

GRABLE CEMETERY

Oral History – Interviews

Information verified by conversations with:

Philip Thompson – Longview, Texas

Ernest Smith, Jr. – Longview, Texas

Chris Calloway and Daughters – Longview, Texas

Nancy Temple – Longview, Texas

Carlos Griffin, Jr. – Kilgore, Texas

Carlos B. Griffin – Kilgore, Texas

Amos Jimmerson – Longview, Texas

Tyree Daniels – Longview, Texas

Mr. and Mrs. Joe D Jones – Longview, Texas

Felton Hawkins, Garland, Texas

Cora Tempiston – Longview, Texas

Murray Woods – Kilgore, Texas

Grable Cemetery, Gregg County

Grable Cemetery is located approximately eight miles south of Longview, Texas on FM 2011 in Gregg County. The cemetery is part of Eleanor Bradley Survey. It is located on the northwest corner of the M. H. Graybill tract of land.

By the late 1800s, more people, many who were former slaves or descendents of former slaves and now tenant farmers or sharecroppers, have moved to this area of Gregg County. These farmers needed a burial place. In October 1888, Silas M. Graybill, Judith Windsor, W. A. Windsor and Beall Graybill sold a tract of land to M. M. Graybill for \$1,000.00 and a small part of this land was designated as a burial place for the sharecroppers of the landowner.

In 1910, M. M. Graybill sold all of level land on the top of the hill located in the northeast corner of his tract to people of the Pleasant Green, Fredonia, also called Stump Toe, New Hope and St. James communities. This tract of land was to be held in trust for a burial place for the "colored" people of these communities. (V. "X". P. 15, Deed Records Gregg County, Texas). In 1937 a corrected deed with a specific description of the land, 3.52 acres, was issued to Wil Davis et. al, Trustee, from M.M. Graybill. (V. 219, P. 458, Deed Records, Gregg County, Texas.

From 1910 this cemetery has been and continues to be maintained by the people of the named communities as the main burial place for Blacks and their descendents in these

communities. The oldest identifiable graves date back to the late 1800s. Rocks and stones marked the older grave sites and evidence of a few remain. (Photos) The oldest marked grave is Robert Davis who died July 22, 1903. The second oldest is Betsy Woods born, 1865 died 1905. (Photos of grave markers.

Graybill Cemetery is governed and maintained by an Association which selects trustees, hires a caretaker and oversees the care and maintenance of the cemetery. The Association holds an annual meeting in conjunction with "Clean up" Day. The Association strives to provide a tranquil resting place for their ancestors and preserve it for their descendants.

(Re-typed for double-spacing only; no corrections made...June 9, 2003, Norman Black,
DDS)

Texas Historical Commission staff (LCH), 7/27/2004

Historic Texas Cemetery Medallion and 12" x 16" interpretive plaque with post

Gregg County (Job #09104) Subject GY, AA (Atlas 13060) UTM: 15 333833E 3587783N

Location: Longview, 8 mi. S on FM 2011, near int. with CR 349

GRABLE CEMETERY

M.H. GRAYBILL ACQUIRED LAND HERE IN 1888. HE SET ASIDE A TRACT TO BE USED AS A BURIAL GROUND FOR LOCAL AFRICAN AMERICAN SHARECROPPERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. IN 1910, GRAYBILL (THE CEMETERY SPELLING CHANGED OVER TIME) SOLD THIS TRACT OF LAND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE AREA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES, MANY OF WHOM WERE FORMER SLAVES OR DESCENDANTS OF SLAVES. SINCE THAT TIME, RESIDENTS HAVE MAINTAINED THE BURIAL GROUND, WHICH IS MANAGED BY A CEMETERY ASSOCIATION. THE EARLIEST MARKED GRAVES DATE TO THE EARLY 1900s, AND UNIQUE FEATURES INCLUDE ROWS OF WHITE CROSSES DENOTING BURIAL SITES OF FORMER SLAVES.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY - 2003

Check one and sign:

- I approve text as written. Proceed with order.
 I approve text with minor revisions as noted. Proceed with order.
 I request these revisions and a new copy of text.

Signed: *Dr. Wanda B. Beck*

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

List additional descriptions or information on separate pages, if necessary.

1. CEMETERY/BURIAL GRABLE CEMETERY County GREGG
 Also known as _____

2. LOCATION/SIZE Metes and bounds, any survey references (e.g., L. Garrett Survey, Section 2, Abstract 5248):
AB 17 E. BRADLEY SURVEY, SECTION 2
26 ft X 624.72 234.69 X 745.03 ft. OR 3.5 ACRES

Street address, town, city, zip code and/or specific directions from nearest town, distance from nearest intersection or permanent landmark or state or county road:
LOCATED EIGHT MELES SOUTH OF LONGVIEW, TEXAS ON FM 2011
IN GREGG COUNTY (FROM GREGG CO. COURTHOUSE.)

Optional: UTM: _____ Zone: _____ Northing: _____ Easting: _____
 Optional: Latitude: _____ N Longitude: _____ W

3. THE CEMETERY MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA

At least 50 years of age Historic associations
 (Two basic criteria govern the approval for the Historic Texas Cemetery designation: (1) The cemetery must be at least 50 years old, and (2) deemed worthy of preservation for its historic associations. The very nature of a cemetery being a landmark of a family's or community's presence is considered to validate the criteria of historic associations.)

4. ORIGINS Texas courts hold that no particular instrument or ceremony is required to dedicate land to cemetery purposes. Its actual use as a cemetery is sufficient (Damon v. State, 52 S.W. 2d 368 Tex. 1932). If known, please provide information as to the ownership of the land out of which this cemetery was set aside and when this took place:

GRABLE CEMETERY WAS PART OF THE M.H. GRAYBILL TRACT.
NORTHEAST CORNER DEEDED TO "COLORED TRUSTEES FOR BURIAL SITE ON
FEBRUARY 15, 1910 AND CORRECTED DEED ISSUED ON JULY 10, 1937.

