

TECHNICAL REPORT

Historical and Archaeological Investigations at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Archaeological Site 31OR580**) located in Blackwood Farm Park near Hillsborough in the Chapel Hill Township of Orange County, North Carolina
Orange County Property Identification Numbers 9872-55-7302 and 9872-63--3300

Prepared for

Orange County
Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks, and Recreation (DEAPR)
306-A Revere Road
Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278



Prepared by

Legacy Research Associates
3333 Durham-Chapel Hill Boulevard
Suite A-100
Durham, North Carolina 27707



May 5, 2016

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following Legacy Research Associates (Legacy) staff contributed to this project. Background research was conducted by Deborah Joy. Field work was conducted by Nick Henderson, Matthew Gill, and Jay Sander under the direction of Deborah Joy. GIS maps were created by Andrew Hill. The report was written by Deborah Joy and edited by Michael Davey.

Background research for this report was completed with the assistance from Peter Sandbeck and Rich Shaw of the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks, and Recreation (DEAPR). Field assistance was provided by Keith Barnhardt, Site Manager, and his staff at Blackwood Farm Park. Valuable transcribed, first-hand accounts of the Blackwood and Strayhorn families from Nannie Blackwood and Bob Strayhorn (Southern Oral History Program at UNC-Chapel Hill) were also consulted. Other research assistance was provided by the staff at the University of North Carolina (UNC) Wilson Library Southern Historical Collection and Special Collections Library, the Orange County Library Local History Collection, the Durham County Library North Carolina Collection, and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, Survey & National Register Branch.

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Legacy Research Associates (Legacy) of Durham, North Carolina, has completed the historical and archaeological investigations for the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Archaeological Site 31OR580**) located at the Blackwood Farm Park between Hillsborough and Chapel Hill near the intersection of NC Highway 86 and New Hope Church Road (SR 1723). The park encompasses 152 acres of meadows and woodlands that surround an historic farmstead, now known as the Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm (Architectural Resource OR457) that includes the ca. 1827-1840 house; the ca. 1906 barn, corn crib, chicken house, smokehouse; and the ca. 1925 milking shed, milk house, and garage.

The historical and archaeological work was conducted for the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks, and Recreation (DEAPR) in Hillsborough, North Carolina. It included conducting historic research about the Blackwood Farm Park property and an intensive archaeological survey of the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (31OR580**).

Previous archaeological investigations conducted by Legacy in 2006 at the county-owned Blackwood Farm property included an inspection of the slave cemetery (31OR580**) and resulted in identifying approximately 25 graves within an area that was approximately 82 feet by 52 feet and was covered with periwinkle (*Vinca minor*). The historic research conducted in 2006 found that the slave cemetery was very likely associated with Samuel Strayhorn's early- to mid-nineteenth-century plantation. Additional survey work was conducted by Legacy in 2007 at five high-probability areas identified on the Blackwood Farm property. This work resulted in identifying nineteenth-century domestic and architectural artifacts in close proximity to the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery. These materials were identified as being possibly associated with the slave quarters associated with the Samuel Strayhorn Plantation. Additional archaeological work (metal-detecting and shovel testing) was recommended to complete the assessment.

In 2015, Orange County opened the Blackwood Farm Park to the public. The park is a low-impact recreational facility with an historic and agricultural theme. Park amenities include picnic tables and benches around the farmstead area and more than four miles of walking and hiking trails. The trail network incorporates a section of the historic stagecoach road known as the "Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road" that crosses through the property; a section of the trail network in the western part of the property enters into the woodland near the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (31OR580**).

This research project has been undertaken in support of park development and interpretation, as well as the responsible stewardship of cultural resources located on the park property.

Figure 1 depicts the location of the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century resources associated with the historic occupation of the Blackwood Farm Park. These identified resources are (1) the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery; (2) the Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm building complex, (3) a remnant of the historic Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road between Blackwood Farm Park and New Hope Church Road; and (4) the location of the old New Hope Church Cemetery, the burial location for the Samuel Strayhorn family.

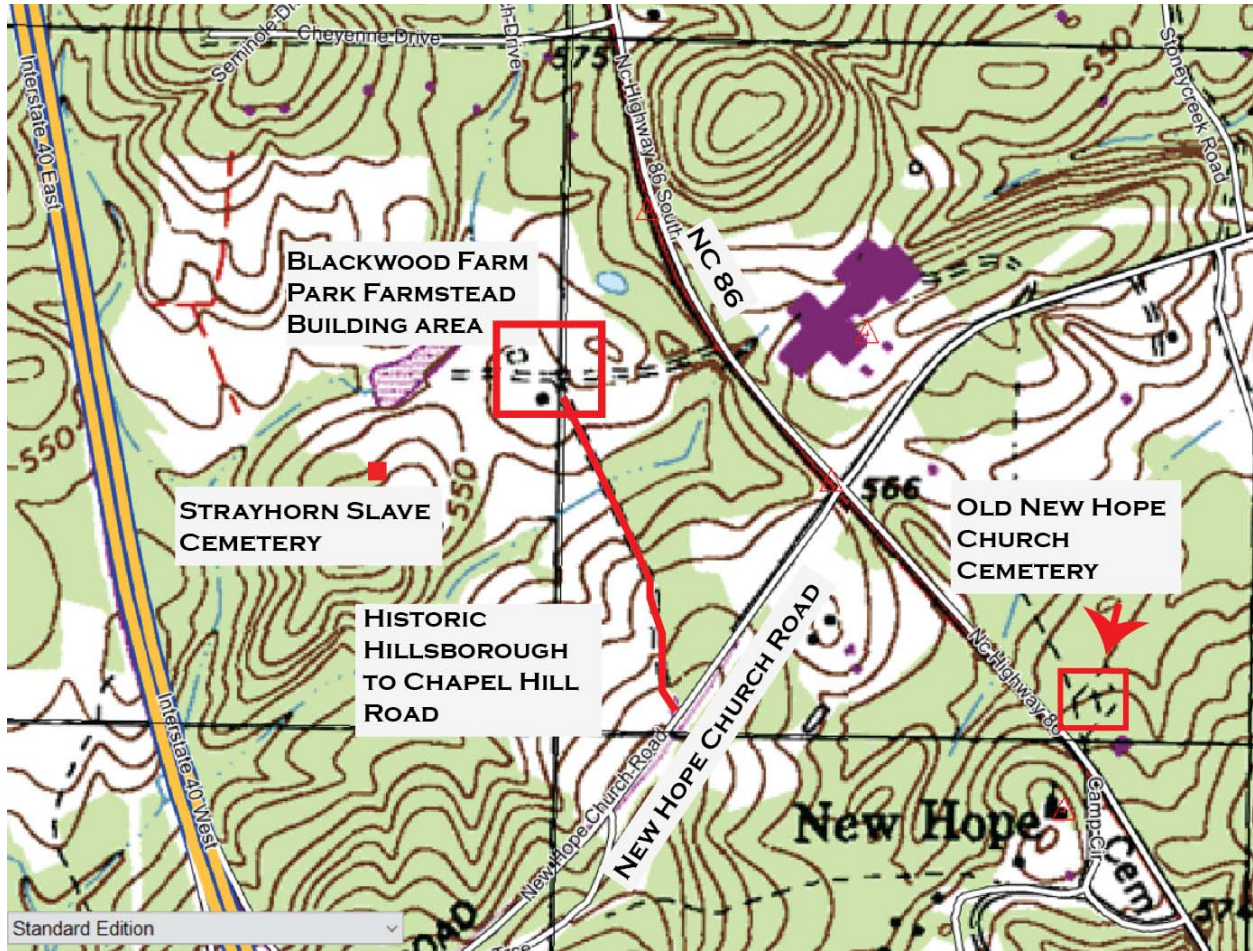


Figure 1. Project location map (Hillsborough, NC, USGS topographic quadrangle map 1968, revised 1994). Note: the map shows the location of (1) the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery, (2) the Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm building complex, (3) a remnant of the historic Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road between Blackwood Farm and New Hope Church Road, and (4) the location of the old New Hope Church Cemetery, the burial location for the Samuel Strayhorn family.

Investigation Summary and Results

The history of the present-day Blackwood Farm begins with the acquisition of 178 acres in 1778 by Joseph Marlett, son of William Marlett, who was a Quaker immigrant from Pennsylvania. Marlett owned the property until 1817 when he sold it to Samuel Strayhorn; the property remained in the Strayhorn family line until 2001 when Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood, the two times great granddaughters of Samuel Strayhorn, sold it to Orange County.

Research indicates that during the W. F. Strayhorn (1849-1898) and Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry (1898-1906) ownership, the property was more than likely rented or leased, as neither W.F. Strayhorn nor his daughter, Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry, lived on the property. It is not known who lived on the land or farmed the fields during those 67 years.

It is clear, however, that the slave cemetery and extant house are associated with Samuel Strayhorn, who acquired the property in 1817 from Joseph Marlett (DB 16:36). It is unlikely that Marlett lived on the land since an 1818 deed that conveyed land from Joseph Marlett to his son, George Marlett, identify that property as being the land where he lived (DB 16:273).

According to David Irwin Craig (1849-1925), a grandson of Samuel Strayhorn, his grandfather's "first old house" burned between 1825 and 1826 and had been located west or southwest from the "present settlement" (presumably the extant Strayhorn-Blackwood House) on top of the hill next to the woods (Craig 1899). The exact location of the earlier house, as well as the farm outbuildings and slave houses associated with the Samuel Strayhorn occupation, is not known.

During this 30 years (1817-1847) on the property, Samuel Strayhorn is reported in the Federal Census Slave Schedules (1820-1840) as having 3 slaves in 1820, 8 slaves in 1830, and 18 slaves in 1840. At the time of his death in 1847, he had 16 slaves that were passed on to his three surviving children.

Samuel Strayhorn's property was acquired by his son, William Fletcher (W. F.) Strayhorn in 1849 (DB 33: 289-290). When the property was advertised for sale in 1847, it was stated that the fields and slaves would be "rented out."

W. F. Strayhorn is reported in the 1850 census, a year after he acquired the land, as a "farmer," even though he was living and working in Hillsborough. In the 1860 census, he is identified as a "Merchant."

The earliest record of W. F. Strayhorn's slaves is 1847 when he inherited one slave, identified as "Charles," from his father. The Federal Census Slave Schedules reported that he had 10 slaves in 1850 and 9 slaves in 1860. An account of pre-Civil War Hillsborough written by W. F. Strayhorn's daughter, Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry, describes growing up in *Twin Chimneys*, a ca. 1810 house on King Street, and mentions her father's slaves by name (Berry nd). These are: Harriet Jo, who supervised the house and servants, and the "Old Cook," known as "Aunt Lucy." In addition, several of "Aunt Lucy's" daughters were mentioned. These are: Ann, the dining room servant; Caroline, the seamstress; and Phoebe, the nurse and cake baker. Also mentioned are Sallie and Jude who "made themselves generally useful"; Susie, who "answered the door"; and Fred, who "hauled firewood." Charles, the slave W. F. Strayhorn inherited from his father in 1847, is not identified by name. These household workers identified by W. F. Strayhorn's daughter are very likely the 9-10 slaves reported in the 1850-1860 Slave Schedule.

A search of the 1850-1880 Agricultural Schedules found only one record for William F. Strayhorn. This was in the 1850 schedule, which was three years after his father's death. There was no record under his name as the plantation/farm manager from 1860 to 1880. It is possible that the former Samuel Strayhorn plantation continued operation during that time with someone else in charge of the management, which would account for the absence of W. F. Strayhorn's name in the Agricultural Schedules after 1850. Furthermore, if there were slaves working on the former Samuel Strayhorn plantation land, it appears that they were not owned by W. F. Strayhorn, as the slaves reported for him in the 1850-1860 Slave Schedules were living and working at his house in Hillsborough.

The end of slavery in 1865 brought about major changes in the entire South. Landowners had property confiscated or had to abandon their land because there was no labor to cultivate it. Freed

slaves started their new journey in life and quite often fell into sharecropping on land that had been worked by enslaved people. The Blackwood Farm Park property, however, is an example of the early-nineteenth-century plantation that continued to be owned by the family during and after the Civil War (W. F. Strayhorn) and remained in the family until 2001. W. F. Strayhorn died in 1882 and it wasn't until 16 years later that his property was divided among his heirs. In 1898, the Samuel Strayhorn property, identified as the South Tract, was passed on to W. F. Strayhorn's daughter, Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry (DB 55:467-469). Eight years later, it was sold to Herbert Nettleton (H. N.) Blackwood (DB 59:71), who was related to Samuel Strayhorn through his mother's line (Martha Jane Craig, daughter of David Craig and Nancy Moore Strayhorn. In 1957, H. N. Blackwood's daughter's acquired the property (DB 695:640) and they held it until 2001 when it was sold to Orange County (DB2469:72).

Field investigations of the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery located at the Blackwood Farm Park were conducted by Legacy on March 28, 29, and 31, 2016. Deborah Joy served as project director; Nick Henderson, Matthew Gill, and Jay Sander assisted. The investigations consisted of the following tasks:

- Supervise DEAPR staff during tree and vegetation removal activities.
- Conduct close-interval probing at the cemetery to identify and delineate unmarked graves.
- Conduct close-interval probing at known (marked) graves to determine size and orientation.
- Identify each marked and unmarked grave (head and foot) with pin flags.
- Establish and mark the entire cemetery with flagging tape at selected locations around the cemetery perimeter and buffer zone that can be used by DEAPR to identify a possible fencing location or other boundary demarcation.
- Map the entire cemetery with a Total Station.
- Photograph grave markers that are keyed to the site plan.
- Prepare a detailed map of the cemetery.

As a result of this fieldwork the following information was collected:

A total of 34 graves were identified. This is nine more graves than were identified at the cemetery in 2006. However, the extent of the cemetery that was estimated in 2006 is unchanged. The 34 graves cover an area that is about 82 ft north-south by 52 ft east-west.

Of the 34 graves, 30 have gravemarkers; none are inscribed. The majority of the gravemarkers are rough fieldstones; however, there is evidence that some graves had been marked with cedar posts. Three graves have gravemarkers that are not typical for this cemetery. These three graves (#24, 25, and 26) are located on Row 3 in the northern end of the cemetery. One of the three has a large square-shaped rock and next to it are two smaller graves, each marked by rectangular-shaped dark slate rock. These rectangular-shaped headstones and footstones may be an indication of status, possibly family relationships, transition from slavery to emancipation, or possibly burials of former slaves after emancipation.

The graves in the cemetery are oriented generally east-west. The majority of the graves in the southern half of the cemetery appear to be more southeast-northwest orientation, except for Grave # 7 (Row 1) that is oriented east-west.

The 34 graves are arranged in four rows that vary in length.

- Row 1 is 45 ft long with 12 graves.
- Row 2 is 27.5 ft long with 5 graves.
- Row 3 has two sections; the first is 10 ft long with 2 graves, then there is a gap of 20 ft without evidence of graves, and then the row continues for another 40 ft with 7 graves.
- Row 4 is 40 ft long with 8 graves.

Fourteen of the graves are very small in length, which suggests that they are associated with infant or child burials. The remaining 20 graves appear to be for adults. With the exception of the possible family grouping of the graves (#24, 25, and 26) on Row 3, it appears that there is no family plot organization.

The attributes of this cemetery are consistent with early African-American burial traditions. Prior to the Civil War, slaves were buried in a designated place separate from the slave-owning family plot. Their graves were often marked with uninscribed field rocks or wooden crosses and were oriented east-west in the Christian tradition without an indications that burials were interred in “family plots.” There was no evidence of African-American grave offerings that are sometimes found in slave cemeteries.

Project Recommendations

Recommendations for the continued landscape reclamation and maintenance of the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery include (1) remove tree stumps within the cemetery area, (2) reestablish the periwinkle groundcover, (3) erect a perimeter fence around the cemetery, and (4) conduct an annual site inspection to clear the cemetery of any fallen tree branches and leaf litter.

Additional archival research could include identifying the occupation/manager of the property from 1847, following Samuel Strayhorn’s death, to 1906 when Herbert N. Blackwood acquired the land. Other research could focus in clarifying the discrepancy in the size of Samuel Strayhorn’s property in 1847, which is described as about 400 acres (see Figure 15), although only 177.7 acres was acquired by W. F. Strayhorn in 1849 (DB 33:289-290) and the 1850 Agricultural Schedule reports that W. F. Strayhorn had 200 acres of improved land and 178 acres of unimproved land (Figure 18). Other research questions could address the possible connection with M. E. Craig, whose name is identified in the approximate location of the present-day Strayhorn-Blackwood House on the 1891 Tate Map of Orange County, or with Nannie Blackwood’s recollection that the Craigs were associated with the farm.

