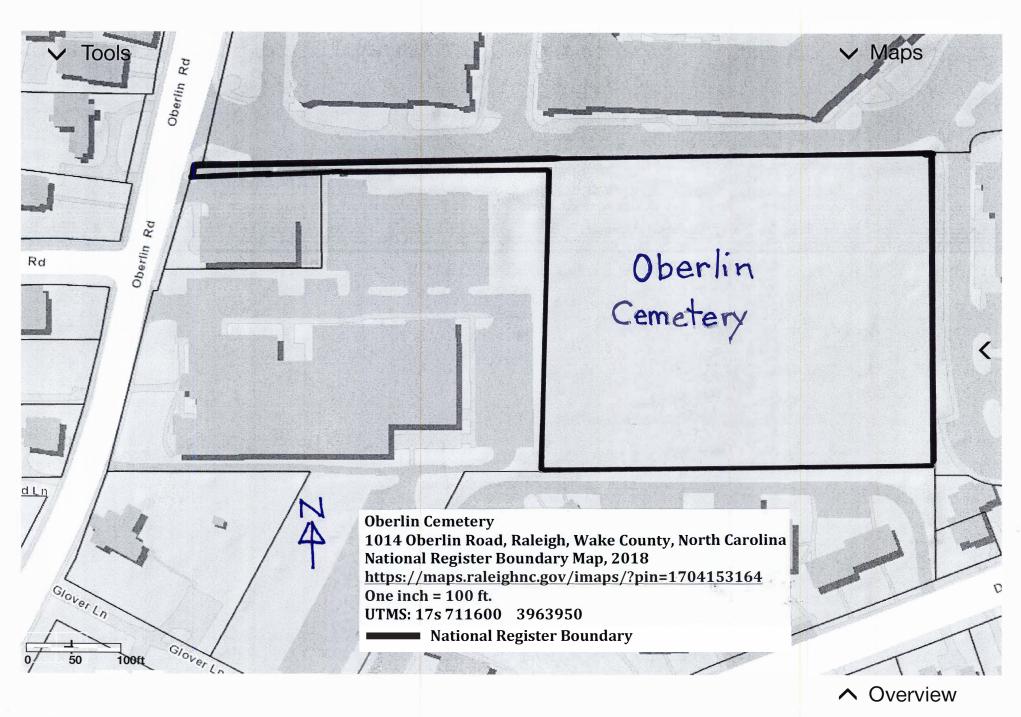
Section Appendix Page 29
Oberlin Cemetery
Wake County, North Carolina

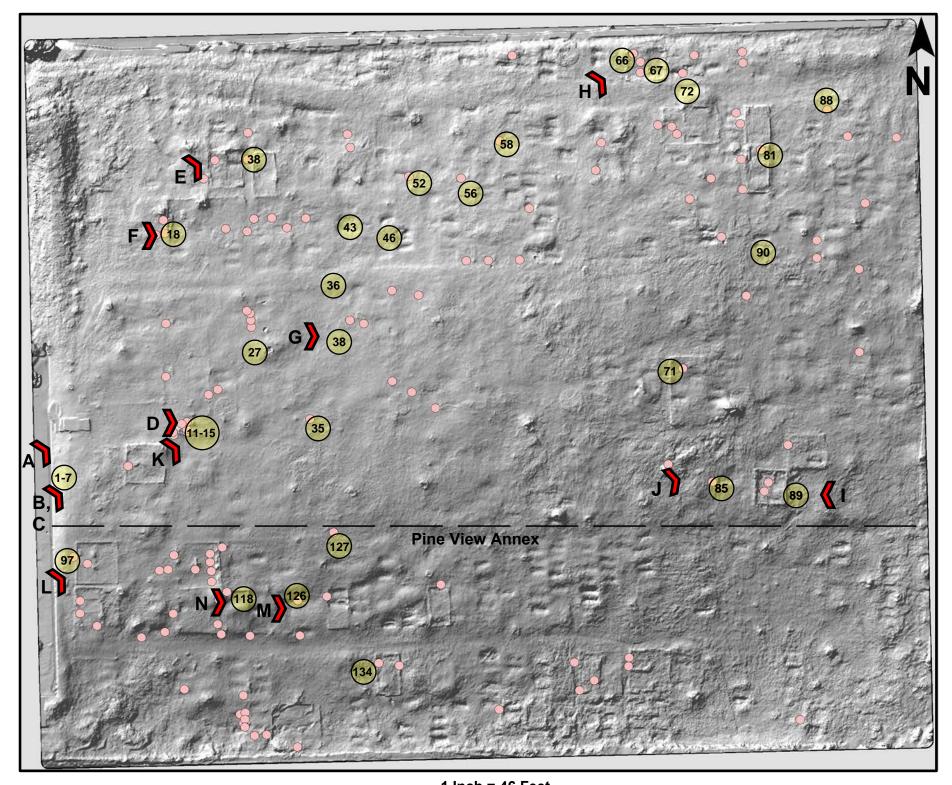
Other Inventoried Resources

- 1. Kiosk/bench structure (ca. 2012)
- 2. Overall site (1873, 1924 annex)
- 3. Network of individual family plot boundary curbs (19th-20th century)

