
APPENDIX C

GRAVE MARKERS

Grave Marker Condition Assessment

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Development of the Austin Cemetery Master Plan included an assessment of the condition of grave markers and associated elements in the five municipally owned cemeteries: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, and Plummers Cemetery. The grave marker condition assessment was conducted by McDoux Preservation's Steph McDougal and Anne Shelton on April 25, 26, and 27, 2014.

Methodology

This assessment consisted of three parts: (1) research and preparation of materials, (2) fieldwork, and (3) analysis and reporting.

Steph McDougal's initial research included a review of previous projects' methodologies, worksheets and other information gathering tools, and results. She then developed survey forms to identify the types of markers, marker materials, and conditions observed; these were reviewed by City of Austin cultural resource specialist and project coordinator Kim McKnight; historical landscape architect Laura Knott, who was responsible for the overall condition assessments of each cemetery; and cemetery specialist Anne Shelton. Ms. McDougal revised the survey forms accordingly. Mason Miller, project manager at AmaTerra Environmental, provided GIS maps of each of the cemeteries with sections indicated. Ms. McDougal additionally labeled the divisible pieces of larger sections in Oakwood and Evergreen for ease of data gathering.

On a Saturday, Sunday, and Monday in late April, Ms. McDougal and Ms. Shelton walked each section of each cemetery, capturing both data and photographs of the conditions observed in that section of the cemetery. Ms. McDougal then compiled the information and summarized it in this report. She further revised the survey forms created for this project, for use in future conditions assessments by volunteers or City staff.

Maps of the five cemeteries are located in Appendix A.

Grave Marker Typologies

A wide variety of grave marker types is found in Austin's cemeteries, from small handmade markers to elaborate monuments that incorporate statuary and multiple decorative elements. Graves are generally oriented with the deceased's feet pointing east, with the exception of Oakwood Cemetery Annex, in which graves are oriented toward the roadways.

Most markers are made of marble, granite, bronze, or concrete; less common materials include wood, iron, zinc, and tile. Some markers incorporate glass or tile embellishments, or ceramic photos of the deceased in metal frames. A very few limestone markers were observed. In some cases, the only thing marking a grave is the metal or ceramic plaque from the funeral home.

The most common types of headstones are shown below. See Appendix B for an illustrated glossary of marker types found in Austin's city-owned cemeteries.

- Headstone on base
- Tablet stone (no base)
- Block marker
- Surface marker
- Slant-faced marker

Veterans' markers include those placed by the Veterans Administration. These include marble or granite tablets, and marble, granite, or bronze surface markers. A complete history of veterans' marker designs is provided in Appendix C.

- Marble or granite tablet stone with round top
- Marble or granite surface marker
- Bronze surface marker

Mexican American grave markers often take the following forms:

- Concrete or wooden cross
- Oven-shaped *hornito*
- Marker with *nicho* or *relicario* (inset item)

Members of the Woodmen of the World were often buried with distinctive markers that incorporate sculptural tree motifs. Woodmen of the World is a fraternal life insurance society established in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1890, with the goal of making life insurance available to anyone who wanted it. Between the 1890s and the 1920s, Woodmen of the World offered a policy that included a death benefit and monument. Although not all tree-shaped markers are associated with Woodmen of the World, some common designs from that organization are shown in Appendix B.

Family plots are typical in all five cemeteries. These are often enclosed by curbing or a fence, or covered entirely by poured concrete, sometimes encasing granite or marble slabs or

ledger stones over individual graves. A primary marker with the family name is generally much taller and wider than the smaller headstones that mark graves of the individual family members. This practice continues today, although the primary markers tend to be less grandiose than those from the 1800s and early 1900s.

A variety of secondary elements are used around grave sites or family plots.

- Footstone
- Surface marker as footstone
- Decorative bench at foot of grave
- Cornerstones
- Bodystone
- Bedstead or cradle
- Flower box
- Curbing
- Slab over crypt or plot

Statuary in Austin's city cemeteries is typically an element of the grave marker, or a secondary decoration, rather than serving as the marker itself.

Graves may be scraped or chopped free of grass, in the bare-earth southern folk tradition that may have originated in western Africa. Alternatives to scraping may include covering the grave with mounds of dirt, slabs of stone or concrete, or white marble gravel.¹ (Although graves are covered in shells in some Texas cemeteries, no shells were observed in Austin.) In some cases, individual graves or family plots may be bounded by fences, stone or concrete curbing, or plantings. Shrubs, flowers, and trees are often planted on graves or within family plots. Roses and lilies are both symbols of the Virgin Mary.

Other decorative elements found in the cemeteries include benches, trellises, urns, and other items placed on markers or gravesites. Many of the items left on graves have important cultural significance. Small stones are often placed on markers or graves in the Jewish sections of the cemeteries to indicate that a visitor has paid their respects. Containers for burning paper are part of Chinese funeral traditions. Mexican American and other Latino families may maintain grave markers and decorate graves for holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries, or annually on *Dia de los Muertos* (the Day of the Dead). Grave decorations are placed in remembrance of loved ones, creating a shrine with mementos, keepsakes, flowers, food, balloons, and other items that remind the living of the deceased.

¹ Texas State Historical Association. *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Volume 83, July 1979 - April, 1980, L. Tuffly Ellis, editor, Journal/Magazine/Newsletter, 1979-1980; digital images, (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph101207/> : accessed June 17, 2014), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas State Historical Association, Denton, Texas.

Adverse Conditions

The three most common adverse conditions related to grave markers across all cemeteries include:

- Movement of markers, including tilting away from vertical, sometimes to the point of falling over entirely; sinking or partial burial of the marker; exposure of the concrete foundation; displacement of the headstone from the base or of the footstone or cornerstones from their original locations; and subsidence of burial plots and surrounding ground. The expansion and contraction of clay soil in Austin's cemeteries since 2001, when the current period of droughts began, appears to be the primary cause of the many shifted markers. The ground is dry and cracked in many locations, and settling/heaving conditions can be observed visually, as well as by walking across uneven surfaces.
- Overhanging trees and encroaching vegetation have displaced and damaged markers (particularly as trees planted next to graves have matured).
- The proximity of grave markers to vegetation has resulted in shady conditions and grave markers being covered with bird droppings, leaf mold, and pollen. This has facilitated biological growth, including lichen, algae, moss, fungus, and bacteria, especially on the unpolished surfaces of grave markers. Grass clippings that collect on grave markers after mowing and trimming also contribute to the biological growth.
- Damage from vehicles, lawn mowers, and trimmers. This is much more prevalent in Evergreen Cemetery than in any of the other cemeteries.

Other, less common issues include corrosion of metal elements, loss or theft of bronze urns or markers, cracking or breakage, worn inscriptions, and stone deterioration (particularly marble).

All five cemeteries are in need of extensive resetting and conservation of markers, as well as the removal of overhanging or encroaching vegetation, and awareness building/training of maintenance workers to help them avoid damaging markers and other elements with mowers and trimmers. Plastic trimmer string litter was observed throughout the cemeteries.

Few conditions could potentially pose a safety hazard.

- Tilted markers might fall on someone if they are knocked over or leaned on.
- Partially buried markers and fragments could create a trip hazard for pedestrians or, if unseen by mowing crews, could be broken further, creating dangerous projectiles.
- Sunken plots (subsidence) could create a trip hazard.

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery

Austin Memorial Park (AMP) is Austin's newest cemetery. It is divided into 18 sections, of which two are not numbered but are instead named (Moss Section and Jewish Memorial). No graves are present in Section 12, and Section 14 (Jewish) is relatively new, with only a few graves at this time. A large area is set aside for future development.

Ethnic groups represented in AMP include Jewish, Latino, African American, Russian, Irish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese people.

Figure AM-1.