Future archeological work on the property might include an investigation of Samuel Strayhorn’s “old house” that reportedly burned between 1825 and 1826 and had been located west or southwest from the “present settlement” (the extant Strayhorn-Blackwood House) on top of the hill next to the woods. Other investigations might focus on identifying the location of antebellum slave houses and farm outbuildings. Archaeological work in 2007 found nineteenth-century domestic and architectural artifacts about 300 ft (95 m) southeast of the cemetery, which is also in the general vicinity of the approximate location of Samuel Strayhorn’s “old house.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF TABLES	xi
INTRODUCTION	1
ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND LAND USE	1
CULTURAL CONTEXT	6
BLACKWOOD FARM PROPERTY HISTORY	10
Joseph Marlett (1778-1817)	10
Samuel Strayhorn (1817-1847)	12
William Fletcher Strayhorn (1849-1882).....	18
Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry (1898-1906)	24
Herbert Nettleton Blackwood (1906-1957)	24
Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood (1957-2001).....	25
Orange County (2001-present).....	25
CEMETERY HISTORIC CONTEXT FOR SOUTHERN CEMETERIES	26
PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCE RESEARCH AT THE STRAYHORN SLAVE CEMETERY.....	27
FIELD INVESTIGATIONS	29
SUMMARY OF HISTORIC RESEARCH AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD INVESTIGATIONS.....	38
Historic Research Summary	38
Archaeological Research Summary	38
RECOMMENDATIONS	39
REFERENCES CITED	41
APPENDIX A – Metes and Bounds Comparison of the 1817 Deed and the 2001 Plat of the Blackwood Farm Property.	46
APPENDIX B - High Probability Area 5 – Artifact Recovery from 2007	48
APPENDIX C – Gravestone Photodocumentation.....	49

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Project location map (Hillsborough, NC, USGS topographic quadrangle map 1968, revised 1994). Note: the map shows the location of (1) the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery, (2) the Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm building complex, (3) a remnant of the historic Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road between Blackwood Farm and New Hope Church Road, and (4) the location of the old New Hope Church Cemetery, the burial location for the Samuel Strayhorn family. iv

Figure 2. Excerpt of 1938 aerial photograph, showing Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm during the Herbert N. Blackwood ownership (1906-1957) of the property. The farmstead structures are circled in black; the old road bed referred to as the “Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road” is lined in red, and the road that later became New Hope Church Road is lined in yellow (http://www2.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/orange_1938/index.html). 2

Figure 3. Excerpt of the 1918 Orange County, NC, Soil Survey map of project vicinity showing the Blackwood Farm Park property boundaries, the Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road, and structures on each side of the road (USDA 1918). 3

Figure 4. Excerpt of the 1955 aerial photograph of the present-day Blackwood Farm Park showing terraced agricultural fields, the farm building complex, and the farm roads through the property associated with the 1906-1957 Herbert N. Blackwood ownership of the property (http://www2.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/orange_1955/index.html)..... 4

Figure 5. Excerpt of the 1975 aerial photograph of the present-day Blackwood Farm Park showing terraced agricultural fields, the farm building complex, and the farm roads through the property associated with the 1957-2001 Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood ownership of the property (http://www2.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/orange_1975/index.html)..... 5

Figure 6. Excerpt of the 1891 George W. Tate Map of Orange County showing Old Chapel Hill Road, New Chapel Hill Road, the New Hope Church on the east side of New Chapel Hill Road, and the location of the M. E. Craig home along the west side of New Chapel Hill Road in the general location of the present-day Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm (<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/370>)..... 9

Figure 7. Excerpt of the 1903 Map showing rural free delivery routes nos. 1 & 2 from Chapel Hill that shows “Strayhorns” (<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/6665>). 9

Figure 8. Chain of Title for the Blackwood Farm Park Property. 11

Figure 9. Strayhorn-Blackwood Family Tree showing the chain of title (ownership highlighted) the Blackwood Farm Park property from 1817 (Samuel Strayhorn) to 2001 (Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood). 13

Figure 10. Excerpt of the Hillsborough, NC, USGS topographic map showing the location of the ca. 1827-1840 Strayhorn-Blackwood House and the possible location of the ca. 1817 house site. 14

Figure 11. Strayhorn-Blackwood House, south elevation, 1827 date-marked chimney on the right, 1840 date-marked chimney on the left. 14

Figure 12. ca, 1827 date-inscribed chimney attached to the south elevation of the Strayhorn-Blackwood House..... 15

Figure 13. ca. 1840 date-inscribed chimney attached to the south elevation of the Strayhorn-Blackwood House..... 15

Figure 14. Public Sale Announcement at the late residence of Samuel Strayhorn (The Hillsborough Recorder 8 April 1847, page 3). Note: This announcement reveals that the property will

be sold in April, but the fields that are ready for planting and Samuel Strayhorn’s slaves will be “rented out” until mid-October. 17

Figure 15. Petition to Sell Land of Major Samuel Strayhorn (The Hillsborough Recorder, 30 Sep 1847, page 3). 17

Figure 16. The W. F. Strayhorn household in Hillsborough in the 1850 Federal Population Census. 18

Figure 17. The 1850 Slave Schedule Record for William Strayhorn. 19

Figure 18. The 1850 Agricultural Schedule for William F. Strayhorn (page 1). 21

Figure 19. The 1850 Agricultural Schedule for William F. Strayhorn (Page 2). 21

Figure 20. The W. F. Strayhorn household in the 1860 Federal Population Census. 21

Figure 21. The 1860 Federal Slave Schedule for W. F. Strayhorn. 22

Figure 22. The William F. Strayhorn household in the 1870 Federal Population Census. 22

Figure 23. The William F. Strayhorn household in the 1880 Federal Population Census. 22

Figure 24. Plat of the 1898 petition to divide William F. Strayhorn’s land (Orange County, NC, Register of Deeds, DB 55:467-469). Note: the present-day Blackwood Farm Park property is the “South Tract” that is outlined in red. 23

Figure 25. Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm (OR457) as depicted on the Final Plat Boundary for Herbert N. Blackwood Heirs (Plat Book 89: 138). 25

Figure 26. Cemetery boundaries as depicted on the Final Plat Boundary for Herbert N. Blackwood Heirs (Plat Book 89: 138). 27

Figure 27. Site 31OR580**, fallen tree on a stone marker, view northwest, in 2006. 28

Figure 28. Blackwood Farm, March-April 2016, Archaeological Survey Plan Map showing the location of HPA 5 and the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Legacy 2007). 29

Figure 29. Site 31OR580**, site clearing, view northwest, in 2016. 30

Figure 30. Site 31OR580**, example of gravemarkers within a tree fall, in 2016. 31

Figure 31. Site 31OR580**, setting pin flags, view southwest, in 2016. 31

Figure 32. Site 31OR580**, mapping with the Total Station. 32

Figure 33. Site 31OR580**, permanent marker (spike and aluminum tag with grave number), in 2016. 32

Figure 34. Site 31OR580**, Grave 21, view west. 33

Figure 35. Site 31OR580**, Grave 26, view west. 34

Figure 36. Site 31OR580**, plan map. 36

Figure 37. Site 31OR580**, cemetery after clearing and flagging view northwest, in 2016. 35

Figure 38. Metes and Bounds of the 1817 Land Conveyance from Joseph Marlett to Samuel Strayhorn (DB 16:36). 46

Figure 39. Plat of the Blackwood Farm Property in 2001 (Plat Book 89:138). 47

Figure 40. Grave 1, view west. 52

Figure 41. Grave 2, view west. 53

Figure 42. Grave 3, view west. 54

Figure 43. Grave 4, view west. 55

Figure 44. Grave 5, view west. 56

Figure 45. Grave 6, view west. 57

Figure 46. Grave 7, view west. 58

Figure 47. Grave 8, view west. 59

Figure 48. Grave 9, view west. 60

Figure 49. Graves 10, 11, and 12, view west, showing temporary markers for these three unmarked graves.....61

Figure 50. Grave 13, view west, showing a shattered slate headstone.....62

Figure 51. Grave 14, view west.....63

Figure 52. Grave 15, view west.64

Figure 53. Grave 16, view west.....65

Figure 54. Grave 17, view west, showing a temporary marker for the displaced headstone that appears in the photograph to the right of the footstone.66

Figure 55. Grave 18, view west.....67

Figure 56. Grave 19, view west.....68

Figure 57. Grave 20, view west.....69

Figure 58. Grave 21, view west, showing the grave depression.....70

Figure 59. Grave 22, view west, showing the remnants of cedar posts alongside the rough fieldstone markers.71

Figure 60. Grave 23, view west.72

Figure 61. Grave 24, view west.....73

Figure 62. Grave 25, view west.....74

Figure 63. Grave 26, view west.75

Figure 64. Grave 27, view west.76

Figure 65. Grave 28, view west.77

Figure 66. Grave 29, view west, showing a temporary marker at the head of this unmarked grave.....78

Figure 67. Grave 30, view west.79

Figure 68. Grave 31, view west.....80

Figure 69. Grave 32, view west.81

Figure 70. Grave 33, view west.....82

Figure 71. Grave 34, view west.....83

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Summary of Slaves in the Samuel Strayhorn Federal Slave Schedules 1820-1840..... 16

Table 2. Summary of Graves at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Site 31OR580**). 37

Historical and Archaeological Investigations at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Archaeological Site 31OR580**) located in Blackwood Farm Park near Hillsborough in the Chapel Hill Township of Orange County, North Carolina
Orange County Property Identification Numbers 9872-55-7302 and 9872-63--3300

INTRODUCTION

Legacy Research Associates (Legacy) of Durham, North Carolina, has completed the historical and archaeological investigations at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Archaeological Site 31OR580**) located in the Blackwood Farm Park near Hillsborough in the Chapel Hill Township of Orange County, North Carolina. The park encompasses 152 acres (Orange County Property Identification Number 9872-55-7302 and) of meadows and woodlands that surround an historic farmstead, now known as the Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm (Architectural Resource OR457) that includes the ca. 1827-1840 house; the ca. 1906 barn, corn crib, chicken house, and smokehouse; and the ca. 1925 milking shed, milk house, and garage.

The historical and archaeological research work conducted for this project complies with research guidelines established in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), the Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974, Executive Order 11593, and 36 CFR Parts 60-66 and 800 (as appropriate). It meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (Federal Register 48).

The purpose of the work was to facilitate site stabilization and interpretation. The following report sections provide a summary of the project area environmental setting and land use, cultural context for the historic occupation of the region, Blackwood Farm property history, cultural context for Southern cemeteries, previous cultural resource work at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery, the results of the current field investigations at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery, a summary of the historic resource and archaeological field investigations, and project recommendations.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND LAND USE

Orange County is located within the uplands of the Piedmont region in north-central North Carolina. This region extends from southern portions of New York into Alabama. The Piedmont region generally consists of gently rolling hills (Hunt 1967). Elevations within Orange County range from 230 to 800 ft above mean seal level (amsl) (Dunn 1977).

Blackwood Farm Park is located within the Upper Neuse River Basin and is drained by the Eno River and one of its tributaries known as "New Hope Creek." Two intermittent streams that flow through the Blackwood Farm property are tributaries of New Hope Creek.

Several grassy meadows that were former agricultural fields and pastures that surround the farmstead structures cover roughly half of the property. Historic aerial photographs of the property in 1938 show the extent the agricultural fields (Figure 2). The other half of the property is forested with pine and hardwood trees.



Figure 2. Excerpt of 1938 aerial photograph, showing Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm during the Herbert N. Blackwood ownership (1906-1957) of the property. The farmstead structures are circled in black; the old road bed referred to as the “Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road” is lined in red, and the road that later became New Hope Church Road is lined in yellow (http://www2.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/orange_1938/index.html).

The Blackwood Farm Park has an historic road that runs roughly northwest-southeast through the property. The road is located to the east of the extant farmstead structures and is a remnant of the historic stagecoach road that once linked Hillsborough and Chapel Hill.

The historic road is shown on the 1918 USDA Orange County Soil Survey map. On this map there are two structures that are no longer extant on the east side of the road and one (very likely the Strayhorn-Blackwood House) located west of the road (Figure 3).

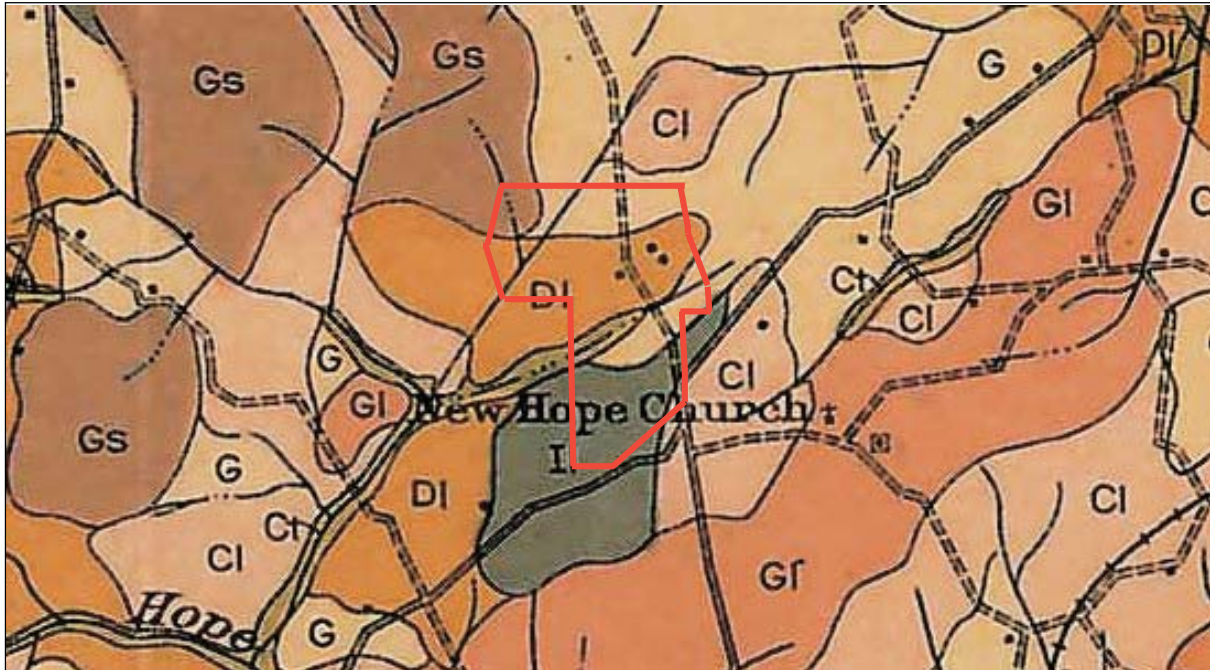


Figure 3. Excerpt of the 1918 Orange County, NC, Soil Survey map of project vicinity showing the Blackwood Farm Park property boundaries, the Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road, and structures on each side of the road (USDA 1918).

Historic aerial imagery on file at the Soil and Water Conservation District Office in Hillsborough reveal that sections of the old road were still in use during the late 1930s (see Figure 2). The 1938 aerial photograph shows the road crossing through the property; the Strayhorn-Blackwood farmstead buildings are on the west side of the road (see Figure 2). Hints of agricultural terracing can be seen in the fields located south of the farmhouse; the lack of clarity is most likely due to the poor quality of aerial photography at the time the photographs were taken, as better-resolution orthographic photography wasn't used until WW II.

The 1955 aerial photograph also shows the historic road to the east of the Strayhorn-Blackwood farmstead buildings and newly constructed NC 86 lies further east with a connecting road to the farmstead (Figure 4). Portions of the historic Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road are visible on the photograph and it appears that it may have been used as a private farm road for the Blackwood property by connecting to present-day New Hope Church Road). To the north of the property, the historic road appears as a narrow unsurfaced path; it was most likely in the early stages of being reclaimed by nature. Besides a short segment of the road that was still in use, much of the old road south of New Hope Chapel Road also appears as a narrow, unsurfaced road.

By 1975, there are just traces of the historic road north of the Blackwood farmstead and very little evidence that the historic road continues southward beyond New Hope Church Road (Figure 5).

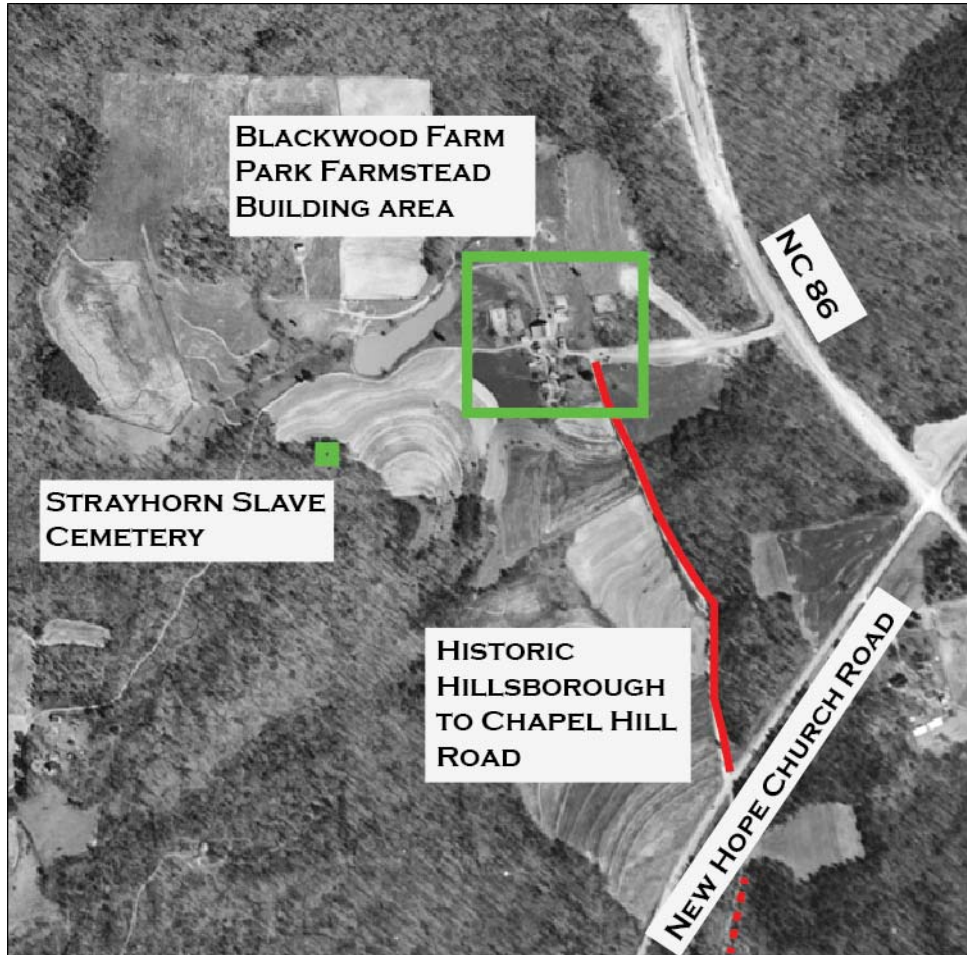


Figure 4. Excerpt of the 1955 aerial photograph of the present-day Blackwood Farm Park showing terraced agricultural fields, the farm building complex, and the farm roads through the property associated with the 1906-1957 Herbert N. Blackwood ownership of the property (http://www2.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/orange_1955/index.html).

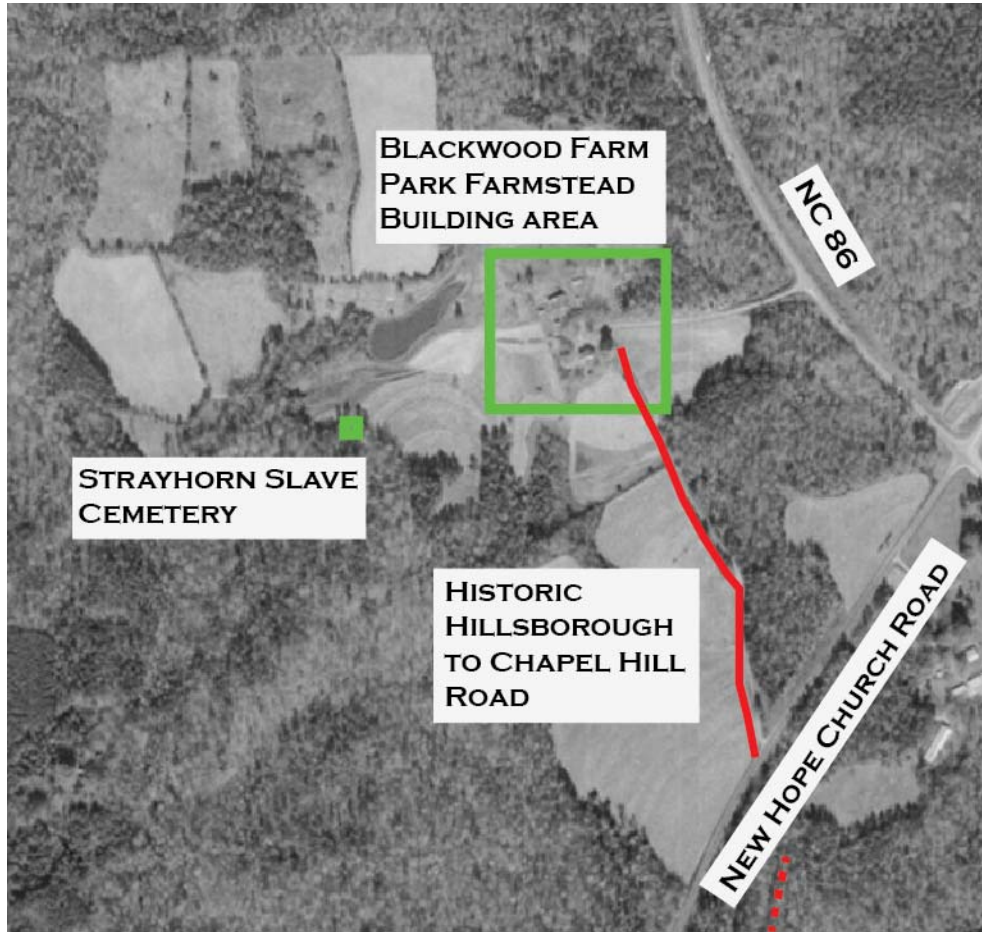


Figure 5. Excerpt of the 1975 aerial photograph of the present-day Blackwood Farm Park showing terraced agricultural fields, the farm building complex, and the farm roads through the property associated with the 1957-2001 Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood ownership of the property (http://www2.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/orange_1975/index.html).