5. TRUSTEESHIP OR AUTHORITY OVER CEMETERY Public Private Both

Name of individual, trustee, political entity, organization or religious institution associated with cemetery or whose land surrounds cemetery MARVIN CALLOWAY, I

Address 1316 PLEASANT GREEN ROAD City LONGVIEW Zip 75603
 Phone (903) 643-3565 Fax () Email _____

Contact person, sexton or caretaker ERNEST SMITH, JR.

Address 2204 NEAL STREET City LONGVIEW Zip 75602
 Phone (903) 757-7759 Fax () Email _____

6. OWNERSHIP OF LAND ADJACENT TO CEMETERY

(Please indicate on the site map the location of each owner's property)

Owner no. 1 JOANNA BLACK SMITH
Address 123 BAUDOIN STREET City LAFAYETTE, LA Zip 70503
Phone () Fax () Email address

Owner no. 2 EUBANK MANUFACTURING COMPANY-ROBERT RASH ASSOCIATES
Address P.O. Box 1600 City ROWLETT, TX Zip 75030
Phone (903) 553-1252 Fax () Email address

Owner no. 3 MARCUS EUBANKS, et al
Address P.O. Box 7576 City LONGVIEW Zip 75607
Phone (903) 643-3827 Fax () Email address

Owner no. 4 STEVE AND BETTY FULLER
Address RTE. 11 Box 411C City LONGVIEW Zip 75603
Phone () Fax () Email address

7. HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS

Is property listed in the National Register of Historic Places? Yes No
If Yes, date of listing

Does this cemetery already have an Official Texas Historical Marker? Yes No
If Yes, title and date of marker

8. PERSON COMPLETING THIS FORM

Name MARVIN CALLOWAY, I Date May 19, 2003
Affiliation TRUSTEE
Address 1316 PLEASANT GREEN ROAD City LONGVIEW Zip 75603
Phone (903) 643-3565 Fax () Email address

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

- Narrative history and local context of the cemetery (one page)
- Current black & white photos (and historical photos if available); color prints will not be accepted except as supplemental to a core set of black & white photos, see page 4 of instructions.
- Documentation for the *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* (site map)
- Processing fee of \$25.00 (non-refundable)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Approximate number of burials 397 Date/name of first known interment LATE 1880s (UNKNOWN NAME)
1903 EMILY DAVIS

Do cemetery burial or association records exist? Yes No
Has the cemetery been inventoried? Yes No

Author, title, date, location, availability of above records/inventories or other published material about this cemetery/site

Cemetery status Active Inactive
Scheduled cleanings? Yes No If yes, when? PERIODICALLY AS NEEDED
Association meetings? Yes No If yes, when? MONTHLY and ANNUALLY
Accessible to the public? Yes No Evidence of unmarked graves? Yes No
Evidence of vandalism? Yes No Problems with erosion? Yes No

MONUMENTS AND GRAVESTONES

1936 Texas Centennial Markers Yes No (if Yes, list/briefly describe)

Does this cemetery contain (an) individual THC grave marker(s)? Yes No
If Yes, give name(s) of individual(s)

Statuary: Yes No (if Yes, list)

Stone markers?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Concrete markers?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Wood markers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Zinc markers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Handmade markers?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Obelisks?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Mausoleums?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Grave decorations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Others:			

VETERANS' GRAVES IN CEMETERY

War of 1812	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Texas Revolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Civil War	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The Indian Wars	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Mexican American War	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Spanish American War	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
World War I	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	World War II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Korean War	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Vietnam War	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Others (e.g., Texas Rangers)			

IDENTIFIABLE HERITAGE

Identifiable Local Historical Heritage:
 Graves associated with a specific event

Early town or community ties PEATOWN, FREDONIA, New Hope, St JAMES

Identifiable Cultural Heritage: (Specifics, if known)
 African heritage: _____
 Asian heritage: _____
 European heritage: _____
 Mexican heritage: _____
 American Indian heritage: _____
 Other heritage(s): _____

Identifiable Religious Heritage: (Specifics, if known)
 Catholic: _____
 Islamic: _____
 Jewish: _____
 American Indian: _____
 Protestant: _____
 Others: _____

List Fraternal Organizations represented MASONIC Lodges, HEROINES OF JERICHO

FEATURES

Entry gate(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Decorative fencing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Perimeter fencing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Grave/family plot curbing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Grave/family plot fencing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Gravehouse(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Tabernacle(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Seating areas, benches	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Segregated burials	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Well(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Others (e.g., urns, gazebo)	_____		

LANDSCAPING

Flower beds	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Ground cover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Shrubbery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Trees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Terracing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Walkway(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Others	_____		

Notes:

Approval of County Historical Commission
The application must be approved by the County Historical Commission (CHC) before forwarding to the THC.
Normen W. Black, D.D.S., chair.
Printed Name of CHC chair or marker chair
Norman W. Black D.D.S. 6-19-03
Signature
Mailing Address: 417 Moberly Ave.
Daytime Phone: 903/757-2267 Fax: 903/757-5337
Date: 6-19-03 Email: _____





**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 10, 2003

Marvin Calloway
1316 Pleasant Green Road
Longview, TX 75603

RE: GG-C007: Pending Historic Texas Cemetery Designation: Grable Cemetery, Gregg County, Texas

Dear Mr. Calloway:

Thank you for your application to the Texas Historical Commission for an Official Historic Texas Cemetery Designation. It has been received in the History Programs Division office, and we look forward to working with you on this project. Please refer to your guidelines and application booklet for information on the application process, but if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call us.

In making a preliminary review of the submitted material, we have noticed items that need clarification. If a list of one or more items appears in the space below, we would ask that you submit these items as soon as possible. Due to budget considerations, the Texas Historical Commission will not be able to fill my assistant's position; therefore, I am running the program by myself. Your application will come up for review in approximately 60 days. In order to be fair to all the marker applicants, we review the applications in the order in which they are received.

Here is what we need to complete your application packet:

Narrative History: We ask that you identify and provide a list of sources (bibliography) used to write the narrative history of the cemetery. If you or the cemetery association is planning to apply for an interpretive plaque, please also include footnotes. I am enclosing an example of a narrative history of a cemetery with a bibliography and footnotes.

