

OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 E. Hudson St. Columbus, Ohio 43211
614/297-2470



1. No.	2. County LOR	4. Present Name(s) Westwood Cemetery		<input type="checkbox"/> Coded
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Westwood Cemetery		
	Roll # Exp. # Facing			
W.Side	4 22A E			
Front	4 21A S			
6. Specific Address or Location 429 Morgan Street		17. Date(s) or Period 1864	17b. Alteration Date(s)	30. Foundation Material
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 09-00-094-101-003		18. Style or Design Vernacular	High Style <input type="checkbox"/>	31. Wall Construction
7. City or Village Oberlin		18a. Style of Addition or Element(s) Elements <input type="checkbox"/>		32. Roof: Type Pitch Material
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		19. Architect or Engineer		33. No. Bays Front Side
		19a. Design Sources		34. Exterior Wall Material(s)
		20. Contractor or Builder		35. Plan Shape
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name		21. Building Type or Plan		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Unaltered
Zone	Easting	Northing		37. Window Type(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		38. Bldg. Dims.
10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure		23. Present Use Cemetery		39. Endangered? No Explain:
<input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object		24. Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private		40. Chimney Placement
11. On National Register? No		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known The City of Oberlin 85 South Main Street Oberlin OH 44074		41a. Distance from road 10 ft.
12. N.R. Potential? Yes		26. Property Acreage 27.5		41b. Frontage on road 1.5 acres
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No		27. Other Surveys in Which Included Linden (95)		
14. Dist. Potential? Yes		28. No. of Stories		
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)		29. Basement?		
16. Thematic Association(s) Social Welfare: Public & private service & Religion		42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features This 28-acre cemetery consists of a network of single-lane access roads that border monument sections. A principal paved road encircles the cemetery beginning at the main entrance and forking into a giant loop. Gravel access roads create the boundary lines to most sections. The sections are irregular in size and shape, each ranging between one and two acres in size. An aerial view of Westwood shows this irregularity. A granite stone with the words "Westwood Cemetery" carved on its north-facing side marks the entrance along Morgan Street. This cemetery has monuments of various styles and a few mausoleums. A gothic style vault is just beyond the main entrance. This small, one-story, one room gable-roof structure, has double doors with a Gothic arch, transom, (cont)		
43. History and Significance The first burial ground in Oberlin was a small two-acre plot on Morgan Street between Main and Professor Streets. The college leased this property to the town. On July 9, 1861 a public meeting was held to discuss the need for a new burial ground. At that meeting a committee was formed to draft a constitution for the Oberlin Cemetery Association, which was adopted at a subsequent meeting. After a year and a half of research, this 28-acre site, one mile southwest from the center of town, was purchased for \$1,470.00. At that time the land was one-third cleared, one-third native forest, and one-third cultivated. Through community effort the land was cleared, and the (cont)		46. Prepared by M. Fedelchak-Harley; L. Previll		
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) This site is near the western town boundary on a quiet street. The neighborhood has retained its integrity and its quiet atmosphere.		47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.		
45. Sources of Information Lorain County Courthouse: Lorain County tax records. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files. OC Archives: Subject File, Cemetery: Westwood, Box #1. <u>Westwood: A Historical and Interpretive View of Oberlin's Cemetery</u> , Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization, Oberlin, Ohio, 1997.		48. Date Recorded 10-13-2000		
		49. Revised by		
		50a. Date Revised		
		50b. Reviewed by		

51. Condition of Property

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good/Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed/Burned
<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	Date _____

54. Farmstead Plan



52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

<input type="checkbox"/> Corn Crib or Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> Silo
<input type="checkbox"/> Smoke House	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring House	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice House
<input type="checkbox"/> Designed Landscape Features	<input type="checkbox"/> Privy	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s) _____

OAI Completed? _____

Archaeological Feature:	Observed	Expected on Basis of Archival Research
Well	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Privy	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Cistern	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Foundation	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Structural Rubble	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Formal Trash Dump	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Other _____	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

window, and oculus window, on each gable end. A steel grid blocks the doors suggesting that the building is no longer in use. A large variety of trees shade the grounds, many of which are native to the United States and a small pond is along the southeast boundary line. The cemetery is regularly mowed and well maintained.

43. History and Significance (Continued from page 1.)

H.B. Allen, engineer, to survey and lay out the ground. On August 16, 1864 the cemetery was dedicated with a service at the site. The first burial was Samuel W. Montgomery on August 20, 1863, and plots were sold at a rapid pace thereafter. In 1884 a house and barn were built at the entrance to provide residence for a groundskeeper; the price was \$1,100.00. In 1887 the stone vault was built for \$800.00 and an iron fence was purchase and placed along the front for \$425.00. All bodies were moved from the old "burial grounds" sometime after the dedication. By 1901, 653 lots had been sold and 2,278 bodies had been buried.

In 1944 the Association recognized the heavy burden of maintaining the cemetery and gave the City title to the property. In 1948 the city hired Frank Zavodsky, the waterworks director, as the cemetery director, he and his wife moved into the house, where they raised their two daughters; his widow continues to live there. In the late 1950s the City purchased an additional 16 acres from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to expand in response to the need. In 1953 a fire destroyed the barns on the property and took the life of Oberlin fireman Shirley Jackson.

Many people notable in Oberlin and the nation's history are buried at Westwood Cemetery. Included in this list are six college presidents (Fairchild, King, Finney, Barrows, Carr, and Danenberg), several escaped slaves and "free people of color," Charles Martin Hall, James and Julia Finney Monroe, and Frank Fanning and Sarah Frances Gulick Jewett (Westwood).

This site is significant for its record of civic action in the face of community need and for the many individuals buried here, whose lives tell the story of their community and the nation. Westwood Cemetery was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin Historic Landmark on May 5, 1997.