CULTURAL CONTEXT

European-American settlement of the North Carolina Piedmont region began during the mid-eighteenth century. Around 1740, settlements were established along the Eno, Hyco, and Haw rivers in present-day Orange County. Most settlers were of Scots, Scotch-Irish, and German descent (Powell 1989).

Around 1750, the New Hope area was settled by the Blackwood, Craig, Freeland, Hart, Kirkland, and Strayhorn families (Blackwelder 1953). Most of these families had lived in the “Hawfields” located in present-day Alamance County prior to relocating to the New Hope area in Orange County (Craig 1891; Anderson 1990). Gilbert Strayhorn, a ca. 1740 immigrant from Pennsylvania and the North Carolina patriarch of the Strayhorn families, settled on land that is located northeast of New Hope Church, which he helped establish in 1756 (Craig 1891; Blackwelder 1953).ⁱ

In 1752, Orange County was formed from portions of Johnston, Bladen, and Granville counties (Powell 1968). The area attracted many ethnic and religious groups that included Scotch-Irish Presbyterians and German Lutherans from the mid-Atlantic colonies; these settlers travelled the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road through the Roanoke Gap in western Virginia and into the Yadkin Valley of North Carolina (Mattson 1996:3, Anderson 2003: 32-34). From there, some moved eastward into the newly created Orange County. English migrants came from eastern North Carolina or made their way southward from Virginia following the route known to Europeans as the “Indian Trading Path” that extended about 500 miles from the James River in Virginia through Hillsborough and into Catawba lands in South Carolina and Cherokee Territory in Georgia. English Quakers also arrived in the area during the eighteenth century; they migrated into the Carolina Piedmont region from Pennsylvania and from eastern North Carolina.

In 1754, the county seat for Orange County was established on 400 acres of land where a major road crossed the Eno River. Originally known as “Corbinton,” the name of the settlement changed in 1766 to “Hillsborough.” A description of Hillsborough from the mid-1700s lists 30 to 40 inhabitants and several stores and taverns, a courthouse, jail, and church (Watson 1996).

Hillsborough was at the heart of the Regulator Movement that came into being around 1766 when backcountry farmers began protesting corrupt local government officials and high fees collected for land claims and other legal proceedings (Crow 1975). What started as a peaceful protest soon became violent when public officials were harassed and assaulted. In September 1770, Regulators seized the courthouse in Hillsborough and held mock courts; they also damaged the homes of local officials, including the home of Edmund Fanning, a prominent lawyer and militia colonel (WPA 1939; Kars 2002). Mainly due to this riot, Governor William Tryon called up several North Carolina county militias, marched west towards Hillsborough, and occupied the town for several days. The Regulator Movement ended in May 1771, when the Regulators were defeated.

The Provincial Congress met in Hillsborough in August 1775, and the General Assembly convened in the town several times between 1778 and 1784 (WPA 1939). Several times in 1780, Continental forces and rebel militia occupied Hillsborough and foraged for supplies throughout Orange County. In February 1781, General Cornwallis and his British army occupied Hillsborough for approximately ten days after the “Race to the Dan” and prior to the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, which took place near Greensboro. Later that year, on September 12, 1781, David Fanning led about 1,000 loyalists in a surprise attack on Hillsborough and succeeded in killing 15 rebels, wounding 20, and taking more

than 200 prisoners (Crow 1975). Historic research conducted for this project found that several men from the New Hope Presbyterian Church congregation participated in the Revolutionary War; these men include many sons of the early New Hope settlers. They are: John and William Strayhorn; David, James, and John Craig; and William Blackwood.

Originally, Orange County encompassed a large area of approximately 3,500 square miles; however, between 1771 and 1881, parts of Orange County were used to create five other counties: Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Durham, Person, and portions of Guilford and Wake (Corbitt 1987). A 1767 newspaper reported that the “rapid and sudden increase of inhabitants” of the North Carolina frontier changed Orange County from having 20 taxable residents in 1740 to more than 4,000 in 1760 (Anderson 1990:43). This dramatic change made Orange County one of the most-populated counties in North Carolina (Blackwelder 1953).

By 1780, Orange County had been transformed from a scatter of pioneer homesteads to a flourishing yeoman society. The landowners found that the rolling hills of Orange County were suited for growing small grain crops; corn was a favorite. Farmers also raised beans, peas, wheat, sweet potatoes, and Irish potatoes, as well as limited quantities of tobacco and cotton (Powell 1989).

Farm size in Orange County generally remained small during the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century. More than three-fourths of landowners in Orange County during the second half of the eighteenth-century owned between 100 and 500 acres of land (Blackwelder 1953). Most landowners had no slaves or owned no more than ten slaves. By 1780, three percent of Orange County slaveholders owned more than 20 slaves each (Blackwelder 1953).

Joseph Marlett, who was the late-eighteenth to early-nineteenth-century (1778-1817) owner of the present-day Blackwood Farm Park property, did not have slaves. It wasn't until the property was sold in 1817 to Samuel Strayhorn that slaves were reported; the 1820 Slave Schedule reported that he had three slaves and one free person of color working on his land.

“Free persons of color” were a diverse group of farmers, servants, artisans, and sailors. The existence of a free black population in Orange County was due largely to the efforts of Quakers who manumitted their slaves. Although, many free blacks came from families that had been free for several generations, perhaps stemming from the manumission of an ancestor or a liaison between an indentured white woman and a slave. Some were never enslaved, having entered the United States free. In 1830, more than 500 free blacks were living in Orange County (Franklin 1995:16).

No major Civil War battles occurred in Orange County or in the vicinity of the present-day Blackwood Farm. However, it was reported that during the Civil War more than 100 Orange County men enlisted in the 27th Regiment of North Carolina, which included Company G, also known as the “Orange Guards” (Lloyd and Lloyd nd). One of the Orange Guards, Thomas Jackson Strayhorn, brother of William F. Strayhorn, the ca. 1847-1882 owner of the present-day Blackwood Farm Park property, was mortally wounded at the Battle of Ream's Station in 1864.ⁱⁱ

At the close of the Civil War, General Joseph E. Johnston established temporary headquarters near Hillsborough. From there he left to surrender to General W. T. Sherman in April 1865 at the farmstead of James and Nancy Bennett, just west of present-day Durham (Barrett 1991).

After the Civil War, many of the former slave-holding farms were divided and sold as small tenant farms (Powell 1989). Deed research found that the Blackwood Farm Park property continued to be owned by the Strayhorn family during this time. Samuel Strayhorn owned the property until his death in 1847 and his son, William F. Strayhorn, owned it from 1847 until 1882.

A rise in small industry and business took place in Orange County during the last decades of the nineteenth century. This growth was linked to an increased demand for manufactured goods and specialized services. Businesses in the county included county stores, hotels, tanneries, medical practices, and flour or grist mills.

William F. Strayhorn, the owner of the present-day Blackwood Farm Park property between 1847 and 1882, was involved with this transformation in Orange County. He and his family lived in Hillsborough and he owned a general store and a shoe & boot business in the 1840s and 1850s. He participated with the Orange Guard recruiting during the Civil War and was appointed revenue agent, store keeper, and gauger at the whiskey distillery in 1870. He was also involved with Hillsborough Savings Institution, the Hillsborough Female Academy, and the Piedmont Railroad. He was reported as managing or owning the local hotel that was known as “Strayhorn Hotel,” now referred to as the “Colonial Inn,” for a period of time, and he became the postmaster of Hillsborough in the 1870s, holding that position until his death in 1882.

By the early twentieth century, outdated farming practices in rural Orange County and throughout the North Carolina Piedmont region resulted in increased erosion, decreased soil fertility, and decreased crop yields. This was due largely to over-farming the land and by planting as many cash crops as possible (USDA 1938). To recover use of the land, several changes in agricultural field management (terracing) and erosion control were initiated. Some of these changes (field terracing) can be seen in the 1955 aerial photograph of the Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm (see Figure 4).ⁱⁱⁱ

While central and northern portions of the county remained rural with tobacco, corn, and wheat fields, southern portions of Orange County became more urbanized with the expansion of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Throughout the remainder of the twentieth century, most of Orange County remained rural. In 1959, 70 percent of Orange County was farmland. Thirty years later, the percentage of farmland had decreased to 48 percent (Jaeger et al. 1996). Two historic maps of the area reveal the change in development (roadways and farms) in the New Hope area between 1891 and 1903 (Figure 6 and Figure 7).

- The 1891 Tate Map of Orange County shows the New Hope Church located on the east side of “New Chapel Hill Road” (Figure 6). The historic road that crosses through the Blackwood Farm Park property is a remnant of the New Chapel Hill Road on the ca. 1891 map. A structure identified as “M. E. Craig” is depicted on this map in the approximate location of the present-day Strayhorn-Blackwood House.
- The 1903 USPS postal route map shows the distribution of residences in the northern part of the Chapel Hill Township and depicts “Strayhorn’s” along the road (Figure 7). In 1903, the present-day Blackwood Farm was owned by Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry (daughter of William F. Strayhorn); she sold it to Herbert Blackwood in 1906.

Historical and Archaeological Investigations at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Archaeological Site 31OR580**) located in Blackwood Farm Park near Hillsborough in the Chapel Hill Township of Orange County, North Carolina
Orange County Property Identification Numbers 9872-55-7302 and 9872-63-3300



Figure 6. Excerpt of the 1891 George W. Tate Map of Orange County showing Old Chapel Hill Road, New Chapel Hill Road, the New Hope Church on the east side of New Chapel Hill Road, and the location of the M. E. Craig home along the west side of New Chapel Hill Road in the general location of the present-day Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm (<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/370>).



Figure 7. Excerpt of the 1903 Map showing rural free delivery routes nos. 1 & 2 from Chapel Hill that shows "Strayhorns" (<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/6665>).

BLACKWOOD FARM PROPERTY HISTORY

The history of the present-day Blackwood Farm Park property begins with the acquisition of 178 acres in 1778 by Joseph Marlett, son of William Marlett, who was a Quaker immigrant from Pennsylvania. Marlett owned the property until 1817 when he sold it to Samuel Strayhorn; the property remained in the Strayhorn family line until 2001 when Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood, the two times great granddaughters of Samuel Strayhorn, sold it to Orange County.

The following descriptions provide more detail about the land ownership and land use from 1778 to 2001 (Figure 8). Dates and family relationships pertaining to births, marriages, and deaths have been extracted from the 1790-1940 Federal Population Census data; references to these inventories are referred to as the “census.” Other Federal Census data (Slave Schedule and Agricultural Schedule) are cited in full. All references to property conveyances are cited by deed book and page number (DB: Page) in the Orange County, NC, Register of Deeds Office, Hillsborough.

Joseph Marlett (1778–1817)

On 17 March 1778, Joseph Marlett (Mollett) entered a land grant (Grant #1182) with the State of North Carolina for 178 acres (Patent Book 87:417). He was born in North Carolina around 1760 and in 1785 he married Nancy Craig (North Carolina Marriage Index, 1741-2004), daughter of James Craig, who along with William Strayhorn and William Blackwood was one of the early settlers of the New Hope area. Joseph Marlett and his wife had eight children between 1787 and 1808; the family is reported in the 1810 census for the Hillsborough District with 10 family members and no slaves.

Marlett owned the present-day Blackwood Farm property until 1817, when he sold it to Samuel Strayhorn (DB 16:36). A comparison of the metes and bounds of the 1817 property with the 2001 plat of Blackwood Farm shows a clear similarity in the size and shape of the property that clearly indicates that the 1817 property that Joseph Marlett sold to Samuel Strayhorn is the same as the Blackwood Farm property owned by Orange County (see APPENDIX A - Figure 38 and Figure 39).

Joseph Marlett also owned 101.5 acres on New Hope Creek that he sold in 1818 to his son, George; this land conveyance describes the 101.5 acres as being the land on which “Joseph Marlett lives” (DB 16:273). This strongly indicates that Samuel Strayhorn was very likely the first person to build on the property sometime after 1817.

Shortly after Joseph Marlett sold the property to Samuel Strayhorn, he relocated his family to Orange County, Indiana. Documentation of this move includes the acquisition of 80 acres of land in 1820 (US General Land Office Records, 1796-1907, accession number IN0110.290) and listings in the 1830 and 1840 census for Orange County, Indiana, that had been created and named in 1816 by Quakers who relocated around 1811 from Orange County, NC (Godspeed Brothers 1884). These immigrants were fleeing the institution of slavery and brought freed slaves with them.



Figure 8. Chain of Title for the Blackwood Farm Park Property.

Samuel Strayhorn (1817–1847)

In 1817, Samuel Strayhorn acquired the present-day Blackwood Farm Park property. From that date forward until 2001 the property has been passed down through the family line until it was acquired by Orange County in 2001. Figure 9 is a family tree that shows the connection of Samuel Strayhorn and the last owners of the property, Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood.

Samuel Strayhorn was the grandson of Gilbert Strayhorn, who was one of the original settlers of the New Hope area. Samuel Strayhorn was born in 1786, son of William Strayhorn and Mary Tate, and served during the War of 1812 in the 2nd Brigade 5th NC of the Orange Regiment militia. He married Mary Capper Moore in 1813 when he was 27 years old. Between 1814 and 1818, Samuel and Mary Strayhorn had three children (Nancy Moore, William Fletcher, and John M.). Their residence during the early years of their marriage is unknown; however, on 19 April 1817, Samuel Strayhorn acquired the Joseph Marlett property (DB 16:36). Samuel Strayhorn owned the property for 30 years before his death in 1847. During that time, Samuel and Mary had another daughter, Mary Emeline Moore, in 1823. In 1829, their 11-year-old son John M. died. In the 1830s, they had two more children; a son, Thomas Jackson, and a daughter, Martha. Samuel Strayhorn's wife, Mary, died in 1844. Samuel died at age of 61 in 1847. Samuel and his wife, Mary Capper Moore, their daughter Martha (1837-1840), their son John M. (1818-1829), and their son Thomas Jackson (1831-1864) are buried in the old New Hope Church Cemetery, which is about 3,500 ft southeast of Blackwood Farm. Their son, William Fletcher (1816-1882) is buried in the Old Hillsborough Cemetery; their daughters, Nancy Moore Strayhorn Craig (1814-1889) and Mary Emeline Moore Strayhorn Craig (1823-1908) are buried in the Craig Family plot in the New Hope Presbyterian Church Cemetery that is across the road from the old New Hope Cemetery.

An 1899 genealogical account of families in the New Hope area reported that there was an “old house” on the Samuel Strayhorn property that burned in 1825 or 1826 and a new house, presumably the extant structure, was built to replace the family home (Craig 1899). The “old house” was described as being located west or southwest of the new house and on top of a hill next to the woods. In 1899, the “old house” was described as being “now nearly rotten and gone.” Figure 10 depicts the location of the extant Strayhorn-Blackwood House and the possible location of the old house based on information in the 1899 description.

An inspection of the Strayhorn-Blackwood House found that the original core is a braced frame composed of hewn and pit-sawn timbers with log floor joists and a stone chimney that is hand-inscribed with the date “1827” (Tina Moon, personal communication 2006). In 1840, a shed-roofed one-story addition was constructed across the rear of the core section of the structure; the addition has a stone chimney is hand inscribed with the date “1840.” Figure 11 is the south elevation of the Strayhorn-Blackwood House showing the two date-inscribed chimneys; Figure 12 and Figure 13 are close-up photographs of the date-inscribed chimney stones.

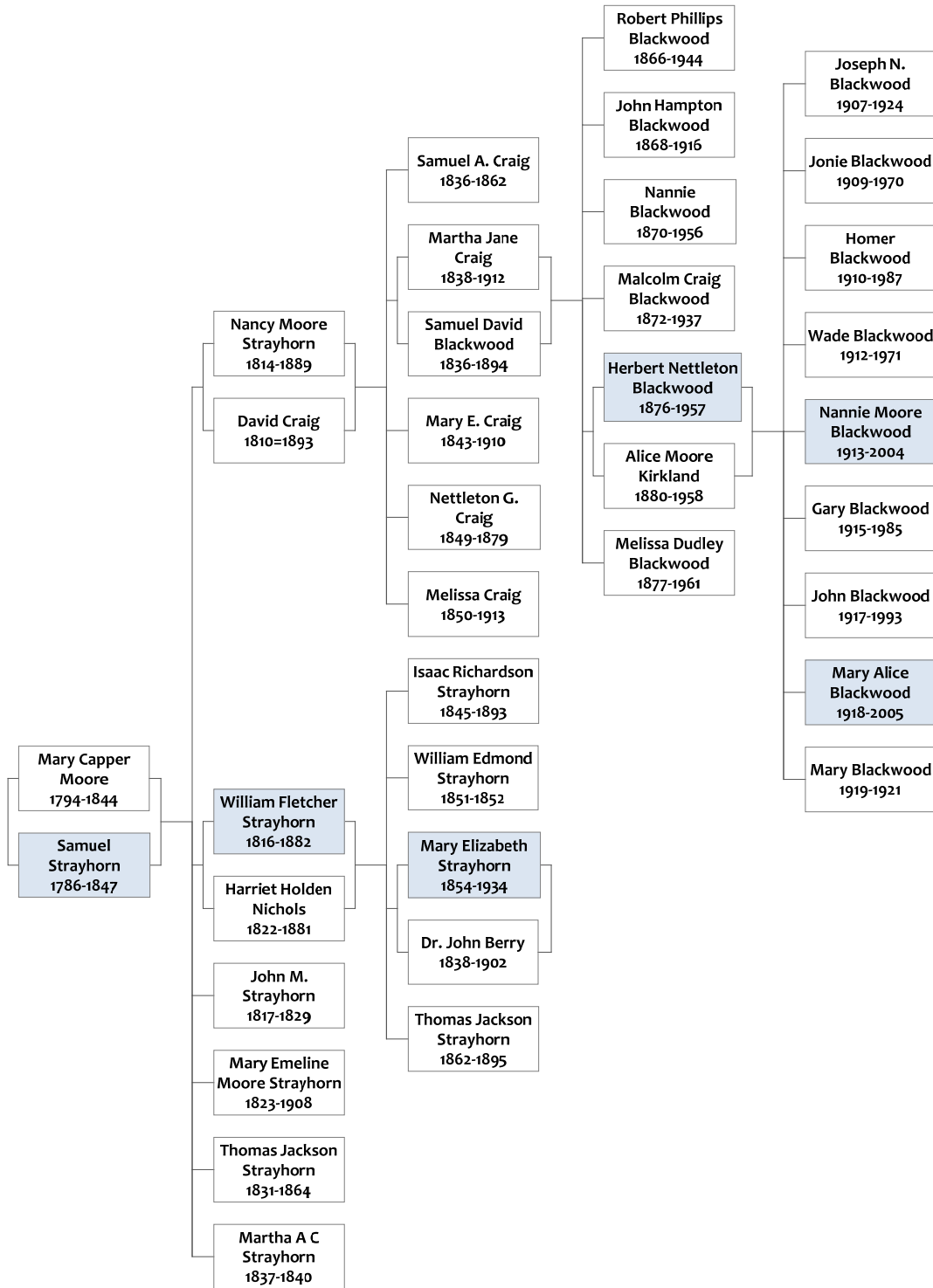


Figure 9. Strayhorn-Blackwood Family Tree showing the chain of title (ownership highlighted) the Blackwood Farm Park property from 1817 (Samuel Strayhorn) to 2001 (Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood).