Thank you for your interest in preserving Texas' cemeteries. If you have questions at any point throughout the process, please do not hesitate to call me at 512/475-4167. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerron S. Hite".

Gerron S. Hite, RA
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator
gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us
enclosure

cc: Dr. Norman Black, Chair, Gregg County Historical Commission



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

HISTORY PROGRAMS DIVISION
512/463-6063

P.O. Box 12276 • Austin, TX 78711-2276

Official Texas Historical Marker
Payment Form

Marker Title: Grable Cemetery

County: Gregg Job Number: #09104 Amt. Enclosed: \$750.00

Please specify method of payment: Check enclosed*
 Visa
 MasterCard

*Checks should be made payable to **TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Credit card number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: Marvin Calloway

FOR THC OFFICE USE ONLY:	
Remittance #:	_____
Check #:	_____
Amount:	_____

MARVIN OR ETHEL CALLOWAY

88-23607189
2102218

3118

03428492
2913 N. WHITTEN PH. 592-3308
TYLER, TX 75702

DATE 8/11/03

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

Texas Historical Commission \$ 750⁰⁰
Seven hundred-fifty and 00/100 DOLLARS

SOUTHSIDE BANK

MEMBER FDIC
TYLER - LINDALE - WHITEHOUSE - 903-531-7200
LONGVIEW - 903-295-9888
www.southside.com

MARVIN OR ETHEL CALLOWAY

MEMO

Master

Marvin Calloway

⑆111923607⑆ 3118 ⑈2102218⑈01

3 BELONG WALKET OR DUPLICATE SAFETY PAPER

Security In Print
Included
Check Serial



Gregg County Historical Commission

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone 903-757-2261
Fax # 903-753-5337

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

August 11, 2003

Gerron S Hite, RA
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator
History Programs Division
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: GG-C007 Historic Texas Cemetery Designation: Grable Cemetery, Gregg County,
Texas

Dear Gerron:

Mr. Marvin Calloway just brought this check for \$750.00 for a medallion and a small interpretive plate on a post. He also brought the page of notes which is also enclosed. I believe he has things in this that they would like in the text. I explained how it works to him.

Sincerely,

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

Enc.

Grable Cemetery Inscription

for

Medallion with Interpretive Plaque

M. H. Graybill in April, 1910 designated a parcel of land to be held in trust by the hereafter mentioned parties as a burial place for the colored people of the neighborhoods.

I have granted, sold and conveyed and by these present do grant, sell, and convey unto said Will Davis, Ben Woods, and Henderson Richardson of the County of Gregg, state of Texas in the northeast corner of this tract of land being part of the Eleanor Bradley survey.

From 1910, this cemetery has been and continues to be maintained by the people of the neighborhoods in which it is located.

Grable Cemetery Inscription

for
Medallion with Interpretive Plaque

M. H. Graybill in April, 1910 designated a parcel of land to be held in trust by the hereafter mentioned parties as a burial place for the colored people of the neighborhoods.

I have granted, sold and conveyed and by these present do grant, sell, and convey unto said Will Davis, Ben Woods, and Henderson Richardson of the County of Gregg, state of Texas in the northeast corner of this tract of land being part of the Eleanor Bradley survey.

From 1910, this cemetery has been and continues to be maintained by the people of the neighborhoods in which it is located.

MARVIN OR ETHEL CALLOWAY

88-2360/1119
2102218

3118

03428492

2913 N. WHITTEN PH. 592-3308
TYLER, TX 75702

DATE 8/11/03

DELUXE WALLET OR DUPLICATE SAFETY PAPER

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

Texas Historical Commission

\$ 750⁰⁰

Seven hundred fifty and 00/100

DOLLARS

Security Features Included. Details on Back.

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TYLER - LINDALE - WHITEHOUSE - 903-531-7200
LONGVIEW - 903-295-9888
www.southside.com

MARVIN OR ETHEL CALLOWAY

MEMO

marker

Marvin Calloway

⑆ 111923607⑆ 3118 ⑆ 2102218 ⑆ 01



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

Dr. Black
GCC 200328422 3 PGS

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWERENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AFFIDAVIT OF DEDICATION FOR CEMETERY PURPOSES FOR THE GRABLE CEMETERY

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF GREGG

§
§
§

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That the Texas Historical Commission, an agency of the State of Texas, does hereby certify and declare:

That the Grable Cemetery, previously filed and recorded in the Official Public Records of Gregg County, Texas, in Vol. M, Pg. 427; Vol. X, Pg. 15; Vol. 219, Pg. 468 and more particularly described in Exhibit A as attached hereto, has been set aside and dedicated for cemetery purposes through historic use and that such property is now occupied by human graves.

That the Texas Historical Commission has duly considered the evidence of existence and historic use of said cemetery and has listed said cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery, worthy of preservation.

That this dedication is subject to all the laws, rules, and regulations of the State of Texas regarding cemeteries now in effect and to those adopted after the effective date of this dedication, and is made in accordance with 13 Tex. Admin. Code Section §21.30.

This Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes is signed and executed on this 8th day of October, 2003.

