



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

GEORGE W. BUSH, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 7, 2000

Gilmer Road Self Storage
3323 Gilmer Road
Longview, TX 75604

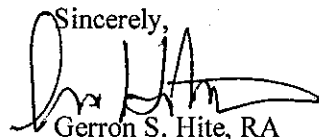
Re: Hunter Cemetery, Gregg County

Dear Gilmer Road Self Storage:

This letter is to inform you that the Texas Historical Commission has received an application for a Historic Texas Cemetery designation for the Hunter Cemetery from Foy Madison Hunter of Shreveport, Louisiana, a Hunter family member. The deed records reflect that you are the owner of property that shares a common border with the cemetery. Cemeteries that are deemed worthy of recognition and preservation for their age and historical significance are eligible for this designation. The four-page Historic Texas Cemetery application form has provided us with a narrative history and photographs of the cemetery, and documentation defining its boundaries. Upon review and approval of the application, the Texas Historical Commission will supply the applicant with an *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* to be recorded in the deed records in the Gregg County Clerk's office. A copy of the *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* will be sent to you for your information.

This designation does not restrict in any way your use of the land adjacent to or surrounding this historic cemetery. Any cemetery or burial site in Texas, whether designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery or not, may not be disturbed, desecrated, or have gravestones removed under existing state laws. A brief description of some of the Texas laws regarding cemeteries is included in the enclosed THC booklet titled *Texas Preservation Guidelines - Preserving Historic Cemeteries*.

It is our hope that this designation will encourage long-term preservation of this unique resource through its recordation in the deed records. Please feel free to contact me at the letterhead address, by telephone at 512/475-4167, or by E-mail at gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us if you should have any questions or input concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerron S. Hite, RA
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator
History Programs Division

GSH/nrc
Enclosures
cc: Foy Madison Hunter
Dr. Norman Black, Chair, Gregg Co. Historical Commission



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December 7, 2000

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas E. Miller
3400 Cook Lane
Longview, TX 75604-1456

Re: Hunter Cemetery, Gregg County

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Hunter:

This letter is to inform you that the Texas Historical Commission has received an application for a Historic Texas Cemetery designation for the Hunter Cemetery from Foy Madison Hunter of Shreveport, Louisiana, a Hunter family member. The deed records reflect that you are the owner of property that shares a common border with the cemetery. Cemeteries that are deemed worthy of recognition and preservation for their age and historical significance are eligible for this designation. The four-page Historic Texas Cemetery application form has provided us with a narrative history and photographs of the cemetery, and documentation defining its boundaries. Upon review and approval of the application, the Texas Historical Commission will supply the applicant with an *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* to be recorded in the deed records in the Gregg County Clerk's office. A copy of the *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* will be sent to you for your information.

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Sincerely,

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

Gerron S. Hite, RA
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator
History Programs Division

