

Historical and Archaeological Investigations of the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery  
located at 7545 White Oak Road, Garner, St. Mary's Township, Wake County, North Carolina  
Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 1720521929  
Wake County Case Number PLG-GR-002368-2020

Prepared for

Elevate White Oak LLC  
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8 January 2021

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Scope of Work.....	1
Cultural Context for Southern Cemeteries .....	1
Pioneer Model.....	1
Transitional Model .....	3
Modern Model .....	3
Background Research.....	3
Chain of Title .....	4
Genealogical Research.....	7
Field Investigations.....	12
Project Results .....	14
Significance Evaluation .....	15
Summary of Due-Diligence Efforts to Notify Next-of-Kin .....	15
Proposed Perpetual-Care Cemetery Reinterment Site .....	16
References Cited.....	19
Appendix A – Next-of-Kin Contact Information.....	24

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery location at 7545 White Oak Road. Basemap: Current Aerial Image.....	2
Figure 2. Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery location on the 1964 USGS <i>Garner, North Carolina, Quadrangle</i> , 7.5-minute series. ....	3
Figure 3. Excerpt of the 1985 Plat for the Subdivision of the James Edward Hicks and wife, Ina Mae Richardson Hicks, land to exclude the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery (Wake County Register of Deeds Book of Maps [BM] 1985:1528). ....	6
Figure 4. Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery, view southwest, White Oak Road in the background. .	12
Figure 5. Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery Site Plan.....	13
Figure 6. Shared Marker for Jefferson Basil Wilson and his wife, Cora Lee Smith Wilson, and their son, William Jefferson Wilson. ....	13
Figure 7. James Jefferson Sanderford Gravemarker. ....	14
Figure 8. Legal Notice for the proposed relocation of the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery ( <i>The News &amp; Observer</i> June 5, June 12, June 19, and June 26, 2020). ....	15
Figure 9. Proposed marker for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery burials at Oakwood Cemetery. ....	16
Figure 10. Proposed reinternment locations for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery reinterment at Oakwood Cemetery showing Alternative Area 1 and Area 2 that will be selected depending on the number of actual graves that are disinterred. ....	17
Figure 11. Proposed reinternment location Alternative Area 1 for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery reinterment at Oakwood Cemetery if there are no more than four burials. ....	18
Figure 12. Proposed reinternment location Alternative Area 2 for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery reinterment at Oakwood Cemetery if there are more than four burials. ....	18

## List of Tables

Table 1. Chain-of-Title for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery Property.....	4
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### Introduction

This technical report details the historical research and archaeological exploration of an abandoned cemetery located at 7545 White Oak Road, Garner, St. Mary's Township, Wake County, North Carolina (NC). The cemetery is situated on land identified by Wake County as Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 1720521929 (Figure 1). The cemetery covers 0.1 acres described as "WILSON CEMETERY" on the Wake County iMAPS. It also appears on the 1964 USGS *Garner, North Carolina, Quadrangle* as "Wilson Cem" (Figure 2). For this project, the cemetery is referred to as the "Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery."

The work was conducted for Elevate White Oak LLC in Greensboro, NC, to assist with the proposed cemetery relocation. The relocation of the cemetery stems from a requirement by the Town of Garner to widen White Oak Road to a five-lane roadway (center turn lane) facility with curb-and-gutter and sidewalk per the 2018 Garner Forward Transportation Plan. The proposed relocation will also provide better protection for the remains by relocating them to a perpetual-care cemetery.

### Scope of Work

The scope of work for this Project included (1) conducting research to collect information about the age of the cemetery, to identify who may have been buried in the cemetery, and to identify living descendants so they can be notified of the proposed cemetery relocation and (2) conducting an archaeological field investigation to identify and map known and possible burials.

### Cultural Context for Southern Cemeteries

To provide context for understanding the cemetery, the following information about cemeteries has been extracted and summarized from *Sticks & Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers* (Little 1998), *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy* (Jordan 1982), and *The Southern Folk Cemetery in Piedmont North Carolina* (Clauser 1984).

Some Southern cemetery traditions include wife-to-the-left burials, bordered family plots, and feet-to-the-east interments. Husband-to-the-right (or wife-to-the-left) is a traditional position of married couples in the Southern Folk Cemetery. This tradition derived from a Christian belief that Eve was created from the left side of Adam. The basis of feet-to-the-east burials can be linked to sun-worship cults in Europe at the advent of Christianity.

The Southern Folk Cemetery was introduced in the North Carolina Piedmont region during the late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century. It is characterized by a hilltop location, scraped ground surface, mounded graves, creative gravemarkers and decorations using readily available materials (not commercially produced), certain species of vegetation, grave shelters, and devotion to God and/or family with graveyard workdays and monument dedications. There are three distinct models of the Southern Folk Cemetery that have progressed over time: Pioneer, Transitional, and Modern. A description of these three types follows.

#### Pioneer Model

The Pioneer Model is the oldest type of the Southern Folk Cemetery and is found in remote rural areas. These cemeteries are small, and burials were not limited to the immediate family, as extended family ties

that emerged when families intermarried were very important. Distinctive traits of the Pioneer Model cemetery are (1) that it was often located on a hilltop, (2) that periodically the cemetery area was scraped clean, and (3) that graves were laid out in an east-west direction, neatly aligned, and mounded with dirt to identify grave locations and to compensate for soil settling within the grave shaft. Grave markings, when present, included a fieldstone or wooden stake that marked the head and/or foot of the grave. The dominant vegetation in the Pioneer Model cemetery is the eastern red cedar tree, which is referred to as the "cemetery tree."

Another attribute of the Pioneer Model Cemetery is the common practice of the graveyard workday to honor the family and ancestors buried in the cemetery. This was an annual event, usually occurring in late summer or early fall, when the community gathered to respect the deceased. On workdays, grass was scraped, graves were mounded, gravemarkers were placed or replaced, decorations were placed, repairs were made, and trash was removed.