Historical and Archaeological Investigations at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Archaeological Site 31OR580**) located in Blackwood Farm Park near Hillsborough in the Chapel Hill Township of Orange County, North Carolina
Orange County Property Identification Numbers 9872-55-7302 and 9872-63-3300

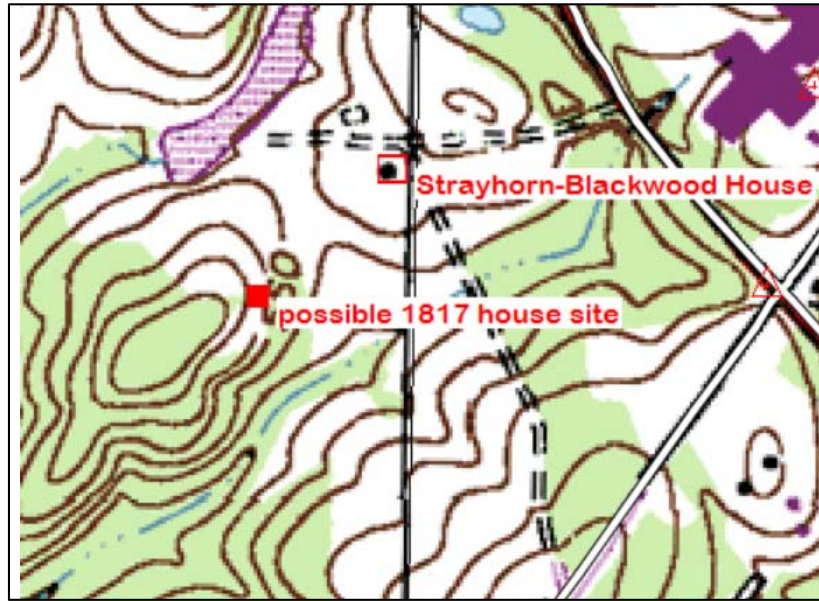


Figure 10. Excerpt of the Hillsborough, NC, USGS topographic map showing the location of the ca. 1827-1840 Strayhorn-Blackwood House and the possible location of the ca. 1817 house site.



Figure 11. Strayhorn-Blackwood House, south elevation, 1827 date-marked chimney on the right, 1840 date-marked chimney on the left.



Figure 12. ca. 1827 date-inscribed chimney attached to the south elevation of the Strayhorn-Blackwood House.



Figure 13. ca. 1840 date-inscribed chimney attached to the south elevation of the Strayhorn-Blackwood House.

About three years after Samuel Strayhorn acquired the property, the 1820 census reported the family had two adults and three children. In addition, there was one free colored person under the age of 14, one male slave age 26-44, and two female slaves age 14-26. The three slaves are identified as “Foreigners not Naturalized.” The 1830 census reports the Samuel Strayhorn family as having seven members and eight slaves. The free colored person who was identified in 1920 as being under the age of 14 does not appear in the 1830 census. By 1840, there are seven free whites and 18 slaves accounted for in the census. Table 1 summaries the ages and sex of the Samuel Strayhorn slaves from 1820 to 1840.

	Males										Females										Total Males and Females
	Under 10	Under 14	10-23	14-25	24-35	26-44	36-54	Above 45	55-99	Total Males	Under 10	Under 14	10-23	14-25	24-35	26-44	36-54	Above 45	55-99	Total Females	
1820						1				1				2						2	3
1830	3				1					4	1			2		1				4	8
1840	3		3		1		1		1	9	4		1	3					1	9	18

Note: Age categories changed in the 1830 census. The highlighted category headings apply to the 1820 census.

At the time of Samuel Strayhorn’s death in 1847 he had three surviving children: Nancy Moore, William Fletcher, and Mary Emeline Moore.¹ Samuel Strayhorn’s Estate Records (Will Book D: 500) recorded in the May Term of 1847 list 16 slaves: 14 are identified by name as Sandy, Anderson, Green, Joe, Sam, Sophiah, Jim, Nancy, Amy, Betsey, George, Ellen, Phillips, and Nancy and were given to Nancy (Moore Strayhorn) Craig; one slave named “Tarmilla” was given to his daughter Mary Emeline (Moore Strayhorn) Craig; and one slave named “Charles” was given to his son, William F. Strayhorn (Clark 2000).

Following Samuel Strayhorn’s death in 1847, his land was put up for sale (Figure 14 and Figure 15). The April 1847 announcement describes the property as consisting of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, corn, fodder, hay, one wagon and gear, one yoke of oxen and cart, blacksmith tools, two stills, farming utensils, and household and kitchen furniture. The property is further described in the April 1847 announcement as having a crop of wheat and oats growing. It also included a meadow and “corn ground” that were ready for planting would be “rented out” and “all the slaves belonging to the estate that would also “be hired out” until October 15 (Figure 14). The October 15th date very likely represents the end of the harvest season. In 1849, Samuel Strayhorn’s land was acquired by his surviving son, William F. Strayhorn, for \$567.50 (DB 33:289-290).

Public Sale.

WILL be sold to the highest bidder, on Thursday, the 8th day of April next, at the late residence of Samuel Strayhorn, deceased, on a credit of nine months, all the perishable property of the deceased, consisting of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Corn, Fodder and Hay, one Wagon and Gear, one yoke of Oxen and Cart, Blacksmith Tools, two Stills, together with all the Farming Utensils, Household and Kitchen Furniture, besides many other articles not mentioned; also the crop of Wheat and Oats, now growing. The Meadows and a quantity of Corn Ground which is already prepared for planting, will be rented out; and at the same time will be hired out all the Slaves belonging to the estate until the 15th of October next.

W. F. STRAYHORN, Adm'r.

March 16. 71—

Figure 14. Public Sale Announcement at the late residence of Samuel Strayhorn (The Hillsborough Recorder 8 April 1847, page 3). Note: This announcement reveals that the property will be sold in April, but the fields that are ready for planting and Samuel Strayhorn's slaves will be "rented out" until mid-October.

In Equity—September Term, 1847.
William F. Strayhorn and others, ex parte.
Petition to Sell Land.

IN pursuance of a decree of the Court of Equity for Orange county, made at September Term, 1847, I shall sell before the Court House door in Hillsborough, on the 16th day of October next, the PLANTATION whereon Major Samuel Strayhorn, deceased, lived, situated five miles from Hillsborough, on the road leading to Chapel Hill. The said tract contains about 400 acres, and is sold for partition. Terms made known on the day of sale.

JAMES WEBB, C. M. C.
By O. F. LONG, Deputy.

September 20. 97—4w

Figure 15. Petition to Sell Land of Major Samuel Strayhorn (The Hillsborough Recorder, 30 Sep 1847, page 3).

William Fletcher Strayhorn (1849-1882)

In 1850, the year after William F. (W. F.) Strayhorn acquired his father’s estate, he is recorded in the census as being 34 years old and married to Harriet Nichols, age 28; both are identified as being born in Orange County and living in Hillsborough (Figure 16). Also living in the W. F. Strayhorn household in 1850 is 19-year-old Thomas Strayhorn (W. F. Strayhorn’s brother) and 16-year-old Thomas Hayes. The 1850 census reports William F. Strayhorn as a farmer whose property was valued at \$1,055; however, in 1850 he was living in Hillsborough with his wife and son. It is not clear if the \$1,055 was for his property in Hillsborough or the land he acquired from his father’s estate in 1849.

It is also not clear where he was living prior to 1850, as there is no individual census entry for W. F. Strayhorn or identification of a 24-year-old male in his father’s (Samuel Strayhorn’s) listing in the 1840 census. W. F. and Harriet married in 1841 and the 1850 census identifies their 4-year-old son, Isaac R., as being born in Hillsborough, so it is possible that they were living with Harriet’s parents at time of the 1840 census.

In the mid-1850s, W. F. Strayhorn had a shoe and boot business (*The Hillsborough Recorder*, 13 July 1853, page 1), employed his two tenants (his brother, Thomas Strayhorn, a bootmaker; and Thomas Hayes, a shoe maker), and co-owned a store (Nichols & Strayhorn) with his father-in-law, Richison Nichols (*The Hillsborough Recorder*, 11 May 1843, page 3).

William F. Strayhorn is reported the 1850 Federal Slave Schedule as having 10 slaves (Figure 17). These individuals are identified as four males between the ages of 7 and 47 and six females between the ages of 1 and 34.

An account of early Hillsborough written by W. F. Strayhorn’s daughter, Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry, describes growing up in *Twin Chimneys*, a ca. 1810 house on King Street, and mentions her father’s slaves by name (Berry nd). These are: Harriet Jo, who supervised the house and servants, and the “Old Cook,” known as “Aunt Lucy.” In addition, several of “Aunt Lucy’s” daughters were mentioned. These are: Ann, the dining room servant; Caroline, the seamstress; and Phoebe, the nurse and cake baker. Also mentioned are Sallie and Jude who “made themselves generally useful”; Susie, who “answered the door”; and Fred, who “hailed firewood.” Charles, the slave that W. F. Strayhorn inherited from his father in 1847, is not identified by name. These household workers identified by W. F. Strayhorn’s daughter are very likely the 9-10 slaves reported in the 1850-1860 Slave Schedule (Figure 17 and Figure 21).

311	311	W F Strayhorn	34	M		Farmer ✓	1055	Orange NC
		Harriet Strayhorn	28	F				Orange NC
		Isaac R. "	4	M				Hillsboro NC
		Thos Strayhorn	19	M		Boot maker ✓		Orange NC
		Thomas Hayes	16	M		Shoe maker ✓		N Carolina

Figure 16. The W. F. Strayhorn household in Hillsborough in the 1850 Federal Population Census.

William Strayhorn	1	47	M	B
"	1	44	M	B
"	1	16	M	B
"	1	7	M	B
"	1	34	F	B
"	1	28	F	M
"	1	11	F	B
"	1	9	F	B
"	1	4	F	B
"	1	1	F	B

Figure 17. The 1850 Slave Schedule Record for William Strayhorn.

A search of the Agricultural Schedules for 1850-1880 only found one record for William F. Strayhorn in 1850, which was three years after his father's death. This 1850 record shows William F. Strayhorn as owning 200 acres of improved land and 178 acres of unimproved land (Figure 18). In February 1855, William F. Strayhorn legally acquired 200 acres of land that bordered the 177 acres that he had acquired from his father's (Samuel Strayhorn's) estate on the north from John Barton (DB 34:506).² Together, the properties encompassed approximately 377 acres that he held until his death in 1882.

There was no record for William F. Strayhorn as the plantation/farm manager in the Agricultural Schedules from 1860 to 1880. It is possible that the former Samuel Strayhorn plantation continued operation during that time with someone else in charge of the management, which would account for the absence of W. F. Strayhorn's name in the Agricultural Schedules after 1850. Furthermore, if there were slaves working on the former Samuel Strayhorn plantation it appears that they were not owned by W. F. Strayhorn, as the slaves reported for him in the 1850-1860 Slave Schedules were living and working at his house in Hillsborough.

The 1850 Agricultural Schedule for William F. Strayhorn also reveals information about the plantation just after Samuel Strayhorn's death. This census recorded the numbers of livestock and produce as of 1 June 1850 (Figure 19). According to this census record, the William F. Strayhorn plantation had three horses, five milk cows, 12 other cattle, 13 sheep, and 30 swine. Produce reported was 400 bushels of wheat, 500 bushels of Indian Corn, 125 bushels of oats, 75 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 50 bushels of sweet potatoes. The farm also produced 150 pounds of butter, 15 tons of hay, 100 pounds of flax, and 10 pounds of flaxseed.

² The 200 acres from John Barton can be traced back to a 300-acre land grant to William Kennedy in March 1780. Of the 300 acres, 200 acres were conveyed to Samuel Thompson, who later sold the land to John Barton in the early-nineteenth century.

By 1860, W. F. Strayhorn is identified in the census as a “Merchant.” He appears with his wife, Harriet; their son, Isaac, age 14; and their daughter, Mary, who was 6 years old (Figure 20). His brother, Thomas J. Strayhorn, age 29, still lived with the family and is identified as a “Merchant.” W. F. Strayhorn’s real estate is valued at \$2,800 and his personal property at \$13,000. He continued his business in Hillsborough, and he appears in the 1860 Slave Schedule as having nine slaves, presumably those working in his Hillsborough house (Figure 21).

Reportedly, Joseph Nichols, a slave in the household of Richison Nichols, W. F. Strayhorn’s father-in-law and business partner, was also attached to the William F. Strayhorn’s house called “Twin Chimneys” (<http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000253>). According to the W. F. Strayhorn’s daughter’s account of growing up in Hillsborough, Joseph Nichols and his wife, Harriet, were in charge of the running of the William F. Strayhorn household.

According to the 1870 census (Figure 22), W. F. Strayhorn and his wife were living in Hillsborough with their three children (Isaac; Mary; and Thomas Jackson, who had been born in 1862). W.F. Strayhorn is identified as keeping a boarding house, and his son Isaac is identified as being a 24-year-old lawyer. In addition, the household boarders included Columbus Nichols, Harriet’s brother, who is identified as a 30-year-old laborer; Ben Leneer, a 24-year-old insurance agent; and John M. Tate, a 37-year-old salesman, and his family (wife Kate, age 28 years, and son Hugh, age 8 months).

In the 1880 census, the William F. Strayhorn family had three members: William F., who is identified as a storekeeper; his wife, who is identified as the Hillsborough postmistress; their son, Ike, a lawyer; and Mary Davis, a 12-year-old servant (Figure 23). Harriet Strayhorn had been appointed the postmistress in May 1873; her husband, W. F. Strayhorn took over the appointment in 1881 and held it to his death in 1882 (Mallard 1992).

At the time of his death in 1882, W. F. Strayhorn owned 377 acres of land that was comprised of the 177 acres he acquired from his father’s (Samuel Strayhorn’s) estate and the 200 acres he bought in 1855 from John Barton. The estate was divided between his son Isaac (217-acre “North Tract”) and his daughter Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry (160-acre “South Tract”) (DB 55:467-469). The “South Tract” is the location of the early- to mid-nineteenth-century Samuel Strayhorn plantation and the present-day Blackwood Farm Park. Figure 24 depicts the division of William F. Strayhorn’s land.

Historical and Archaeological Investigations at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Archaeological Site 31OR580**) located in Blackwood Farm Park near Hillsborough in the Chapel Hill Township of Orange County, North Carolina
 Orange County Property Identification Numbers 9872-55-7302 and 9872-63-3300

Name of Owner, Agent, or Manager of the Farm.	Acres of Land.		Cash value of Farm.	Value of farming implements and Machinery.	Live Stock, June 1st, 1850.								Produce during the					
	Improved.	Unimproved.			Horses.	Asses and Mules.	Milk Cows.	Working Oxen.	Other Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.	Value of Live Stock.	Wheat, bushels of.	Rye, bushels of.	Indian Corn, bushels of.	Oats, bushels of.	Rice, lbs. of.	Tobacco, lbs. of.
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
William F. Strayhorn	200	178	1000	150	3	.	5	.	12	13	30	400	140	.	500	125	"	"

Figure 18. The 1850 Agricultural Schedule for William F. Strayhorn (page 1).

Glazed Cotton, bales of 400 lbs. each.	Wool, lbs. of.	Peas & Beans, bush. of.	Irish Potatoes, bush. of.	Sweet Potatoes, bush. of.	Barley, bushels of.	Buckwheat, bushels of.	Value of Orchard Products in dollars.	Wine, gallons of.	Value of Produce of Market Gardens.	Butter, lbs. of.	Cheese, lbs. of.	Hay, tons of.	Clover Seed, bush. of.	Other Grass Seeds, bushels of.	Hops, lbs. of.	Hemp.		Flaxseed, bushels of.	Silk Coccons, lbs. of.	Maple Sugar, lbs. of.	Cane Sugar, shdls. of 1,000 lbs.	Molasses, gallons of.	Bacon and Honey, lbs. of.	Value of Home-made Manufactures.	Value of Animals slaughtered.	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
"	"	"	75	50	"	"	"	"	"	150	"	15	"	"	"	4	4	100	10	"	"	"	"	"	25	64

Figure 19. The 1850 Agricultural Schedule for William F. Strayhorn (Page 2).

Wm F Strayhorn	44	m	merchants	2,800	13,000
Harrish	38	f			
Isaac	14	m			
Mary	6	f			
Thomas J	29	m	"		6,000

Figure 20. The W. F. Strayhorn household in the 1860 Federal Population Census.

W F Strayhorn	1	144	W	FB
	2	85	W	FB
	3	18	W	FB
	4	16	W	FB
	5	14	W	FB
	6	11	W	FB
	7	7	W	FB
	8	2	W	FB
	9	1	W	FB

Figure 21. The 1860 Federal Slave Schedule for W. F. Strayhorn.

84	84	Strayhorn William	54	M	W	Keeping boarding house		
		" Harriett	47	F	W	Keeping house		
		" Isaac R	24	M	W	Lawyer	3500	300
		" Mary	16	F	W	at home		
		" Thomas J	8	M	W			
		Nichols Columbus	32	M	W	Laborer	500	
		Hate John M	37	M	W	Salesman		
			38	F	W	at home		
		" Hugh	32	M	W			
		Linear Ben	24	M	W	Insurance Agent		

Figure 22. The William F. Strayhorn household in the 1870 Federal Population Census.

20	20	Strayhorn William	77	M	64			U.S. Commissioner
		" Harriett	55	F	58	Wife		Post Mistress
		" Isaac R	41	M	35	Son		Lawyer
		" Mary	42	F	42	Daughter		Strawb

Figure 23. The William F. Strayhorn household in the 1880 Federal Population Census.