GSH/nrc

Enclosures

cc: Foy Madison Hunter

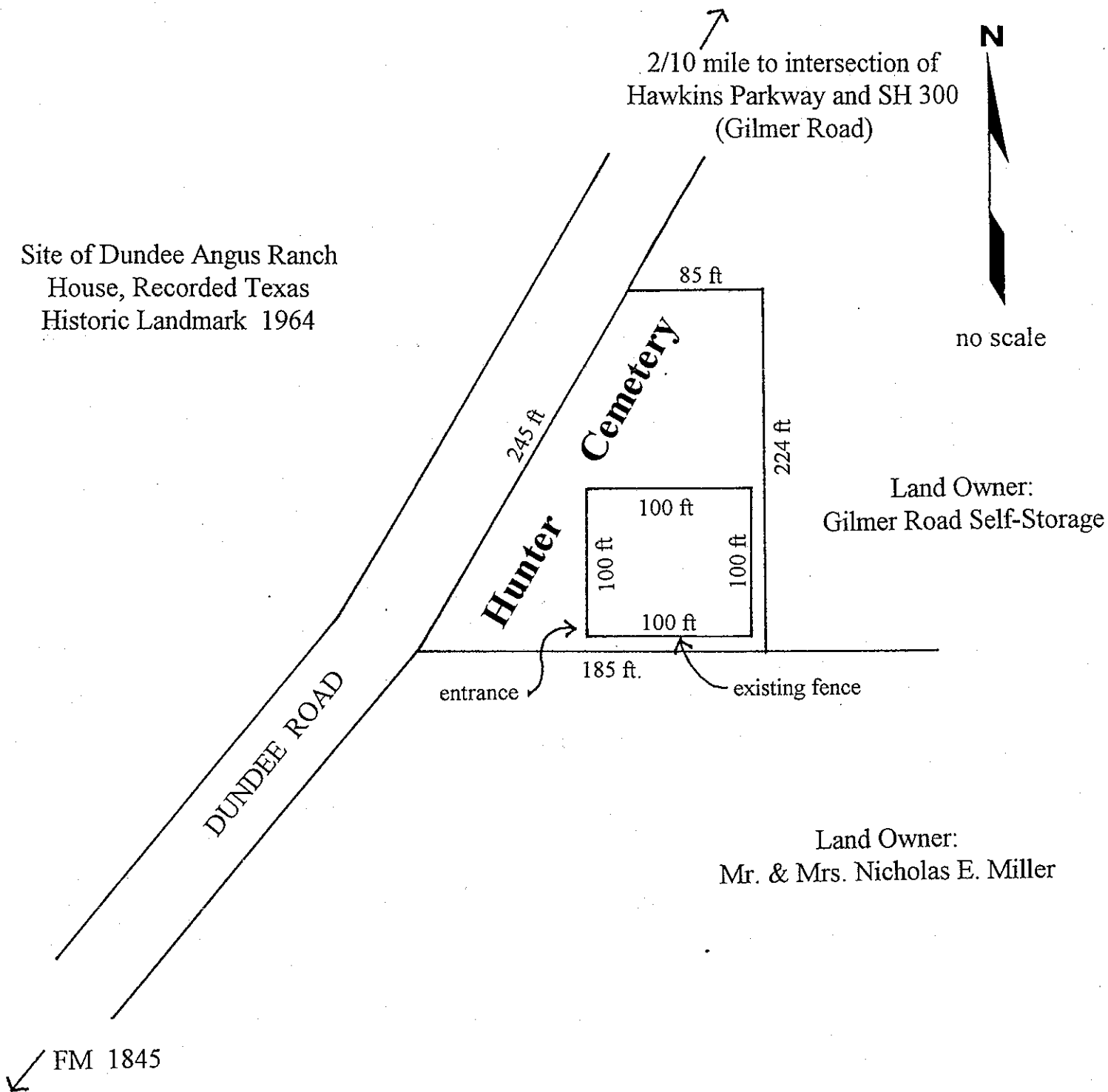
Dr. Norman Black, Chair, Gregg Co. Historical Commission

HUNTER CEMETERY (Narrative History)

This private cemetery is located across the road from the Dundee Angus Ranch Home, Texas Historical Landmark. Dr. James M. Hunter & family owned the ranch home and 400 acres of farmland from 1885 – 1909; thus, the Hunter Cemetery evolved. Most of the family members, who migrated from South Carolina in the early 1880's, settled and are buried here. The cemetery's first burial was in 1885. The latest burial was in 1999. There are 16 gravesites including 4 generations of fathers/sons who lived in this area ... Dr. James M. Hunter (physician), Waterman M. Hunter (son and farmer), James M. Hunter (grandson and farmer), Madison W. Hunter (g.grandson). In 1911, the cemetery was sectioned off from the farm and officially deeded by James M. Hunter, grandson. At the time of deed, the cemetery was marked with heavy-gauged, pipe markers left 6 inches above ground level. These markers are still in place today. The cemetery is presently in the process of being designated as a Historical Texas Cemetery.

Foy M. Hunter, g.g.grandson.
September, 2000

EXHIBIT "A"



Site of Dundee Angus Ranch
House, Recorded Texas
Historic Landmark 1964

2/10 mile to intersection of
Hawkins Parkway and SH 300
(Gilmer Road)

N
no scale

Land Owner:
Gilmer Road Self-Storage

Land Owner:
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas E. Miller

Map adopted from data provided by the applicant. See Deed Records of Gregg County, Volume X, Page 594, Part of AB 177 WM Robinson SUR TR 61 SEC 6.
Latitude 32°32' 44" N, Longitude: 94°48' 02" W.