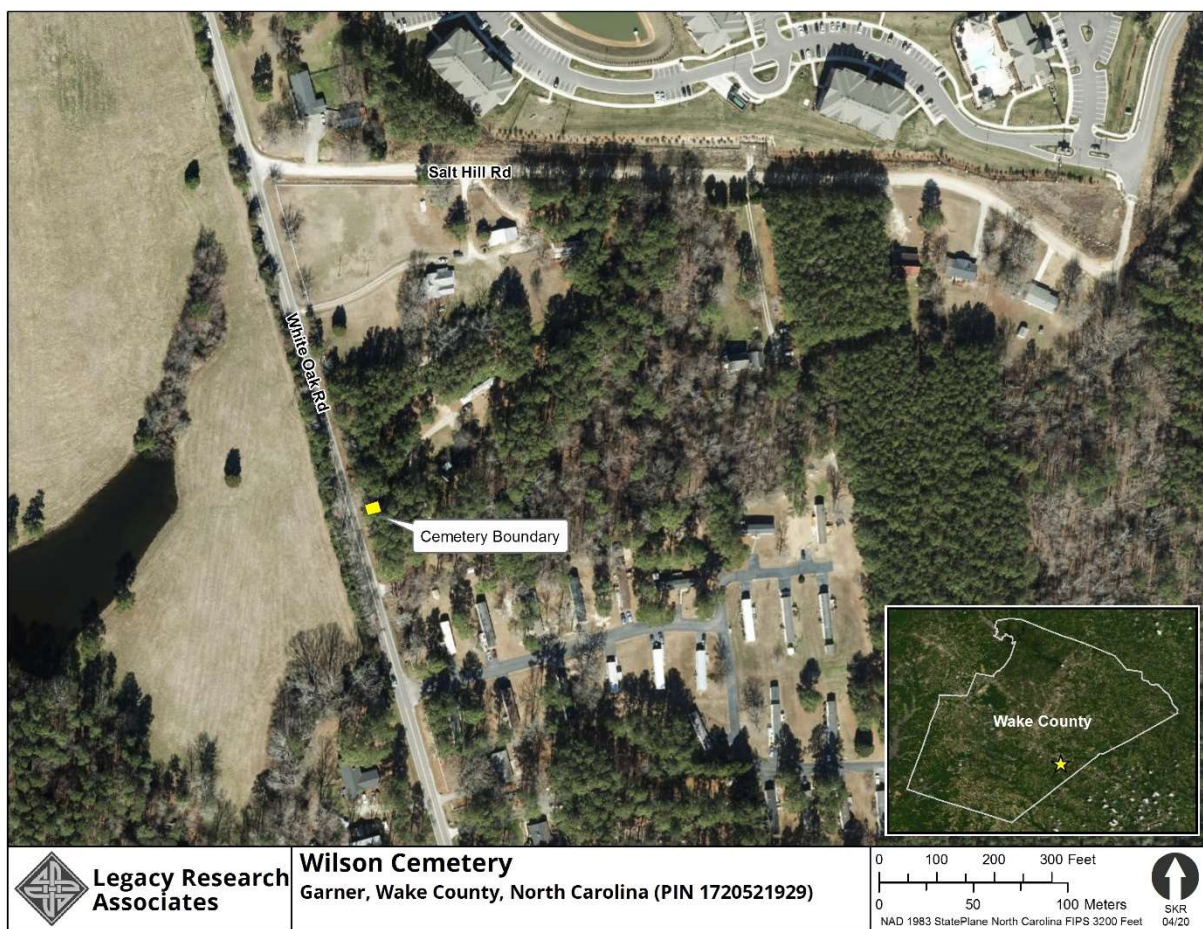


Figure 1. Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery location at 7545 White Oak Road. Basemap: Current Aerial Image.

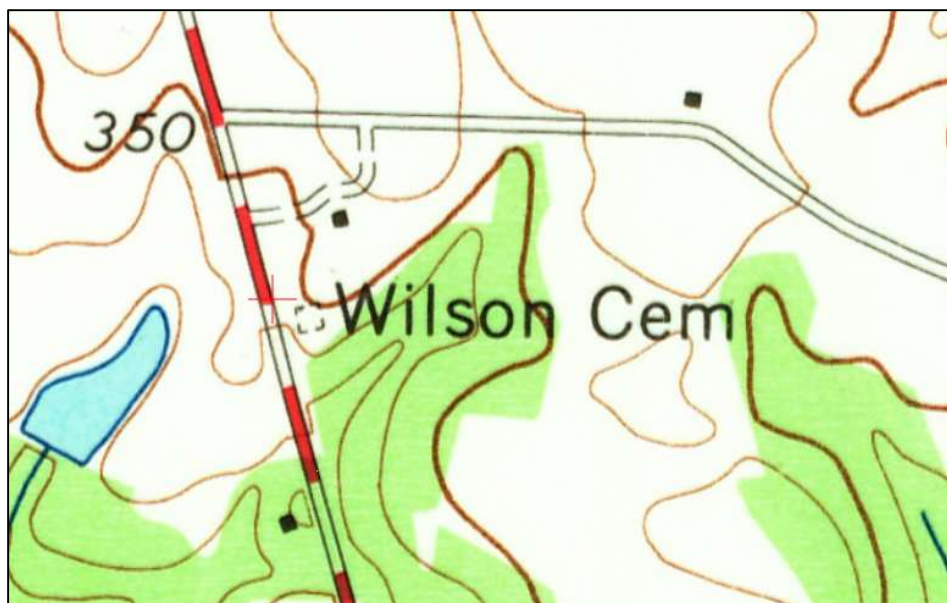


Figure 2. Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery location on the 1964 USGS *Garner, North Carolina, Quadrangle*, 7.5-minute series.

### **Transitional Model**

The Transitional Model cemetery dates from the mid- to late-nineteenth century. This tradition continues today in some areas of the South. It is characterized by family plots; a combination of scraped plots and grassy areas; the absence of creative markings, decorations, or grave shelters; and the decline or lack of collectively gathering to honor and respect those interred. The Transitional Model also marked the decline of mounded graves and the increase of commercially produced gravemarkers or tombstones.

The Transitional Model cemetery introduced different varieties of vegetation, such as magnolia and crape myrtle trees. The cedar tree remained. Flowering shrubs, such as roses, azaleas, and forsythia were often planted. Other cemetery vegetation included yucca, English ivy, and periwinkle. Eventually, artificial flowers and commercially produced gravestones with epitaphs became prevalent.

### **Modern Model**

After World War II, the South experienced a cultural change toward modernization that extended into burial customs, as evidenced by urban memorial gardens and perpetual-care mortuary complexes. Family cemeteries were rarely used. Some memorial gardens continued to exhibit aspects of the traditional Southern Folk Cemetery with bordered and sometimes scraped family burial plots. However, modernization included standardized and commercially produced markers, fewer epitaphs, and more artificial flowers.

## **Background Research**

Background research conducted at the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh found that there has been no formal recording of the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery. Research also involved reviewing online resources that included the 1937 *Wake County Cemetery Survey*, *Interment Cemetery Records Online*, *Cemetery Census*, and *Find A Grave*.

The only record of the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery was found in the *Find-A-Grave* website that reported three burials in a cemetery they identified as the "Wilson Cemetery" (<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/49136/wilson-cemetery>). The three burials are identified as Cora

Lee Smith Wilson (1864-1905), Jefferson Basil Wilson (1862-1912), and William Jefferson Wilson (1884-1905). There is another burial in the cemetery for James Jefferson Sanderford (1917-1966) that is not identified on the *Find-A-Grave* website entry for the "Wilson Cemetery."

### Chain of Title

The chain-of-title research traced ownership of the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery property (PIN 1720521929) from the present day to 1881 (Table 1). The property is currently owned by Elevate White Oak LLC who acquired the land from Janet Garris Morris, Dianne Garris Harrison, and Alan Devan Garris (DB 18277:853-858). The following is a chain of title for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery property from January 2021, when Elevate White Oak LLC acquired the property, to December 1881, when Jefferson Basil Wilson's parents owned the land and granted a three-year mortgage to David Lewis.

