

APPLICATION
LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

1. Name of property Odd Fellows Cemetery
2. Owner's Name & Address Twin City Lodge #3283
Grand United Order of Odd Fellows
262 South 12th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
- Local Contact: Henry E. Stepp, Sr., Chairperson
Odd Fellows Reclamation Project
1011 Treadway Court
Winston-Salem, NC 27107
3. Property Location Roughly: South of West Thirtieth Street, West of
Millbrook Drive, North of West Twenty-eighth Street, and
East of Shorefair Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
4. Amount of Land To Be Designated (acreage) 10.43 Acres
5. Interior To Be Designated Not Applicable/Exterior only for Caretaker's Building
6. Tax Block(s) 1199 Tax Lot(s) 101, 102, 013, 014, 301
3407 030D
7. When was the structure erected? For Whom? (If you don't know the exact date, please give a general time frame.) Have there been additions or modifications? If so, describe and give dates.

According to Langdon Oppermann's 1993 Architectural & Planning Report: Winston-Salem's African-American Historic Resources, the Odd Fellows Cemetery was started in 1911 by the Twin City Lodge and the Winston Star

Lodge, both African-American fraternal organizations. However, research to date indicates that there are interments predating 1911. The cemetery later became the graveyard for the Odd Fellows fraternal organization. The cemetery is shown on a 1928 city map and is labeled "colored cemetery."

8. Do you know the names of any of the craftsmen who worked on the structure (i.e., architects, carpenters, contractors, landscape designers, etc.)? Do any architect's plans or building accounts exist? Where?

The names of any masons or gravestone makers/manufacturers who crafted the headstones are unknown.

9. Do you have any old photographs of the structure? If so, do you know the dates of the photographs?

There are no known old photographs of the graveyard.

10. How has the building been passed down through the years, from whom to whom (i.e., a quick chain of title)?

As stated earlier, the Odd Fellows Cemetery was begun in 1911 by the Twin City Lodge and the Winston Star Lodge. Neither of these organizations is currently in existence. At some unknown point, the cemetery became the graveyard of the Odd Fellows fraternal organization. Current Forsyth County Tax Records list the following ownership/taxable deed dates:

**Winston Star Twin/Tax Block 1199, Lots 013, 104/September 22, 1927
Twin City Lodge 3283/Tax Block 1199, Lots 101, 102/March 9, 1939
Twin City Lodge 3283/Tax Block 1199, Lot 301/November 9, 1970
Twin City Lodge 3283/Tax Block 3407, Lot 030D/November 4, 1970**

11. What was the structure's original use, if different from today? Has the building ever been moved? List the sources of your information.

The Odd Fellows Cemetery has always been a graveyard.

12. What is the significance of this property? (Please be specific and to the point.) Include a list of sources for your information.

Winston-Salem has a rich and outstanding African-American history. In addition to the neighborhoods and individual buildings of note in the

community, there are several cemeteries that served the African-American citizens of Winston-Salem. These are an important component of the social and cultural history of the city. The Odd Fellows Cemetery is one of the most significant of these graveyards. Of the ten cemeteries included in Langdon Oppermann's *1993 Architectural & Planning Report: Winston-Salem's African-American Resources*, the Odd Fellows Cemetery is one of the oldest outside of the Salem area (Odd Fellows is contemporary with Silver Hill Graveyard, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Cemetery, Sidestown AME Zion Cemetery, and Brushy Fork Cemetery). However, it is the largest, by far, of the African-American graveyards dating from the early 20th century. According to the *Winston-Salem Journal*, the Odd Fellows Cemetery was once the largest African-American graveyard in Forsyth County. There are estimates that as many as 10,000 graves could be located in the cemetery; a large portion of these interments date from the early 20th century. According to research that has been conducted on the site, it appears that many of the individuals buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery lived during the Civil War (See Attachments). Originally, plots were sold by W.P. Hairston, caretaker, who was one of the original stockholders and remained the sales agent until at least 1961 when he was 85 years old. Hairston, now deceased, is believed to have retained the burial records although they cannot be found today. Only Lodge members and their families were buried at the Odd Fellows Cemetery. However, it was an extremely important cemetery in Winston-Salem as most African-American churches did not have their own graveyards. The Odd Fellows Cemetery is one of Winston-Salem's most significant African-American historic resources and one worthy of the recognition that Local Historic Landmark designation provides.

