

INVENTORY OF STRUCTURES IN THE OAKWOOD NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Raleigh, North Carolina

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Researched and written from 2004 to 2015

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This inventory presents a history and description for every structure within the original Oakwood National Register Historic District, and the three additions thereto. Structures are listed by street address. Streets are in alphabetical order by name, with "North" directionals before "South." For example, the first street listed is North Bloodworth Street and the second is South Bloodworth Street. The structures are listed in numerical order by address. Each principal structure has a history/description including the name and date of the structure, the architectural style and form, information about the original owners and later owners or residents of note, a detailed architectural description, and a description of changes that have been made to the structure, including when and by whom changes were made. Subordinate structures are listed after principal structures at that address. Preceding each history/description is the property's site survey number for the National Register of Historic Places. After each history/description is a compendium of supporting information. Numbers separated by colons are citations to Wake County Deed Book:Page. RCD stands for "Raleigh City Directory."

There are 594 principal structures on this inventory. Three were moved to Person St. outside the district. There are three others outside the National Register district. These six structures are candidates for addition to the district. Minus all these leaves 588 in the current National Register districts.

There are 87 principal structures in the National Register Districts that are not in the Oakwood Historic District as designated by the City of Raleigh. That leaves 501 principal structures in the locally designated district. Three are churches.

Houses built thru 1938 are listed as contributing. Those built 1939 or later are listed as non-contributing (NC), following the designation in current National Register documents, which designation accords with the judgment of the author of this inventory.

	TOTAL	NAT REG	LOCAL	ADDITIONS
Total	594	588	501	6
Contributing		476	425	6
Non-Contributing		111	76	0
Originally houses		577	488	5
Originally houses C		483	421	5
Originally houses NC		98	68	0
Orig. houses used as res.		562	483	0
Originally churches C		0	0	1
Originally churches NC		3	3	0
Originally businesses total		10	8	0
Originally businesses C		6	5	0
Originally businesses NC		4	3	0
Orig. bus. used as residence		2	2	0
Orig. houses used as bus.		15	14	2
Institution		1	1	0

(NC) 72 (28 built pre-historic district; 43 built post-historic district)

(NCnr) 32

Of the 509 buildings in the local district, 3 are churches,

SOURCES:

Wake County Register of Deeds

Raleigh City Directories 1875-1990

Maps of Raleigh from 1847 to the present (see list below)

Decennial Federal Census of Wake County

Records of Wake County Revenue Department at wakegov.com

Raleigh newspapers from 1870 to 1930 on-line at newspapers.com

Plaque applications on file in S.P.H.O. Archives, Olivia Rainey Local History Library

Photos in the Archie Henderson Collection at the N.C. Archives PhC_145_Misc

Oakwood Garden Club annual scrapbooks 1950-1994, at Olivia Rainey Local History Library 2004.170

"Oakwood Historic District Slides" of every house in Oakwood, taken in 1989 perhaps by Janet Wellman, housed in an album at Olivia Rainey Local History Library, no catalog number

The Oakwood Study: Value Development in Transitional Oakwood Meredith College Dept. of History 1972-73, including interviews with 7 older Oakwood residents.

Oakwood Oral History Project 2011-2013 produced by the S.P.H.O., directed by Liisa Ogburn, comprising interviews of 47 present or former Oakwood residents

“Remembering Oakwood 1907” in Brochure Folder, by Katherine Parker Freeman of 218 N. East St.
Cheney, John L., Jr., ed. *North Carolina Government 1858-1979: A Narrative and Statistical History* (Raleigh: N.C. Dept. of the Secretary of State, 1981)
Harris, Linda L. & Lee, Mary Ann, *An Architectural and Historical Inventory of Raleigh, North Carolina* (Raleigh: City of Raleigh Planning Dept. and Raleigh Historic Properties Commission, 1978)
Harris, Linda L. & others, eds., *Early Raleigh Neighborhoods and Buildings* (Raleigh: Raleigh City Planning Dept. and Raleigh Historic Properties Commission, 1983) Has maps with house footprints as of 1983
K. Todd Johnson, *Historic Wake County: The Story of Raleigh and Wake County*
Murray, Elizabeth Reid, *Wake, Capital County of North Carolina*, 1983
Powell, William S., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*
Stolpen, Stephen, *Raleigh: A Pictorial History*
Raleigh Historic Districts Commission, *Historic Oakwood 25th Anniversary Celebration*, 2000
Vickers, James, & Poff, Jan-Michael, *Raleigh, City of Oaks: An Illustrated History*, 1997
Waugh, Elizabeth Culbertson, *North Carolina's Capital, Raleigh* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967)
Findagrave.com, based on records of Oakwood Cemetery and other cemeteries.
North Carolina Architects & Builders <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/>
Mike Legeros's document of fires in Oakwood: <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/history/writing/historic-oakwood-fires.pdf>
Anthemion Awards granted by Capital Area Preservation
“Oakwood-to-Oakwood” Biographies of Oakwood residents by Bruce Miller, local historian
29 years of correspondence and conversations with present and past Oakwood residents.