Table 1. Chain-of-Title for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery Property.				
Date	Grantee – To	Grantor – From	Reference	Description
06 Jan 2021	Elevate White Oak LLC	Janet Garris Morris, Dianne Garris Harrison, and Alan Devan Garris	DB 18277:853-858	As recorded in BM 1985:1528 and BM 1991:862
After 01 Mar 1995	Janet Garris Morris, Dianne Garris Harrison, and Alan Devan Garris, Survivors	Ina Mae Richardson Hicks Estate	See 28 Dec 1988	North Carolina Wills and Probate Records - Probate 88 E-1901 James Edward Hicks Estate to Ina Mae Richardson Hicks
01 Mar 1995	Ina Mae Richardson Hicks Death – James Edward Hicks' Second Wife			
28 Dec 1988	Ina Mae Richardson Hicks during her natural life and at her death to Pattie Mae Garris. If Pattie Mae Garris pre-deceases Ina Mae Richardson Hicks, then the farm will go to the children of Pattie Mae Hicks Garris	James Edward Hicks Estate	North Carolina Wills and Probate Records – Probate 88 E-1901	part of the property conveyed to Sarah Hess Hicks (in 1950) in DB 1040:443, the said Sarah Hess Hicks having died in 1956, whereupon James Edward Hicks became the sole owner of the land and subsequently was married to the grantee Ina Mae Richardson Hicks
19 Dec 1988	James Edward Hicks Death			
06 Oct 1988	Pattie Mae Hicks Garris Death – James Edward and Sarah Hess Hicks' Daughter			
18 Aug 1985	Division of Land James Edward Hicks and Ina Mae Richardson Hicks		BM 1985:1528	Created 0.1 acres for the Wilson Cemetery now identified as 7545 White Oak Road (PIN 1720521929)
19 May 1959	Ina Mae Richardson Hicks	James Edward Hicks	DB 1326:232	property conveyed to Sarah Hess Hicks in DB 1040:443, the said Sarah Hess Hicks having died in 1956, whereupon James Edward Hicks became the sole owner of the land and subsequently was married to the grantee, Ina Mae Richardson Hicks
17 May 1957	James Edward Hicks and Ina Mae Richardson Marriage			
09 June 1956	Sarah Hess Hicks Death - James Edward Hicks' First Wife			
03 Apr 1950	James Edward Hicks and wife, Sarah Hess Hicks	Greene H. Purser and wife, Hettie Lee Purser	DB 1040:443	same property conveyed by Thomas W. Smith and wife, Nora Smith, and to Greene H. Purser
22 Aug 1919	Greene H. Purser	Thomas W. Smith and wife, Nora Smith	DB 337:482	



Table 1. Chain-of-Title for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery Property.				
Date	Grantee – To	Grantor – From	Reference	Description
21 June 1919	Thomas W. Smith	Wake County Auction of the Jefferson Basil Wilson Estate	DB 338:393	From Armistead Jones, Wake County Commissioner to Thomas W. Smith – wife not identified
03 Nov 1912	Jefferson Basil Wilson Death			
06 July 1905	Cora Lee Smith Wilson Death			
04 Jan 1898	Jefferson Basil Wilson and wife, Cora Lee Smith Wilson	William H. Hamilton and wife, Sophrenia M. Hamilton	DB 149:12	for the love and affection of their son, Jefferson Basil Wilson
Around 1883	William H. Hamilton and wife, Sophrenia M. Hamilton	David Lewis		defaulted Mortgage
15 Dec 1881	David Lewis	William H. Hamilton and wife, Sophrenia M. Hamilton	DB 67:339	three-year mortgage

The following is a description of how the property passed to the previous property owners (Janet Garris Morris, Dianne Garris Harrison, and Alan Devan Garris) from James Edward Hicks, who owned the land in 1950.

James Edward Hicks and his first wife, Sarah Hess Hicks, acquired the land in 1950 from Greene H. Purser and his wife, Hettie Lee Purser (DB 1040:433). Sarah Hess Hicks died in 1956 and was buried in New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in Garner, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6737620/sarah-j-hicks>). Following her death, her husband, James Edward Hicks became the sole owner of the property. He married Ina Mae Richardson in 1957 (North Carolina Marriage Records) and in 1959 he amended the property deed to include her name (DB 1326:232). In 1985, the Division of Land for James Edward Hicks and Ina Mae Richardson Hicks created boundaries for the 0.1-acre cemetery (PIN 1720521929) from the remainder of their property at 7555 White Oak Road (PIN 1720532042) (Wake County Book of Maps [BM] 1985:1528) (Figure 3).

James Edward Hicks died on 19 December 1988 and was buried in New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in Garner, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6737607/james-e-hicks>). His will stated that his property would be inherited by “Ina Mae Richardson Hicks during her natural life and at her death to Pattie Mae Garris. If Pattie Mae Garris pre-deceases Ina Mae Richardson Hicks, then the farm will go to the children of Pattie Mae Garris” (Wake County Probate 88-E-1901). Ina Mae Richardson Hicks died on 1 March 1995 and was buried at Hayes Chapel Christian Church Cemetery in Garner, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/32021313/ina-mae-richardson>). Pattie Mae Hicks Garris (James Edward Hick’s daughter by his first wife, Sarah Hess Hicks), predeceased her stepmother Ina Mae Richardson Hicks on 06 October 1988 (North Carolina Archives). Her surviving children are Janet Garris Morris, Dianne Garris Harrison, and Alan Devan Garris.

The following is the chain of title from 1950 when James Edward Hicks and his wife, Sarah Hess Hicks, acquired to property, back to 1881 when the property was owned by William H. Hamilton and his wife, Sophrenia M. Hamilton (Table 1). Sophrenia M. Hamilton is Jefferson Basil Wilson’s mother and William H. Hamilton is Jefferson Basil Wilson’s stepfather.

The 1950 deed to James Edward Hicks and Sarah Hess Hicks from Greene H. Purser and his wife, Hettie Lee Purser (DB 1040:443) describes the property as being the same property conveyed by Thomas W. Smith and wife, Nora Smith, to Greene H. Purser and wife, Hettie Lee Purser, deeded in August 1919 and registered in September 1919 (DB 337:482). Thomas W. Smith acquired the property conveyed to him (his wife Nora Smith is not identified in the deed) by the Wake County Commissioners at auction in June 1919 from Jefferson Basil Wilson’s estate (DB 338:393).

Jefferson Basil Wilson died on 28 January 1912 and was buried on the family cemetery on his land (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/205512244/jefferson-b-wilson>) alongside his wife, Cora Lee Smith Wilson who died on 06 July 1905 (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/205512245/cora-l-wilson>). Their unmarried son, William Jefferson Wilson died on 03 November 1905 and was buried next to his mother who died a few months earlier <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/205512246/william-j-wilson>.

The property was conveyed to Jefferson Basil Wilson and his wife, Cora L. Smith Wilson, in 1898 by Jefferson Basil Wilson's step-father William H. Hamilton and mother, Sophrenia M. Hamilton (DB 149:12). The property was identified as "formerly the Estate of David Lewis."

David Lewis had acquired the property in 1881 from William H. Hamilton and his wife, Sophrenia M. Hamilton, by mortgage (DB 67:339) and it appears that he defaulted the mortgage and the property returned to William H. Hamilton and his wife, Sophrenia M. Hamilton.

No record of the defaulted loan has been located.

The specifics of the land conveyance to William H. Hamilton and his wife, Sophrenia M. Hamilton, are unknown because there is no record in the Wake County Register of Deeds for acquisition of land by William H. Hamilton and/or his wife, Sophrenia M. Hamilton (or variations of her name: Sophrenia M. Dodd, Sophrenia M. Wilson, Sophrenia Dodd Wilson) prior to 1881.