F. Lawrence Oaks
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission

§
§
§

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

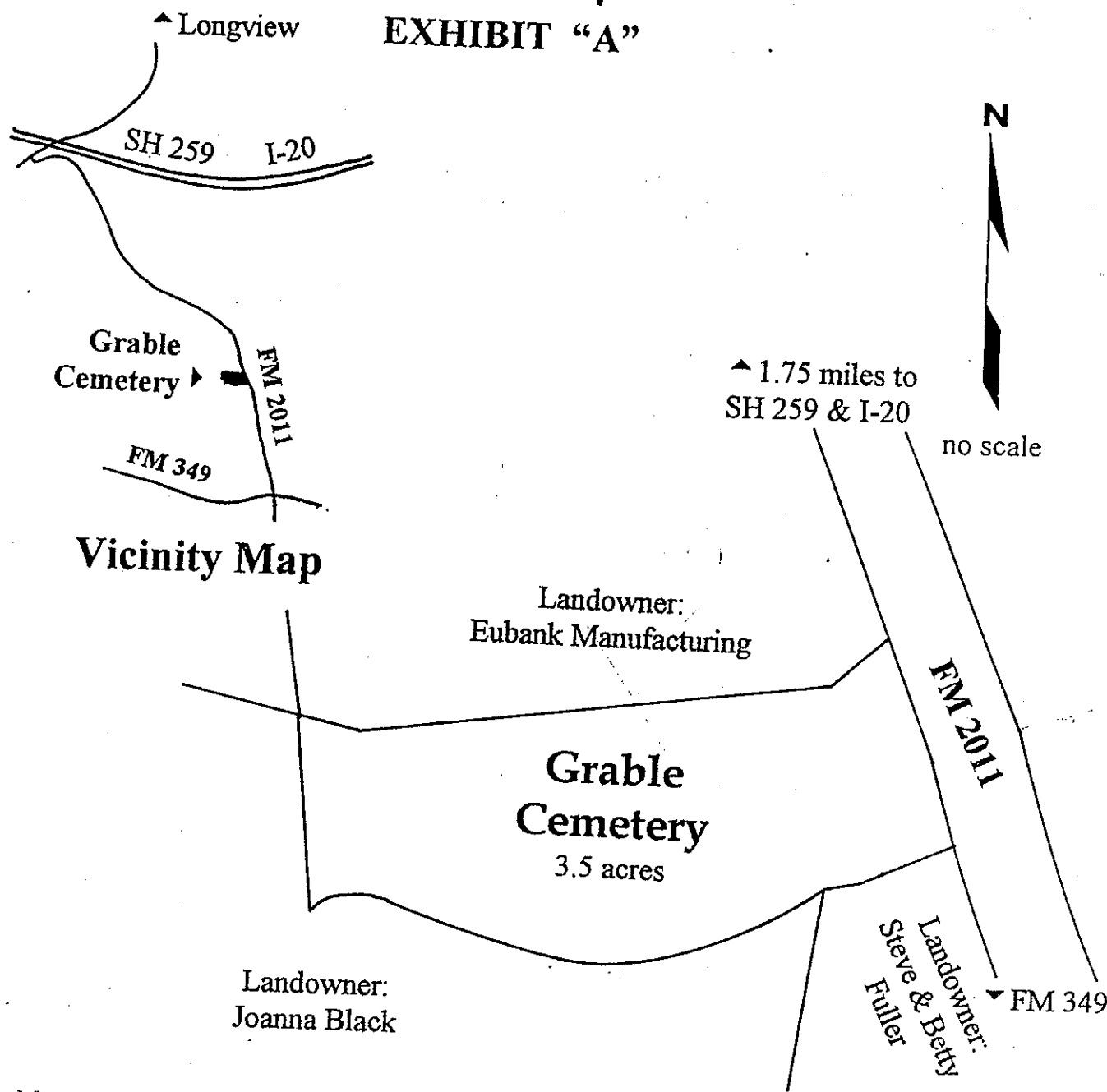
BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared D. Lawrence Oaks, known to me to be a credible person, whose name is above subscribed, and said person swore to me the statements contained herein are true and correct.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on this 8th day of October, 2003.

Maria Cassidy
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the STATE OF TEXAS



EXHIBIT "A"



Map adopted from data provided by the applicant and Gregg County Appraisal District.

See Deed Records of Gregg County, Vol. M, Pg. 427;

Vol. X, Pg. 15 and Vol. 219, Pg. 468.

Located in E. Bradley Survey, Section 2, A-17, Gregg County, Texas.

UTM: Zone: 15 Easting: 333753.0 Northing: 3587758.0

Latitude: 32° 24' 52.02" N Longitude: 94° 46' 4.77" W

GRABLE CEMETERY

Cemetery No. GG-C007

Gregg County

FILED AND RECORDED
OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS

Gladys Carver

2003 NOV 12 01:18 PM 200328422

GG \$16.00

GLADYCE CARVER, COUNTY CLERK
GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS

*Marvin Calloway
1316 Pleasant Green Rd
Longview 75603*



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone 903-757-2261
Fax # 903-753-5337

January 24, 2004

Gerron S. Hite, RA
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: GG-C007 Historic Texas Cemetery Designation, Grable Cemetery, Gregg County

Dear Gerron:

Enclosed is the requested information listed in you last letter, December 2, 2003.

Sincerely,

Norman Black, D.D.S.

Enc.

cc: Marvin Calloway



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 2, 2003

Marvin Calloway, I
1316 Pleasant Green Rd.
Longview TX 75603

RE: GG-C007: Historic Texas Cemetery Designation, Grable Cemetery, Gregg County

Dear Mr. Calloway:

The Texas Historical Commission is honored to designate the Grable Cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC). The enclosed certificate is a testimony of your commitment to the preservation of this important historic resource.

A cemetery or burial site that has received the Historic Texas Cemetery designation is eligible to display the special HTC markers. The purchase of a cemetery marker is not required in conjunction with this designation, but if you would like to order one, we are enclosing the application form. **Please note that the marker process is separate from the designation process and therefore has different requirements.** The basic information you will need to provide if you are ordering a medallion with interpretive plaque is a detailed narrative history (4-5 pages, or longer, and double-spaced) with footnotes and a bibliography, a county/city map showing the cemetery location, and a photograph of the proposed marker site. To begin the marker process, send the application and the required documentation to Dr. Norman Black, Chair, Gregg County Historical Commission, 417 Mobberly Ave. Longview TX 75602 for review and approval.

Please find enclosed a sample press release and a fact sheet with background information on preserving cemeteries should you choose to publicize your cemetery's HTC designation. This is an optional choice that we leave to the discretion of those affiliated with the cemetery, as there are circumstances where drawing attention to an isolated burial ground may not be prudent. However, highlighting this additional level of recognition for an already highly visible cemetery can be a positive way to reassert the fact that the community treasures the sacred burial ground.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerron S. Hite".

Gerron S. Hite, RA
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator

cc: Dr. Norman Black, Chair, Gregg County Historical Commission

Enclosures





HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY MARKERS

The purchase and display of a historical marker is not a required component of the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation, but the Texas Historical Commission (THC) offers several options for those situations in which a marker will contribute favorably to the preservation or interpretation of a historic cemetery. Permission to place the marker must be obtained from the duly authorized association, institution or family responsible for the cemetery.