HUNTER CEMETERY

Cemetery No. GG-C01
Gregg County



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Rick Perry • Governor
John L. Nau, III • Chairman
F. Lawrence Oaks • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

February 22, 2001

Mr. Foy Madison Hunter
706 Livingston Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71107

Re: Hunter Cemetery, Gregg County

Dear Mr. Madison:

The Texas Historical Commission is honored to designate the Hunter Cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery. The enclosed Certificate is a testimony to your commitment to the preservation of this important historic resource.

A cemetery or burial site that has received the Historic Texas Cemetery designation is also eligible to display the Historic Texas Cemetery medallion at the site so we have enclosed an application for this distinctive medallion. Also available are a "name and date" plaque or an interpretive plaque that provides the visitor with a brief history of the cemetery.

Please find enclosed a sample press release and a fact sheet with background information on preserving historic cemeteries should you choose to publicize the fact that the Hunter Cemetery has received this honor. This is an optional choice that we leave to the discretion of those affiliated with the cemetery as there are situations where drawing attention to an isolated burial ground may not be prudent whereas highlighting this additional level of recognition for an already highly visible cemetery can be a positive way to re-assert the fact that this sacred ground is treasured by the community. If you are interested in purchasing a medallion with or without a plaque and would rather publicize the designation and the placing of the marker(s) at the same time we can provide you with a Press Release that is tailored to such an event. Note that the purchase or display of the medallion or the medallion and either plaque is not required in conjunction with this designation.

Thank you for participating in this process. It is our hope that the documentation that you have provided for this historical designation will help to ensure that this cemetery will continue to be honored, respected, enjoyed, and preserved by present and future generations.

Sincerely,

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

Gerron S. Hite, RA
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator
History Programs Division

GSH/nrc
Enclosures

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



TEXAS
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The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 11, 2001

Mr. Foy Madison Hunter
706 Livingston Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71107

Re: Hunter Cemetery
Medallion and plate w/o post, to be mounted to 3 ½ inch post
Gregg County – GG-C01

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Enclosed is the proposed inscription for the above-referenced marker. Please review and verify the information contained in the inscription. In particular, be sure to check all names and dates, and make certain we have noted the correct marker location. Please contact other sponsors of this application to discuss the wording of this marker. If you approve the inscription, sign where indicated and return it to me.

If you have corrections to make or suggested changes, please do so on the enclosed copy of the inscription and return it to me with the marked corrections or changes. Any revised wording will need to meet style and spacing requirements: 15 lines, plus title and dateline, 39 spaces per line (please note that this is a working copy; the right-hand margin, which is uneven in this copy, will be justified on the finished marker). Suggestions for new information not documented in your narrative history must be sent with appropriate reference notes.

Before the marker is ordered for casting we strongly suggest that the persons or groups listed below approve the inscription. They are receiving a copy of this letter and the proposed inscription for their signatures. In order to avoid possible delays, you may want to consult with each other and discuss approvals or possible revisions and coordinate the return of all of the copies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ned Coleman".

Ned Coleman
History Programs Division
Texas Historical Commission
(512) 445-2416 ned.coleman@thc.state.tx.us

cc: Dr. Norman Black
417 Mobberly Ave.
Longview, TX 75602

(903) 757-2261 office
norman.black@co.gregg.tx.us

Texas Historical Commission Staff (NRC), 4/16/01
Historic Texas Cemetery medallion and 12" x 16" interpretive
plaque without post, to be mounted on a 3 1/2" diameter post.
Gregg County (Job #GG-C01)

Location: on Dundee Road, 2/10 of a mile south of the
intersection of Dundee Road, Hawkins Parkway and TX 300-
Gilmer Road, about 3 miles NE of downtown Longview.
Subject codes: GY