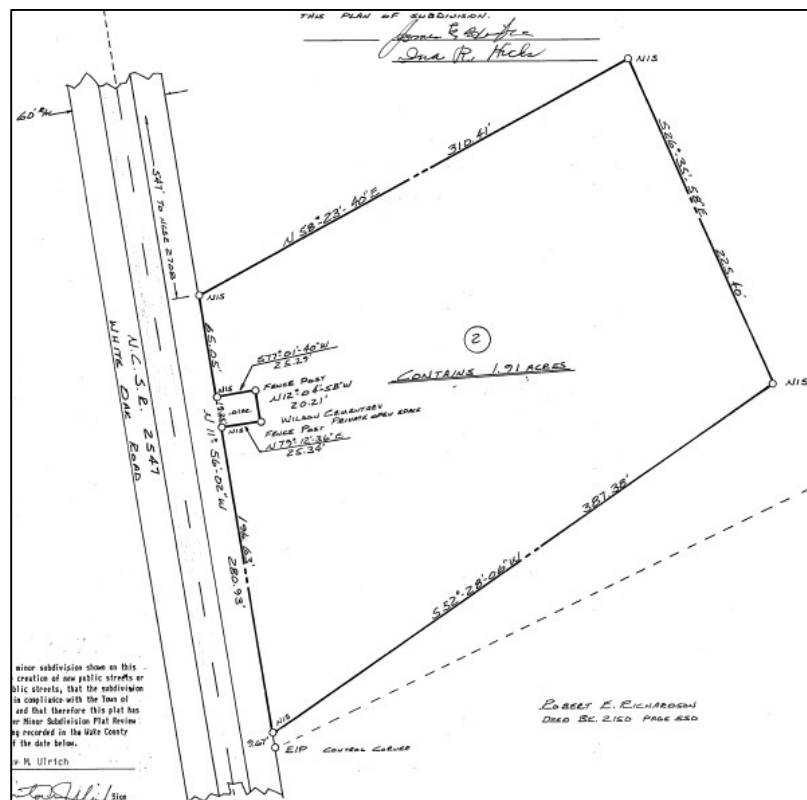


Figure 3. Excerpt of the 1985 Plat for the Subdivision of the James Edward Hicks and wife, Ina Mae Richardson Hicks, land to exclude the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery (Wake County Register of Deeds Book of Maps [BM] 1985:1528).



## Genealogical Research

To locate next of kin<sup>1</sup> of the four known burials in the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery the genealogical research focused on Jefferson Basil Wilson (1862-1912) and his wife, Cora Lee Smith Wilson (1864-1905). They married in 1881 (North Carolina Marriage Records, 1881) and had nine children: William Jefferson Wilson, Robert Lee Wilson, Edward Cleveland Wilson, Claire Irene "Pearl" Wilson, Ruby Wilson, Alma Mae Wilson, Pauline Wilson, Allen Roland Wilson, and Donovan Wilson.

Jefferson Basil Wilson's parents, Allen D. Wilson and married in 1860 Sophrenia M. Dodd (North Carolina Marriage Records, 1860). His father, Allen D. Wilson, died on 06 May 1862 as a Private in Company C, North Carolina 50th Infantry Regiment (Historical Data Systems: *U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865*). It seems unlikely that Jefferson Basil Wilson's father, Allen D. Wilson, is buried in the Jefferson Basil Wilson Cemetery because the property was not owned by the family in 1862.

Jefferson Basil Wilson's mother, Sophrenia M. Dodd Wilson, remarried in 1866 to William H. Hamilton (North Carolina Marriage Records, 1866). His mother and stepfather are listed on a nearby property in the 1900 US Federal Population Census. The 1910 census reports his stepfather (William H. Hamilton) as a widow and there is no record of him in the 1920 census. No records of the death and/or burial Jefferson Basil Wilson's mother or stepfather have been located.

The results of the following research were derived from US Population Census data, marriage and death certificates, wills, deed records, newspaper obituaries, and memorials in *Find-A-Grave* cemetery records.

The Jefferson Basil Wilson family history follows; the names of next-of-kin with last known addresses are highlighted (bold and underlined font). Contact information, if known, for next-of-kin is located in Appendix A – Next-of-Kin Contact Information.

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William Jefferson Wilson (1884-1905) never married and had no children. He is buried in the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery and shares a headstone with his parents (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/205512246/william-j-wilson>). No next-of-kin have been identified for William Jefferson Wilson.

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Robert Lee Wilson (1886-1965) married Myrtle Dean Fowler (1895-1959). They are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Salisbury, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105872862/robert-lee-wilson>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105873417/myrtle-dean-wilson>).

They had three children: Robert Leroy Wilson, Cora Rebecca Wilson, and Peggy Dean Wilson.

Robert Leroy Wilson (1908-2001) married Helen Frances Perkinson (1908-1994). They are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Salisbury, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105874166/robert-leroy-wilson>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105874769/helen-frances-wilson>). No next of kin have been identified for Robert Leroy Wilson.

Cora Rebecca Wilson (1910-1911) died when she was one year old. She is buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Salisbury, NC, next to her parents (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105863177/cora-rebeca-wilson>).

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<sup>1</sup> Next-of-kin refers to a person's closest living blood relative.

Peggy Dean Wilson (1925-1994) married Warren George Strassner (1919-1984). They are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Salisbury, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105864000/peggy-dean-strassner>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105863420/warren-george-strassner>). No next of kin have been identified for Peggy Dean Wilson Strassner.

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Edward Cleveland Wilson (1888-1926) married Grace Aliene Hiatt (1892-1958). They are buried in Green Hill Cemetery in Greensboro, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/103930313/edward-cleveland-wilson>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/103931819/grace-a-wilson>).

They had five children: Edith H. Wilson, Dorothy Jefferson Wilson, Martha M. Wilson, Edward Cleveland Wilson Jr., and James Robert Wilson.

Edith H. Wilson (1913-2014) married Norvell Gerrell Sink (1907-1994). They are buried in Green Hill Cemetery in Greensboro, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/102805562/edith-sink>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101556574/norvell-gerrell-sink>). They had three children: Carolyn Jean Sink, Norma Jo Sink, and Evelyn Dolores Sink.

Carolyn Jean Sink (1930-2014) married Richard Sampson Shoffener Jr. (1930-2000). They are buried at Pleasant Union Methodist Church Cemetery in Julian, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/196435537/carolyn-jean-shoffner>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/100819088/richard-sampson-shoffner>). No next of kin have been identified for Carolyn Jean Sink Shoffener.

**Norma Jo Sink Burroughs** is identified as next-of-kin and was contacted about the proposed cemetery relocation.

Evelyn Dolores Sink (1933-2012) married Joe Howard Ridge (1933-2006). They are buried at Guilford Memorial Park in Greensboro, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/88068275/evelyn-ridge>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/85159178/joe-howard-ridge>). They had two children: **Phillip M. Ridge** and **Mark Joseph Ridge**. Both sons are identified as next-of-kin and have been contacted about the proposed cemetery relocation.

Dorothy Jefferson Wilson (1916-2002) married Albert Hambly Rudd Jr. (1911-1980). They divorced and there is no record of her remarriage. She is buried at Green Hill Cemetery in Greensboro, NC; her gravestone identifies her last name as Rumph, although her married name was Rudd (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/104132037/dorothy-rumpf>). Her ex-husband is buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/121747457/albert-h-rudd>). One child is known from this marriage: James Donald Rudd (1934-2012). He is buried in Green Hill Cemetery (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/109800938/james-donald-rudd>). No next of kin have been identified for James Donald Rudd.

Martha M. Wilson (1919-2011) married Leonard Eugene Hasty (1923-1981). They are buried at Rock Island National Cemetery in Illinois (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/71750133/martha-m-hasty>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59736820/leonard-eugene-hasty>). They had three

children: **Linda Marie Hasty Giammanco**, **Ray Ann Hasty DeClerck**, and **William Eugene Hasty**. All three are next-of-kin and have been contacted about the proposed relocation.

Edward Cleveland Wilson Jr. (1921-1989) married Marjorie Mae Smothers (1922-1988). They are buried at Guilford Memorial Park in Greensboro, NC  
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/103931559/edward-clee-wilson>) and  
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/117203533/marjorie-mae-wilson>). No next of kin have been identified for Edward Cleveland Wilson Jr.