CEMETERY NAME (As it appears on the HTC designation certificate):

GRABLE CEMETERY
County GREGG
Location 8 miles South of Longview, Tx - Hwy 2011

AUTHORIZATION:

Name MARVIN CALLOWAY
Affiliation Grable Cemetery Board
Address 1316 Pleasant Green Rd
City, State, Zip Longview, Tx 75603
Phone 903-592-3308 Fax E-mail
Signature Marvin Calloway Date 1/5/04

Requirements for historical markers:

1. Only a designated Historic Texas Cemetery is eligible for an HTC marker. The designation process must be complete before a marker application can be processed.
2. Once a cemetery is designated an HTC, no additional documentation is required for either an HTC medallion or an HTC medallion with name and date plaque. However, for *medallions with interpretive plaques*, a footnoted narrative history with a bibliography, approved by the THC staff, is required in addition to the HTC designation. The THC reserves the right to approve or reject the support documentation based on accepted practices and standards of historical research. For additional information, see *Documenting Local History* or contact THC staff.
3. Prior approval of the county historical commission is required for all HTC markers (see below).

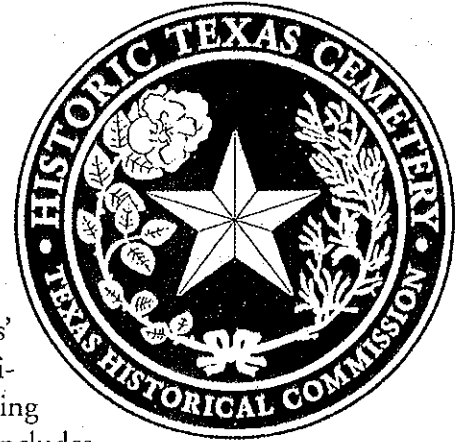
Approval of County Historical Commission

The marker application and narrative history must be approved by the county historical commission (CHC) before being forwarded to the THC.

Printed name of CHC chair or marker chair: ✓
Signature: Wesley H. Mabry, D. Ed. Date: 1-24-04
Mailing address: ✓
Daytime phone: ✓ Fax: ✓ e-mail: ✓

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

A cemetery deemed worthy of recognition and preservation for its historical associations is eligible to be designated a Historic Texas Cemetery.



INTRODUCTION

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is the state agency for historic preservation, responsible for identifying, protecting and interpreting Texas' historic resources. The THC works with interested citizens, county historical commissions and heritage groups to preserve historic resources, including cemeteries. The application for the Historic Texas Cemetery designation includes instructions explaining the criteria, research methods and documentation necessary for the designation.

BACKGROUND

For many years, concerned citizens have contacted the THC about the preservation of historic cemeteries located in both urban and rural settings. With the expansion of many urban areas, historic cemeteries are increasingly threatened; sometimes they disappear over the years with the removal of one gravestone at a time, while others disappear completely overnight. In rural areas, historic cemeteries are threatened by the partitioning of large tracts of land for residential development, by the absence of fencing — which allows livestock to topple and break up gravestones — and by the expansion of cultivated acreage. These beautiful, historic cemeteries, often displaying symbols of religious beliefs and preserving ancestral genealogy, are under threat now and could be lost forever.

PURPOSE

The THC developed the Historic Texas Cemetery to address the problems of destruction, neglect and illegal removal of historic cemeteries. This designation cannot guarantee that a cemetery will be fully protected from destruction, but official recognition of these family and community landmarks highlights their importance and promotes respect and reverence that hopefully will encourage further preservation of these unique resources.

CRITERIA

Two basic criteria govern the approval for the Historic Texas Cemetery designation. The cemetery must be at least 50 years old and deemed worthy of recognition for its historical associations as documented with the application. *(over)*



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

P.O. BOX 12276, AUSTIN, TX 78711-2276
PHONE 512/463-5853 • FAX 512/475-3122
www.thc.state.tx.us

GRABLE CEMETERY in Gregg County

Grable Cemetery is located approximately eight miles south of Longview, Gregg County, Texas on Farm Road (FM) 2011. It is located in the northwest corner of the M. H. Graybill tract of land in the Eleanor Bradley Survey.

By the late 1880s more people, many who were former slaves or descendents of former slaves and now tenant farmers or sharecroppers, had moved to this area of Gregg County. These farmers needed a burial place. In October 1888, S. M. Graybill, Judith Windsor, W. A. Windsor and Beall Graybill sold a tract of land to M. H. Graybill for \$1,000.00. A small part of this land was designated as a burial place for the sharecroppers of the landowners.¹

In 1910, M. H. Graybill sold all of the level land on the top of the hill located in the northeast corner of his tract to people of the Pleasant Green, Fredonia, also called Stump Toe, New Hope and St. James communities. This tract of land was to be held in trust for a burial place for the "colored people" of these communities.² In 1937, a corrected deed with a specific description of the land, 3.52 acres, was issued to Will Davis, *et. al.* Trustees, from M. H. Graybill.³

From 1910, this cemetery has been and continues to be maintained by the people of the named communities as the main burial place for blacks and their descendents in these communities. The oldest identifiable graves date to the late 1800s and are marked

¹ Deed Records of Rusk County, Vol. M, p. 427.

² Deed Records of Gregg County, Vol. X, p. 15.

³ Deed Records of Gregg County, Vol. 219, p. 468..

by rocks and stones.⁴ The oldest, mostly illegible, graves appear to be in 1902.⁵ The oldest dated marked grave is that of Robert Davis who died July 22, 1903.⁶ The second oldest grave is that of Betsy who died in 1905.⁷

Grable Cemetery is maintained and governed by an association, which selects trustees, hires a caretaker and oversees the care and upkeep of the cemetery. The association holds an annual meeting in conjunction with an "Annual Clean-up Day". The association strives to provide a tranquil resting place for their ancestors and preserve it for their descendants.

Marvin Calloway

Re-typed by Norman Black

⁴ Photographs, exhibits 4 and 5.

⁵ Photographs, exhibits 6 and 7

⁶ Photograph, exhibit 8.

