

11. Oberlin Heritage Center – 73 S. Professor

The James Monroe House originally was the home of Civil War General Giles W. Shurtleff. He was the leader of the first African-American regiment from Ohio to serve in the Civil War. Later, it became the home of James Monroe and his wife, Julia Finney Monroe. He was an important abolitionist and advocate of voting rights for African-Americans.

The Little Red Schoolhouse, built in 1836, was the first public school in town. It has been moved several times, and has been in this location since 1968.

The Jewett House, built in 1884, was the home of Oberlin College Chemistry Professor Frank Fanning Jewett and his wife, Frances Gullick Jewett. One of Jewett's students was Charles Martin Hall, who developed the process for commercially manufacturing aluminum.

Guided tours are offered on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. Admission is \$4 per person, free to children under 18 accompanied by an adult. Group tours by appointment only.

~ Continue north on South Professor.

12. Underground Railroad Monument – Talcott Hall

The structure was originally meant as a study on the horizon; however, it was purchased by the college as a monument to the Underground Railroad movement.

~ Turn right on College Street just past Main Street.

13. The Underground Railroad Quilt –

90 E. College Street, Oberlin Senior Center

The quilt on display is a pictorial representation of Oberlin's historic role in the Underground Railroad. The 24-square quilt was created by residents of Oberlin who wanted to use their skills to portray the significant history regarding the antislavery movement.

~ Return to Main Street, turn left on Main Street to Morgan Street. Turn right on Morgan. Continue on Morgan to Westwood Cemetery, on the left side.

14. Westwood Cemetery – Morgan Street

Former slaves, famous abolitionists, and many who have become known as Oberlin's "faces of change" now rest here in this beautiful park-like setting. The "On the Trail to Freedom" brochure contains a map of the cemetery, with brief notes on significant gravesites.

~ Turn right out of the cemetery and follow Morgan Street to Professor. Turn left on Professor to West Lorain. Turn right onto West Lorain. Proceed through the light at Main Street and turn right into the Allen Memorial Art Museum parking lot.

15. Allen Memorial Art Museum – 87 N. Main

This world famous college art museum includes significant and exciting works by African and African-American artists. Pick up a self-guided tour booklet at the museum.

For more information on the Underground Railroad in Oberlin:

- ◆ Lorain Public Library, 440-244-1192
- ◆ Oberlin Public Library, 440-775-4790
- ◆ Oberlin College Archives, 440-775-8014
Mudd Center, Oberlin, Ohio 44074
- ◆ "The Town That Started the Civil War" by Nat Brandt, Dell Publishing, 1990
Available at the Oberlin Bookstore, 440-774-7722
- ◆ And the:



8025 Leavitt Road • Amherst, Ohio 44001
1-800-334-1673 • 440-984-5282
www.lcvb.org • visitors@lorcnty.com

ON THE TRAIL TO FREEDOM

Driving Guide of Oberlin



Underground Railroad

Lorain County, Ohio

1. First Church in Oberlin – 106 North Main

Built in 1842, this historic church served as the meeting site for the Oberlin Anti-Slavery Society, the funeral site of a four-year-old fugitive slave child and site of the memorial service for the participants in John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry.

~ Begin your tour at First Church at the corner of Main and Lorain Streets. Pull out of the parking lot, turn right onto Main Street, proceed south to the first traffic light and turn left onto Lorain Street.

2. Bardwell House – 181 East Lorain

Built in 1846, it was the home of Reverend John Bardwell and his wife Cornelia, who were both active in missionary and anti-slavery causes. Fugitives were concealed in the house in hidden rooms located under the eaves. Closed to the public.

~ Continue along East Lorain to Orchard, turn right on Orchard, then turn right again on East College Street.

3. Langston House – 207 East College

Built in 1856, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this was the home of John Mercer Langston, wife Caroline and their children, from 1856 to 1871. John was an ardent abolitionist and civil rights leader. An Oberlin College graduate, he was Ohio's first African-American attorney, and served as the U.S. Minister to Haiti. After leaving Oberlin, he served as the Republican Congressman from Virginia. The house is privately owned and is in the process of being restored. Future plans include a living history museum and educational resource center.

~ Proceed to the intersection of East College and South Pleasant Streets.