James Robert Wilson (1924-1998) married Mary Vonge Brown (1926-2003). They are buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Greensboro, NC  
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/123921747/james-robert-wilson>) and  
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/123922144/mary-wilson>). No next of kin have been identified for James Robert Wilson.

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Claire Irene "Pearl" Wilson (1889-1969) married William Henry Jones (1883-1934). They are buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134408386/irene-pearl-jones>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134408023/william-henry-jones>).

They had three children: Hazel Leigh Jones, Gladys E. Jones, and Henry Carlton Jones.

Hazel Leigh Jones (1909-2004) married Harry Rudolph Smith (1909-1977). They are buried in Gethsemane Memorial Park in Morehead City, NC  
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/91240046/hazel-j-smith>) and  
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/91197963/harry-r-smith>).

Hazel Leigh Jones Smith and her husband Harry Rudolph Smith had one child: Joyce Leigh Smith (1931-2019) who married James Earl Hopkins (1929-1979). They are buried in Gethsemane Memorial Park in Morehead, NC  
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/203170210/joyce-leigh-hopkins>) and  
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/89053457/james-earl-hopkins>). They had two children: **Marsha Hopkins Campbell** and **Scotty Lee Hopkins**. They are next-of-kin and have been contacted about the proposed relocation.

Gladys E. Jones (1910-1926) died when she was 16 years old. She was buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134408485/gladys-e-jones>). No next of kin have been identified for Gladys E. Jones.

Henry Carlton Jones (1918-2013) married Annie Lee Upchurch (1921-2008). They are buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134406873/henry-carlton-jones>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134406949/annie-lee-jones>). No next of kin have been identified for Henry Carlton Jones.

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Ruby Wilson (1894-1985) married William R. Sanderford (1885-1963). Her death date is documented in the North Carolina Department of Health Death Certificates, but her burial location is unknown. Her husband is buried at Bagwell Family Cemetery in Garner, NC  
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21893036/william-r-sanderford>).

They had two children: Mildred Sanderford and James Jefferson Sanderford.

Mildred Sanderford (1913-1988) married Frank Pollard (1908-1983). They are buried at Montlawn Cemetery in Raleigh, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/137370934/mildred-pollard>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/137370962/frank-pollard>). One child is known from this marriage: Leroy Frank Pollard (1932-2006) who married Betty Carol Upchurch (1947-2018). They are buried at Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery in Youngsville, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/50437930/leroy-frank-pollard>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/50437922/betty-carol-pollard>). No next of kin have been identified for Leroy Frank Pollard.

James Jefferson Sanderford (1917-1966) married Estelle O'Neil (1919-2007). James J. Sanderford's death certificate identifies the "Wilson Cemetery" as his burial location (North Carolina State Archives). Estelle O'Neil Sanderford's death is reported in the *US Social Security Applications and Claims Index 1936-2007*. Her burial location is unknown.

They had three children: Robert "Bobby" Lee Sanderford, James "Jimmy" R. Sanderford, and William "Billy" Eugene Sanderford. Two (**Robert "Bobby" Lee Sanderford** and **James "Jimmy" R. Sanderford**) are identified as next-of-kin and have been contacted about the proposed cemetery relocation.

The third, William "Billy" Eugene Sanderford (1939-2006) married Alice Faye Warren (b. 1940). His death is documented in the *U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007*. His burial location is unknown. There is no record of his wife's death; it is assumed that she may be living; however, she is not considered to be next-of-kin. William "Billy" Eugene Sanderford and Alice Faye Warren Sanderford had three children: **Billy Eugene Sanderford, Jr.**, **Angela "Mia" Sanderford**, and **Candace "Pia" Sanderford Woodall**. All three are next of kin and have been contacted about the proposed cemetery relocation.

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Alma Mae Wilson (1896-1965) married John Frederick Clark (1894-1973). They are buried in Fairview Memorial Park in Albemarle, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68961576/alma-mae-clark>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68749884/john-f.-clark>).

They had three children: John Ernest Wilson Clark, Joyce Lorraine Clark, and Harold Bain Clark.

John Ernest Wilson Clark (1921-1990) married Elizabeth Tuttle Cloninger (1920-2013). They are buried in Sharon Memorial Park in Charlotte, NC ([https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/99167301/john-ernest\\_wilson-clark](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/99167301/john-ernest_wilson-clark)) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114898667/elizabeth-clark>). They had two children: John Wilson Hines Clark and Lucy Tuttle Clark.

John Wilson Hines Clark (1950-2012) is buried in Sharon Memorial Park in Charlotte, NC [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/156148619/john-wilson\\_hines-clark](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/156148619/john-wilson_hines-clark). No next of kin have been identified for John Wilson Hines Clark.

**Lucy Tuttle Clark** married John Frederick Scandrett. She has been identified as next of kin and has been contacted about the proposed cemetery relocation. They had one child: **Lara Christine Scandrett**, who has also been contacted about the proposed cemetery relocation.

Joyce Lorraine Clark (1925-1989) married John Morrow Stewart (1924-2011). She is buried at Montview Garden Columbarium in Denver, Colorado (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/188173001/joyce-c-stewart>). Her husband's burial is reported in the Denver County Clerk and Records Office (Denver County Deaths 1986-2017). His burial location is unknown. They had five children: **David Clive Stewart**, Susan E. Stewart, **Annie M. Stewart**, **Laura E. Stewart**, and **Ellen E. Stewart**. All are next of kin and have been contacted about the proposed cemetery relocation, with the exception of Susan E. Stewart because no contact information was found for her and it could not be determined if she was still living.

Harold Bain Clark (1929-2004) married Evelyn Parker Stephenson (1928-2015). They are buried in Sharon Memorial Park in Charlotte, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/142061991/harold-bain-clark>) and (<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/charlotte-nc/evelyn-clark-6333418>). They had two children: **Robin Diane Clark Funderburk** and **Sandi Lea Clark Covington**. Both are next of kin and have been contacted about the proposed cemetery relocation.

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Pauline Wilson (1898-1986) married Bernard King Lentz (1897-1980). They are buried at Chestnut Hill Cemetery in Salisbury, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45640847/pauline-lentz>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/48354506/bernard-k-lentz>). No next-of-kin have been identified for Pauline Wilson Lentz.

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Allen Roland Wilson (1900-1969) married Lenora B. Thompson (1900-1954). They are buried at Guilford Memorial Park in Greensboro, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/117485132/allen-roland-wilson>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/117485092/lorena-b-wilson>).

They had three children: Dorothy J. Wilson, Richard Monroe Wilson, and Frances R. Wilson.

Dorothy J. Wilson (1917- before 1930). She is recorded in the 1920 US Federal Population Census as being three years old. She is not recorded in the 1930 census, which suggests that she died as a young child. Her burial location is unknown.

Richard Monroe Wilson (1921-1969) married Bessie Pearl Brafford (b. 1921). He is buried at Guilford Memorial Park in Greensboro, NC (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98560452/richard-monroe-wilson>). His wife has a burial plot at Guilford Memorial Park, but the headstone has no death date, which suggests that she may still be living or she was buried somewhere else and her memorial states that she first married Richard Monroe Wilson in 1941, but provides no information on a later marriage, although the headstone inscription of "Bessie Pearl Black" indicated that she may have remarried (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98560236/bessie-pearl-black>). Richard Monroe Wilson and his wife, Bessie Pearl Brafford Wilson had two children: **Craig Stephen Wilson** and **Kevin Scott Wilson**. Both are next-of-kin and have been contacted about the proposed cemetery relocation.