⁷ Photograph, exhibit 9.

GRABLE CEMETERY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

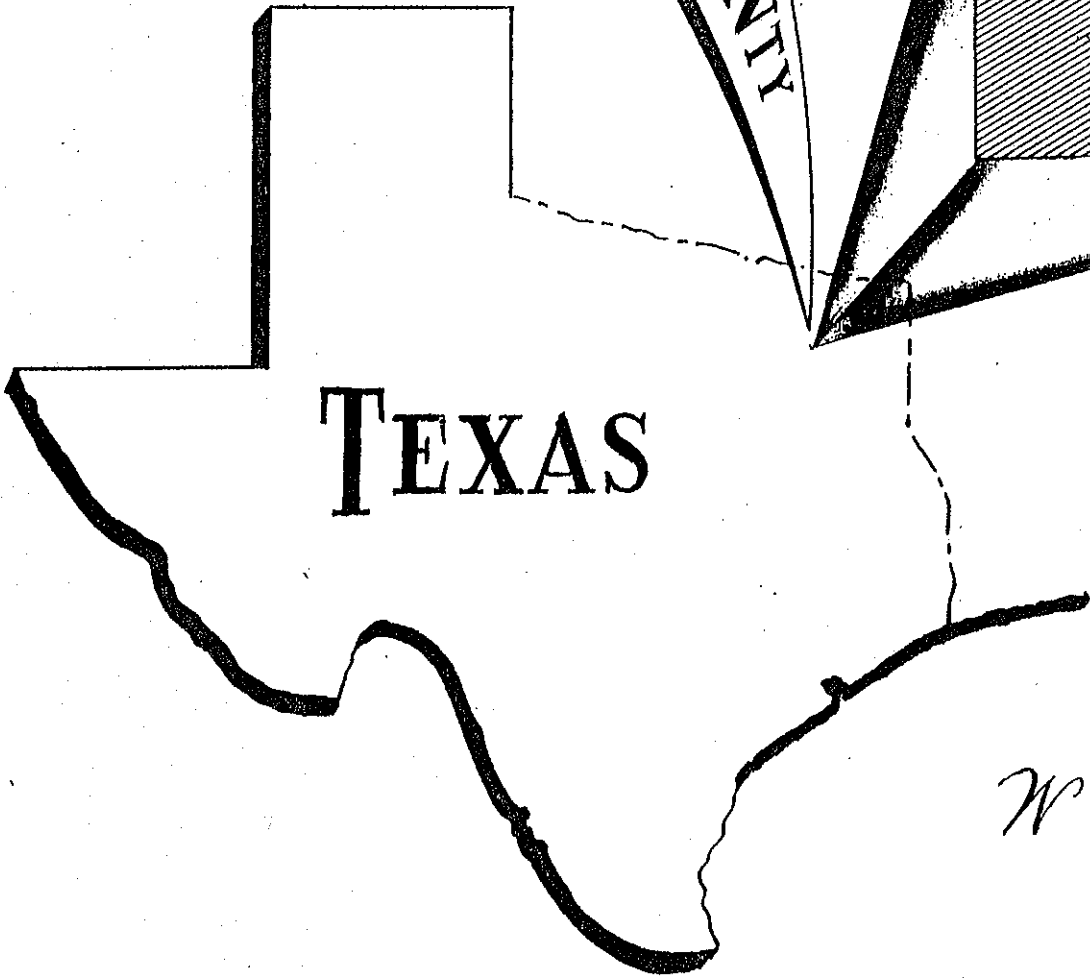
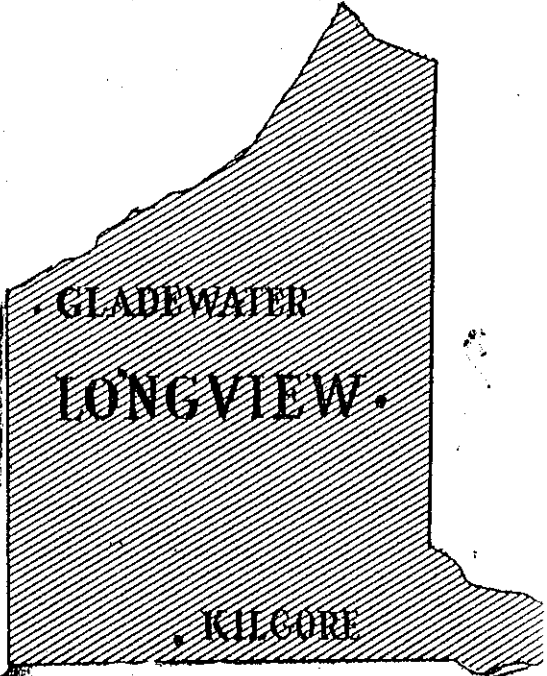
Deed Records of Gregg County, vol. X., p. 15, vol. 219, p. 468.

Deed Records of Rusk County, vol. M., p. 427.