Marker Types

The most common marker found at AMP is a granite headstone on a granite base. In addition to granite, a few marble and limestone examples are present, as well as handmade concrete markers. Other marker types are found throughout the cemetery, including slant-faced markers, curved-top markers, scroll markers, memorial benches as grave markers, and bronze, marble, or granite VA surface markers. Some VA markers are used as footstones. Tablet stones (with no base) are present but to a much lesser extent than in the other cemeteries. Many grave markers feature integral marble and granite planters. This was the only cemetery where the survey team observed inscriptions with paint in the carved areas. Funeral home markers include simple metal frames or rectangular ceramic plaques (some with photographs), both placed on short stakes.

Family plots contain a large primary headstone with secondary individual headstones, often accompanied by initialed footstones and cornerstones, also made of granite.

Figure AM-2.

AMP contains a wide variety of markers that feature crosses. Russian, Celtic, leaning cross, iron cross, wooden cross

Figure AM-3.

Very large boulders are also common here. These generally feature one flat surface upon which the inscription is carved.

Figure AM-4.

Some graves are covered with granite ledger stones, bodystones, and slabs; surface markers may take the shape of pillows. Graves are also scraped free of grass, mounded with dirt, or covered with river rocks or white marble gravel.

Some of the more unusual or high style designs include:

Book on base (Moss Section)

Figure AM-5.

Pedestal with sundial (Moss)

Figure AM-6.

Fine art designs (Damian Priour)

Figure AM-7.

Carved limestone wave with dolphins (Section 2)

Figure AM-8.

Rustic/found stones and other found objects (Section 4)

Figure AM-9.

Bronze sculpted cowboy boots (Section 4)

Figure AM-10.

Pulpit with open book (Section 6)

Figure AM-11.

Pink granite chunks in pink terrazzo concrete with tile Virgin Mary (9A)

Figure AM-12.

Marble, granite, and bronze urns are found throughout the cemetery. The rate of theft of bronze urns seems to be lower here than at the other cemeteries.

Many gravesites at AMP are furnished with decorative benches (some made of granite, others of metal and wood, cast iron, plastic, or concrete). Some benches are quite deteriorated, while others appear to be durable and/or well maintained. Benches are, in some cases, placed at the foot of one grave and leaning inappropriately against the back of an adjacent marker. A few exedra (curved benches used as part of the primary marker) are present. Other grave furnishings include tables, chairs, trellises, and arbors. Grave decorations abound throughout the cemetery and range from the restrained to the flamboyant.

Figure AM-13.

Statuary is most frequently used for decoration, although in very few cases, it is the marker (Section 6). Similarly, stone and concrete planters decorate many graves as an integral part of or in addition to markers, and in some places are used as the marker (Section 11).

Curbing at AMP is made of brick pavers, concrete pavers, plastic and metal landscape edging, plants (including boxwoods), wooden landscape timbers, ashlar limestone, decorative fencing

Cultural plantings include trees, Italian cypress, crape myrtle, shrubs, prickly pear, roses, mountain laurel, and rosemary.

Adverse Conditions

Tilted, sunken, fallen, and displaced markers are found throughout AMP, as are markers with exposed concrete foundations. Section 2 especially has many fallen markers. The ground is most uneven on the west side of the cemetery, in Sections 9A, 9, and 10; many grave markers in these areas have exposed foundations.

Soiling and organic growth, mostly lichen and bacteria, were observed. As in other cemeteries, grass clippings on grave markers contributed to this problem.

Encroaching tree trunks and roots have displaced many grave markers in this cemetery.

Figure AM-14.

Proximity to the roadway is an issue in Sections 3 and 5A.

Mower and trimmer damage was only observed in Section 10, and is not as bad as one would expect, given the unevenness of the ground in that area.

A bronze marker is missing in Section 5 and another is partially pried off its foundation in Section 9A.

Figure AM-15.

Ponding of water, due to a hose left running, was found in Section 7; ponding was also observed in Section 8, but the cause was not obvious.

Figure AM-16.

Subsidence was observed, likely a result of improper/insufficient fill over interments.

Figure AM-17.

Evergreen Cemetery

Evergreen Cemetery was established for the African American community. Part of Evergreen encompasses a portion of an older cemetery, Highland Park, but only a few graves from the earlier graveyard are marked. Evergreen is divided into multiple sections, some of which are subdivided; undivided sections include A, E, F, G, H, J, and Infant F. The rest of the sections in the cemetery are B1, B2, C1, C2, C3, D1, D2, D3, K1 and K2. Additional areas in three of the corners of the cemetery are undeveloped.

Marker Types

Evergreen contains mostly granite and marble markers in the form of headstones on bases, tablet stones, slant-faced markers, block markers, and surface markers. Granite is prevalent as a marker material. Footstones are not common in this cemetery; those few present are typically made of granite. In some cases, VA markers are used as footstones.

Figure EV-1. VA marker as footstone.

Bronze markers, set flush with the surface of the ground, are found in all sections except A and B. Both VA and private bronze markers are prevalent in Section H, which exclusively contains flush surface markers.

Figure EV-2. Flush markers in Evergreen Section H.

Handmade concrete markers are found throughout Evergreen Cemetery. Concrete markers and slab, made with pink sand and resembling pink granite, are found in Section C and D.

Figure EV-3. Handmade markers.

One distinctive marker type appears to be made by an unidentified local artist. These handmade concrete markers feature a unique design with cast glitter on the surface, leading the survey team to nickname them “Little Mirrors”. Quite a few of these markers are present at Evergreen Cemetery in Sections B, F, H, J, and K.

Figure EV-4. “Little Mirrors” marker: front, back, and close-up showing glitter.

Many markers are embellished with ceramic photographs. Some recent markers replace these photos with photorealistic etchings. Several ceramic photos are damaged, possibly from rocks thrown by mowers.

Figure EV-5. Ceramic photos.

Figure EV-6. Etched photo on marker.

Mounding over graves, chopped or scraped clean of grass, is found throughout Sections F and H, and, to a lesser extent, in Sections B and K. Rock-covered mounds, primarily covered with white marble gravel, are also present. Graves also may be covered by slabs of granite or

poured concrete, in one case containing granite aggregate. In Section D, one concrete slab over a grave is topped with ceramic floor tiles.

Figure EV-7. Scraped graves.

Figure EV-8. Infant graves.

It is not uncommon to see graves marked only with a funeral home marker, usually on a metal stake but sometimes in a more substantial metal frame and placed flush on the ground. These small markers are especially susceptible to mower and trimmer damage.

Figure EV-9. Funeral home markers.

Other, less common marker types include obelisks, steles, bodystones, a bolster, round pylons, rustic/boulder markers, stone crosses, memorial benches, a poured concrete ledger stone, and statuary.

Handmade and unusual markers include:

- Section A: Wooden cross, pile of bricks
- Section C: Wooden cross, many handmade and ornamented markers, small plastic decorative crosses
- Section D: Markers with *nichos*, heart-shaped metal surface maker (1997), bricks with names written on them in marker
- Sections F and H: Rock cairn
- Section J: Wooden cross, painted/stenciled concrete footstone, concrete with applied tile and statue, wood letters set into concrete
- Section K: *Hornitos*, stack of rocks or bricks (perhaps to protect funeral home marker on stake), marble tile made into slant-faced marker, stained glass set into concrete, welding helmet with name and date

Figure EV-10. Hornitos; welding helmet.

Marble vases and urns, concrete planters, cast stone urns, and basket-weave terra cotta planters are all common throughout Evergreen.

Curbing is found in all sections, although less so in Section B. Curbing may be made of concrete, bricks, pavers, plastic or wooden fencing, landscape timbers, or rocks.

Some graves are furnished with a decorative bench at the foot of the plot, facing the headstone, but this is not as common in Evergreen as it is at Austin Memorial Park.

Cultural plantings include trees, yucca, prickly pear, arbor vitae, lilies, ivy, agave, and rosemary.