**Frances R. Wilson Lane** is next of kin and has been contacted about the proposed cemetery relocation.

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Donovan Wilson Sr. (1902-1994) married Shirley Jenkins (1914-1995). They are buried at Mt. Hebron Cemetery in Winchester, Virginia (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/144493336/donovan-wilson>) and (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/179164925/shirley-wilson>).

They had four children: Cora Mae Wilson Talbot, Donovan Wilson Jr., Anthony Erwin Wilson, and Fred Anthony Wilson. All are next of kin and have been contacted about the proposed cemetery relocation, except Fred Anthony Wilson who died in 2012 in Stephens City, Virginia (US Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection 1847-Current). He had one child, Rebecca Stephanie Wilson (1951-1954), by Jeanette Rosalie Strader (1932-1954). Both mother and child died in a traffic accident (North Carolina Death Certificates 1909-1976 and North Carolina Death Index 1908-2004). No next of kin have been identified for Fred Anthony Wilson.

### Field Investigations

Following the initiation of background research, described above, a field investigation of the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery was conducted on 8 April 2020. A description of the work follows.

The investigation consisted of a systematic visual reconnaissance to determine the cemetery boundaries based on the distribution of graves and possible graves. While the field methods used are a reasonable and prudent effort and meet or exceed present professional standards for cemetery studies, the only method to guarantee locating every burial in a cemetery requires complete excavation, which is beyond the scope of this project.

The inspection for graves consisted of identifying grave locations based on one or more of the following.

- presence of an inscribed or uninscribed gravestone
- presence of a rectangular-shaped graveshaft depression
- detection of past ground disturbance associated with a burial pit

The survey identified four graves within a fenced area that is approximately 20 feet north-south by 16 feet east-west with a 3-foot wide gate along the east-facing fence section (Figure 4). There was no evidence of rectangular-shaped burial depressions or past ground disturbance associated with a burial pit. The ground within the fenced cemetery is covered with pine needles and leaf litter. There was no evidence of ornamental plants or ground cover traditionally found in cemeteries.



Figure 4. Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery, view southwest, White Oak Road in the background.



There were two markers within the fenced cemetery (Figure 5). One is shared by Jefferson Basil Wilson and his wife, Cora Lee Smith Wilson, and their son, William Jefferson Wilson (Figure 6). It is inscribed with their names and year of birth and death. The marker is marble and measures 5 feet wide and 8 inches thick. The height of the marker at each end is 2 feet and 1.5 inches; it peaks slightly in the center to 2 feet and 3 inches.

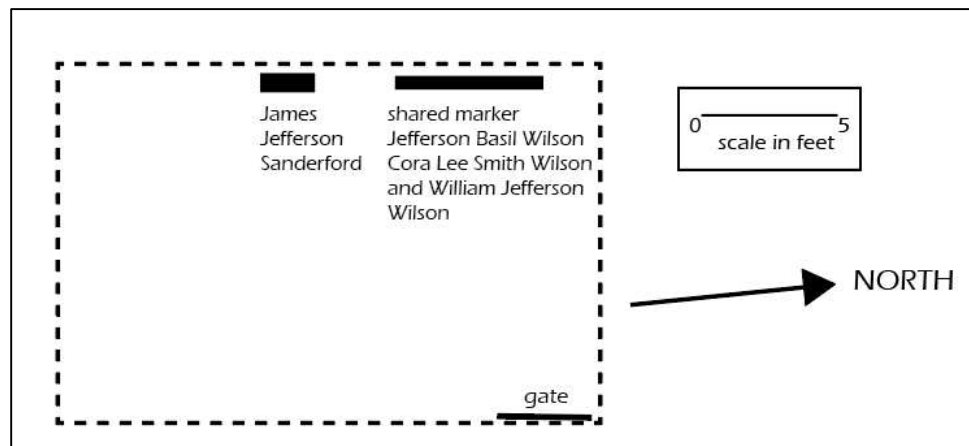


Figure 5. Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery Site Plan.



Figure 6. Shared Marker for Jefferson Basil Wilson and his wife, Cora Lee Smith Wilson, and their son, William Jefferson Wilson.

The other marker is for James Jefferson Sanderford (Figure 7). He was the grandson of Jefferson Basil Wilson and his wife, Cora Lee Smith Wilson, by their daughter Ruby Wilson who married William R. Sanderford. This marker is made of granite and measures 2 feet by 1 foot. It lies flat on the ground and is inscribed "James J. Sanderford."



Figure 7. James Jefferson Sanderford Gravemarker.

### Project Results

The focus of the investigation was to locate information about the age of the cemetery, to identify other burials in the cemetery, and to identify living descendants. The purpose was to provide information for the proposed relocation of the graves to a perpetual-care cemetery prior to the residential development of the property.

The cemetery has the attributes of the Transitional cemetery model. It is a family plot with a commercially produced gravemarker with inscriptions. However, there is an absence of cemetery vegetation typically found in a Transitional Model cemetery, such as magnolia and crape myrtle trees, flowering shrubs (roses, azaleas, and forsythia), or other cemetery vegetation (yucca, English ivy, and periwinkle).

The chain-of-title research found that Jefferson Basil Wilson owned the property from 1898 until his death in 1912. The property was held in his estate until June 1919, when it was sold at auction to Thomas W. Smith. Two months later, Thomas W. Smith and his wife, Nora Smith, sold it to Greene H. Purser and wife, Hettie Lee Purser. They held the property until 1950 when they sold it to James Edward Hicks and his first wife, Sarah Hess Hicks. The property is still owned by descendants of James Edward Hicks.

There are no burials for the Smith, Purser, or Hicks family in the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery.

The field investigation found two markers within the fenced cemetery. One is shared marker for Jefferson Basil Wilson, his wife, Cora Lee Smith Wilson, and their son, William Jefferson Wilson; the other marker is for their grandson, James Jefferson Sanderford. The genealogical research found no record of other members of the Jefferson Basil Wilson family being buried in the cemetery.

## Significance Evaluation

Four general significance criteria are used to determine eligibility of a property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Properties may be considered eligible for inclusion if they:

- a) are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- b) are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- c) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction; or
- d) have yielded or may be likely to yield information important to our understanding of prehistory or history.

The Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion a, as it is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. There is no suggestion that it is associated with the lives of persons significant to our past; therefore, Criterion b does not apply. Criterion c evaluation finds that this cemetery does not represent the work of a master and it does not have high artistic values, nor does it embody distinctive characteristics of a type a cemetery that would warrant preservation. Under Criterion d, there is a small likelihood for bone preservation sufficient for physical analysis; therefore, the cemetery is unlikely to yield information important to our understanding of the history or prehistory of the region.

## Summary of Due-Diligence Efforts to Notify Next-of-Kin

A legal notice was published in *The News & Observer* on June 5, June 12, June 19, and June 26, 2020 (Figure 8). This notification was published to comply with state law.<sup>2</sup> The purpose was to attempt to notify next-of-kin about the proposed cemetery relocation and locate persons with interest in or knowledge about the graves on this property. No response to was received to the four weekly legal advertisements seeking information related to the Jefferson Basil Wilson Cemetery.