Specific Areas of Significance

- A. The Odd Fellows Cemetery is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the community's history as a rare example (outside the Salem area) of an early African-American graveyard predating the 1913 merger of Winston and Salem. The cemetery contains the remains of many individuals who lived during the mid-19th century Civil War period and is important to the social and cultural history of the city as the largest African-American graveyard dating from the early 20th century.

- D. The Odd Fellows Cemetery may be likely to yield information important in history. The unique physical characteristics of African-American graveyards in general make the Odd Fellows Cemetery one which may provide important archaeological data. For instance,

typical African-American cemeteries can feature grave depressions as well as mounded graves. Often they were placed without symmetry and in a somewhat random fashion. One significant component of African-American graveyards is the decoration of the graves themselves. Graves were marked in a variety of ways besides traditional markers. Some graves were marked using plants, shells, white quartz, colored glass, etc. Additionally, probably one of the most common African-American burial practices was the use of "offerings" on top of the grave. Such items could include pottery, saucers, bowls, pots, marbles, and the like. Due to the current overgrown condition of the graveyard, it is not possible to ascertain if these physical characteristics are present. However, African-American burial traditions would indicate the likely presence of such artifacts.

Sources of Information:

1993 Architectural & Planning Report: Winston-Salem's African-American Historic Resources, Langdon E. Oppermann, 1993.

1994 Building Inventory of Winston-Salem's African-American Neighborhoods, Langdon E. Oppermann, 1994.

Grave Matters: the Preservation of African-American Cemeteries, <http://www.sciway.net/hist/chicora/gravematters-1.html>.

Saving a Cemetery, Winston-Salem Journal, February 23, 2005.

13. Describe the architecture and present condition of the structure, also including any outbuildings or other appurtenant features to be included in the designation. If the property has been restored, what were the dates of restoration? Was the restoration done under the supervision of any historic preservation organization? If the property has not been restored, is any restoration planned for the property?

The approximately 10-acre cemetery is configured in a loose Z-shape. In recent decades, portions of the graveyard were encroached upon by commercial development. Today the cemetery is in neglected condition, heavily overgrown with vegetation. However, there are a large number of gravestones visible above ground. A simple concrete block gable-front caretaker's building is located on the property. This building is in need of rehabilitation.

Recently a group of interested citizens and members of the local chapter of Odd Fellows has formed a committee to oversee the restoration of the Odd Fellows Cemetery. The Odd Fellows Cemetery Reclamation Project meets on a monthly basis and has formed committees to assist facilitating the restoration of the graveyard.

14. Is the property listed in any existing architectural or historical survey (i.e., the National Register of Historic Places)? If so, please give the title and date of the listing.

The Odd Fellows Cemetery is included in the 1994 Building Inventory of Winston-Salem's African-American Neighborhoods.

In addition to written application, the following materials must be submitted simultaneously:

- a black and white 8" x 10" overall photograph clearly depicting the property being designated.
- color slides showing all sides of the main structure and any outbuildings (may include architectural details, interior and exterior, which add to the property's significance)
- a tax map showing the location of the property, including any buildings and appurtenant features.

(Please label the above materials with the name of the property owner)

APPLICATION FEE \$50.00 (Check Payable to Forsyth County)

The following information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

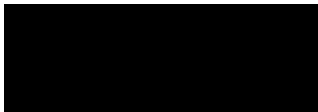
Henry E. Stepp, Sr., Chairperson
Odd Fellows Reclamation Project

Date

Signature of Property Owner

Mailing Address:

1011 Treadway Court
Winston-Salem, NC 27107





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oddfellows cemetery 001



OddFellowsCemetery1



OddFellowsCemetery2



OddFellowsCemetery3



OddFellowsCemetery4



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