

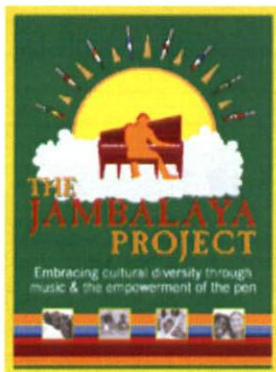
## LATTA HOUSE FOUNDATION

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### Festival on the Lawn Music and Art Series

Saturdays, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM as listed

[Click here for details!](#)



[The Jambalaya Project](#)

The Jambalaya Project is a series of music journalism workshops being offered to youth grade 6 through 12. Sessions are conducted by a professional writer and team of interns. [Read More](#)

**Read Reverend Latta's**  
Autobiography:  
**The History of My Life and Work.**



### Help restore a part of Raleigh's History

The Latta House is located on the original site of Latta University, founded in the late 1800s by Reverend Morgan Latta to educate underprivileged and orphaned children in Raleigh's black community. Today the Latta House stands just four blocks north of the Cameron Village Shopping Center in the heart of Raleigh's Historic Oberlin Village Community.

Reverend Latta was born into slavery in 1856 on the Cameron Family Plantation. He wrote a book describing his boyhood days on the plantation, his struggles to feed his family, getting an education at Shaw University, and his work to establish the Latta University. The Latta House Foundation is a private non-profit organization located at 1001 Parker Street, Raleigh, NC. The purpose of the Latta



House Foundation is the restoration of the Latta House and the promotion of its history. Our mission is to establish the Latta House as an ongoing community cultural center and archive. To achieve this purpose, the foundation works with artisans, businesses, corporations, institutions, and community organizations in Raleigh and the Triangle area to create innovative cultural and educational fundraising projects.



### News

January 8, 2007

#### **Fire Destroys the Latta House!**

The Latta House burns in an early morning fire...

July 30, 2006

#### **R&B Singer Chris Brown visits The Jambalaya Kids!**

The Jambalaya kids interviewed R&B singer Chris Brown for the Independent weekly magazine and attended his concert

July 30, 2005

#### **Reverend Latta Print by Woody "Charcoal" Chaimongkol**

Local artist Woody "Charcoal" Chaimongkol is currently working on a portrait of the Reverend Latta. Prints will be available on our website ...

May 19, 2005

#### **Senator Janet Cowell to host the 6th Annual Latta House Foundation**

North Carolina State Senator Janet Cowell and News and Observer columnist Barry Saunders will host the the 6th annual Latta House Foundation Preservation Picnic featuring Mamadou Diabate ...

April 5, 2005

#### **The Latta House Well is Uncovered**



[Click here to learn more about our proposed restoration and expansion of the Latta House.](#)



[Click here for the Latta House Bylaws in PDF format.](#)

On April 2, 2005 the old Latta House well was discovered by Bill "Shep" Shepard while doing some spring landscaping...

January 28, 2004

[Raleigh's Latta House Featured in The Independent Weekly.](#)

***A freed slave's monument to bringing people together, then and now  
BY PATRICK O' NEILL***

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## Up Coming Events (Updated 10-04-06)

**Festival on the Lawn Music and Art Series**

**Saturdays, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM as listed**

[Click here](#)

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATTA HOUSE, THE FOUNDATION, REVEREND LATTA, AND UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY TO ENJOY!**

For more information, contact Bill Shepard at 919-821-4061 or [islandting@nc.rr.com](mailto:islandting@nc.rr.com)

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## LATTA HOUSE FOUNDATION

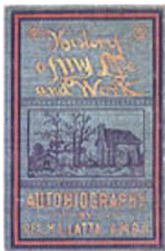
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### Neighborhood History and Evolution

After the Civil War, farmland west of Raleigh was sub-divided and lots were sold to freed African-Americans who quickly established a family community complete with homes, churches, schools and business places. The area became known as Oberlin Village, named for Oberlin College in Ohio, which had been prominent in the anti-slavery movement. Several important institutions were established in Oberlin, including Latta University, which was founded in the late 19th century by Reverend Morgan Latta. The university ceased operation around 1920 and today only one building remains, at 1001 Parker Street. Much of the original Oberlin Village gave way to redevelopment as residential suburbs expanded around Raleigh. Cameron Village was developed in 1950. Increased enrollment at N.C.S.U. prompted the razing of housing to construct apartment buildings. Today, most of the original homes are found in an area extending from Oberlin Road about four or five blocks west and from Clark Avenue to just north of Wade Avenue. Efforts to preserve some of the heritage of Oberlin Village have resulted in several buildings and houses being designated as Raleigh Historic Landmarks.



FACULTY AND STUDENTS.



Read Reverend Latta's Autobiography

#### **The History of My Life and Work.**

Autobiography by Rev. M. L. Latta, A.M., D.D.: [Electronic Edition.](#)

[North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office](#)  
[Department of Cultural Resources](#)  
[Division of Archives and History](#)

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## Latta House Destroyed by Fire!

A sad day for Raleigh and the black community, the Latta House was lost to fire in the early morning hours of January 8, 2007. The house was the last remaining building on the historic site where Latta University once stood. Bill Shepherd the care taker who lives across the street woke up to this nightmare around 4:00AM. "I was woken up by the smell of smoke" Shepherd said. "I ran to the window and saw my greatest fear realized." "The smoke was so thick." "I just couldn't believe what I was seeing."

"A team of people and myself have spent a decade trying to build awareness to save this historical treasure, this last remaining piece of black history and to follow what Reverend Latta set out to do hundreds of years ago." "To serve and bring the community together."

As for the fate of the land, the owner has stated that it will not be developed and will serve as a park. We at the foundation are rallying the community to raise funds to build a new structure on the spot where the Latta House stood. The ashes don't mean its over.

### Related Articles:

The News & Observer

<http://www.newsobserver.com/102/story/530182.html>

WRAL

<http://www.wral.com/news/state/story/1130685/>

ABC 11 Eyewitness News

<http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=triangle&id=4914637>

### Photos:

Click on thumbnails for larger image.