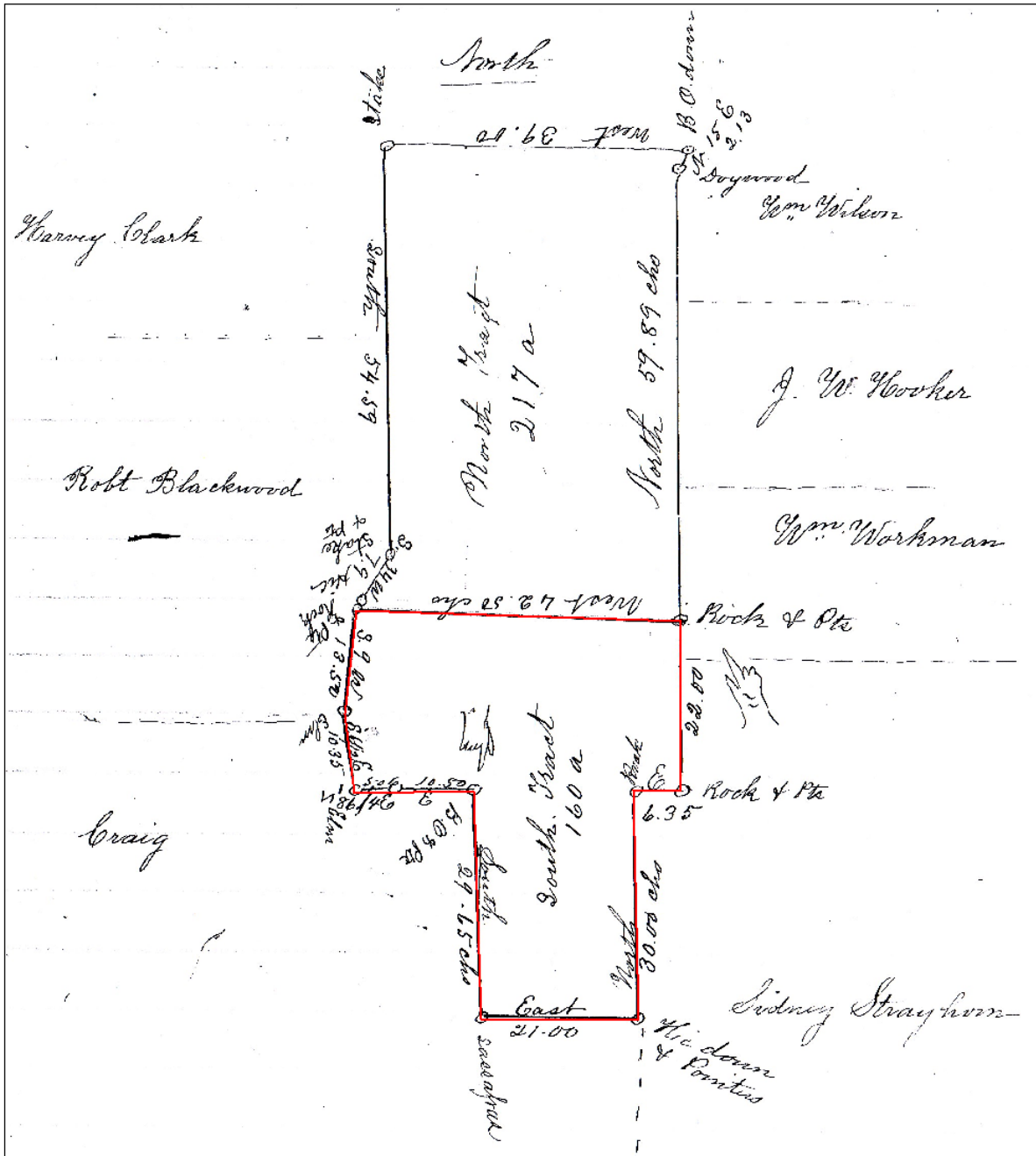


Figure 24. Plat of the 1898 petition to divide William F. Strayhorn’s land (Orange County, NC, Register of Deeds, DB 55:467-469). Note: the present-day Blackwood Farm Park property is the “South Tract” that is outlined in red.

Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry (1898–1906)

In 1898, 16 years after William F. Strayhorn died, his daughter, Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry, and her husband, Dr. John Berry, acquired the 160-acre South Tract (DB 55:467-469). At the time they inherited the property, they lived in the Little River Township of Orange County (1880, 1890, and 1900 Federal Census). In 1906, eight years after she inherited the property, she sold it to Herbert N. Blackwood, a great grandson of Samuel Strayhorn through his mother's line (Martha Jane Craig, the daughter of Nancy Moore Strayhorn and the granddaughter of Samuel Strayhorn).

It is not known what farming activity was occurring on the William F. Strayhorn property in the 16 years between his death in 1882 and the inheritance in 1898. In 1899, a description of the property written by David I. Craig, grandson of Samuel Strayhorn, portrays it as being “now nearly rotten and gone,” which suggests the possibility that the house had been abandoned for some period of time.

Herbert Nettleton Blackwood (1906–1957)

Herbert N. Blackwood acquired the property 1906, then described as “160 acres” from Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry (DB 59:71). The 1906 description identifies it as the “South tract of the Strayhorn place” that was allotted to Mary E. Berry (Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry) in DB 55: 467-469.

An account of the early to mid-twentieth century activities on the Blackwood family from Herbert N. Blackwood's daughter, Nannie Moore Blackwood, describes a small dairy and farmland for corn, beans, sweet potatoes, cotton, oats, and wheat (Blackwood 2002). Each week the family would take milk, butter, eggs, and vegetables to Durham to sell on the street from the back of a wagon. This account of the history of the farm also mentions that the house had been used by the Blackwood family as an inn along the historic Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road that crosses through the property (Blackwood 2002).

An historic map, created about six years after Herbert Blackwood acquired the property, depicts the historic Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road, oriented north-south, crossing through the property. It shows the farmhouse situated to the west of the road and two unidentified structures to the east (see Figure 3). Highway NC 86 and the present-day access road to the farm were not in existence at this time; the portion of NC 86 that borders the Blackwood Farm property wasn't constructed until the early 1950s, and the present-day access road to the farm was constructed to connect the farmstead with the new road. Evidence of new road construction associated with NC 86 and the Blackwood Farm are visible on the 1955 aerial photograph (see Figure 4).

There were several changes to the property during the Herbert Blackwood ownership. These include several modifications to the house, such as the shed-roofed Bungalow-style dormer that was added to the roof of the front portion of the house and a one-story gable roofed room that served as the kitchen with a simple brick stepped shoulder chimney serving a small fireplace. The kitchen addition was built with a shed-roofed porch extending the length of the south side. Other improvements to the house include enclosing the east portion of the porch in the late 1930s or 1940s to create a bathroom and enclosing the remaining section of open porch with aluminum windows ca. 1950-60. (Tina Moon, personal communication 2006).

In addition, other farmstead structures that date to the Herbert Blackwood ownership include the barn, chicken house, two-bay garage, smokehouse, milking shed, and milk house (Lally and Little 1992; MDM 2015).

Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood (1957–2001)

In 1957, Herbert N. Blackwood’s daughters, Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood, acquired the property (DB 695:640). They lived there until 2001 when they sold it to Orange County (DB 2469:72). The 1975 aerial photograph of the farm reveals that the agricultural fields continued to be cultivated during their ownership (see Figure 5).

Orange County (2001–present)

Orange County acquired the Blackwood Farm property on 18 December 2001 from Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood, the daughters of Herbert N. Blackwood (DB 2469:72). The property is described in this conveyance as “Being all of that 151.22-acre tract of land identified as Tract 1 and the 0.44-acre tract of land identified as Tract No. 2 on the plat of property titled “Final Plat Boundary survey for Herbert N. Blackwood Heirs,” prepared by J. David Thompson, Professional R.L.S., which is recorded in Plat Book 89, Page 138, Orange County Registry. The property is further identified as Tract 1 (Orange County PIN 9872-55-7302, Orange County tax map 7.9.2) and Tract 2 (Orange County PIN 9872-63-3300, Orange County tax map 7). Figure 25 is an excerpt of the plat map that shows the farmstead structures.

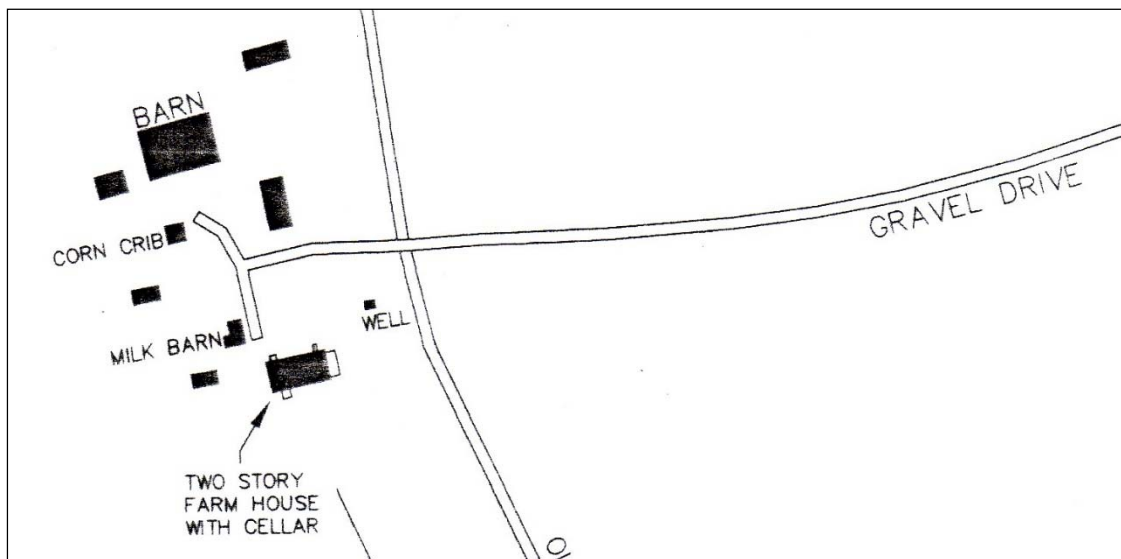


Figure 25. Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm (OR457) as depicted on the Final Plat Boundary for Herbert N. Blackwood Heirs (Plat Book 89: 138).

CEMETERY HISTORIC CONTEXT FOR SOUTHERN CEMETERIES

To better understand the attributes of burial traditions in the southeastern US, the following summary information about Southern cemeteries has been extracted and summarized from these two websites: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/African_American_Cemeteries and <http://www.sciway.net/hist/chicora/gravematters-1.html>. Other references include *Texas Cemeteries* (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. It is very likely that the husband-to-the-right (or wife-to-the-left) burial position was derived from the Christian belief that Eve was created from the left side of Adam. The origin of feet-to-the-east burial tradition can be linked to beliefs of sun-worship cults found in Europe before Christianity.

The Southern cemetery is characterized further by a hilltop location that is in close proximity to home places, scraped ground surface, mounded graves, creative gravemarkers and decorations using materials readily available (not commercially produced), selected plants and trees, the use of grave shelters, and the obvious devotion to God and/or parents and family with the graveyard workdays and monument dedications. The presence of most of these traits within one cemetery categorizes it as a "folk cemetery." Since the regional distribution of this type of cemetery coincides with Southern culture, this cemetery type is known as "Southern Folk."

During the years before the Civil War, slaves were often buried in a designated place separate from the slave-owning family plot. Often only field rocks or wooden crosses, which soon decayed, marked these graves. After the Civil War, freed slaves established their own cemeteries that included gravemarkers that were made of local fieldstone and inscribed by hand. Elaborate markers are rare in African-American cemeteries and may indicate customs based on religious beliefs or an acceptance of death and the acknowledgement that sorrow cannot be relieved by expensive gravemarkers.

In comparison with Euro-American cemeteries, African-American cemeteries are not landscaped. They have depressions or mounds and no attempt was made to create special vegetation. Trees are native, not specially planted, and are neither encouraged nor discouraged. Rather than the park-like setting with formal landscaping often found in Euro-American cemeteries, the African-American cemetery does not attempt to romanticize death or to create an artificial landscape.

Family plots do not traditionally exist in African-American cemeteries and placement of graves seems random. Burials are identified by indentations and/or mounds that usually do not have markers. The markers may have disappeared over time or graves may never have been marked. While African-American cemeteries may appear to be neglected, this is often not an accurate assessment. Rather, it is a reflection of a philosophy about death and burial.

Probably the most commonly known African-American gravemarking practice was the use of "offerings" on top of the grave. One of most detailed discussions of this practice is provided by John Michael Vlach, in *The Afro-American Tradition in Decorative Arts*. He notes that the objects found on graves included not only pottery, but also "... cups, saucers, bowls, clocks, salt and pepper shakers, medicine bottles, spoons, pitchers, ... toys, doll heads, bric-a-brac statues, light bulbs, tureens, flashlights, soap dishes, false teeth, syrup jugs, spectacles, cigar boxes, piggy banks, gun locks, razors, knives ...". The practice of grave offerings may be traced back to Africa, where a wide

variety of personal items were placed on graves. The practice may be founded on the belief that the items guard the grave and prevent the dead from returning. Some suggest the symbolism of the various items is particularly important with reflective items, like glass and mirror. Other items focus on water as symbolically representing how African-Americans were transported as slaves and how they will be transported into the next world. Some grave goods were "killed" or deliberately damaged, possibly to accompany the owner in the afterlife.

PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCE RESEARCH AT THE STRAYHORN SLAVE CEMETERY

The Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (31OR580**) was recorded with the NC Department of Cultural Resources Office of State Archaeology in 2006 during the survey of the Blackwood Farm property (Legacy 2007). A plat boundary survey map created in November 2001 depicts the cemetery encompassing an area of 0.07 acre (Plat Book 89:138).

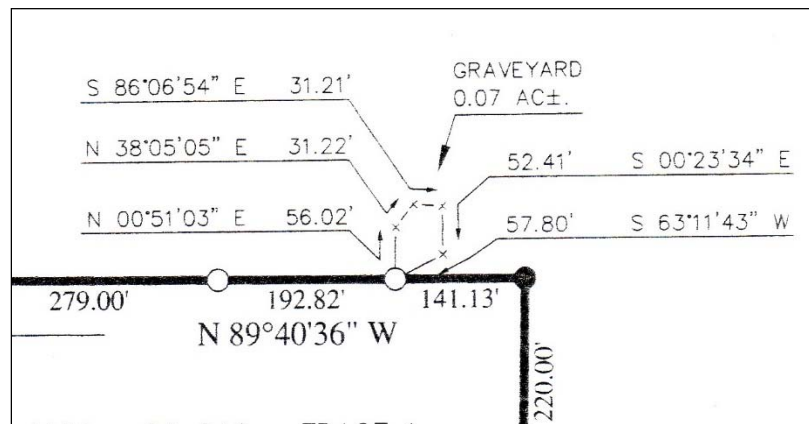


Figure 26. Cemetery boundaries as depicted on the Final Plat Boundary for Herbert N. Blackwood Heirs (Plat Book 89: 138).

During the field survey in 2006 it was noted that periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) groundcover was spread throughout the cemetery area. Several large fallen trees were in the vicinity of the cemetery; one large tree had fallen on a gravemarker (Figure 27). Also noted along the northern edge of the cemetery was a large (13 ft diameter) quartz fieldstone collection pile that was identified as a "Cairn."

Four stone piles/cairns (Cairns #1-4) were documented during the 2006 survey of the Blackwood Farm property. These likely served as property boundary markers during the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries; they are depicted on the 1898 property map of the Strayhorn heir's property (see Figure 25).

At the time of survey there was little or no ground surface visibility at the cemetery; rakes and other manual clearing equipment were utilized to remove leaves and underbrush to reveal the location of all the burials. A total of approximately 25 burials were documented; the majority of these are marked with head and foot fieldstone markers. Several of the graves were also detected by depressions in the ground. No engraved or etched markers were noted.



Figure 27. Site 31OR580**, fallen tree on a stone marker, view northwest, in 2006.

The 2006 research for the Blackwood Farm property found that layout and style of the cemetery is typical of those utilized by and for enslaved African-Americans and that it is possible that after emancipation the cemetery continued to be used by the families and descendants of those already interred there. According to Blackwood family oral tradition, the cemetery contains the remains of enslaved African-Americans who had belonged to the Strayhorn family.

In March and April 2007, Legacy conducted additional investigations at the Blackwood Farm property in High-Probability Area 5 (HPA 5) that is in the vicinity of the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Figure 28). Nineteenth-century artifacts (Pearlware, gray salt-glazed stoneware, indeterminate burned refined earthenware, window glass, cut nails, and a cast iron vessel fragment) were collected (see APPENDIX B). At the time, it was suggested that it was the possible location of slave quarters associated with the Samuel Strayhorn Plantation. However, recent information found in an 1899 account written by Samuel Strayhorn's grandson, D. I. Craig, suggests that the first "old house" that burned around 1825-1826 was located south or southwest of the second "old house," which would place it in the general vicinity of HPA 5.

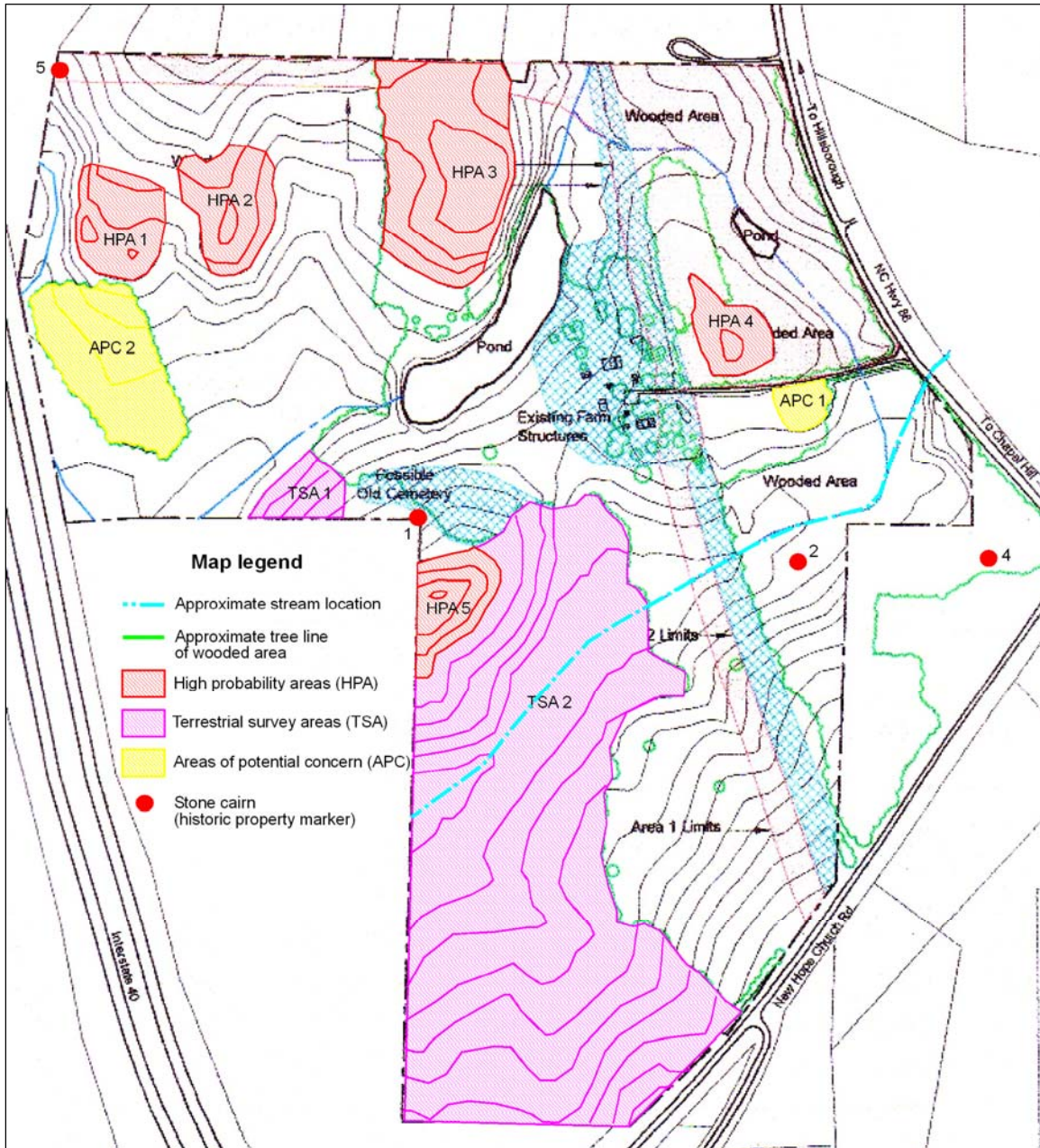


Figure 28. Blackwood Farm, March-April 2016, Archaeological Survey Plan Map showing the location of HPA 5 and the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Legacy 2007).

FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

Field investigations of the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery were conducted on May 29, 30, and 31, 2016. Deborah Joy served as project director; Nick Henderson, Matthew Gill, and Jay Sander assisted. Site clearing of dead trees and branches and leaf litter was conducted by park staff supervised by Keith Barnhardt, park manager.

The following tasks were conducted during the cemetery inspection in 2016:

- Cleared the cemetery area of leaf litter and downed tree branches (Figure 29).
- Inspected tree falls within the cemetery for the presence of buried gravemarkers (Figure 30).
- Leveled mounds of soil associated with past tree falls using fire rakes and shovels.
- Reset and stabilized fallen gravemarkers.
- Conducted systematic close-interval probing within the cemetery area with a T-bar to detect differences in soil compaction that would suggest that soil had been disturbed and possibly indicate that a grave was present.
- Reset buried head and/or foot markers that were identified during probing.
- Temporarily marked the graves (head and foot) with pin flags and an assigned number to facilitate site mapping (Figure 31).
- Mapped the cemetery with a Total Station (Figure 32).
- Set metal spikes and aluminum tags (with the grave number) at the head of each grave (Figure 33).
- Established a boundary and buffer zone that can be used to identify possible fencing locations or other boundary demarcation.
- Photographed gravemarkers that are keyed to the cemetery plan.



Figure 29. Site 31OR580**, site clearing, view northwest, in 2016.



Figure 30. Site 31OR580**, example of gravemarkers within a tree fall, in 2016.



Figure 31. Site 31OR580**, setting pin flags, view southwest, in 2016.



Figure 32. Site 31OR580**, mapping with the Total Station.



Figure 33. Site 31OR580**, permanent marker (spike and aluminum tag with grave number), in 2016.

A total of 34 graves were identified; this is nine more graves than were identified at the cemetery in 2006 (Figure 37 and Figure 36). However, the extent of the cemetery that was estimated in 2006 is unchanged. The 34 graves cover an area that is about 82 ft north-south by 52 ft east-west, which is very similar to the cemetery dimensions that were estimated in 2006.

Table 2 is a tabulated summary of the 34 graves identified at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery. The inventory identifies each grave by the number that was assigned in the field, whether a head and/or footstone or grave depression was present, the length of the grave in feet, and notes about the headstone/footstone material type when other than locally available fieldstone material. Grave depressions are identified as either “slight” (less than 5 cm) or “moderate: (more than 5 cm). An example of a moderate grave depression that was leveled with lighter colored soil during the survey is seen in Figure 34.



Figure 34. Site 31OR580**, Grave 21, view west.

Of the 34 graves, 30 have gravemarkers; none are inscribed. The majority of the gravemarkers are rough fieldstones; however, there is evidence that some graves had been marked with cedar posts. Three graves have gravemarkers that are not typical for this cemetery. These three graves (#24, 25, and 26) are located on Row 3 in the northern end of the cemetery.

One of the three has a large square-shaped rock (**Figure 35**) and next to it are two smaller graves, each marked by rectangular-shaped dark slate rock. These rectangular-shaped headstones and footstones may be an indication of status, possibly family relationships, transition from slavery to emancipation, or possibly burials of former slaves after emancipation.



Figure 35. Site 31OR580**, Grave 26, view west.

The graves are oriented generally east-west. The majority of the graves in the southern half of the cemetery appear to be more southeast-northwest orientation, except for Grave # 7 (Row 1) that is oriented east-west. Fourteen of the graves are very small in length, which suggests possible infant or child burials. The remaining 20 graves appear to be graves for adults.

The graves are arranged in four rows that vary in length.

- Row 1 is 45 ft long with 12 graves.
- Row 2 is 27.5 ft long with 5 graves.
- Row 3 has two sections; the first is 10 ft long with 2 graves, then there is a gap of 20 ft without evidence of graves, and then the row continued for another 40 ft with 7 graves.
- Row 4 is 40 ft long with 8 graves.



Figure 36. Site 31OR580**, cemetery after clearing and flagging view northwest, in 2016.

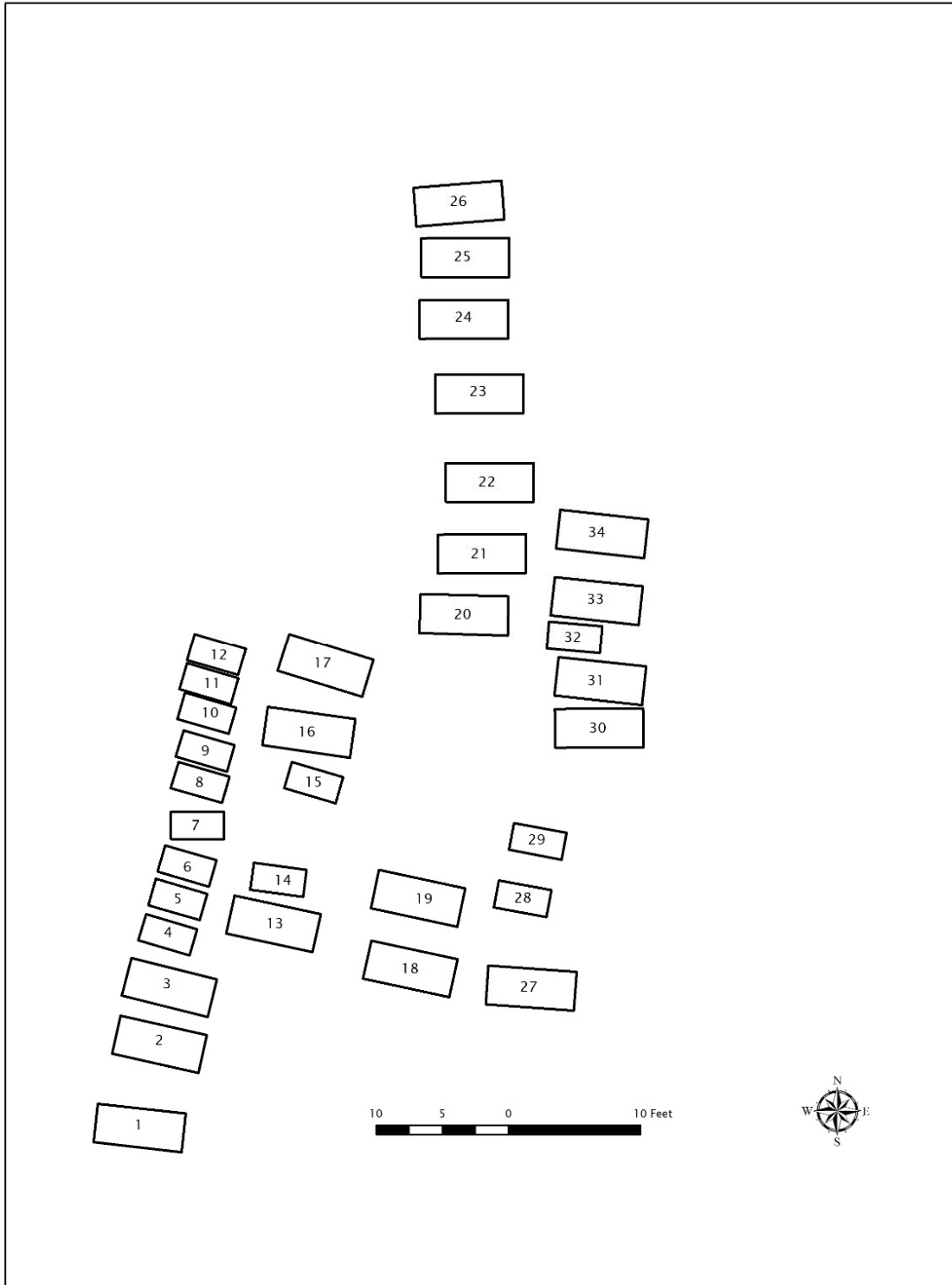


Figure 37. Site 31OR580**, plan map.

Historical and Archaeological Investigations at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Archaeological Site 31OR580**) located in Blackwood Farm Park near Hillsborough in the Chapel Hill Township of Orange County, North Carolina
Orange County Property Identification Numbers 9872-55-7302 and 9872-63-3300

Table 2. Summary of Graves at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Site 31OR580**).					
Grave ID	Headstone Present	Footstone Present	Grave Depression, if present	Length in Feet	Notes
1	Yes	Yes	Slight	6	
2	Yes	Yes	Moderate	7.25	
3	Yes	Yes		7.2	
4	Yes	Yes		3.5	
5	Yes	Yes		3.2	
6	Yes	Yes	Slight	4	
7	No	No		4.5	
8	Yes	Yes		4.8	
9	Yes	Yes		3.8	
10	No	No		4	
11	No	No		3.7	
12	No	No		3.5	
13	Yes	Yes		4.2	Shattered Slate Headstone
14	Yes	Yes		3.7	
15	Yes	Yes		3.4	
16	Yes	Yes		6	
17	Yes	Yes		6.5	
18	Yes	Yes	Slight	6.4	
19	Yes	Yes	Slight	6.8	
20	Yes	Yes		4.75	
21	Yes	Yes	Moderate	6.5	
22	Yes	Yes	Moderate	6.6	Cedar post head and footstone
23	Yes	Yes		7	
24	Yes	Yes		7.5	Small Rectangular Slate Headstone and Footstone
25	Yes	No	Moderate	7.5	Small Rectangular Slate Headstone and Footstone
26	Yes	Yes	Moderate	8	Large Rectangular Headstone and Footstone
27	Yes	Yes	Slight	5.6	
28	Yes	Yes		3.25	
29	No	No		3.8	
30	Yes	Yes	Slight	7	
31	Yes	No		4.5	
32	Yes	No		3.5	
33	Yes	No		4.5	
34	Yes	No		4.75	

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC RESEARCH AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The following is a summary of the historic research and archaeological investigations conducted in the Spring of 20016 at the Blackwood Farm Park.

Historic Research Summary

Historic research for this project has found the that earliest owner of the Blackwood Farm Park property (1778-1817) was Joseph Marlett, a Quaker who did not own slaves and who emigrated from North Carolina to Indiana around 1820 following the sale of the property to Samuel Strayhorn in 1817.

Furthermore, it is unlikely that the cemetery has graves associated with the family of Samuel Strayhorn, who owned the property from 1817 to 1843, or the family of William F. Strayhorn, who owned the property from 1849 to 1882. The Samuel Strayhorn family is buried at the New Hope Congregation Cemetery and the William F. Strayhorn family is buried in the old Hillsborough Cemetery.

Historic research found that the cemetery is very likely associated with the early to mid-nineteenth-century Samuel Strayhorn slaves who cultivated the land. Samuel Strayhorn is reported as having 3 slaves in 1820, 8 slaves in 1830, 18 slaves in 1840, and at the time of his death in 1847 he had 16 slaves that were passed on to his three surviving children.

The property was acquired by Samuel Strayhorn's son, William F. Strayhorn, who lived and worked in Hillsborough; the 1850 census reported that he had 10 slaves, and in 1860 he is reported as having 9 slaves. However, an account of growing up in pre-Civil War Hillsborough written by W. F. Strayhorn's daughter identifies the slaves working in the house. The number of slaves identified in this account correlates with the number of slaves identified in the 1850 and 1860 Slave Schedule for William F. Strayhorn. The William F. Strayhorn Plantation is only recorded in the 1850 Agricultural Schedule. There is no listing of the planation under his name after 1850. Considering the fact that W. F. Strayhorn was a Hillsborough businessman it seems very likely that he had little involvement with his father's plantation after 1850 even though he owned the property until his death in 1882. It is possible that the plantation continued during the antebellum period under the name of the farm manager.

The end of slavery in 1865 brought about major changes in the entire South. Landowners had property confiscated or had to abandon their land because there was no labor to cultivate it. Freed slaves started their new journey in life and quite often fell into sharecropping on the land that had been worked by enslaved people. The Blackwood Farm property continued to be owned by W. F. Strayhorn until his death in 1882 and 16 years later it was passed on to W. F. Strayhorn's daughter, Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry, who held it for 8 years before she sold it to Herbert N. Blackwood, the great grandson of Samuel Strayhorn in 1906.

Archaeological Research Summary

Archaeological investigations at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery located 34 graves. The extent of the cemetery that was estimated in 2006 is unchanged. The 34 graves cover an area that is about 82 ft north-south by 52 ft east-west, which is the similar to the size estimated in 2006.

Of the 34 graves, 30 (88.2 percent) have either head and/or footstones; none of the gravemarkers are inscribed. The majority of the gravemarkers are fieldstones and there is evidence that some graves may have been marked with cedar posts.

Three graves have gravemarkers that are not typical for this cemetery. These three graves (#24, 25, and 26) are located on Row 3 in the northern end of the cemetery and are next to each other. One of the three has a large square-shaped rock and next to it are two smaller graves, each marked by rectangular-shaped dark slate rock.

Many of the graves (n=14 or 41 percent) are small in length, which suggests that they are associated with infants or children. The four unmarked graves are small.

The graves are oriented generally east-west. The majority of the graves in the southern half of the cemetery appear to be more southeast-northwest orientation, except for Grave # 7 (Row 1) that is oriented east-west.

The graves are arranged in four rows that vary in length.

- Row 1 is 45 ft long with 12 graves.
- Row 2 is 27.5 ft long with 5 graves.
- Row 3 has two sections; the first is 10 ft long with 2 graves, then there is a gap of 20 ft without evidence of graves, and then the row continued for another 40 ft with 7 graves.
- Row 4 is 40 ft long with 8 graves.

Fourteen of the graves are very small in length, which suggests that they are associated with infant or child burials. The remaining 20 graves appear to be for adults.

The attributes of this cemetery are consistent with early African-American burial traditions. Prior to the Civil War, slaves were buried in a designated place separate from the slave-owning family plot. Their graves were often marked with uninscribed field rocks or wooden crosses and were oriented east-west in the Christian tradition without an indications that burials were interred in “family plots.”

The cemetery also has several attributes that follow the description of African-American cemeteries. The cemetery is not landscaped, although periwinkle was observed in the cemetery. Most of the graves are marked with field rocks, some graves were only recognizable by indentations. The graves are generally oriented east-west following Christian tradition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for the continued stabilization and management of the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery include (1) remove tree stumps within the cemetery area, (2) reestablish the periwinkle ground cover, (3) erect a perimeter fence around the cemetery, and (4) conduct an annual site inspection to clear the cemetery of any fallen tree branches and leaf litter.

Additional archival research could include identifying the occupation/manager of the property from 1847 following Samuel Strayhorn’s death to 1906 when Herbert N. Blackwood acquired the land. Other research could focus on clarifying the discrepancy in the size of Samuel Strayhorn’s property in 1847, which is described as about 400 acres (see Figure 15), although only 177.7 acres was acquired by

W. F. Strayhorn in 1849 (DB 33:289-290) and the 1850 Agricultural Schedule reports that W. F. Strayhorn had 200 acres of improved land and 178 acres of unimproved land (Figure 18). Other research could address the possible connection with M. E. Craig, whose name is identified in the approximate location of the present-day Strayhorn-Blackwood House on the 1891 Tate Map of Orange County, or with Nannie Blackwood's recollection that the Craigs were associated with the farm.

Future archeological work on the property might include an investigation of Samuel Strayhorn's "old house" that reportedly burned between 1825 and 1826 and had been located west or southwest from the "present settlement" (presumably the extant Strayhorn-Blackwood House) on top of the hill next to the woods. Other investigations might focus on identifying the location of pre-Civil War slave houses and farm outbuildings. Archaeological work in 2007 found nineteenth-century domestic and architectural artifacts about 300 ft (95 m) southeast of the cemetery, which is also in the general vicinity of the approximate location of Samuel Strayhorn's "old house." The cultural association of these materials is not known.

REFERENCES CITED

Anderson, Jean Bradley

- 1990 *Durham County, A History of Durham County, North Carolina*. Published in association with the Historic Preservation Society of Durham, Inc. Duke University Press.
- 2003 "Migrations into and out of Orange County." In *The Hillsborough Historical Society Journal*, vol VI, no. 1, Fall 2003: *The Special Great Migration Issue*.

Barrett, John Gilchrist

- 1991 *North Carolina as a Civil War Battleground 1861-1865*. Ninth Printing. North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Blackwelder, Ruth

- 1953 "Settlement and Early History" in *Orange County 1752-1952*, edited by Hugh Lefler and Paul Wager. The Orange Print Shop, Chapel Hill.

Berry, Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn

- nd "Reminiscences of the Old South Particularly Around Hillsborough" in *The Mary Elizabeth Strayhorn Berry Papers* (Collection Number 00065-z) at the University of North Carolina Wilson Library, Southern Historical Collection. Chapel Hill.

Blackwood, Nannie

- 2002 Transcript of interview conducted by Kerry Taylor on January 31, 2002. Transcribed by L. Altizer March 21, 2002. Special Research Projects: New Hope Community. Southern Oral History Program, Manuscript Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Clark, Thomas N. (compiler)

- 2000 *Slaves from Orange County, NC Estate Records 1840-1865*. Burlington, NC. Held in the Genealogy Room of the State Library of North Carolina, Raleigh.

Clauser, John W. Jr.

- 1984 "The Southern Folk Cemetery in Piedmont North Carolina." North Carolina Historic Preservation Office Newsletter.

Corbitt, David Leroy

- 1987 *The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943*, fourth printing. North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Craig, Rev. D. I.

- 1891 "A Historical Sketch of New Hope Church in Orange County, N. C." Held at the Denver Public Library (microfiche G975.6565 c844hi). Accessed June 20, 2006 via <http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/nc/orange/church/newhope.txt>. File contributed for use in the USGenWeb Archives by Anna Herbertson.

1899 Addition of August 2010 “The Origin and History of the Craig Family” in the *D. I. Craig Papers*, Folder 7, University of North Carolina, Wilson Library, Southern Historical Collection (File #5399), Chapel Hill.