Adverse Conditions

As in other cemeteries, the primary adverse conditions observed in Evergreen Cemetery included general soiling; biological growth; tilted, sunken, displaced, or fallen markers due to shifting soil; worn or unreadable inscriptions; cracking; and mower/trimmer damage.

Mower and trimmer damage is worse at Evergreen than at any of the other cemeteries, particularly in Sections A, B, D, F, and H. A marker near the roadway at one corner of Section B appears to have been displaced by contact with a vehicle.

Figure EV-11. Mower and trimmer damage.

Ponding water, due to a dripping faucet, was observed near the restroom building in Section A. Subsidence was observed in Sections B, C, and D. Overhanging trees and encroaching vegetation were observed in Sections B, F, H, and J.

Figure EV-12. Ponding water.

Many older markers are smaller slant-faced stones with a lower center of gravity, and fewer of these are tilted or fallen than the newer larger markers.

Bronze urns are missing from both stone and bronze markers. At least one bronze marker (in Section J) appears to have been stolen, leaving behind only a concrete foundation. Stone urns are also missing from markers where they were clearly previously installed.

Figure EV-13. Bronze collar left behind when urn was removed.

Oakwood Cemetery

Oakwood Cemetery is Austin's oldest cemetery. It is divided into four sections (1-2-3-4), plus two areas reserved for Temple Beth Israel. Section 1 is the oldest section, and Section 4 is the most recently developed. The older Temple Beth Israel area (notated as #1 for the purpose of this report) is located in Section 1, while the newer area (notated as #2) is in Section 4.

Marker Types

Due to the age of Oakwood Cemetery, it contains some of the largest and most ornate grave markers in any of the city cemeteries, particularly (but not exclusively) in Section 1. Especially large monuments are located in the north-central parts of Sections 3 and 4, east of Temple Beth Israel #2. More modest, handmade markers are located around the periphery of the cemetery, in the eastern portion of Section 3 along Comal Street, north of the main avenue that bisects the cemetery. Many markers are made of marble or granite. A small number of limestone markers were present. A few zinc monuments are located in Section 1.

Figure OW-1. Zinc monument.

Oakwood contains individual graves, as well as family plots contained within curbing. Curbing may be made of granite, marble, or cast stone and often includes taller corner stones and side stones cut in various designs. The entrance to these large family plots is often indicated by a step cut into the curb, into which the family's name may be carved.

Figure OW-2. Curb cut with inscribed family surname.

Some graves or entire family plots are covered with concrete slabs; tile may be applied over the concrete. In Section 2, plots are surrounded by curbing and filled with black stone or limestone gravel.

Upright markers found in Oakwood include headstone on base, tablet stone, column on base, pedestals (alone or topped with columns, urns, or obelisks), steles, crosses, scroll markers, curved-top markers, and slant-faced markers. Several leaning crosses are found in Section 2. Woodmen of the World monuments are present throughout Oakwood.

Figure OW-3. Headstones and tablet stones from different eras.

Figure OW-4. (Left to right) Pedestal with urn; stele; scroll marker.

Figure OW-5. (Left) Curved-top marker; (right) leaning cross.

Low markers include block markers, surface markers (both stone and bronze), bedsteads, flower boxes, and bolsters.

Figure OW-6. Bedsteads.

Figure OW-7. Flower boxes.

Figure OW-8. Bolster.

Cast iron or wrought iron fencing surrounds some plots. One grave surround unique to Oakwood, which cemetery specialist Anne Shelton has seen only here and in Navasota, is this cast iron decorative surround with attached oval headstone.

Figure OW-9. (Left) Fencing around plots; (right) cast iron surround with oval headstone.

Box tombs, above-ground tombs made of stone or concrete, ledger stones, stone slabs over crypts, and body stones are found in other sections. In some cases, the slab on top of box tombs has been displaced slightly, probably by vandals attempting to access the interior.

Figure OW-10. (Left) Box tomb; (right) above-ground tomb.

Section 1 also contains several above ground tombs made of brick. These are generally in poor condition.

Figure OW-11. Brick above-ground tombs.

Marble footstones are present in this section; these may be set flush with the ground or may project above the surface. A fair number of footstones have been moved from their original location and placed closer to the primary marker element or just displaced.

Benches are placed along side graves or at the foot of graves. Other decorative grave furnishings include chairs, as well as pedestals as side tables. A collection of grave furnishings in Section 1 includes tables, chairs, trellises, and other decorative elements, all made of metal with embellishments.

Figure OW-12. Grave furnishings.

Cultural plantings here include lilies, roses, hedges, shrubs, crape myrtle, and trees.

The plots in the two Temple Beth Israel sections are marked with headstones on bases, tablet stones, pedestals, obelisks, and scrolls. Most are family plots, with a primary surname headstone, and are covered with stone or concrete slabs and surrounded by curbing. Bedsteads are also found in Temple Beth Israel #1, and bronze markers on stone bases, as well as slant-faced markers and ledger stones are found in Temple Beth Israel #2. That section also includes a number of cenotaphs – markers for deceased persons who are buried elsewhere. Markers in both sections are made of granite or marble, and many include integral planters.

Figure OW-13. Graves in Temple Beth Israel #1.

Figure OW-14. Cenotaphs in Temple Beth Israel #2.

Adverse Conditions

As in all of the city cemeteries, the primary conditions observed in Oakwood Cemetery are tilted, sunken, displaced or fallen grave markers and exposed marker foundations; biological growth, especially under trees; encroaching vegetation, including shrubs and tree trunks and roots; and subsidence of the soil over graves.

Grass clippings are found all over the markers, and these contribute, along with the proximity of overhanging trees and other vegetation, to the biological growth found on markers throughout the cemetery. Specific species have not been identified, but are likely to include lichen, bacteria, mold, moss, and algae. Staining and general soiling is found throughout the cemetery.

In addition, Oakwood contains quite a few broken markers and marker fragments, which are often displaced or moved, sometimes leaning against still-upright markers or placed in a pile. Cracking, open joints, and the separation and disassembly of marker elements, are particularly a problem in the case of statuary or markers with multiple decorative pieces, but those conditions are found throughout the cemetery. Some markers are missing altogether and only the base or concrete foundation remains.

Due to the age of the markers, worn inscriptions, sugaring or delamination of the stone, and visible previous repairs (both well-done repairs and those that have failed) were observed. Limestone markers have been very nearly destroyed. Iron trellises and fences are corroded and, in several cases, ball moss has attached to their surfaces.

The survey team saw actively running, unattended irrigation faucets spraying water directly onto markers, plots, and curbing, as well as a water line repair project where workers had scraped mud from their tools and boots onto nearby markers. Dripping faucets were observed.

Proximity to the gravel paths, accessible by car, could threaten markers throughout the cemetery, and existing vehicle damage was noted in Section 4, along the path that passes near the Chapel building.

In addition, markers and plots are threatened by the deteriorated condition of the drainage ditches that run through the cemetery from north-to-south. These ditches are reinforced with concrete walls that, in some places, are unstable. The markers close to the edge of these ditches could be displaced if the walls were to move further or collapse.

Oakwood Cemetery Annex

Oakwood Cemetery Annex was established across the street from Oakwood Cemetery proper. It consists of seven sections, identified as A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.

Marker Types

Markers in this cemetery predominantly are made from granite and marble. Bronze VA markers are often mounted on granite bases. The only slate marker observed in the five cemeteries, marking an infant grave, is in the Annex.

Figure OA-1. Slate infant marker.

Family plots often include primary surname markers, accompanied by individual headstones, footstones, cornerstones, and in some cases, additional stones and/or planters at the sides of plots.

Figure OA-2. Family plots with (left) and without (right) a primary marker.

Figure OA-3. (Left) Family plot with primary marker, headstones, and individual curbing; (right) family plot with matching slabs.

Individual grave markers include headstones, slant-faced markers, obelisks, above-ground tombs, and surface markers. Some feature elaborate three-dimensional carvings.