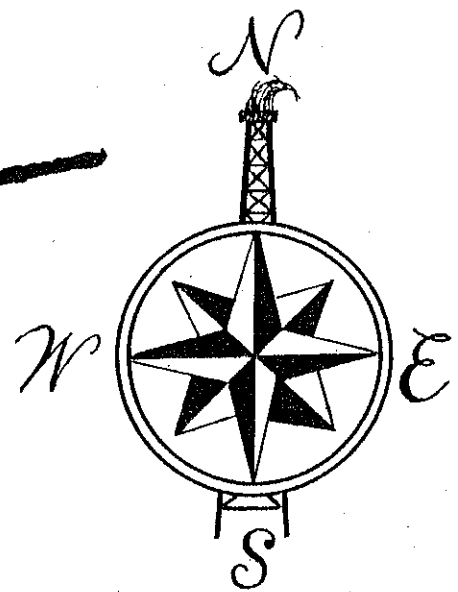
Grave markers and inscriptions

Personal communications

GREGG COUNTY



TEXAS



GREGG COUNTY

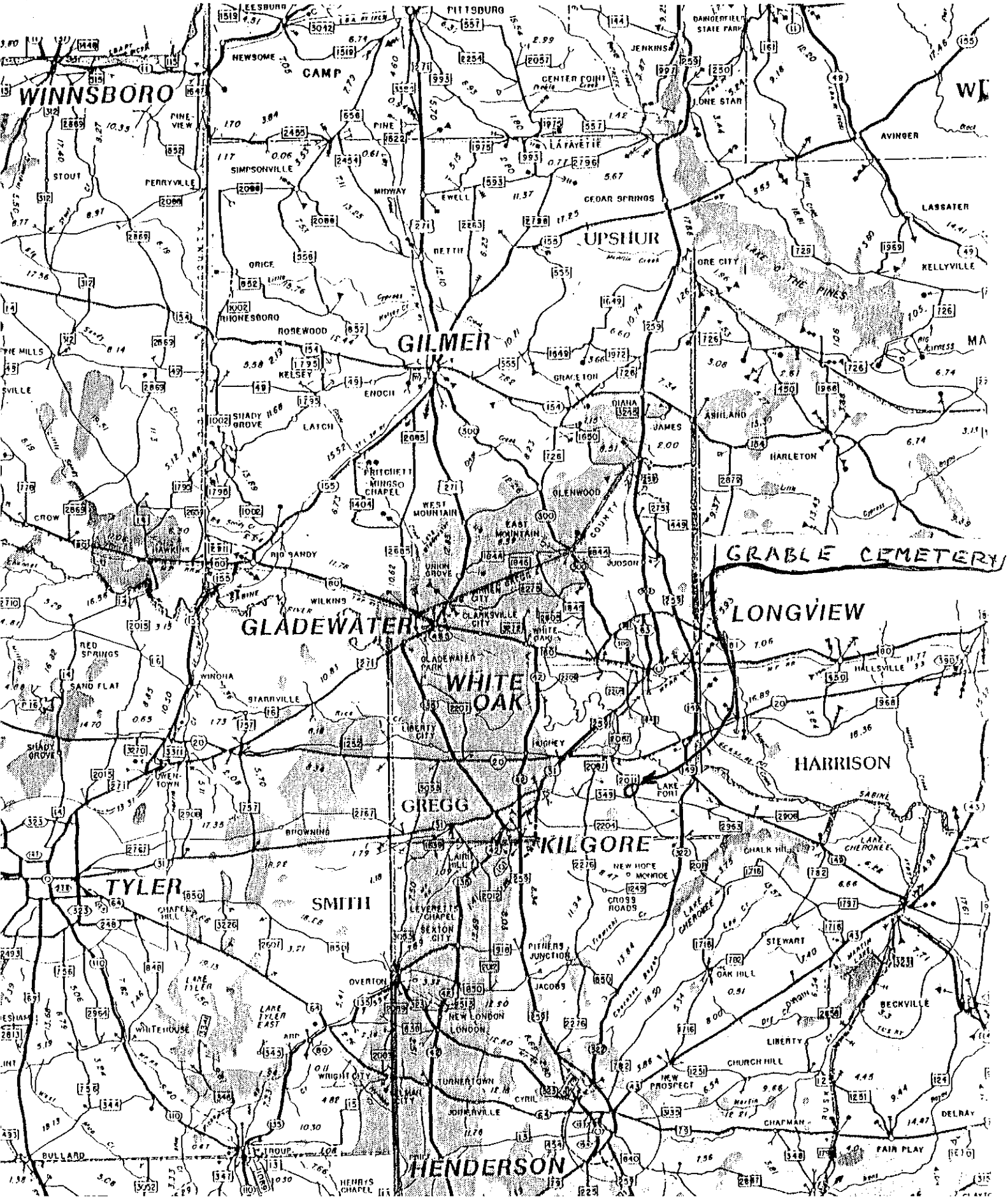
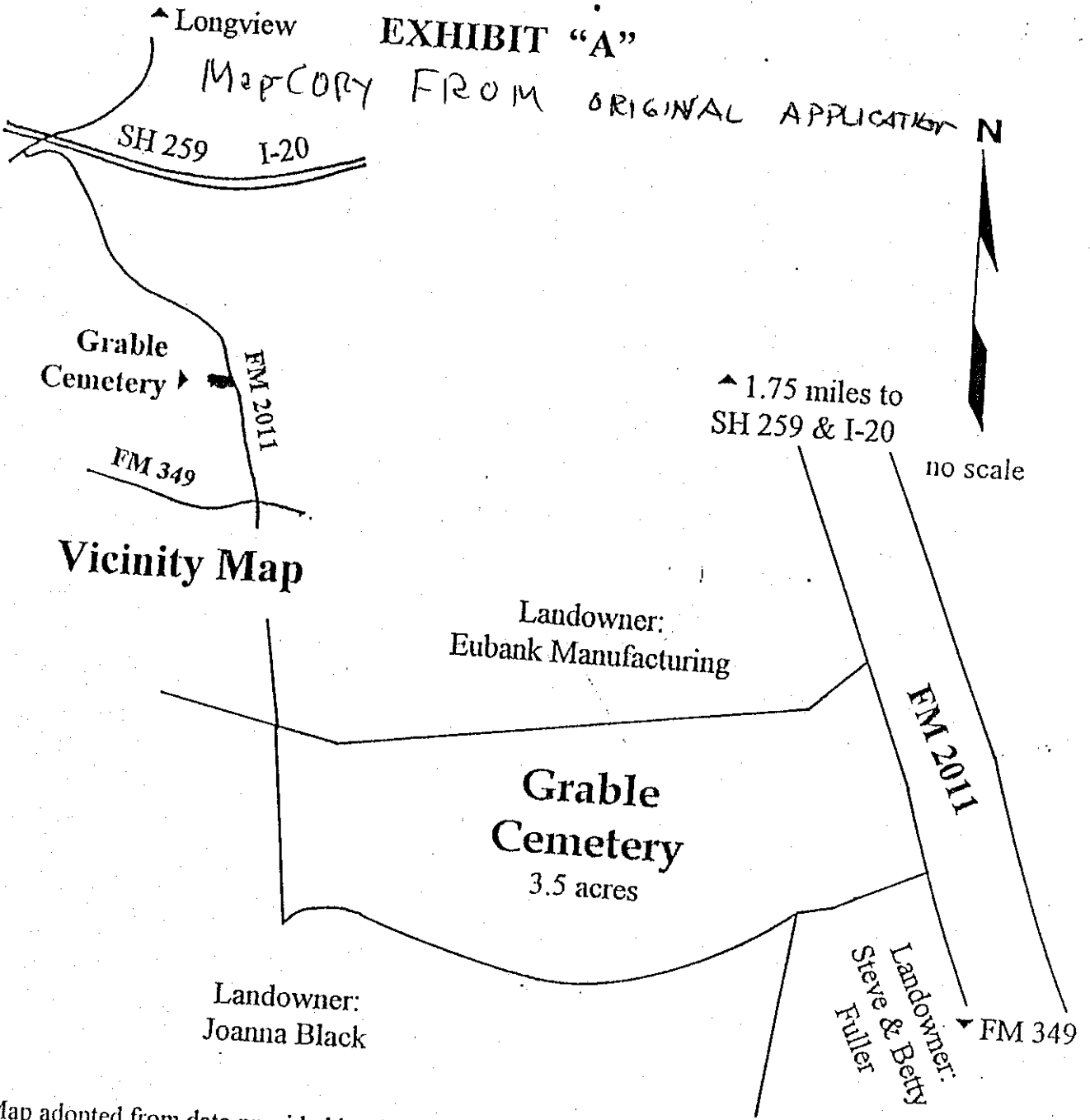