MAPS:

W. J. Johnson's map of Raleigh 1847:
http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/p249901coll26&CISOPTR=32&CISOBX=1&REC=5
1872 Drie Bird's-Eye View: 23 houses within what is now Oakwood; 11 of them survive. (17 were on E. Jones and southward; five of these survive. Six were on the block btw Oakwood, Polk, Person & Bloodworth. These all survive.)
Shaffer's 1881 map is at BM1885:155. Copy at the N.C. State Archives is clearer than the copy at the Register of Deeds site.
1881 map sometimes leaves off separate kitchens, eg 411, 421 N. Bloodworth. 90 houses within what is now Oakwood; 57 of them survive; 33 do not. Plus two outbuildings that are now houses, and plus two houses that were outside of Oakwood and have been moved into it: Ellen Mordecai & Wyatt
Gray's map is at the N.C. State Archives. “1882” is written on it, but 404 Oakwood and 517 Polk were completed before end of 1881, so map must have been canvassed before then.
Original Oakdale Plat map is at 120:29 Oct 30, 1891, also at 131:679 Dec 10, 1894 (foreclosure sale)
Revised Oakdale Plat map is at BM1885:131 and is made by V. D. Stronach June 1910
Heck plat map is at 112:483 May 27, 1891
Dates of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps: Jan 1896, July 1903, August 1909, no month 1914; last map is 1914 with corrections dated November 1950
1903 and 1909 Sanborns sometimes don't show finer details we know were there, e.g. bay windows on 123 & 215 N. Bloodworth, 316 E. Jones, front projection of 304 N. Bloodworth, front projection & bay window on 401 E. Jones, side projection on 426 E. Jones, stuff on 400 N. Person. 1903 & 1909 Sanborn key is copied from 1896, so streets laid since 1896 are not shown.
1950 map draws porches to houses built since 1914 sloppily, often showing full-width porches on bungalows that only have 2/3 width porches. 1950 map sometimes labels rooming houses as “apts.”
There are maps of Raleigh in the RCDs for 1887, 1891, 1914. I have these in paper folder (1891 is in folder labeled Brookside Park). Also maps for 1938, 1939
Maps in 1983 Early Raleigh Neighborhoods and Buildings show footprints of houses. It was fairly up-to-date – it showed a vacant lot at the northeast corner of E. Jones and Elm, where a house had been torn down after a fire on April 29, 1982

NAMES OF HOUSES:

The rule adopted by the SPHO in September, 1975, is that the “house shall be named after the original builder and/or owner. A prominent resident's name may be added to the plaque.” Following this rule, each house in this inventory is named after the original builder or owner. This has been interpreted to mean not the contractor or carpenter, but the person who owned the lot and had the house built. The author has taken this information from the deeds. Often a deed indicates a married couple as the owner. In keeping with tradition, the author has generally used the name of the husband. However, if the deed indicates only the wife's name, the author has given her name to the house, even if she was married and her husband was the breadwinner. For houses built subsequent to 1972, the author has used both the husband and wife's name.
When a second name is given to a house, the author uses only the two surnames, following current custom. Second names are added whenever there is more than one house built by the same person, so that each house has a unique name. The second name is the name of a later person or family who either owned the house for a long time, or was a person or family of prominence or interest, or made notable improvements to the house, or whose name is already on the plaque.
In just a few cases, a house has a third name. Most of these are already known by three names.