Figure OA-4. Headstone with detailed carving.

An especially popular marker design found in the Annex is this “draped top” style. In the photo below, early (left) and late (right) versions appear side-by-side.

Figure OA-5. “Draped top” markers from 1915 and 1961.

Graves may be covered with ledger stones, slabs, or bodystones.

In Sections C and D, many Latino graves are marked with concrete crosses, handmade markers, or *hornitos*. Tile was a popular embellishment for these markers.

Figure OA-6. (Left to right) Tiled cross; close-up of inset photograph; tiled cross.

Figure OA-7. Hornito.

Figure OA-8. Handmade marker.

Adverse Conditions

Most of Oakwood Annex is in fairly good shape. Sections A, B, E, F, and G all contain relatively minor shifting of markers, biological growth, and encroaching vegetation.

Figure OA-9. Markers displaced by nearby tree trunks and roots.

Worn inscriptions, and some mower/trimmer damage in the infant area of Section A, along with dripping faucets and subsidence in Section E, were the only additional issues observed in the majority of the cemetery.

Figure OA-10. Dripping faucet with ponding.

Sections C and D are in generally much worse condition. Severe tilting, exposed foundations, disassembly and cracking are present. Mower damage to marble markers was observed, along with massive damage to a limestone piece.

Figure OA-11. Severely damaged marker.

Figure OA-12. Sunken markers.

Figure OA-13. Tilted markers.

Footstones are displaced and moved near headstones. Grass clippings, biological growth, staining, and soiling are prevalent. Marble markers are severely sugaring and cracked. In Section D, many taller monuments have come apart and are in pieces, except for Woodmen of the World tree-shaped markers. Some markers are in fragments or missing entirely.

Mower/trimmer damage was also observed, and one marker (which is not otherwise tilted or sunken) may have been displaced by contact with a mower or vehicle.

Figure OA-14. (Left) Trimmer damage to crape myrtle; (right) displaced marker.

Two markers appear to have been painted with black paint.

Figure OA-15. Markers with black paint.

Sections C and D are located at the west side of the cemetery, away from Comal Street. The markers in these sections are more modest than those in the sections closer to the cemetery entrance, and many of them are homemade. More Spanish surnames are present in this section. Concrete crosses are especially likely to be broken.

Figure OA-16. Broken crosses.

One of the most prevalent issues in the Annex seems to be the amount of grass clippings covering many monuments. As the photos below show, the clippings are piled on and stuck to markers of all types, and pieces of grass can be found in carved areas. This creates an environment that promotes the growth of bacteria, mold, etc.

Figure OA-17. Grass clippings.

On the other hand, some grave markers are almost completely overgrown.

Figure OA-18. Overgrown marker.

Plummers Cemetery

Plummers Cemetery was established in the 1920s, and burials continued there through 2004. It was an African American cemetery and contains approximately 278 interments spread over eight acres. It is likely that markers have been lost or destroyed over time; fragments are visible throughout the cemetery.

Marker Types

Marker materials are mostly concrete, granite, and marble. A few limestone markers are present, as are individual examples of brick, bronze, and steel markers. No above-ground tombs are present. Several infant graves are located in the cemetery, but there is no separate infant section.



Figure PL-1. (Left to right) Marble marker; granite markers with ceramic photos; welded metal cross.

Markers feature carved, pressed, or molded inscriptions, some of which are worn and hard to read. Many are clearly handmade; some are embellished with inlaid tile.



Figure PL-2. Handmade markers in concrete (left) and stone (right).



Figure PL-3. Handmade markers in concrete with tile embellishment.

Quite a few concrete markers appear to be made by the same person or company; these distinctively feature larger pieces of mica and other decorative applied aggregate.



Figure PL-4. Concrete grave marker with distinctive mica aggregate.

A series of stone markers enframed in concrete are also present.



Figure PL-5. Stone markers in concrete; Creasy marker (right) is sunken and shows mower damage.

The cemetery contains both individual graves and family plots; graves are typically covered with grass, while the plots are sometimes covered with poured concrete slabs.



Figure PL-6. Family plots covered with poured concrete slabs.

Cultural plantings include lilies, trees, crape myrtle, and agave. Plummers Cemetery also contains many paired trees; according to legend, this was a common way of marking graves in Tennessee, by burying spouses with a tree seed in each of their adjacent hands.



Figure PL-7. Agave and lilies.



Figure PL-8. Paired trees.

Adverse Conditions

The main issues for markers in this cemetery are soiling/biological growth, movement of markers, mower damage, and cracking. Several markers exhibit visible previous repairs. About 25–30% of markers are tilted.



Figure PL-9. Biological growth.



Figure PL-10. Trimmer and mower damage.



Figure PL-11. (Left) mower damage; (right) broken concrete cross.



Figure PL-12. (Left to right) Repaired cracks; cracked marker; cracked marker with visible repairs.

Nearly all of the grave markers in Plummers Cemetery are in need of conservation and repair. The extent of damage in this cemetery is far greater, for its size, than in the other four municipally owned cemeteries. The number and variety of handmade markers is significant.

Considerations for Further Research and Next Steps

The extent of fallen, tilted, sunken, and displaced markers – whether from shifting soil, poorly constructed foundations, encroaching vegetation, or contact with mowers or vehicles – is so great that further study will likely be required, in order to determine a course of action to address these problems.

Biological growth, also found throughout all of the cemeteries, can be more easily addressed through a program of appropriate and regular cleaning. One expects that this will be an long-term, ongoing activity and will require a highly trained and committed corps of volunteers.

A survey of individual graves could be undertaken to establish priorities for action. A simple scoring system might be employed, based on the significance of the marker, extent of damage, and potential for improvement, as shown in the matrix below.

