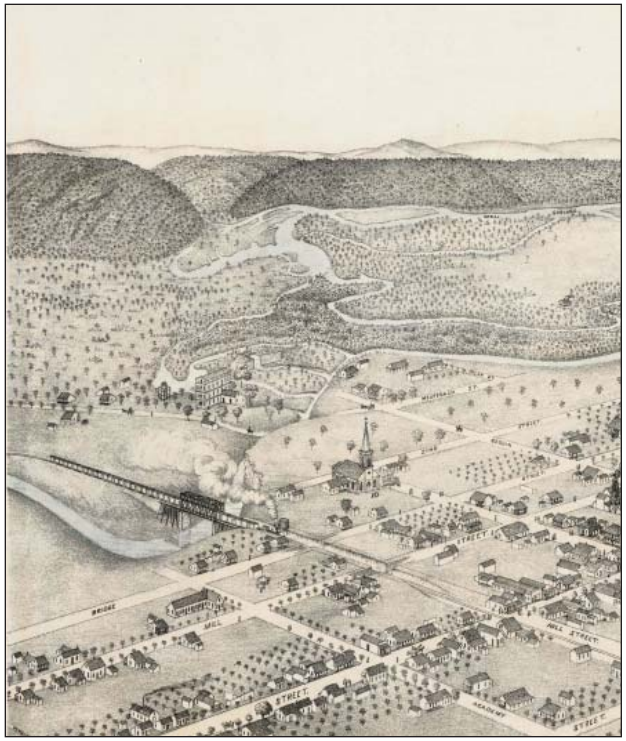


Historic Preservation Plan for Municipal Cemeteries

November 2010

prepared by
John Milner Associates, Inc., Charlottesville, Virginia
Dan K. Utley, Historian, Austin, Texas
Cynthia J. Beeman, Historian, Austin, Texas

prepared for
The City of New Braunfels, Texas

Historic Preservation Plan for Municipal Cemeteries

November 2010

prepared by
John Milner Associates, Inc., Charlottesville, Virginia
Dan K. Utley, Historian, Austin, Texas
Cynthia J. Beeman, Historian, Austin, Texas

prepared for
The City of New Braunfels, Texas

Acknowledgements

Thanks to City of New Braunfels public officials, including:

Bruce Boyer, Mayor
Michael Morrison, City Manager
Robert Camareno, Assistant City Manager

and the members of City Council:

Richard Zapata, District 1
Mark Goodner, District 2
Mike Ybarra, District 3
Sandy Nolte, District 4
Kathleen Krueger, District 5, Mayor Pro Tem
Stephen Digges, District 6

The Staff of the City of New Braunfels deserves special thanks, including:

Stacey Laird Dicke, Director
Wade Tomlinson, Park Development Manager
Cherise Bell, Historic Preservation Officer

Thanks to the Cemetery Committee for assistance and support
during the entire master plan process. Members include:

David W. Hartmann, Chair
Craig Massough
Connie Krause
Lewis Wayne Lehew
Tammy Albrecht
Elizabeth (Betty) L. Kyle
Charles E. Zech

Heartfelt thanks to the many members of the community who shared their knowledge of their heritage and provided their insight and opinions which were essential to the planning process.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

New Braunfels' historic municipal cemeteries were created in the nineteenth century to fulfill the important need for burial places that would be available to all citizens of the town. The New Braunfels Cemetery was the first to open; it was platted in 1845 and put into use almost immediately to accommodate victims of the epidemics that took hundreds of lives during 1845 and 1846. Twenty-three years later, in 1868, the Comal Cemetery was established to meet the needs of a growing town for additional burial space. Today, however, these two important historic properties exhibit signs of declining conditions due to the combination of reduced plot sales, decreased maintenance budgets, and ever-increasing infrastructure and conservation needs.

In response to citizen concerns about the declining state of both cemeteries, the Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Cemetery Committee of the Parks and Recreation Board, retained John Milner Associates, Inc., to develop a master plan for these cemeteries that protects their historic character while providing opportunities to increase their value as cultural attractions and community resources. The Historic Preservation Plan for Municipal Cemeteries examines in detail the issues that affect these cemeteries, establishes goals for the future, and presents recommendations toward achieving these goals. Recommendations are listed and prioritized as follows (refer to Chapter 4 and 5 for details):

Priority One (to be completed within 1-2 years)

- Encourage development of volunteer group to assist with preservation/beautification projects.
- Develop marketing and promotion plan for heritage tourism and local education.
- Locate plot owners to release vacant grave plots in both cemeteries.
- Document all grave markers, enclosing curbs, and plot fencing, trees, and shrubs within both cemeteries. Research locations and species of plants that have been removed since the historic period.
- Secure all historic plot fencing with padlock system.
- Stabilize severely tilting tabular monuments in both cemeteries.
- Conduct ground penetrating radar to determine boundary of mass grave in the New Braunfels Cemetery and mark area with native grass and wildflower planting.
- Identify, renovate, and propagate historic roses and other heritage plants.
- Replace and supplement site furnishings, such as trash receptacles and benches, within both cemeteries.
- Replace missing shrubs on south and west sides of New Braunfels Cemetery.
- Pave and stripe parking on the Grape Avenue side of New Braunfels Cemetery.

Priority Two (to be completed within 3-5 years)

- Repair eroding wall at CCC-constructed stage adjacent to Sexton's office at Comal Cemetery.
- Remove and replace chain link boundary fences and gates with metal picket fencing at both cemeteries.
- Install lichgate at New Braunfels Cemetery.
- Replace cemetery drive signage in the Comal Cemetery.
- Install boundary plantings and accent plantings at New Braunfels Cemetery.
- Conduct ground penetrating radar in areas of both proposed visitor gathering areas. Develop visitor gathering areas and information kiosks.
- Remove stumps and replace historic trees.
- Close gravel drives at Comal Cemetery to protect features from vehicular impacts.
- Conserve damaged monuments, Phase 1.