HUNTER CEMETERY

DR. JAMES M. HUNTER (1819-1895), A
PHYSICIAN, AND HIS WIFE SARAH M. (1822-1886)
BROUGHT THEIR FAMILY TO TEXAS FROM SOUTH
CAROLINA IN THE EARLY 1880s. THEY PURCHASED
400 ACRES OF FARMLAND FROM THE ESTATE OF DR.
J.N. ALLISON IN 1885 AND FAMILY MEMBERS
OCCUPIED IT UNTIL 1909. THE EARLIEST BURIAL
HERE IS THAT OF THEIR INFANT GRANDSON, WILLIE
B., WHOSE DEATH IN 1885 MARKS THE CEMETERY'S
BEGINNING. IN 1911 IT WAS FORMALLY DEEDED AS A
BURIAL GROUND BY THE DOCTOR'S GRANDSON
JAMES M. HUNTER (1883-1964). PIPE MARKERS SET
AT THAT TIME STILL MARK THIS CEMETERY THAT
READS AS A CHRONICLE OF THE HUNTER FAMILY
AND THE GENERATIONS OF THEIR DESCENDANTS.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY-2001

Please check one and
sign:

I approve this text
as

written.

Please consider the
revisions as noted on
this copy.

Signed: _____



**South Central VA Healthcare
Network 16**

**Budget Analyst
@ Shreveport, LA**

**Telephone: (318) 424-6073
FAX: (318) 429-5717
Pager: 1-888-802-1539**

DATE: 05/15/01
TO: Dr. Norman Black (903) 753-5337
FROM: Foy Hunter
NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 2

<u> </u> ACTION ITEM	<u> </u> PER CONVERSATION
<u> </u> CALL ME ON THIS	<u> </u> PLEASE CIRCULATE
<u> </u> AS REQUESTED	<u> X </u> FOR YOUR INFORMATION

COMMENTS:

Hunter Cemetery Deed of June 8, 1911.

Please call 318-424-6073 if transmission is not complete.

V. X
Trust
J.M. Hunter FAMILY TRUST
December 16, 1957
Recorded Vol. 514; page 285 & 286.

ORIGINAL
594 DEED

J.M. Hunter
Trust
Dec 16 1957
J.M. Hunter
1957

The state of Texas, County of Gregg. Know all men by these Presents, that we J.M. Hunter and wife Valley Hunter, of the County of Gregg state of Texas for and in consideration of the sum of Fifteen Hundred Dollars, to us paid and secured to be paid by J.M. Farmer, as follows: Five Hundred Dollars cash in hand, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and his two certain promissory notes for the sum of Five Hundred Dollars each, payable to the order of J.M. Hunter, bearing even date herewith, and being due Dec. 1st, 1913, respectively, bearing interest at the rate of ten percent, interest payable his Dec 1st, 1912 and Dec 1st 1913, as it accrues at Longview, Texas, said notes containing the usual attorneys-fee stipulation, in the event of failure to pay at their maturity, have granted, sold and conveyed and by these presents do grant, sell and convey unto the said J.M. Farmer, of the County of Gregg State of Texas, certain tract or parcel of land described as follows, to wit: in Gregg County, Texas, about 6 miles N.W. from Longview a part of the Wm. Robinson survey and beginning at about the N.W. corner of a tract known as the Howard Hodson tract, thence N. 43° W. to the S.W. line of the old 300 acre home tract, thence N. with said line 253 1/2' W. to a large post oak for a corner, thence S. 23° W. 399' W. to a stake in front of a branch, thence down said branch S. 85° W. to a stake from which a sweet gum bears S. 1° W. another S. 10° W. 4' W. thence N. 71° W. to beginning.

Also the following tract: beginning at the S.E. corner of the 300 acre home tract in the N.E. corner of a grave yard, thence N. 1/2° N. 300' W. to a stone at the S.E. corner of the N.S. McKinley's strip, thence N. 334' W. to a stone in field a pine bears S. 33° W. 3' W. thence N. 23° W. to a stone in a field a pine bears S. 33° W. 12' W. thence N. 334' W. to a stone a sweet gum bears S. 20° 2' 1' W. thence S. 1/2° W. 339' W. to a red oak for a corner the S.W. corner of the 300 acre home tract, thence S. 109° W. to beginning, containing in all 140 acres of land, more or less, save and except one acre of land in the N.E. corner of the hereinbefore described land, same being now used as a family burying ground for the Hunter family.