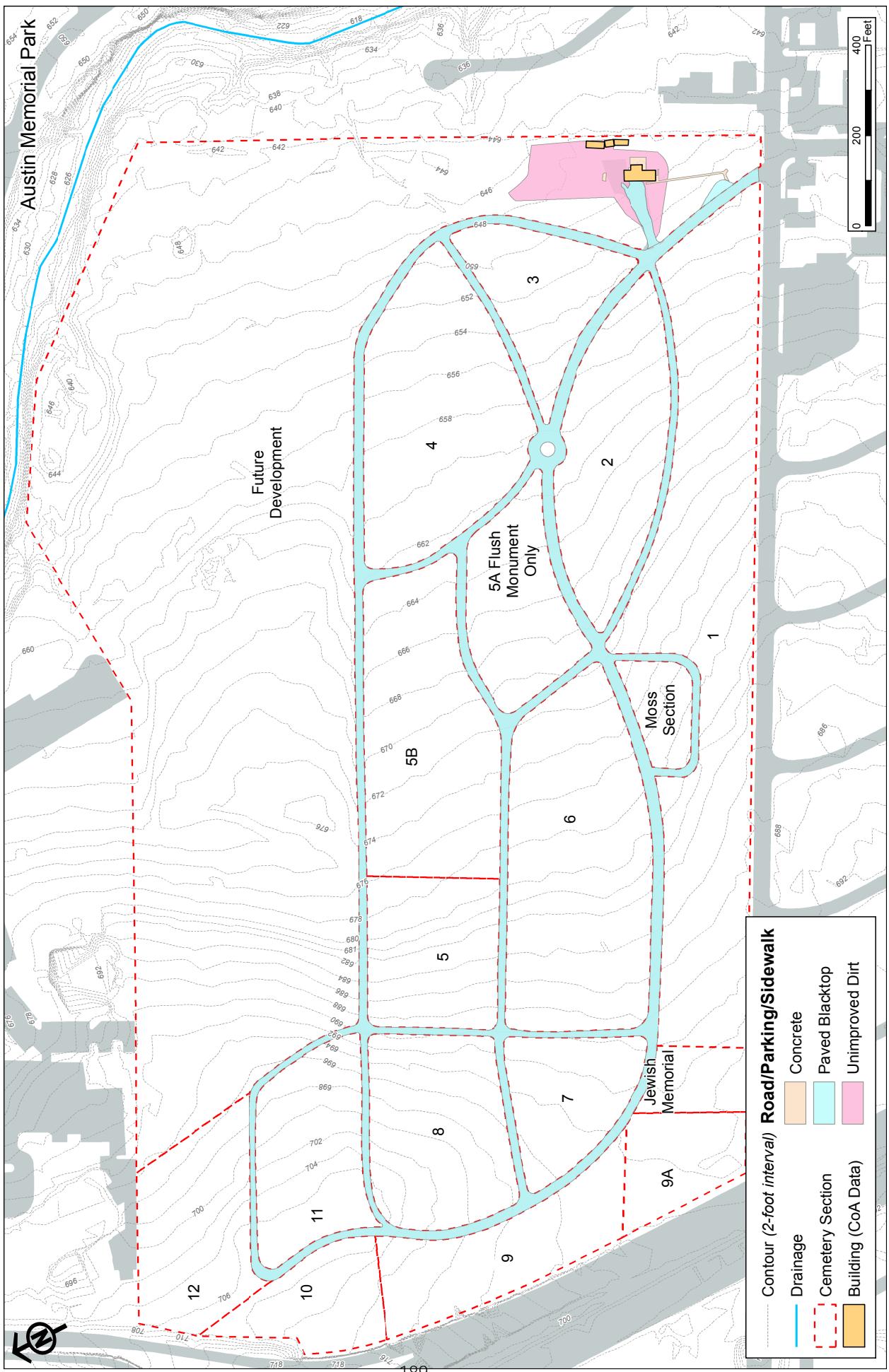
	3 points	2 points	1 point
Significance of Interee	Person was significant in state or national history	Person was significant in local history	Person was not known to be historically significant
Significance of Marker	Design is especially elaborate or unique	Marker is part of a group or series that are collectively significant	Marker design is common
Representative Marker	Marker is the only example of its type	Marker is an excellent example of type	Marker type is common
Extent of Damage	Structural damage	Marker needs to be re-set	Mostly biological growth
Potential for Improvement	Can be easily fixed/cleaned	Can be repaired but may require special expertise, removal from cemetery, etc.	Damage is so great that marker may not be salvageable

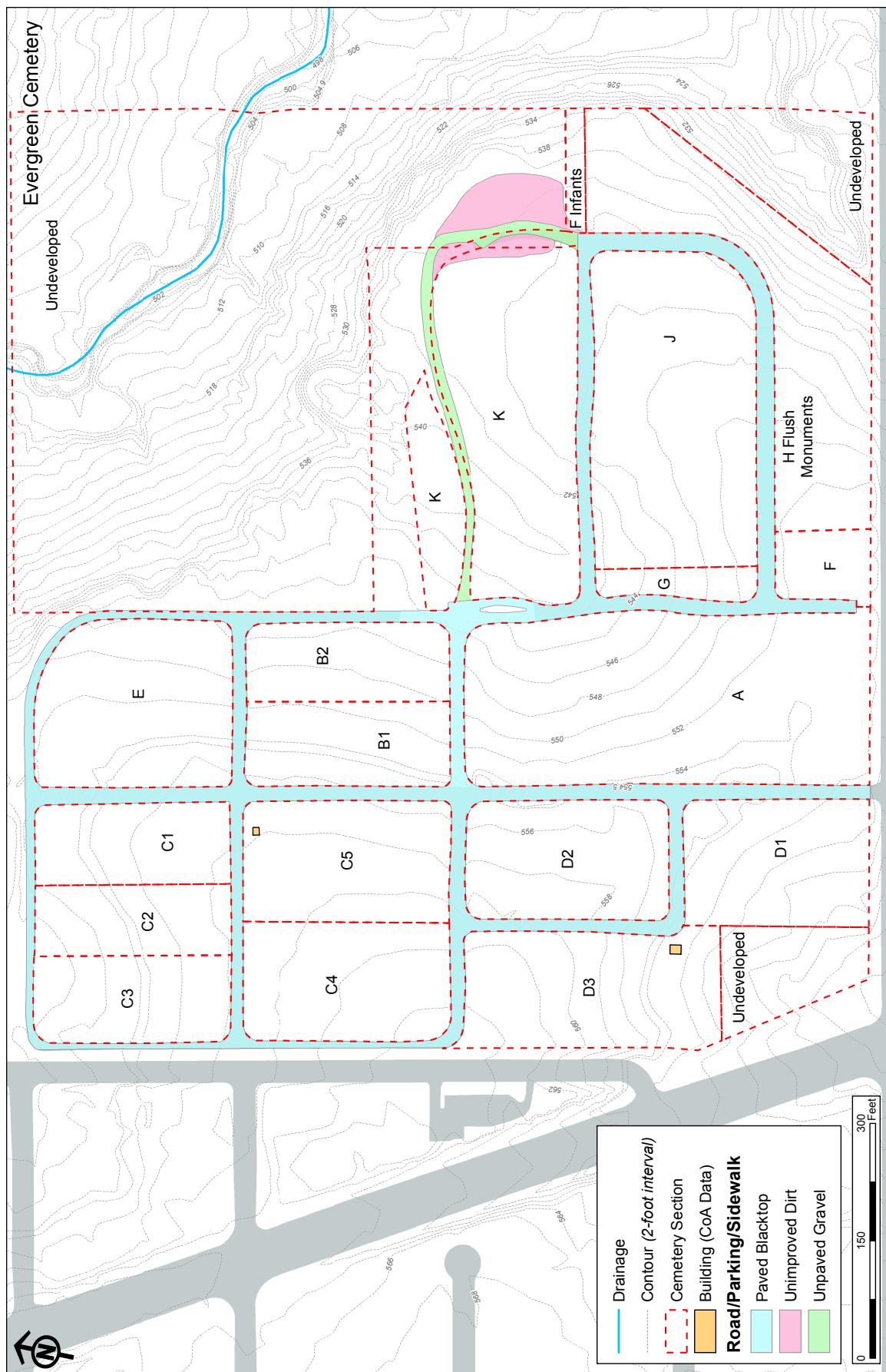
Conservators, genealogists, and historians wishing to further document these grave markers should note that the team observed inscriptions in the following languages: English, Spanish, Hebrew, German, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese.