Crow, Jeffrey J.

1975 *A Chronicle of North Carolina during the American Revolution 1763-1789*. North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Dunn, James

1977 *Soil Survey of Orange County, North Carolina*. USDA, Soil Conservation Service, in cooperation with the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

Franklin, John Hope

1995 *The Free Negro in North Carolina 1790-1860*. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

Goodspeed Brothers

1884 *The History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington counties, Indians: from the earliest time to the present, together with interesting biographical sketches, reminiscences, notes, etc.*
https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_EVQoAQAAAJ.

Hunt, Charles B.

1967 *Physiography of the United States*. W. H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco.

Jaeger, Dale, John Kissane, Chet Thomas, Emmeline Embry, and Christina Spurgin

1996 *Historic Preservation Element Orange County Comprehensive Plan, Orange County, North Carolina*. Prepared by the Jaeger Company, Gainesville, Georgia, and the Orange County Historic Preservation Commission, Orange County Planning Department, Hillsborough.

Jordan, Terry G.

1982 *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy*. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Kars, Marjoleine

2002 *Breaking Loose Together, The Regulator Rebellion in Pre-Revolutionary North Carolina*. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

Lally, Kelly A., and M. Ruth Little

1992 *Chapel Hill Township Survey, Final Report*. Report filed at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Survey and Planning Branch, Raleigh.

Legacy Research Associates

2006 Archaeological Survey for the Future New Hope Park at Blackwood Farm near Hillsborough in Orange County, North Carolina. Prepared for Orange County Environment & Resource Conservation Department.

2007 Archaeological Inspection of High Probability Area 5 at the Blackwood Farm near Hillsborough in Orange County, North Carolina. Prepared for Orange County Environment & Resource Conservation Department.

Lloyd, Allen Alexander and Pauline O. Lloyd

nd *History of the Town of Hillsborough 1754-1991.*

Mallard, Shirley Jones

1992 "Appointments of Postmasters 1825-1929, Orange County, NC." Held in the North Carolina Collection at the Orange County Public Library, Hillsborough, NC.

Mattson, Richard L.

1996 *History and Architecture of Orange County, North Carolina.* Prepared by Mattson, Alexander, and Associates, Charlotte, for the Orange County Planning Office, Hillsborough.

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office

2006 Archaeological Site Form 31OR580** prepared by Legacy Research Associates, Inc.

2015 Architectural Resource Form 0R457 prepared by MDM.

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, State Archives

1785 Joseph Mallett (Marlett) to Nancy Craig, Orange County, NC. North Carolina County Marriage Index.

North Carolina State University

2016 "Joseph Nichols" in the *North Carolina Architects & Builders: Biographical Dictionary.*
<http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000253>

Orange County Register of Deeds, Hillsborough, North Carolina

1817 Deed Book 16, Page 36 – Joseph Marlett to Samuel Strayhorn – 158.75 acres.

1818 Deed Book, 16, Page 273 – Joseph Marlett to George Marlett – 101.5 acres.

1847 Will Book D, Page 500 – Samuel Strayhorn

1849 Deed Book 33, Page 289-290 – Estate of Samuel Strayhorn to William F. Strayhorn

1855 Deed Book 34, Page 506 – John Barton to William F. Strayhorn – 200 acres

1898 Deed Book 55, Pages 467-469 – William F. Strayhorn Estate Division of Land

1906 Deed Book 59, Page 71 – Mary E. Strayhorn Berry to Herbert Nettleton Blackwood – 160 acres

1957 Deed Book 695, page 640 – Herbert N. Blackwood Estate to Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood – 160 acres

2001 Deed Book 2469, Page 72 - Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood to Orange County = 151.22 acres

2001 Plat Book 89, Page 138 - Final Plat Boundary survey for Herbert N. Blackwood Heirs

Powell, William S.

1968 *The North Carolina Gazetteer.* The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

1989 *North Carolina Through Four Centuries.* University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

Sorrie, Bruce, and Richard Shaw

2004 *Inventory of Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitats for Orange County, North Carolina.* North Carolina Natural Heritage Program and Orange County Environment & Resource Conservation Department, funded by North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund.

State Library of North Carolina

nd Strayhorn Family Genealogy Vertical File – Some Descendants of Gilbert Strayhorn B. 1715, Dauphin Co., PA. Assembled by Jay Norwalk, 6 Dec 1999. File held in the Genealogy Room of the State Library of North Carolina, Raleigh.

State of North Carolina

1778 Land Grant (Grant #1182) to Joseph Mollett (Marlett) for 178 acres (Patent Book 87:417).

Tate, George W.

1891 *Map of Orange County*. Drawn by George W. Tate from actual surveys. T. W. Moore, photographer. Map held at the North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh (<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/9749>).

The Hillsborough Recorder

1843 Advertisement for “Goods at Cost” at the “Nichols & Strayhorn” store. 11 May 1843, page 3.
1847a Public Sale of the Samuel Strayhorn Residence, 8 April 1847, page 3.
1847b Petition to Sell Land of Major Samuel Strayhorn, 30 Sep 1847, page 3.
1853 Advertisement for the Relocation of the W. F. Strayhorn Shoe and boot business, 13 July 1953, page 1.

US Census Bureau – Agricultural Schedules

1850 Agricultural Schedule for Orange County, NC.
1860 Agricultural Schedule for Orange County, NC.
1870 Agricultural Schedule for Orange County, NC.
1880 Agricultural Schedule for Orange County, NC.

US Census Bureau – Population Schedules

1810 Population Census for Orange County, NC.
1820 Population Census for Orange County, NC.
1830 Population Census for Orange County, NC.
1830 Population Census for Orange County, Indiana.
1840 Population Census for Orange County, NC.
1840 Population Census for Orange County, Indiana.
1850 Population Census for Orange County, NC.
1860 Population Census for Orange County, NC.
1870 Population Census for Orange County, NC.
1880 Population Census for Orange County, NC.

US Census Bureau – Slave Schedules

1820 Slave Schedule for Orange County, NC.
1830 Slave Schedule for Orange County, NC.
1840 Slave Schedule for Orange County, NC.
1850 Slave Schedule for Orange County, NC.

US Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records

1820 State of Indiana to Joseph Marlett 80 acres in Township 1-N, Range 1-W, Section 23. Accession number IN0110.290. <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>.

US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- 1918 *Soil Map, North Carolina, Orange County Sheet*. Bureau of Soils. Soils surveyed by E. S. Vanatta, L. L. Brinkley, and S. F. Davidson of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture (http://www2.lib.unc.edu/dc/ncmaps/interactive/MC_073_1918v.html).
- 1938 Aerial imagery of the Blackwood Farm area, Orange County, NC (Sheet 8-93) http://www2.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/orange_1938/index.html.
- 1955 Aerial imagery of the Blackwood Farm area, Orange County, NC (Sheet 8P 16) http://www2.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/orange_1955/index.html.
- 1975 Aerial imagery of the Blackwood Farm area, Orange County, NC (Sheet 176-131) http://www2.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/orange_1975/index.html.

US Geological Service (USGS)

- 1968 *Hillsborough, N.C.* topographic quadrangle map. Revised 1994.

US Postal Service (USPS)

- 1903 *Map showing rural free delivery routes, nos. 1 & 2 from Chapel Hill, Orange Co., N.C.* <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/6665>.

Watson, Alan D.

- 1996 *Society in Colonial North Carolina*. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh.

Works Projects Administration (WPA)

- 1939 *North Carolina: The WPA Guide to the Old North State*. Compiled and written by the Federal Writer's Project of the Federal Works Agency, Works Projects Administration, for the State of North Carolina. Sponsored by North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, with a new introduction by William S. Powell, 1988, University of South Carolina Press, Columbia.

APPENDIX A – Metes and Bounds Comparison of the 1817 Deed and the 2001 Plat of the Blackwood Farm Property.

Deed Title	Deed from Joseph Marlett to Samuel Strayhorn, Orange, NC, April 19, 117, Deed book 16, pg. 36, 158.75 acres [EDIT AS DESIRED]
-------------------	--

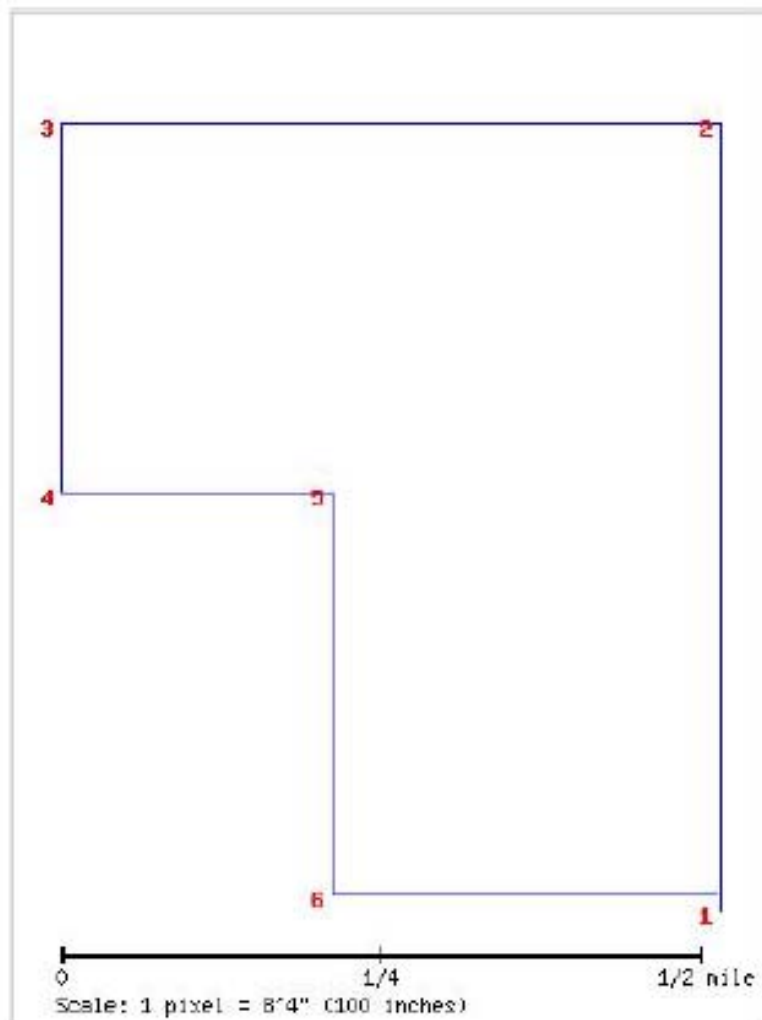


Figure 38. Metes and Bounds of the 1817 Land Conveyance from Joseph Marlett to Samuel Strayhorn (DB 16:36).

Historical and Archaeological Investigations at the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Archaeological Site 31OR580**) located in Blackwood Farm Park near Hillsborough in the Chapel Hill Township of Orange County, North Carolina
 Orange County Property Identification Numbers 9872-55-7302 and 9872-63-3300

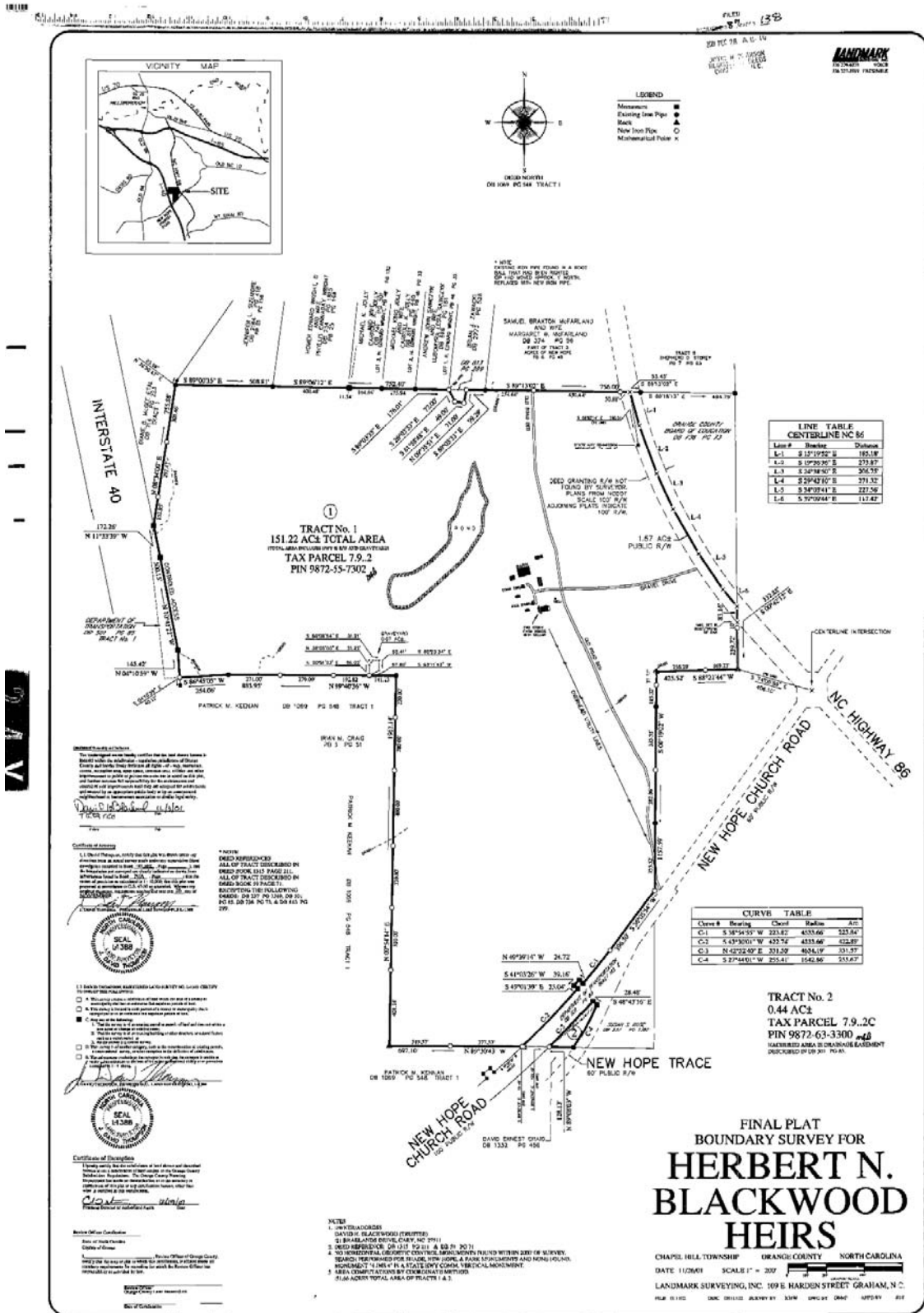


Figure 39. Plat of the Blackwood Farm Property in 2001 (Plat Book 89:138).

APPENDIX B - High Probability Area 5 – Artifact Recovery from 2007

Metal

Cut nail, ca. 1840-1900
Roofing nail, early 20th century
Wire nail, ca. 1880-present
Cast iron kettle fragment, ca. 1700-early 20th century
12 gauge shot shell base; marked “XTRA RANGE” and “S.R. & Co.” (Manufactured by Sears), early 20th century
12 gauge shot shell base; marked “U.M.C. Co.” and “NEW CLUB” eight-point flat star type, ca. late 19th century-1911
Large piece of ferrous (bar?) iron

Glass

Very light aqua, indeterminate container glass
Colorless, indeterminate container glass, late 19th c.-20th c.
Colorless, indeterminate container glass, melted
Aqua-tinted flat glass/window pane, 1.3mm
Aqua-tinted flat glass/window pane, 1.8mm

Ceramic

Pearlware
Indeterminate refined earthenware
Gray salt-glazed stoneware, clear glaze

APPENDIX C – Gravestone Photodocumentation

List of Figures

Figure 1. Project location map (Hillsborough, NC, USGS topographic quadrangle map 1968, revised 1994). Note: the map shows the location of (1) the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery, (2) the Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm building complex, (3) a remnant of the historic Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road between Blackwood Farm and New Hope Church Road, and (4) the location of the old New Hope Church Cemetery, the burial location for the Samuel Strayhorn family.....	iv
Figure 2. Excerpt of 1938 aerial photograph, showing Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm during the Herbert N. Blackwood ownership (1906-1957) of the property. The farmstead structures are circled in black; the old road bed referred to as the “Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road” is lined in red, and the road that later became New Hope Church Road is lined in yellow (http://www2.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/orange_1938/index.html).....	2
Figure 3. Excerpt of the 1918 Orange County, NC, Soil Survey map of project vicinity showing the Blackwood Farm Park property boundaries, the Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road, and structures on each side of the road (USDA 1918).	3
Figure 4. Excerpt of the 1955 aerial photograph of the present-day Blackwood Farm Park showing terraced agricultural fields, the farm building complex, and the farm roads through the property associated with the 1906-1957 Herbert N. Blackwood ownership of the property (http://www2.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/orange_1955/index.html).....	4
Figure 5. Excerpt of the 1975 aerial photograph of the present-day Blackwood Farm Park showing terraced agricultural fields, the farm building complex, and the farm roads through the property associated with the 1957-2001 Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood ownership of the property (http://www2.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/orange_1975/index.html).	5
Figure 6. Excerpt of the 1891 George W. Tate Map of Orange County showing Old Chapel Hill Road, New Chapel Hill Road, the New Hope Church on the east side of New Chapel Hill Road, and the location of the M. E. Craig home along the west side of New Chapel Hill Road in the general location of the present-day Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm (http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/370).....	9
Figure 7. Excerpt of the 1903 Map showing rural free delivery routes nos. 1 & 2 from Chapel Hill that shows “Strayhorns” (http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/6665).	9
Figure 8. Chain of Title for the Blackwood Farm Park Property.	11
Figure 9. Strayhorn-Blackwood Family Tree showing the chain of title (ownership highlighted) the Blackwood Farm Park property from 1817 (Samuel Strayhorn) to 2001 (Nannie Moore Blackwood and Mary Alice Blackwood).....	13
Figure 10. Excerpt of the Hillsborough, NC, USGS topographic map showing the location of the ca. 1827-1840 Strayhorn-Blackwood House and the possible location of the ca. 1817 house site.	14
Figure 11. Strayhorn-Blackwood House, south elevation, 1827 date-marked chimney on the right, 1840 date-marked chimney on the left.	14
Figure 12. ca. 1827 date-inscribed chimney attached to the south elevation of the Strayhorn-Blackwood House.	15
Figure 13. ca. 1840 date-inscribed chimney attached to the south elevation of the Strayhorn-Blackwood House.	15

Figure 14. Public Sale Announcement at the late residence of Samuel Strayhorn (The Hillsborough Recorder 8 April 1847, page 3). Note: This announcement reveals that the property will be sold in April, but the fields that are ready for planting and Samuel Strayhorn’s slaves will be “rented out” until mid-October. 17

Figure 15. Petition to Sell Land of Major Samuel Strayhorn (The Hillsborough Recorder, 30 Sep 1847, page 3)..... 17

Figure 16. The W. F. Strayhorn household in Hillsborough in the 1850 Federal Population Census. 18