To have and to hold the above described premises together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in equity belonging unto the said J.M. Farmer, his heirs and assigns forever. And we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators to warrant and forever defend, all and singular the said premises unto the said J.M. Farmer, his heirs and assigns, against every person whatsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof.

But it is expressly agreed and stipulated that the vendors lien is retained against the above described property, premises and improvements until the above described note, and all interest thereon are fully paid according to their face and tenor, effect and reading when this deed shall become absolute.

Witness our hand at Longview this 8 day of June A.D. 1911.

The state of Texas, County of Gregg. Before me, the undersigned authority in and for Gregg County, Texas, on this day personally appeared, J.M. Hunter known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed given under my hand and seal of office this 8 day of June A.D. 1911.

(L.S.) E.M. Brantlette
Notary Public, Gregg County, Texas.

The state of Texas, County of Gregg. Before me, the undersigned authority in and for Gregg County, Texas, on this day personally appeared Valley Hunter, wife of J.M. Hunter, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and having been examined by me privately and apart from her husband and having the same fully explained to her, she, the said Valley Hunter, acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed, and declared that she had willingly signed the same for the purposes and considerations therein expressed, and that she did not wish to retract it.

Witness my hand and seal of office this 8 day of June A.D. 1911.

(L.S.) E.M. Brantlette
Notary Public, Gregg County, Texas.

County of Gregg. I do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original deed and certificate of acknowledgment as filed for record in my office on the 16 day of June 1911 at 10 O'clock A.M. and recorded this 4th day of July 1911 at 8 O'clock A.M.

Duck Shaver
County Clerk Gregg Co. Texas.

J.K. Armstrong
Trust
Dec 16 1957
J.K. Armstrong
1957

The state of Texas, County of Gregg. Know all men by these Presents, that we J.E. Gibbs and wife F.J. Gibbs of Gregg County, Texas, for and in consideration of the sum of Sixty Dollars to us in hand paid by J.K. Armstrong of above named County and State the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged have bargained, sold and conveyed and by these do bargain, sell and convey unto the said J.K. Armstrong all that certain tract or parcel of land situated in Gregg County, Texas, about 1 1/2 miles East of the town of Gladewater on the Wm. Carleton Roadright survey described as follows to wit: Beginning where the Longview and Gladewater Public Road crosses Rocky Creek, thence in a North direction with the meanderings of Rocky Creek to the S. South boundary line of G.W. Richey Land, thence West with the said S.W. Richey South line to the South East Corner of the Armstrong Land, thence South with the East boundary line of the Armstrong Land to the Longview and Gladewater Public road, thence East to place of beginning containing 20 acres more or less. To have and to hold the above described premises together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in equity belonging unto the said J.K. Armstrong his heirs and assigns forever, and we do hereby bind ourselves our heirs, and assigns to warrant and forever defend all and singular the said premises unto the said J.K. Armstrong his heirs and assigns against every



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

FAX

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III
CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*The Texas
Historical
Commission
is the state
agency for
historic
preservation.
The agency
administers
a variety of
programs to
preserve the
archeological,
historical and
cultural
resources of
Texas.*

P. O. BOX 12276
AUSTIN, TX 78711-2276
512/463-5853
FAX 512/475-3122
TDD 1-800/735-2989
www.thc.state.tx.us

Date: May 21, 2001

Fax Number: (903) 753-5337

Number of pages (including cover sheet): 8

To: Dr. Norman Black

Re: Hunter Cemetery, Gregg County

From: Ned Coleman
History Programs Division
(512) 463-6427
FAX (512) 475-3122
ned.coleman@thc.state.tx.us

For information on cemetery preservation look under "Projects" at
www.thc.state.tx.us

Comments:

He didn't give us a whole lot of information to base the marker on, but here it is!