Appendix A: Cemetery Maps

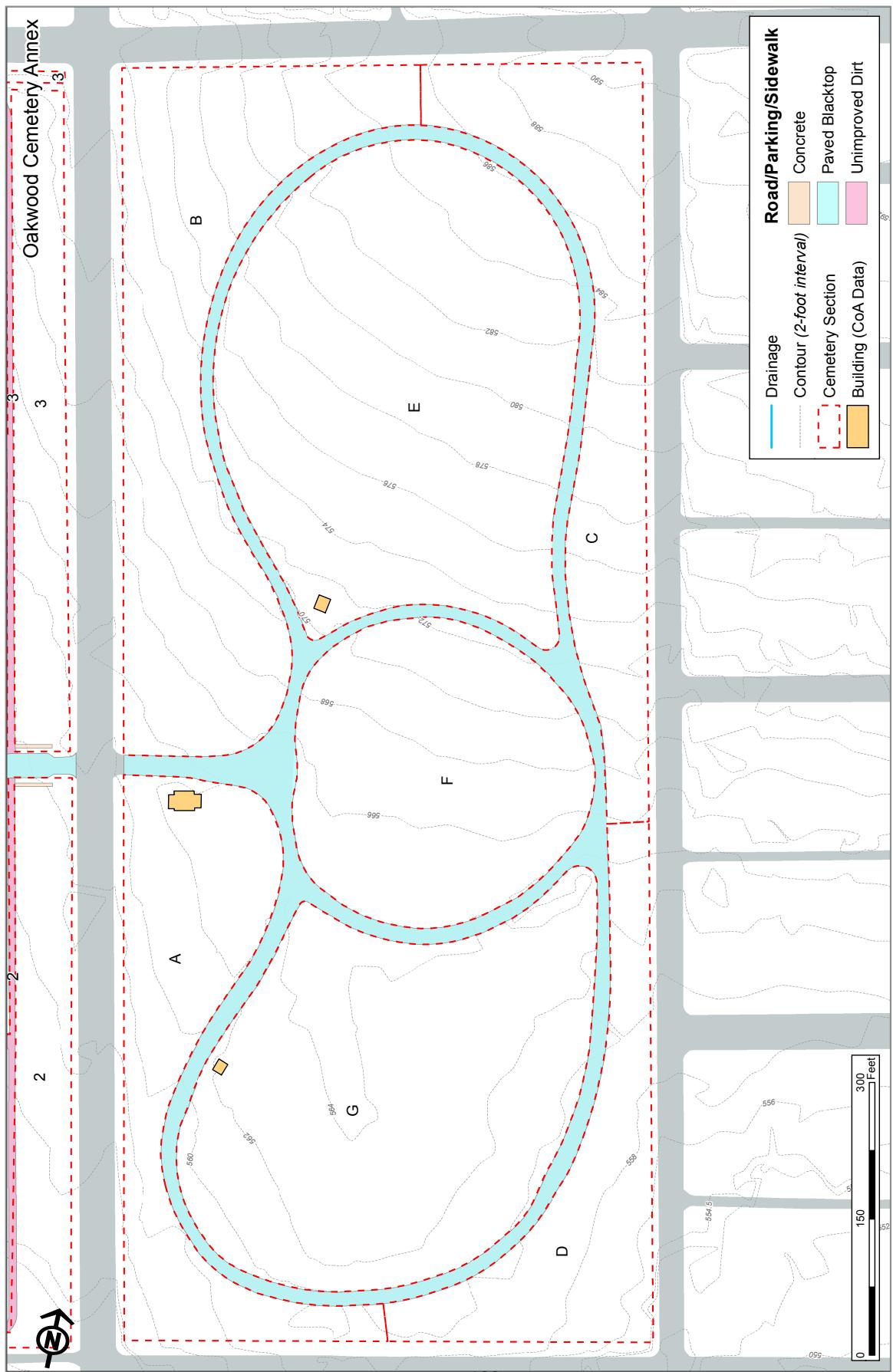
Base maps of each of the five cemeteries are provided on the following pages in this order:

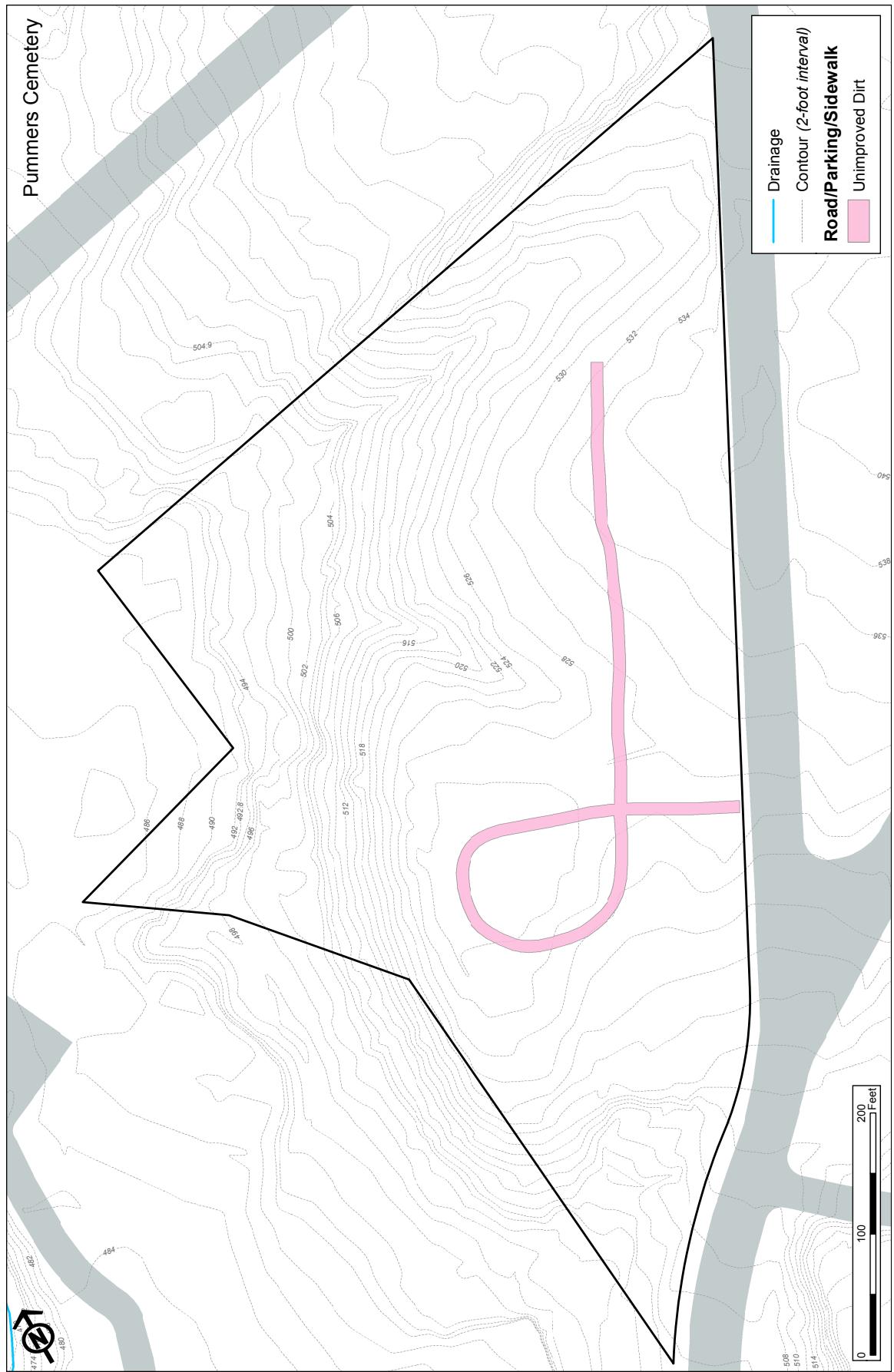
1. Austin Memorial Park Cemetery
2. Evergreen Cemetery
3. Oakwood Cemetery
4. Oakwood Cemetery Annex
5. Plummers Cemetery











Appendix B: Illustrated Glossary of Marker Types

Most Common Markers	
Headstone on base <i>An upright marker with two vertical sides, typically mounted on a substantial base.</i>	IG-1.
Tablet stone <i>An upright marker that is thinner than a headstone and, in the Austin cemeteries, generally set directly into the ground rather than mounted on a base.</i>	IG-2.
Tall Markers	
Stele <i>A relatively tall shaft of stone, usually with a beveled or slanted top.</i>	IG-3.
Column <i>A classical column, with or without a capital.</i>	IG-4.
Cross <i>A marker in the general shape of a Christian religious symbol; Celtic variations include a circle of material around the intersection of horizontal and vertical members. May be made of stone, wood, concrete, metal, or other materials.</i>	IG-5.
Obelisk <i>A tall shaft that ends in a point or in a vaulted point (right).</i>	IG-6.
Pedestal <i>A substantial base of the type used to support a statue or other tall marker. May appear by itself or topped with a column, cross, obelisk, etc. May contain multiple components or be a single block or cylinder.</i>	IG-7.
Woodmen of the World (tree) <i>A sculptural marker in the shape of a tree, with the WOW insignia.</i>	IG-8.
Woodmen of the World (stacked logs) <i>A sculptural marker in the shape of a stack of logs, with the WOW insignia.</i>	IG-9.
Low Markers	
Surface marker (stone or concrete) <i>A relatively thin marker, usually (but not always) in a rectangular shape, designed to be laid flat on the ground. Usually installed on a concrete foundation. May project above</i>	IG-10.