nal Register of Historic Places Continua	Name of Property
	County and State
umber Page	Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
SUPPLEMENTAR	RY LISTING RECORD
NRIS Reference Number: 100002931	Date Listed: 9/11/2018
Property Name: Oberlin Cemetery (Oberlin, No	orth Carolina, MPS)
County: Wake	State: NC
	wing exceptions, exclusions, or amendments,
This property is listed in the National Register nomination documentation subject to the follow notwithstanding the National Park Service cert	of Historic Places in accordance with the attache wing exceptions, exclusions, or amendments,
This property is listed in the National Register nomination documentation subject to the follow notwithstanding the National Park Service cert documentation.	of Historic Places in accordance with the attache wing exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, iffication included in the nomination 9-1/-2018
This property is listed in the National Register nomination documentation subject to the follow notwithstanding the National Park Service cert documentation. Signature of the Keeper	of Historic Places in accordance with the attache wing exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, iffication included in the nomination 9-1/-2018
This property is listed in the National Register nomination documentation subject to the follow notwithstanding the National Park Service cert documentation. Signature of the Keeper Amended Items in Nomination:	of Historic Places in accordance with the attache wing exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, diffication included in the nomination 9-1/-2018 Date of Action

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)





Oberlin Cemetery Monuments
 2.93 acres (incld. Pine View Annex)
 1014 Oberlin Road (rear), Wake County
 Raleigh, N.C.

Ref. Appendix

Produced by John Wall

Dept. of Marine, Earth & Atmos. Sciences N.C. State University Campus Box 8208 Raleigh, N.C. 27695 Email: jwall@ncsu.edu

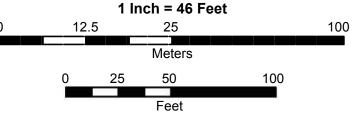


Figure 1. Oberlin Cemetery Map of Contributing Grave Markers, identified by circled numbers corresponding to the complete cemetery inventory list in the nomination appendix.



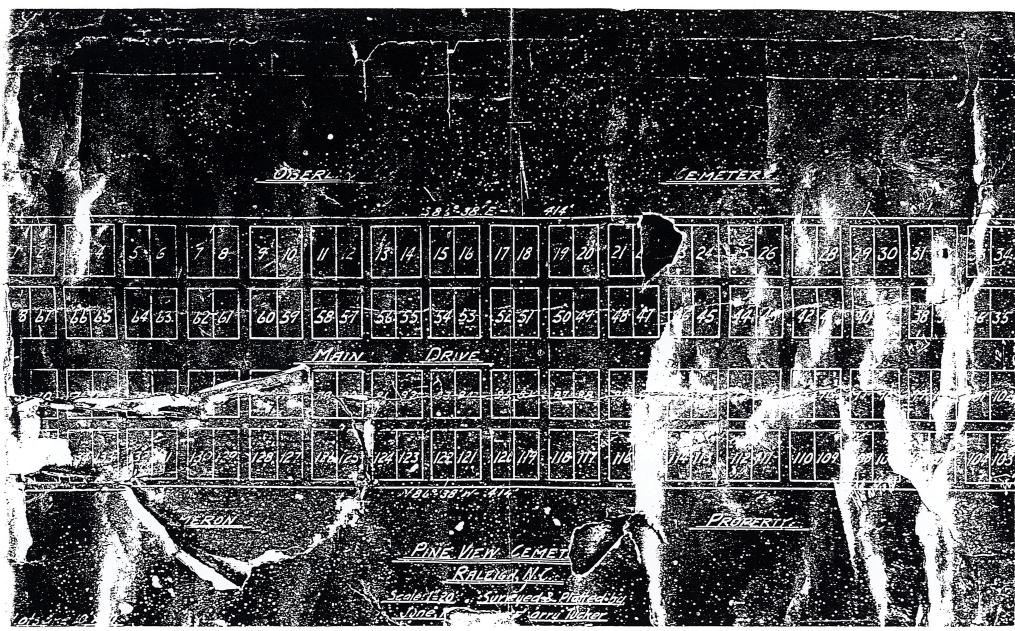
Data information:

Topography by lidar data recorded winter 2016. Hillshade image resolution 10 cm (4 in). Monument points by Trimble R-10 GNSS unit recorded summer 2016.

Projection: Zone 17N, Universal Transverse Mercator, North American Datum 1983.

Created on 23 MAR 2018

Figure 2. Oberlin Cemetery - Pine View Annex Plat Map



1924, Harry Tucker