HUNTER CEMETERY
(Narrative History)

This private cemetery is located across the road from the Dundee Angus Ranch Home, Texas Historical Landmark. Dr. James M. Hunter & family owned the ranch home and 400 acres of farmland from 1885 – 1909; thus, the Hunter Cemetery evolved. Most of the family members, who migrated from South Carolina in the early 1880's, settled and are buried here. The cemetery's first burial was in 1885. The latest burial was in 1999. There are 16 gravesites including 4 generations of fathers/sons who lived in this area ... Dr. James M. Hunter (physician), Waterman M. Hunter (son and farmer), James M. Hunter (grandson and farmer), Madison W. Hunter (g.grandson). In 1911, the cemetery was sectioned off from the farm and officially deeded by James M. Hunter, grandson. At the time of deed, the cemetery was marked with heavy-gauged, pipe markers left 6 inches above ground level. These markers are still in place today. The cemetery is presently in the process of being designated as a Historical Texas Cemetery.

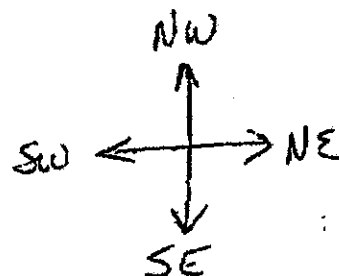
Foy M. Hunter, g.g.grandson.
September, 2000

HUNTER CEMETERY, GREGG COUNTY
Prepared by Foy Hunter, March 6, 2001

Dr. James M. Hunter & family migrated from South Carolina to Texas in the early 1880's and lived in the Dundee Angus Ranch Home (Texas Historical Landmark) with 400 acres of farmland, purchased from estate of Dr. J. N. Allison. The Hunters occupied the farm from 1885 - 1909. The cemetery's first burial was in 1885; thus, the Hunter Cemetery evolved. At this writing, there are 16 gravesites including 4 generations of fathers/sons who lived in this area ... Dr. James M. Hunter (physician), Waterman M. Hunter (son and farmer), James M. Hunter (grandson and farmer), Madison W. Hunter (g.grandson and merchant). In 1911, the cemetery was sectioned off from the farm and officially deeded by James M. Hunter, grandson.

-
- 1) Gregg County Tax Records, 1885-1909 located on microfilm at the Public Library, Tyler, TX.
 - 2) 1911 Deed, Gregg County Court House, Vol. X, Page 594.

HUNTER CEMETERY
Longview, Texas



Row 1.

<p>6th Jan 2, 1896 Mar 13, 1896 0 yrs., 2 mos.</p> <p>Infant Son</p>	<p>8th Oct 15, 1907 Oct 15, 1907 0 yrs., 0 mos.</p> <p>Infant Son</p>	<p>8th Oct 26, 1918 Oct 26, 1918 0 yrs., 0 mos.</p> <p>Infant Son</p>	<p>10th Feb 19, 1886 Oct 29, 1918 32 yrs., 8 mos.</p>	<p>15th Nov 18, 1903 Jul 4, 1975 71 yrs., 7 mos.</p> <p>Madison W.</p>	<p>16th Mar 2, 1914 Mar 3, 1999 85 yrs., 0 mos.</p> <p>Elizabeth</p>
--	---	---	---	--	--

Row 2.

<p>12th Jul 23, 1927 Jul 23, 1927 0 yrs., 0 mos.</p> <p>Infant Son</p> <p>Son of Reese & Irene McKinley</p>	<p>4th Jul 18, 1897 Jul 4, 1899 2 yrs., 0 mos.</p>	<p>3rd Mar 9, 1843 Feb 8, 1888 44 yrs., 11 mos.</p> <p>Walterman</p> <p>Son of Dr. James & Sarah Hull</p>	<p>1st Jan 29, 1885 Oct 10, 1885 0 yrs., 8 mos.</p>	<p>2nd Apr 19, 1822 Jul 27, 1888 64 yrs., 3 mos.</p> <p>Bertha Mae</p> <p>Wife of Dr. James Hull</p>	<p>6th Nov 25, 1819 Jan 24, 1895 75 yrs., 2 mos.</p> <p>Dr. James M.</p> <p>Dr. James M.</p>	<p>7th Nov. 21, 1830 Oct 23, 1902 21 yrs., 11 mos.</p>	<p>11th Nov 1, 1847 Jul 11, 1825 77 yrs., 9 mos.</p> <p>Lottie A.</p> <p>Wife of Walterman Hull</p>	<p>14th Oct 27, 1883 Dec 3, 1884 81 yrs., 1 mo.</p>
---	--	---	---	--	--	--	---	---

Row 3.