<i>the surface of the ground or be set flush with the surface.</i>	
Surface marker (bronze or other metal) A thin, flat plate of metal, often cast bronze, designed to be laid flat on the ground. Usually installed on a concrete foundation or a stone or concrete base. <i>May project above the surface of the ground or be set flush with the surface.</i>	IG-11.
Pillow marker <i>A surface marker shaped to resemble a pillow.</i>	IG-12.
Slant-faced marker <i>A marker in which the top of the marker is cut at an angle to the ground.</i>	IG-13.
Scroll <i>A marker in which the slanted face is covered by a scroll. The angle of the slanted face may vary widely, as may the intricacy of the scroll carving.</i>	IG-14.
Curved-top marker <i>A marker with vertical sides and a top that curves toward the left and right sides. Either a vertical side or the curved top (or both) may be inscribed. A common variation found in Oakwood Cemetery and Annex is sculpted to give the appearance of a cloth draped over the curved top of the marker.</i>	IG-15.
Ledger Stone (inscribed) <i>A flat slab of stone (or, less often, concrete) that covers the grave and bears an inscription.</i>	IG-16.
Slab Over Crypt (not inscribed) <i>A flat slab of stone or poured concrete that covers the grave or plot. Unlike a ledger stone, it is not inscribed; instead, this usually appears in combination with a separate headstone or similar marker.</i>	IG-17.
Bodystone (single or double) <i>Like a slab, but curved in a convex shape along the long axis, as if covering the body. Often includes a "pillow" area where the inscription is located.</i>	IG-18.
Less Common Markers	
Rustic/Boulder <i>A large stone that is rough-cut into a relatively natural shape and includes a flat</i>	IG-19.

<i>surface where the inscription is carved</i>	
Disc <i>A round or oval marker; may be placed flat on the ground or stand upright. Heart-shaped markers also fall into this category.</i>	IG-20.
Bolster <i>A cylindrical stone set horizontally on a base.</i>	IG-21.
Memorial Table <i>A marker with a slab top and corner posts, resembling a table. May or may not have side and end panels.</i>	IG-22.
Memorial Bench <i>An inscribed bench that functions as the grave marker, rather than as a decorative furnishing.</i>	IG-23.
Exedra <i>A semi-circular bench attached to a headstone.</i>	IG-24.
Box Tomb (over grave) <i>A marker that is placed over a grave and is raised slightly above the ground.</i>	IG-25.
Above-Ground Tomb <i>A structure built on the surface of the ground to contain a coffin and remains.</i>	IG-26.
Bedstead or Cradle <i>Relatively tall, ornate curbing around an individual grave, giving the appearance of a bed. Smaller versions over infant graves are called cradles.</i>	IG-27.
Flower Box <i>Low curbing of stone or concrete, usually integral to the marker, around an individual grave. This space was traditionally planted with flowers.</i>	IG-28.
Pulpit <i>A marker topped with the sculpture of an open book.</i>	IG-29.
Cenotaph <i>A marker that memorializes a person who is buried elsewhere.</i>	IG-30.
Secondary Elements	
Footstone <i>A small marker, often complementary to the headstone in material and design, placed at the foot of a grave. May be inscribed with a name, initials, or other description (Mother, Our Baby, etc.) May be placed flush with the</i>	IG-31.

<i>ground or projecting above it.</i>	
Cornerstones <i>A group of small markers, usually complementary to the headstone in material and design, used to mark the four corners of a family plot. Often inscribed with a monogram. May be placed flush with the ground or projecting above it.</i>	IG-32.
Curbing <i>A border of stone, concrete, or other materials that outlines a grave or plot.</i>	IG-33.
Cornerstones (as part of curbing) <i>Blocks of stone or concrete, usually taller than the curbing) that are placed at the corners of curbing and may also punctuate side sections of it.</i>	IG-34.

Appendix C

History of Government Furnished Headstones and Markers

Published by the National Cemetery Administration²

The history of government headstones has an identity of its own apart from development of the National Cemetery Administration. The original standard grave marker precedes the establishment of national cemeteries in 1862 and actually has its origin in the frontier days of this country prior to the Civil War.

In the normal course of events, soldiers died and garrison commanders were compelled to bury their dead, mainly in cemetery plots within post reservations. Those not so fortunate were buried where death occurred. In the course of time, a fairly uniform method of marking burials came into being. A wooden board with a rounded top and bearing a registration number or inscription became the standard. No centralized system for recording burials existed.

Although the system may have been adequate for frontier forces, it could scarcely meet the needs of the national army that came into being at the beginning of the Civil War. Two months after the first battle of Manassas, the War Department issued General Orders number 75, Sept. 11, 1861, which made commanders of national forces responsible for burials and marking graves. In the same General Orders, the Quartermaster General of the Army was directed to provide headboards as well as blank books and forms for the preservation of burial records. War Department General Orders number 75 created the first organized system of marking graves.

Following capitulation of the Confederate States Army, a concerted effort was undertaken to recover the dead from their temporary wartime burial places and to accomplish their permanent reburial in national cemeteries. Little thought was given to the suitability of the round top wooden headboards as a marker for the graves of soldiers fallen in battle. In 1865, when burials in national cemeteries approached 100,000, serious consideration began to be given to the long range economy of maintaining the wooden headboards then in use. It was estimated that the total recovered dead of the Civil War would be around 300,000 and, considering the average cost of a headboard at \$1.23 each and a life expectancy of not more than five years, it became obvious that the original and replacement costs would exceed \$1 million over a 20-year period.

Aside from the problems of economics surrounding the use of wooden headboards, public sentiment was turning to a more permanent mode of marking graves. Several years of controversy ensued within the War Department as to the type of headstone that ought to be used in lieu of the wooden headboard. There were those who favored the use of marble and those who favored galvanized iron coated with zinc. The controversy between marble and galvanized iron continued with intermittent periods of vigor and apathy for seven years.

² Article reproduced in its entirety. Accessed online at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/history/hmhst.asp> on May 24, 2014.

In 1873, Secretary of War William W. Belknap adopted the first design for stones to be erected in national cemeteries. For the known dead, the department adopted a slab design of marble or durable stone four inches thick, 10 inches wide and 12 inches in height extending above the ground. The part above the ground was polished and the top slightly curved. The number of the grave, rank, name of the soldier and the name of the state were cut on the front face. This original design for the permanent headstone was referred to as the "Civil War" type, and was furnished for members of the Union Army only. The stone featured a sunken shield in which the inscription appeared in bas relief. For the unknown dead, the stone was a block of marble or durable stone six inches square, and 30 inches long. The top and four inches of the sides of the upper part were finished and the number of the grave cut on the top. On Feb. 3, 1879, Congress authorized the furnishing of stones for the unmarked graves of veterans in private cemeteries. Insofar as known, the only type used was the same as used for the known dead in national cemeteries.

The Civil War-type of headstone was furnished not only for the unmarked graves of that war but for the unmarked graves of eligible deceased of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War and Indian Campaigns. At the conclusion of the Spanish-American War, it was decided that the same design of headstone should be used to mark the graves of eligible deceased of that war as well.

In 1902, a study was done as to determine the durability of the type of headstone then in use. The study resulted in a change implemented in 1903. The height of the stone was increased to 39 inches, the width to 12 inches, and the thickness to four inches. The use of stone blocks for marking unknown graves in national cemeteries was discontinued on Oct. 21, 1903, and the graves were marked with the same design as those furnished for the known dead.