Figure 17. The 1850 Slave Schedule Record for William Strayhorn..... 19

Figure 18. The 1850 Agricultural Schedule for William F. Strayhorn (page 1)..... 21

Figure 19. The 1850 Agricultural Schedule for William F. Strayhorn (Page 2)..... 21

Figure 20. The W. F. Strayhorn household in the 1860 Federal Population Census. 21

Figure 21. The 1860 Federal Slave Schedule for W. F. Strayhorn..... 22

Figure 22. The William F. Strayhorn household in the 1870 Federal Population Census..... 22

Figure 23. The William F. Strayhorn household in the 1880 Federal Population Census..... 22

Figure 24. Plat of the 1898 petition to divide William F. Strayhorn’s land (Orange County, NC, Register of Deeds, DB 55:467-469). Note: the present-day Blackwood Farm Park property is the “South Tract” that is outlined in red..... 23

Figure 25. Strayhorn-Blackwood Farm (OR457) as depicted on the Final Plat Boundary for Herbert N. Blackwood Heirs (Plat Book 89: 138). 25

Figure 26. Cemetery boundaries as depicted on the Final Plat Boundary for Herbert N. Blackwood Heirs (Plat Book 89: 138)..... 27

Figure 27. Site 31OR580**, fallen tree on a stone marker, view northwest, in 2006..... 28

Figure 28. Blackwood Farm, March-April 2016, Archaeological Survey Plan Map showing the location of HPA 5 and the Strayhorn Slave Cemetery (Legacy 2007). 29

Figure 29. Site 31OR580**, site clearing, view northwest, in 2016..... 30

Figure 30. Site 31OR580**, example of gravemarkers within a tree fall, in 2016. 31

Figure 31. Site 31OR580**, setting pin flags, view southwest, in 2016. 31

Figure 32. Site 31OR580**, mapping with the Total Station. 32

Figure 33. Site 31OR580**, permanent marker (spike and aluminum tag with grave number), in 2016. 32

Figure 34. Site 31OR580**, Grave 21, view west. 33

Figure 35. Site 31OR580**, Grave 26, view west. 34

Figure 36. Site 31OR580**, plan map. 36

Figure 37. Site 31OR580**, cemetery after clearing and flagging view northwest, in 2016. 35

Figure 38. Metes and Bounds of the 1817 Land Conveyance from Joseph Marlett to Samuel Strayhorn (DB 16:36)..... 46

Figure 39. Plat of the Blackwood Farm Property in 2001 (Plat Book 89:138)..... 47

Figure 40. Grave 1, view west. 52

Figure 41. Grave 2, view west. 53

Figure 42. Grave 3, view west. 54

Figure 43. Grave 4, view west. 55

Figure 44. Grave 5, view west. 56

Figure 45. Grave 6, view west. 57

Figure 46. Grave 7, view west. 58

Figure 47. Grave 8, view west. 59

Figure 48. Grave 9, view west. 60

Figure 49. Graves 10, 11, and 12, view west, showing temporary markers for these three unmarked graves. 61

Figure 50. Grave 13, view west, showing a shattered slate headstone. 62

Figure 51. Grave 14, view west. 63

Figure 52. Grave 15, view west. 64

Figure 53. Grave 16, view west. 65

Figure 54. Grave 17, view west, showing a temporary marker for the displaced headstone that appears in the photograph to the right of the footstone. 66

Figure 55. Grave 18, view west. 67

Figure 56. Grave 19, view west. 68

Figure 57. Grave 20, view west. 69

Figure 58. Grave 21, view west, showing the grave depression. 70

Figure 59. Grave 22, view west, showing the remnants of cedar posts alongside the rough fieldstone markers..... 71

Figure 60. Grave 23, view west. 72

Figure 61. Grave 24, view west. 73

Figure 62. Grave 25, view west. 74

Figure 63. Grave 26, view west. 75

Figure 64. Grave 27, view west. 76

Figure 65. Grave 28, view west. 77

Figure 66. Grave 29, view west, showing a temporary marker at the head of this unmarked grave.. 78

Figure 67. Grave 30, view west. 79

Figure 68. Grave 31, view west. 80

Figure 69. Grave 32, view west. 81

Figure 70. Grave 33, view west. 82

Figure 71. Grave 34, view west. 83



Figure 40. Grave 1, view west.



Figure 41. Grave 2, view west.



Figure 42. Grave 3, view west.



Figure 43. Grave 4, view west.



Figure 44. Grave 5, view west.



Figure 45. Grave 6, view west.



Figure 46. Grave 7, view west.



Figure 47. Grave 8, view west.



Figure 48. Grave 9, view west.

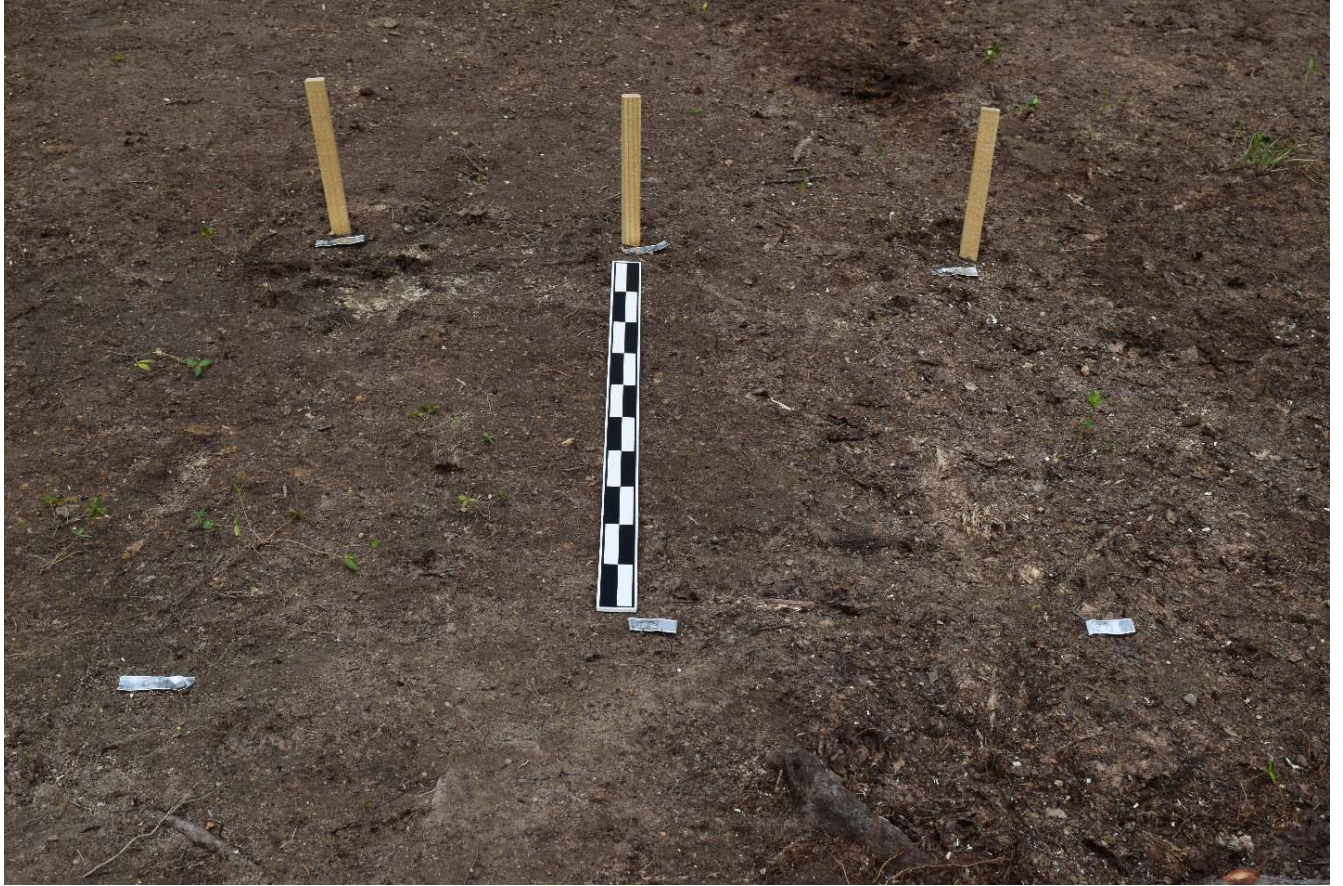


Figure 49. Graves 10, 11, and 12, view west, showing temporary markers for these three unmarked graves.

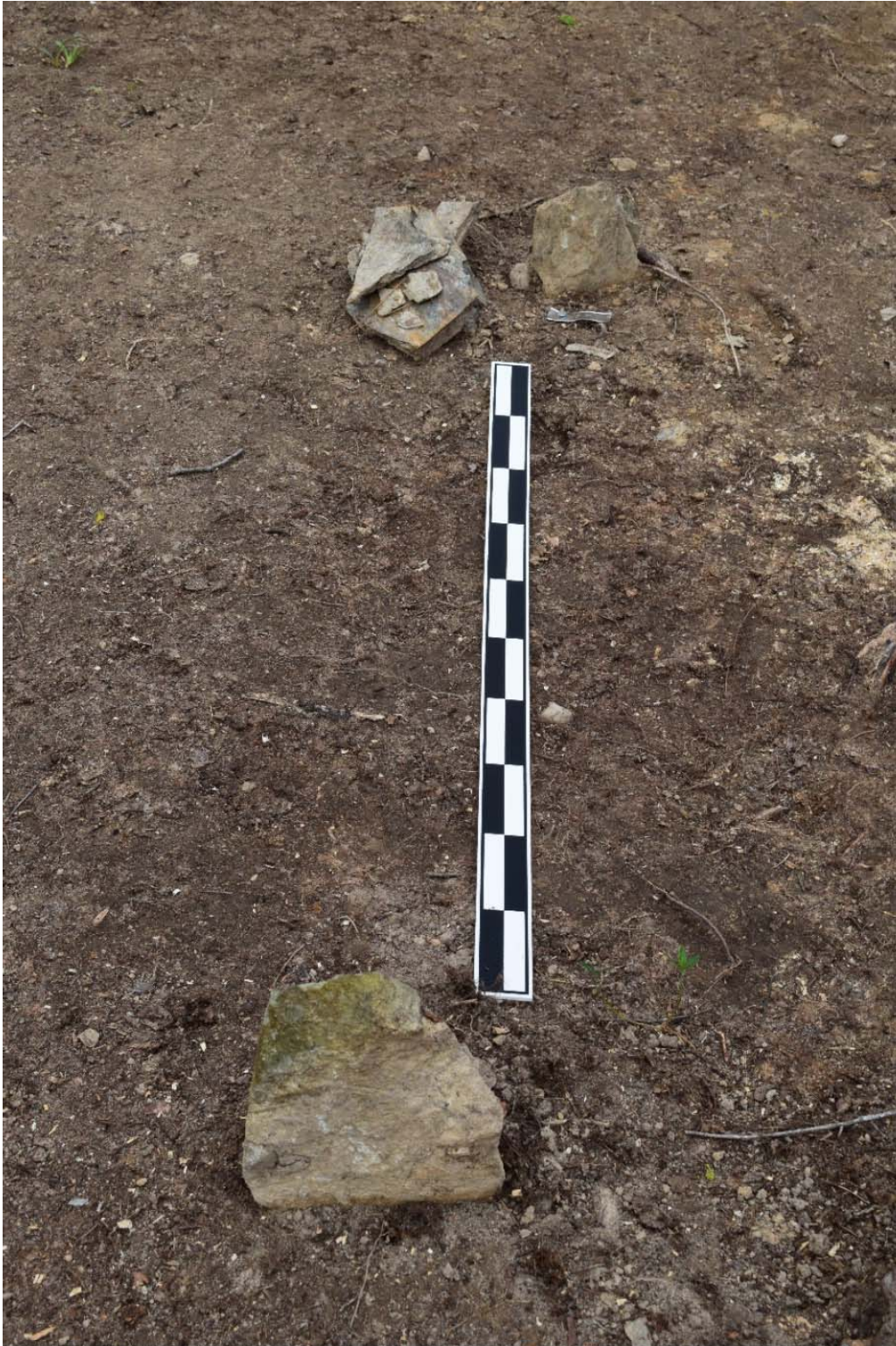


Figure 50. Grave 13, view west, showing a shattered slate headstone.



Figure 51. Grave 14, view west.



Figure 52. Grave 15, view west.



Figure 53. Grave 16, view west.



Figure 54. Grave 17, view west, showing a temporary marker for the displaced headstone that appears in the photograph to the right of the footstone.



Figure 55. Grave 18, view west.



Figure 56. Grave 19, view west.



Figure 57. Grave 20, view west.

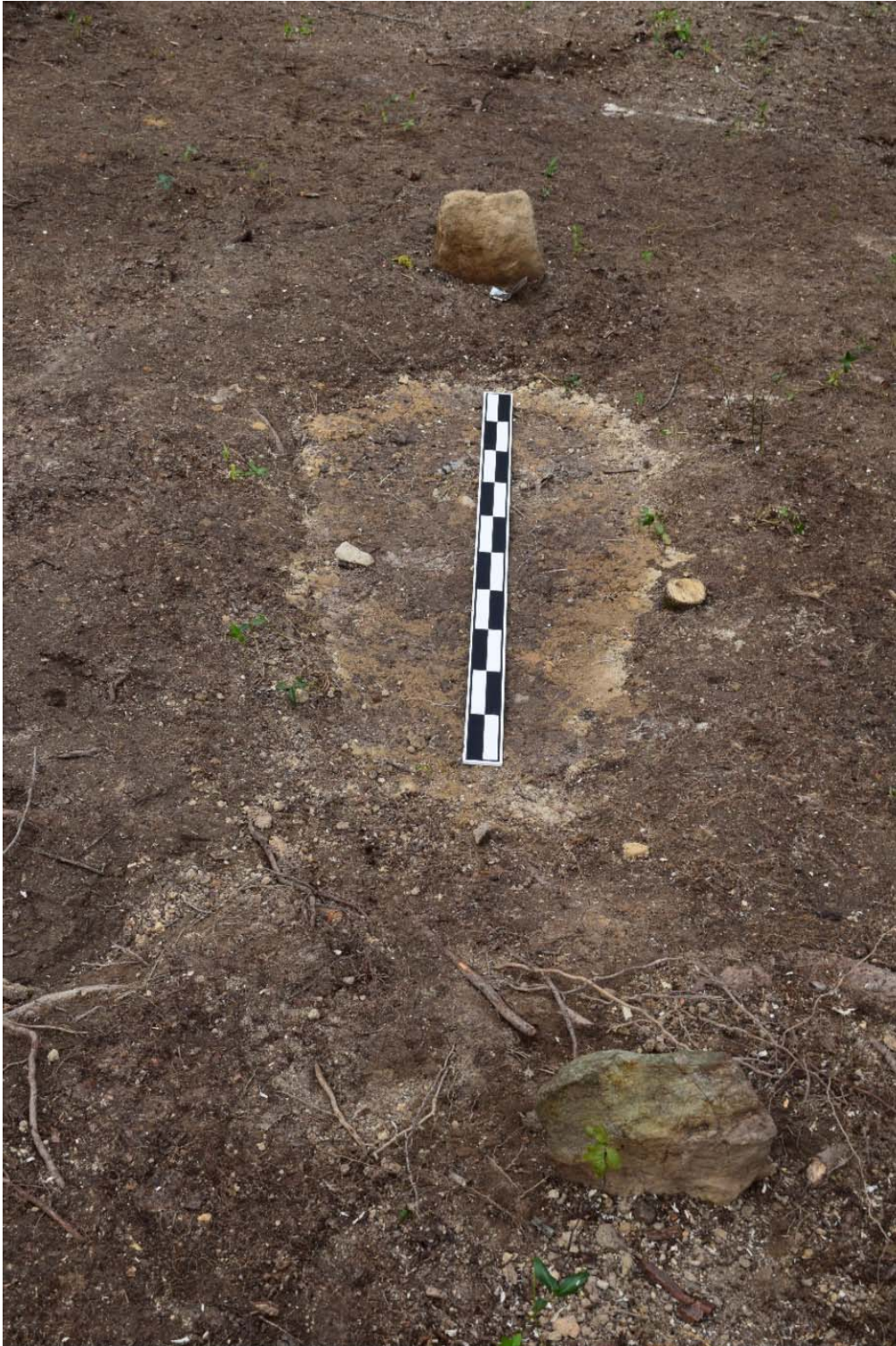


Figure 58. Grave 21, view west, showing the grave depression.



Figure 59. Grave 22, view west, showing the remnants of cedar posts alongside the rough fieldstone markers.



Figure 60. Grave 23, view west.



Figure 61. Grave 24, view west.



Figure 62. Grave 25, view west.



Figure 63. Grave 26, view west.



Figure 64. Grave 27, view west.



Figure 65. Grave 28, view west.



Figure 66. Grave 29, view west, showing a temporary marker at the head of this unmarked grave.



Figure 67. Grave 30, view west.



Figure 68. Grave 31, view west.



Figure 69. Grave 32, view west.



Figure 70. Grave 33, view west.



Figure 71. Grave 34, view west.

ⁱ The New Hope Church was officially established in 1756 and the first church building was erected in 1760 as a crude log structure with adjacent cemetery southeast of a spring. In 1775, the second church building, an octagonal log structure, was built on higher ground southwest of the same spring. In 1796, approximately 100 acres of Gilbert Strayhorn land was deeded to the New Hope Congregation (DB 5:486); this land conveyance describes the property as being located “along the edge of the road” (presumably the Hillsborough to Chapel Hill Road) and including the “meeting house” and “graveyard.” The third church building, built in 1805, was a larger structure to accommodate the growth of the congregation and located southeast of the second church building near a better spring. The third building was destroyed by fire in 1862, and the fourth building was erected during the Civil War and was completed in October 1863, despite a severe shortage of materials and labor due to the war. In 1869, a new cemetery was located on higher ground adjacent to the church. This church stood until 1956 when it was replaced with the present church. Markers on the church property and around the parking lot indicate sites of previous sanctuaries and the old session house.

ⁱⁱ The following historical summary of the 27th Regiment of the North Carolina Troops has been extracted from <http://www.d27nct.org/unit-history>.

During the American Civil War, North Carolina contributed nearly 120,000 men to the ranks of the Confederate States Army. The majority of these were concentrated in sixty infantry regiments. One of these units, the 27th Regiment of North Carolina Troops, was formed in New Bern, NC, in September of 1861. Of the ten companies that made up the regiment, eight were from eastern North Carolina and two were from Guilford and Orange counties. The men of the regiment were farmers, laborers, merchants, artisans and students. Many slave owners and yeoman farmers volunteered before North Carolina officially seceded, in order to defend their communities, their state, and their “country” from possible Federal coercion and invasion. Over the course of the war, additional volunteers, as well as conscripts and substitutes, provided replacements as disease and continued combat gutted the strength of the regiment.

ⁱⁱⁱ Terracing, often referred to as Mangum Terracing, was invented in the late nineteenth century by Priestly H. Mangum of Wake County. His plan was a system of hillside ridges used to increase cultivatable land, conserve soil moisture, and minimize erosion (<http://ncpedia.org/mangum-terrace>).