<p>13th Oct 27, 1930 Oct 27, 1930 0 yrs., 0 mos.</p> <p>Infant Daughter</p> <p>Daughter of Reese & Irene McKinley</p>

Foy Hunter
106 Livingston Av.
Shreveport, LA 71107

HUNTER CEMETERY

(Pictures)

This cemetery is located in Longview, Gregg Co., Texas, off of Gilmer Rd on Dundee Rd. about 2/10 of a mile or less on the left, in a stand of pine trees off the side of the road. The cemetery looks to be cared for, and has had a recent burial. It is fenced in, with an arch over the gate that reads Hunter Cemetery. On the left, just inside the gate is a headstone that also reads Hunter Cemetery. The graves are to the back, about 15 feet, with no evidence of any burials in the front of the cemetery. There are three rows of graves, all covered with marble slabs. The headstones are all in very good condition, and very legible.

Read by Sharon Pierce and Denna Gray March 7, 2000

Row 1

Lottie Lee

Jan. 2 Mar. 13, 1896

dau. of Lewis and Ann Eliza Lee

Infant son of

Jim & Vallie Hunter

Oct. 15, 1907

Infant son of

Jim & Vallie Hunter

Oct. 26, 1918

Vallie Hunteer

wife of J M Hunter

Born February 19, 1886

Died October 29, 1918

A Tender Mother and a Faithful Wife

Double Stone: HUNTER

Madison W

Nov. 18, 1903

July 4, 1975

Elizabeth A

March 2, 1914

March 3, 1999

MOVM2 US Navy

WWII 1903-1975

Row 2

Infant son of Reese & Irene

This private cemetery is located across the road from the Dundee Angus Ranch Home, Texas Historical Landmark. Dr. James M. Hunter & family owned the ranch home and 400 acres of farmland from 1885 - 1909; thus, the Hunter Cemetery evolved. Most of the family members, who migrated from South Carolina in the early 1880's, settled and are buried here. The cemetery's first burial was in 1885. The latest burial was in 1999. There are 16 gravesites including 4 generations of fathers/sons who lived in this area ... Dr. James M. Hunter (physician), Waterman M. Hunter (son and farmer), James M. Hunter (grandson and farmer), Madison W. Hunter (g.grandson). In 1911, the cemetery was sectioned off from the farm and officially deeded by James M. Hunter, grandson. At the time of deed, the cemetery was marked with heavy-gauged, pipe markers left 6 inches above ground level. These markers are still in place today. The cemetery is presently in the process of being designated as a Historical Texas Cemetery.

Foy M. Hunter, g.g.grandson.

This page was created by Sharon Pierce & Elaine Martin 6-3-2000.

Updated 8-9-2000 with pictures.

Updated 9-9-2000 with the narrative.

HOME

CEMETERIES

New marker for an old cemetery

Site contains graves of some of East Texas' first settlers

By **MIKE ELSWICK**
Business Editor

One of Longview's oldest cemeteries has a new historic marker.

Hunter Cemetery, designated as an official Historic Texas Cemetery by the Texas Historical Commission this spring, recently had a historic marker installed, said Foy Hunter of Shreveport.

Hunter said the cemetery located off Dundee Road is the final resting place for several of his relatives who settled in the area beginning in 1885.

The private cemetery is located across the road from the Dundee Angus Ranch Home, which is also a Texas Historical Landmark and was owned by Dr. James M. Hunter and family from 1885-1909.

"I have four generations here, so this is important to me," Hunter said Thursday. He said two paternal great-great-grandparents, grandparents and an uncle are among those buried there.

Hunter said he has spent many hours the past two years cleaning up the overgrown cemetery that contains 16 known graves.

His great-grandparents, Dr. J.M. and Sarah Hunter, moved to East Texas from South Carolina in 1885, purchasing 400 acres surrounding the property where the cemetery is today, just west of Gilmer Road.

Hunter has been active in researching his genealogy and said he came across an Internet Web site started by East Texans Sharon Pierce and Elaine Martin and assisted by Dena Gray.