In order to ensure that all graves in military controlled cemeteries were marked appropriately, Congress on April 28, 1904 (58th Cong., Chap. 1762), also authorized the furnishing of headstones for the unmarked graves of civilians buried in post cemeteries. The question of permanently marking graves of Confederate deceased in national cemeteries and Confederate burial plots resulted in the Act of March 9, 1906 (P.L. 38, 59th Cong., Chap. 631), authorizing the furnishing of headstones for the graves of Confederates who died, primarily in Union prison camps and were buried in federal cemeteries. Congress adopted the same size and material for Confederate headstones as headstones for Civil-Spanish War deceased. The design varied in that the top was pointed instead of rounded and the shield was omitted. Apocryphally, it has been said that the pointed top was adopted to prevent "Yankees" from sitting on Confederate headstones. An act on Feb. 26, 1929 (70th Cong., Chap. 324), authorized the furnishing of this type of stone for graves in private cemeteries, as well.

On May 26, 1930, the War Department implemented regulations for Confederate headstones that also authorized the inscription of the Confederate Cross of Honor in a small circle on the front face of the stone above the standard inscription of the soldier's name, rank, company and regiment.

Following World War I, a board of officers composed of Assistant Secretary of War J.M. Wainwright, Army Chief of Staff General John J. Pershing and Quartermaster General Harry L. Rogers adopted a new design to be used for all graves except those of veterans of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars.

This stone was of the slab design referred to as "General" type, slightly rounded at the top, of American white marble, 42 inches long, 13 inches wide and four inches thick. The inscription on the front face would include the name of the soldier, his rank, regiment, division, date of death and state from which he came.

For the first time, a religious emblem was adopted for use on government headstones. The religious emblem was authorized for use at this time only on the General type stone. The choice of emblem was limited to the Latin Cross for the Christian faith and the Star of David for the Jewish faith.

In April 1941, the Under Secretary of War approved the use of granite material for stones similar to the existing designs of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, and the Confederate and General types. These granite headstones were discontinued in 1947, however, because of the inability to procure them within the price limitations authorized by the War Department.

To assure the marking of all graves of all eligible members of the armed forces and veterans interred in private cemeteries, who due to cemetery regulations were permitted only a flat marker type, the following designs were approved by the Assistant Secretary of War: flat marble marker adopted Aug. 11, 1936; flat granite marker adopted Sept. 13, 1939. An act of April 18, 1940, authorized the use of other materials and the standard. Flat bronze markers were adopted on July 12, 1940. (A new design was approved beginning with fiscal year 1973).

The marble and granite flat markers are 24 inches in length, 12 inches in width, and four inches deep with incised inscriptions. The bronze flat marker is 24 inches in length, 12 inches in width and three-sixteenths of an inch thick with raised lettering. The markers are placed flush with the ground and the inscription is placed parallel to the greatest dimension of the marker. The inscription includes the name of the deceased, state, rank, organization, dates of death and religious emblem above the inscription.

The Under Secretary of War authorized the addition of the date of birth as part of authorized inscription in 1944. After the war ended, he authorized World War I or II as part of the inscription.

On Dec. 1, 1948, the Secretary of War authorized a flat granite marker for use in the new national cemeteries in Hawaii (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) and Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico National Cemetery). This marker is of the same design that had been previously authorized for private cemeteries with the exception of the thickness, which was reduced to three inches. In 1951 the same type of marker was approved for use in the new Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army approved designs to be used for the marking of group burial interments in national cemeteries in 1950.

The Secretary of the Army approved the placement of the Buddhist emblem as part of the authorized inscription in February 1951. Seven months later, the Secretary of Defense directed The Secretary of the Army to include the word "Korea" as part of the authorized inscription in those instances where members of the United States Armed Forces died in Korea or whose death was attributable to service in Korea.

The above directive was superseded and reissued on Dec. 1, 1954, to provide for inclusion of the word "Korea" on government headstones and markers for the graves of those members and former members of the United States armed forces who served within the areas of military operations in the Korean Theater between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954.

Then on Dec. 11, 1964, the Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army for Civil Functions approved the word "Vietnam" as part of the authorized inscription in those instances where members of the United States armed forces died in Vietnam, or whose death was attributable to service in Vietnam for the duration of current military activities in Vietnam or until such time as the military activities were given an official designation. The inclusion of the word "Vietnam" as part of the authorized inscription was retroactive to 1954.

The Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army for Civil Functions approved the word "Korea" as part of the authorized inscription on the headstones of all military personnel and veterans who were on active duty during the period of June 27, 1950 through July 27, 1954 and on headstones and markers for active duty decedents who lost their lives in Korea or adjacent waters as a result of hostile action subsequent to the 1953 Armistice. The word "Vietnam" was authorized to be inscribed on the headstones and markers of all decedents who were on active duty on or after August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975. The beginning date has been extended to February 28, 1961, for veterans who served "in country" before August 5, 1964.

On Sept. 1, 1973, 82 of the 84 national cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army were transferred to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs. Arlington and the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemeteries remained under the Department of the Army.

On Oct. 31, 1983, the Chief Memorial Affairs Director of the then-Veterans Administration authorized "Lebanon" or "Grenada" to be shown as the war service for those killed as a result of those military actions. Then on Dec. 22, 1989, the Director of the National Cemetery System (now called the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration), Department of Veterans Affairs, authorized "Panama" to be shown as the war service for those killed in military action in Panama, and "Persian Gulf" to be shown as the war service for all military personnel who served in that action August 2, 1990 or later. The Director of Monument Services authorized "MIA" and "POW" to be inscribed at Government expense on Dec. 12, 1988.

On Dec. 4, 1992, the Director of Memorial Programs Service authorized "Somalia" to be shown as the war service for those killed as a result of military actions.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs authorized the reintroduction of upright granite headstones on Jan. 19, 1994.

In February 1997, the Inclusive Inscription Policy was adopted. This policy allows for additional text inscription to be provided at government expense.

Public Law 107-103, signed on Dec. 27, 2001, allows the VA to furnish an appropriate government marker for the grave of a veteran buried in a private cemetery regardless of whether the grave is already marked with a private marker. On Dec. 6, 2002, this law was amended to extend this benefit to veterans who died on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY FORM

PROJECT # _____
 County _____
 Address _____

Local ID _____
 City _____

SECTION 1**Basic Inventory Information**

Owner/Address

Geographic Location:

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Legal Description (Lot/Block) _____

Addition/Subdivision _____ Year _____

Property Type: Building Structure Object Site District**Current Designations:** NR District (Is property contributing? Yes No) NHL NR RTHL OTHM HTC SAL Local Other**Architect:****Builder:****Construction Date:** Actual Estimated Source: _____**Function****Current Use:** Agriculture Commerce/trade Defense Domestic Educational Government
 Healthcare Industry/processing Recreation/culture Religious Social Other:**Historic Use:** Agriculture Commerce/trade Defense Domestic Educational Government
 Healthcare Industry/processing Recreation/culture Religious Social Other:**Image Information**

Recorded by: _____ Date Recorded: _____

Photo Data: ID# _____ to _____ Primary Image ID _____

IMAGE

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY FORM

PROJECT # _____
County _____
Address _____Local ID _____
City _____**SECTION 3****Historical Information****Associated Historical Context:**

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration/Settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> Law/Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration | <input type="checkbox"/> Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Spirituality | <input type="checkbox"/> Science/Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning/Development |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Cultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Applicable National Register (NR) Criteria:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A | Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B | Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past
Embodyes the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C | master, or possesses high artistic value, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinctions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D | Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory of history |

Areas of Significance:**Periods of Significance:****Level of Significance:** National State Local**Integrity:** Location Design Materials Workmanship
 Setting Feeling Association**Integrity notes:****Individually Eligible?** Yes No Undetermined**Within Potential NR District?** Yes No Undetermined**Is Property Contributing?** Yes No Undetermined**Priority:**
(see manual for definitions) High Medium Low Explain:**Other Information****Is prior documentation available for this resource?** Yes No Not known **Type:** HABS Survey Other

Documentation details

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Contact Survey Coordinator

History Programs Division, Texas Historical Commission

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