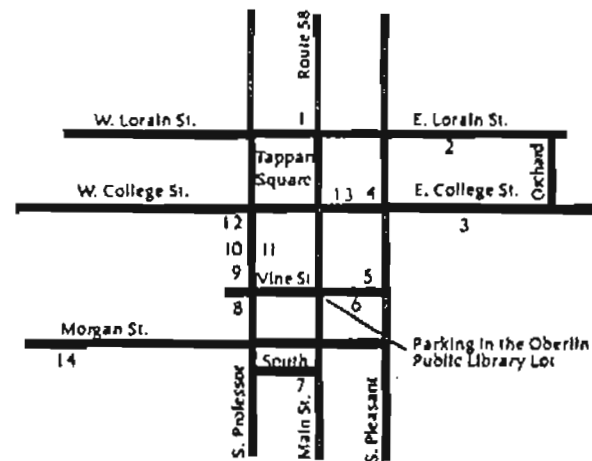
4. Charles Martin Hall – NW Corner

An alumnus of the Oberlin College, Charles Martin Hall discovered the process for developing aluminum in 1886. From that discovery he founded Aluminum Co. of America (ALCOA) and became one of the world's wealthiest men. The house was left to Oberlin College. Closed to the public.

~ At this intersection, turn left on South Pleasant Street, then right on Vine Street. You may park in the library lot or conservatory lot off Main Street. Walk to the corner of Pleasant and Vine.

5. Martin Luther King Jr Park – NW Corner

The park houses three historical monuments: the first is dedicated to Martin Luther King Jr. and was designed in 1987 by professor emeritus Paul B. Arnold. The second monument, erected in the 1860's memorializes the three black men from Oberlin who died as a result of their participation in John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry, October 20, 1859. Lewis Sheridan Leary died as a result of gunshot wounds. John Copeland and Shields Green were hanged on December 16, 1860, two weeks after John Brown's hanging. The third commemorates the Oberlin-Wellington Slave Rescue.



6a. Evans House – 33 East Vine Street

Across the street from the park is the home of Wilson Bruce Evans, which was built in 1856 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. By profession, Evans was a cabinetmaker and undertaker, and he took part in the Oberlin-Wellington Slave Rescue. He was a brother-in-law to Lewis Sheridan Leary, who was killed in Harpers Ferry. The home is still owned by descendants of the Evans family. Closed to the public.

6b. Wack Dietz House – 43 East Vine

The house to the east (left) of the Evans House was built in 1847, making it one of the oldest buildings in Oberlin. It was once home to Chauncey Wack, who was a tavern keeper and prominent Democrat of the time. He also acted as a witness in the trial of the Oberlin-Wellington Slave Rescue. The house was later the home of the Dietz family, one of whom became a famous early 20th century "labor priest." Closed to the public.

~ Continue down Vine Street to Main Street, turn left onto Main, then turn right onto South Street.

7. Oberlin Railroad Depot – SW corner South & Main

The Depot was constructed in 1866 serving as Oberlin's passenger depot from 1866 to 1949. It is owned by the Nord Family Foundation and it is used as a community center.

~ Turn right onto South Professor.

8. Dascomb House – 227 S. Professor

Built in 1853, this was the home of James Dascomb, an Oberlin College Science Professor and Oberlin's first physician. His wife, Marianne, was the principal of the Female Department of the college for 19 years. The Dascombs were responsible for planting hundreds of shade trees at the opening of Westwood Cemetery.

~ Continue north on South Professor.

9. Allencraft – 134 S. Professor

This home was built at the start of the Civil War and was home of Ralph Plumb, an Oberlin attorney, abolitionist, participant in the Oberlin-Wellington Slave Rescue, a Union Army Colonel and Republican Congressman. The house is now owned by Oberlin College and serves as a dormitory for students of Russian studies & language.

~ Continue north on South Professor.

10. James Monroe House – 78 S. Professor

This is the early home of James Monroe, who was an Instructor of Rhetoric, Political Science and International Law. He was an abolitionist who worked strongly to repeal the slave laws, and was very devoted to his cause. At a risk to his own life, and at the request of John Copeland's mother, Monroe made an unsuccessful trip to rescue the body of her son, who was hanged for his participation in the raid at Harpers Ferry. The home is now owned by Oberlin College and is a private residence.

~ Tour is continued on the reverse side.