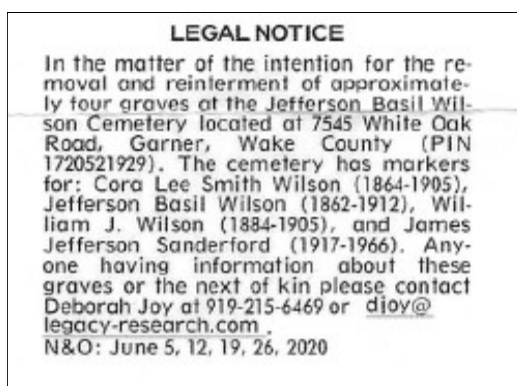


Figure 8. Legal Notice for the proposed relocation of the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery (*The News & Observer* June 5, June 12, June 19, and June 26, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> North Carolina General Statute 65-106 - The party effecting the disinterment, removal, and reinterment of a grave containing a decedent's remains under the provisions of this Part shall, before disinterment, give 30 days' written notice of such intention to the next of kin of the decedent, if known or subject to being ascertained by reasonable search and inquiry, and shall cause notice of such disinterment, removal, and reinterment to be published at least once per week for four successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where such grave is located, and the first publication shall be not less than 30 days before disinterment. Any remains disinterred and removed hereunder shall be reinterred in a suitable cemetery.

The genealogical research found information for 27 descendants of Jefferson Basil Wilson and Cora Lee Smith Wilson that have contact information. Letters informing these people of the proposed cemetery relocation were mailed by USPS on 01 June 2020 and 25 September 2002 (Appendix A). No response has been received.

### **Proposed Perpetual-Care Cemetery Reinterment Site**

The four graves and the two gravemarkers, as well as any buried gravemarkers exposed during the disinterment, will be relocated to Oakwood Cemetery at 701 Oakwood Avenue in Raleigh, North Carolina (PIN 1714110503) where they will receive perpetual care.

If other graves are identified during the exhumation of graves at the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery, then they will also be reinterred at the proposed reinternment location at Oakwood Cemetery.

The two existing markers as described and shown on page 10 through page 14 will be preserved and protected and will be reinstalled at the reinterment site in Oakwood Cemetery.

A permanent marker for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery will be set at the reburial site. Figure 9 is the proposed wording for the marker. The marker will be revised, if necessary, to account for the actual number of graves reinterred at the proposed Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery reinternment location at Oakwood Cemetery.

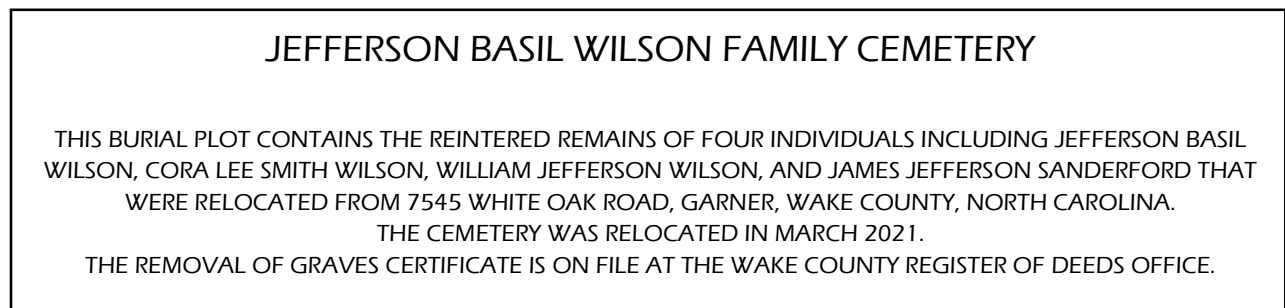


Figure 9. Proposed marker for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery burials at Oakwood Cemetery.

The field investigation of this cemetery identified four probable graves, however there is a possibility that other unidentified graves may be discovered during full excavation of the site. Upon consultation with the manager of Oakwood Cemetery it was noted that there was room for no more than four burials to be reinterred in Alternative Area 1 as shown on the Oakwood Cemetery map in Figure 10. However, if more than four burials are found during the disinterment, all of these burials will be reinterred to Alternative Area 2 as shown on the map in Figure 10. Figure 11 is a photograph of Alternative Area 1. Figure 12 is a photograph of Alternative Area 2.

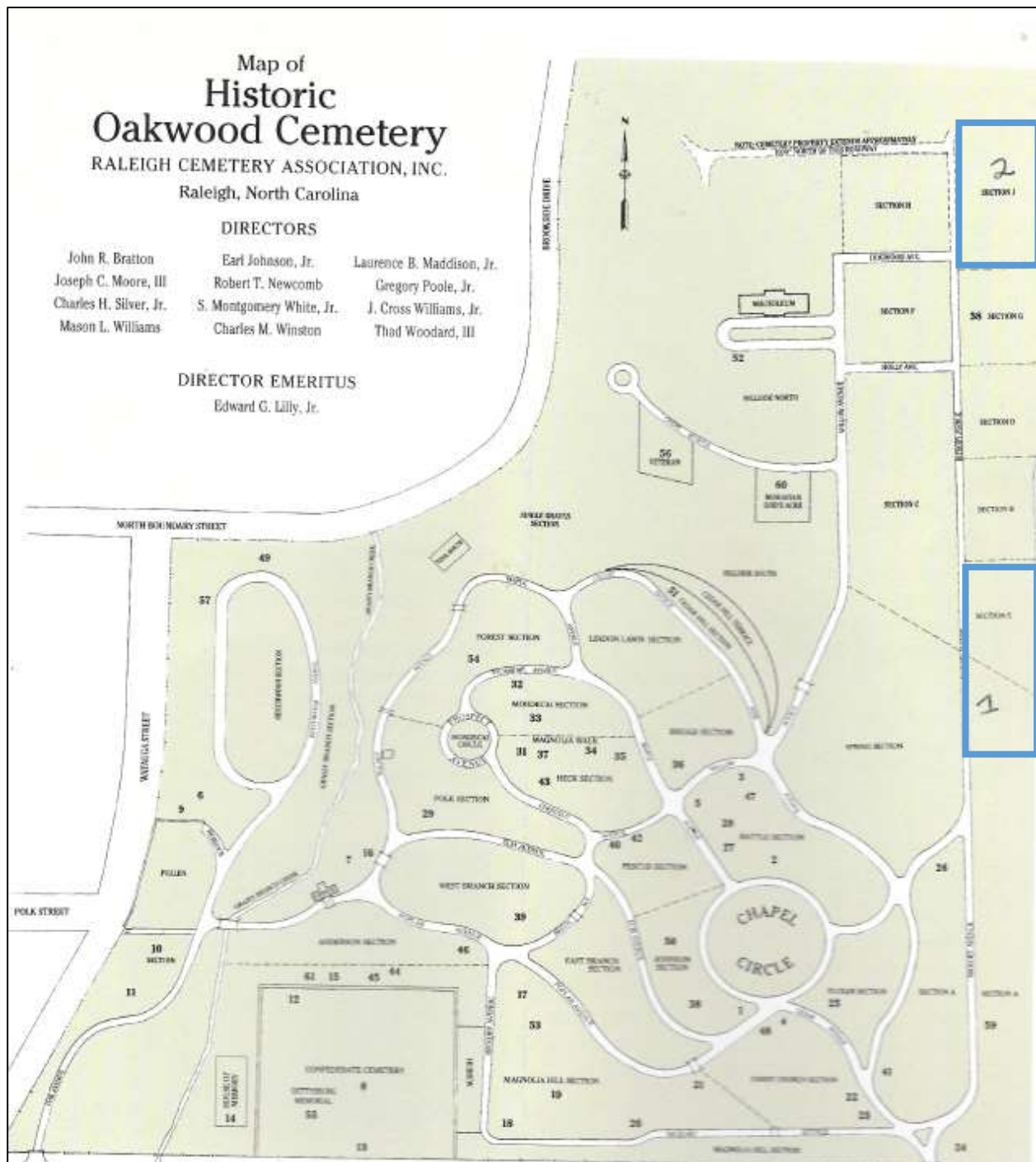


Figure 10. Proposed reinterment locations for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery reinterment at Oakwood Cemetery showing Alternative Area 1 and Area 2 that will be selected depending on the number of actual graves that are disinterred.