He visited with Gray and Pierce on Thursday after the



News-Journal Photo

Dena Gray, Foy Hunter and Sharon Pierce stand near the newly placed Historic Texas Cemetery marker at Hunter's family cemetery, which dates back to the 1880s. It is located on Dundee Road, west of Gilmer Road. The Texas Historical Commission designated the cemetery as an official Historic Texas Cemetery in the spring.

information he discovered and showed them the newly placed marker.

Pierce said when she started the Web site, which offers free information on more than 50 Gregg County cemeteries, she only had information on two.

"This is very important what Foy's done here to preserve this part of local history," she said.

The Web site's address is: <http://rootsweb.com/~txgregg>. Pierce and Martin are the hosts.

"It's sad what's happened to a lot of local cemeteries and graves," Pierce said. Many have been lost due to neglect and development, probably forever, she said.

Hunter said the cemetery was deeded by his family as a cemetery in 1911. Among the items he turned up in his research was a copy of his great-great-grandmother's obituary, which had been published in her home state of South Carolina and

written by her husband, J.M. Hunter.

"We have buried her on my own land, at a beautiful place near the house, where we can see to her grave, and where none but family will be buried," J.M. Hunter said in the obituary. Foy Hunter called the discovery a "priceless" find in his search for his family's roots.

Larry Oaks, executive director of the commission, said the designation is reserved for cemeteries that are at least 50 years old and deemed worthy of preservation for their historic associations.

"The designation is a tool that will increase public awareness of these important cultural resources," Oaks said. "Such awareness and education are among the best ways to guarantee the preservation of a cemetery."

Oaks said cemeteries hold valuable historic information

and often serve as the last visible reminders of early settlements and their historical events, religious beliefs, lifestyles and genealogy.

"Historic cemeteries serve as directories of early residents and reflect the cultural influences that helped shape our state's communities," Oaks said. "The Historic Texas Cemetery designation program helps bring attention to these community treasures and the importance of their preservation."

Oaks said that although the Historic Texas Cemetery designation encourages cemetery preservation, it cannot guarantee that a historic cemetery will not be destroyed. Older cemeteries face several threats, he said.

Urban expansion and vandalism often pose threats, while in rural areas the absence of fencing might allow grazing animals to disturb headstones.



Gregg County Historical Commission

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

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone 903-757-2261
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September 4, 2001

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

Re: Hunter Cemetery

Dear Gerron:

The new Historic Texas Cemetery marker for Hunter Cemetery was dedicated recently. I drove up there a few days ago and everything is in order and the cemetery is well kept. It seems so strange that the GCHC had no part in the setting or dedication of the marker. I know it saved me a lot of time and work. However, I had some anxiety over the entire project. By the way, the new marker is great (added third dimension. I'll bet you designed it.) and it is set at a proper level, straight and within the fence of the cemetery in good view.

I had no idea an application was being made until you sent me copies of material December 7, 2000. I do not have a copy of the application that would have indicated the proposed site of the marker, to whom it was being sent and a sponsors name (Foy Hunter of Shreveport). Actually, I guess most cemeteries eligible would have fences and it is unlikely a marker would be set in an unsafe place. Mr. Hunter sent me a copy of the deed and was helpful in other ways. Ned also sent me the text, etc. of the marker. My guess is that the THC may not know when each OTHM is to be dedicated. I know I haven't always informed the THC of the dedication date.

This marker must be one of the very first in your new program that should advance rapidly.

I really think the CHC's Cemetery Committee Chair, Marker Chair or the chair should be called on for advice and guidance on the local level. In the case of the Hunter Cemetery this apparently was unnecessary because everything seems to be in order.

Through the enclosed article I was able to make contact with Sharon Pierce who has a fantastic web site (in error in the article). Geron, she has a list of 50 cemeteries in Gregg County and is in the process, with three or four helpers, in listing the location of each grave in each cemetery. It is all free on the internet. I had no idea anyone other than the Gregg County Genealogy Society was doing any Gregg County cemetery listing. The web site is: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txgregg/Cemindex.html>. However, I reach it easier if I leave off the /Cemindex.html, then click on Cemetery Index. She has a lot on Gregg County.

These are just suggestions. Keep up the good work!!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N".

Norman Black, D.D.S.

Enc.