EXHIBIT "A"

Map COPY FROM ORIGINAL APPLICATION

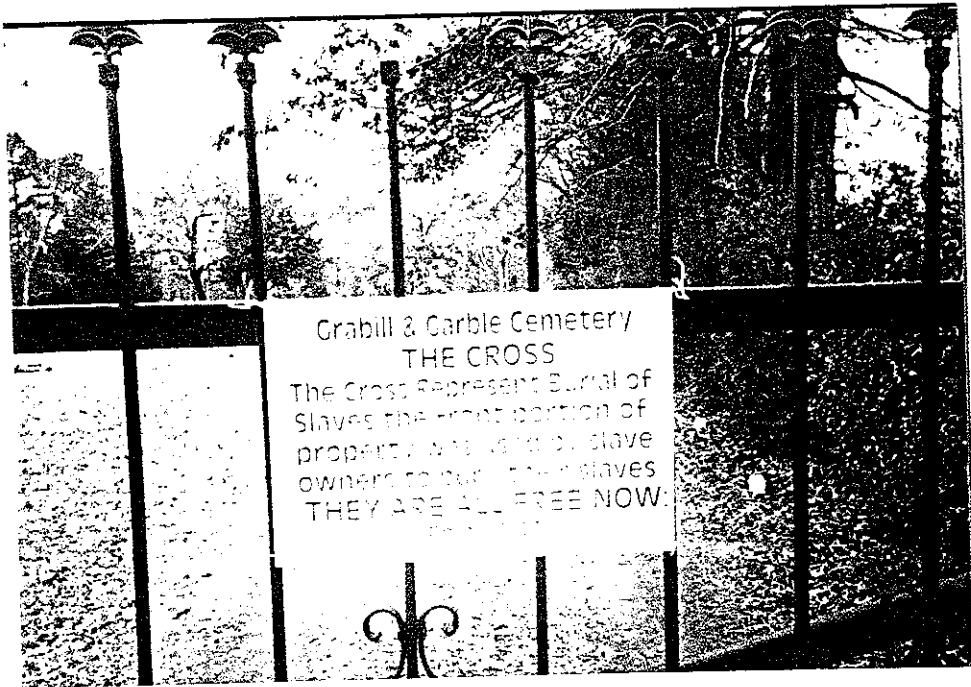


Vicinity Map

Map adopted from data provided by the applicant and Gregg County Appraisal District.
 See Deed Records of Gregg County, Vol. M, Pg. 427;
 Vol. X, Pg. 15 and Vol. 219, Pg. 468.
 Located in E. Bradley Survey, Section 2, A-17, Gregg County, Texas.
 UTM: Zone: 15 Easting: 333753.0 Northing: 3587758.0
 Latitude: 32° 24' 52.02" N Longitude: 94° 46' 4.77" W

GRABLE CEMETERY

Cemetery No. GG-C007
 Gregg County



proposed marker site
within fenced area.



1-15-04





Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone 903-757-2261
Fax # 903-753-5337

February 5, 2005

Paul Jaap,
Area Engineer
Texas Department of Transportation
1301 A Karnes Road
Longview, Texas 75604

Re: Historical Marker direction signs

Dear Mr. Japp:

Recently the Gregg County and State of Texas erected two historical markers: one for the Grable Cemetery and one for the Pleasant Green Baptist Church.

The Gregg CHC requests that TxDot install four "Historical Marker One Mile" signs at these locations:

On FM Road 349 one mile East of Pleasant Green Baptist Church and another sign one mile west of the church on 349. On FM 2011, one mile north of Grable Cemetery and another sign one mile south of the cemetery.

Of course your judgment will prevail depending on the road, terrain and your rules for signage. There are some of these signs on Texas roads that state, "1/2 mile" but, if possible, I would prefer to use the one mile designation.

Thank you very much for your continual efforts and assistance in preserving Texas historical heritage.

Sincerely,

Norman Black, D.D.S.

MARVIN OR ETHEL CALLOWAY

88-2360/1119
2102218

2994

03428492

2913 N. WHITTEN PH. 592-3308
TYLER, TX 75702

DATE 6-24-06

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

Texas Historical Commission \$ 25.⁰⁰/₁₀₀

Twenty five & no/100 DOLLARS

Security Features
Included
Details on Back

SOUTHSIDE BANK

MEMBER FDIC
TYLER - LINDALE - WHITEHOUSE - 903-531-7200
LONGVIEW - 903-295-9888
www.southside.com

MARVIN OR ETHEL CALLOWAY

MEMO

Hot Market

M. Calloway MP

⑆111923607⑆ 2994 ⑈2102218⑈01 me

DELIVER WALLET OR DUPLICATE SAFETY PAPER