Figure 11. Proposed reinterment location Alternative Area 1 for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery reinterment at Oakwood Cemetery if there are no more than four burials.

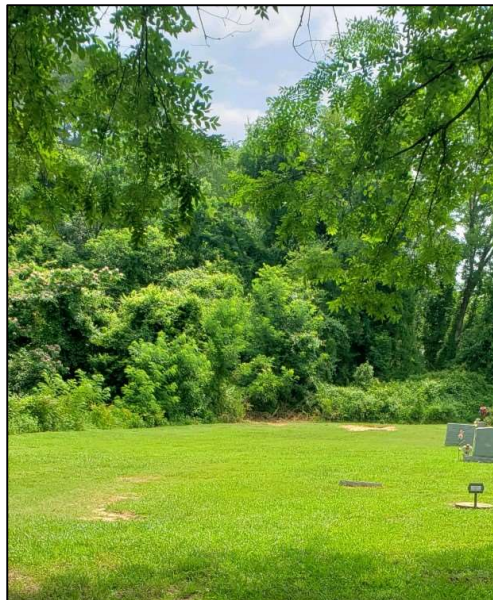


Figure 12. Proposed reinterment location Alternative Area 2 for the Jefferson Basil Wilson Family Cemetery reinterment at Oakwood Cemetery if there are more than four burials.



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- 1966 James Jefferson Sanderford. *North Carolina Department of Health, Death Certificates, 1909-1976.*
- 1985 Ruby Wilson Sanderford. *North Carolina Department of Health, Death Certificates 1983-1987.*
- 1988 Pattie Mae Hicks Garriss. *North Carolina Department of Health, Death Certificates 1988-1992.*

#### North Carolina Wills and Probate Records

- 1988 Last Will and Testament, James Edward Hicks, Probate 88-E-1901, Probate Place Wake County.

#### United States Geological Survey (USGS)

- 1964 *Garner, North Carolina, Quadrangle, 7.5-minute series.*

#### United States Social Security Applications and Claims Index 1935-2015

- 1989 Joyce Lorraine Clark Death.
- 2012 Fred Anthony Wilson Death.

#### United States *Social Security Applications and Claims Index 1936-2007*

- 2006 William "Billy" Eugene Sanderford Death.
- 2007 Estelle O'Neal Sanderford Death.

#### United States Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection, 1847-Current

- 2012 Fred Anthony Wilson Obituary.

#### Wake County, North Carolina, Register of Deeds

- 1881 Land Conveyance from William H. Hamilton and wife, Sophrenia M. Hamilton, to David Lewis (DB 67:339).
- 1898 Land Conveyance from William H. Hamilton and wife, Sophrenia M. Hamilton, to Jefferson Basil Wilson and wife, Cora Lee Smith Wilson (DB 149:12).
- 1919 Land Conveyance from Wake County Commissioners (Jefferson Basil Wilson Estate Auction) to Thomas W. Smith (DB 338:393).
- 1919 Land Conveyance from Thomas W. Smith and wife, Nora Smith, to Greene H. Purser and wife, Hettie Lee Purser (DB 337:482).
- 1950 Land Conveyance from Greene H. Purser and wife, Hettie Lee Purser, to James Edward Hicks and wife, Sarah Hess Hicks (DB 1040:443).
- 1959 Land Conveyance from James Edward Hicks to Ina Mae Richardson Hicks (DB 1326:232).
- 1985 Division of Land James Edward Hicks and wife, Ina Mae Richardson Hicks (BM 1985:1528).
- 2021 Land Conveyance from Janet Garriss Morris, Dianne Garriss Harrison, and Alan Devan Garriss to Elevate White Oak LLC (DB 18277:853-858).

## Appendix A – Next-of-Kin Contact Information

### Notification Letters Dated 1 June 2020

1. **Norma Jo Sink** married Aubrey Cyrus Burroughs. Last known address: 3481 Lakeside Drive NE # 2706, Atlanta, Georgia 30326.
2. **Phillip M. Ridge**. Last known address: 3128 Bonhurst Drive, Winston Salem, North Carolina 27106.
3. **Mark Joseph Ridge**. Last known address: 5074 Millpoint Road, Greensboro, North Carolina 27406.
4. **Linda Marie Hasty** married John Giammanco. Last known address: 767 West Mountain Route, Sparta, New Jersey 07871.
5. **Ray Ann Hasty** married Larry A. DeClerck. Last known address: 3210 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Moline, Illinois 61265.
6. **William Eugene Hasty**. Last known address: 3405 Baton Rouge Road, Muscatine, Iowa 52761.
7. **Robert "Bobby" Lee Sanderford**. Last known address: 265 North Raleigh Farms Road, Youngsville, North Carolina 27596.
8. **James "Jimmy" R. Sanderford**. Last known address: 648 Old Church Road, Swansboro, North Carolina 28584.
9. **William "Billy" Eugene Sanderford, Jr.** Last known address: 515 South Street, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina 27870.
10. **Angela "Mia" Sanderford**. Last known address: 120 Blue Water Court, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina 27870.
11. **Candace Pia Sanderford** married Curtis Wayne Woodall. Last known address: 12728 Justice Branch, Littleton, North Carolina 27850.
12. **Lucy Tuttle Clark** married John Frederick. Last known address: 9 Ensie Road, Hilton Head, South Carolina 29928.
13. **Lara Christine Scandrett**. Last known address: 9 Ensie Road, Hilton Head, South Carolina 29928.
14. **David Clive Stewart**. Last known address: Post Office Box 2528, Seattle, Washington 98111.
15. **Annie M. Stewart**. Last known address: 3736 NE 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97212.
16. **Laura E. Stewart**. Last known address: 216 168<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, Washington 98008.
17. **Ellen E. Stewart**. Last known address: 1401 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Denver, Colorado 80202. **Letter returned on 15 June 2020; Reason: Unable to Forward.**
18. **Robin Diane Clark** married Tim Funderburk. Last known address: 3508 Sanford Lane, Monroe, North Carolina 28110.
19. **Sandi Lea Clark** married Christopher Harold Covington. Last known address: 2024 Seefin Court, Indian Trail, North Carolina 28079.
20. **Craig Stephen Wilson**. Last known address: 1012 Heatherstone Court, Winston Salem, North Carolina 27104.
21. **Kevin Scott Wilson**. Last known address: 412 Cassandra Road, Madison, North Carolina 27025.
22. **Frances R. Wilson** married John Edward Lane. Last known address: 1600 Elwood Avenue, Greensboro, North Carolina 27403.
23. **Cora Mae Wilson** married Robert Talbot Jr. Last known address: 804 Jamestown Drive, #C, Winter Park, Florida 32792. **Letter returned on 15 June 2020; Reason: Unable to Forward.**
24. **Donovan Wilson Jr.** Last known address: 100 Lunette Street, Winchester, Virginia 22603.
25. **Anthony Erwin Wilson**. Last known address: 215 Lakeridge Drive, Stephens City, Virginia 22655.

### Notification Letters Dated 25 September 2020

26. **Marsha Hopkins Campbell**. Last known address: 2188 Twin Pines Drive, Kernersville, North Carolina 27284.
27. **Scotty Lee Hopkins**. Last known address: 212 Forest Hill Drive, Havelock, North Carolina 28532.