Priority Three (to be completed within 5-7 years)

- Conserve damaged monuments, Phase 2.
- Plant live oaks along South Eliott Knox side of the New Braunfels Cemetery.
- Install street signs and interpretive markers.
- Develop visitor gathering area at both cemeteries.
- Repaint pedestrian stiles and historic lichgates in the Comal Cemetery as indicated by paint testing as original color.

List of Figures

Chapter 1: Introduction

Location and Natural Context

New Braunfels is located just off Interstate Highway 35 (IH-35), thirty miles northeast of San Antonio and forty-five miles southwest of Austin in Central Texas (Figure 1-1). This fast-growing town of over 50,000 is now considered part of the San Antonio Metropolitan Statistical Area. As such, it shares in San Antonio's growing tourism industry and offers a number of attractions that draw visitors, including Landa Park, in which the Comal Springs are located; events such as Wurstfest, which celebrate the history of the area; and modern water-related recreational phenomena such as Schlitterbahn.

New Braunfels lies on the eastern edge of the Texas Hill Country, a region of Central Texas that features rugged limestone hills dissected by small streams and rivers subject to sudden flooding. The Hill Country is bounded along its eastern edge by the Balcones Escarpment, a dramatic uplift of the limestone bedrock that marks the east and south edges of the Edwards Plateau (Figure 1-2). New Braunfels was settled at its base in the low valley of the confluence of the Guadalupe and Comal rivers. The rugged topography, clear streams, and dramatic vegetation of this area also contribute to its appeal to visitors, particularly during the spring show of wildflowers.

The river valleys in which the city developed lie within the Blackland Prairie, a subprovince of the Gulf Coastal Plain, a physiographic region of Texas (Figure 1-3). This gently undulating region is typified by deep black clay soils with high fertility. Because of the fertile nature of these soils, most of this area is typically cleared of natural vegetation and often under cultivation or kept in pasture (Wermand, 1996).

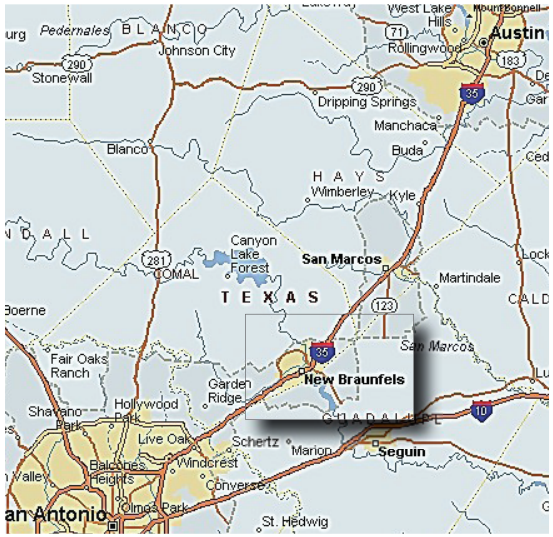


Figure 1-1. New Braunfels is located along IH-35 between Austin and San Antonio in Central Texas. Note that the highway follows the edge of the Balcones Escarpment. *Linda Fay, Realtor web site.*

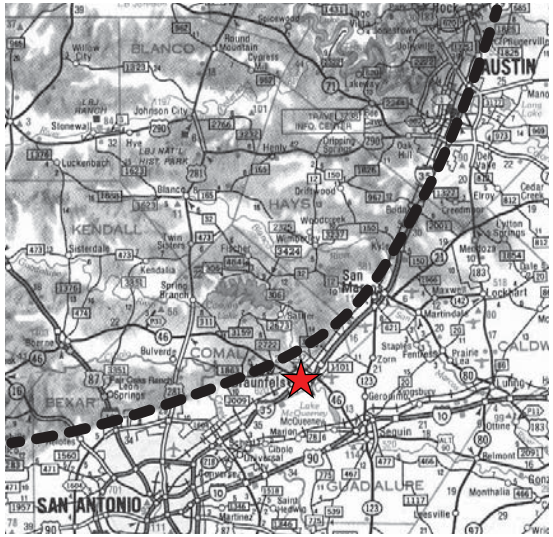


Figure 1-2. Map of the Texas Hill Country, annotated to show the location of New Braunfels, indicated by a star, and the Balcones Escarpment, indicated by a dashed line. *Texas Hill Country Information Service.*

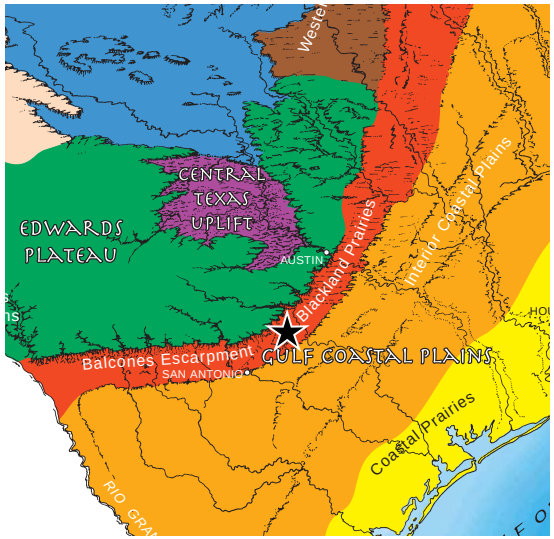


Figure 1-3. Detail from a physiographic map of Texas ,showing the location of New Braunfels, indicated by a star, within the Blackland Prairie region. *University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology.*

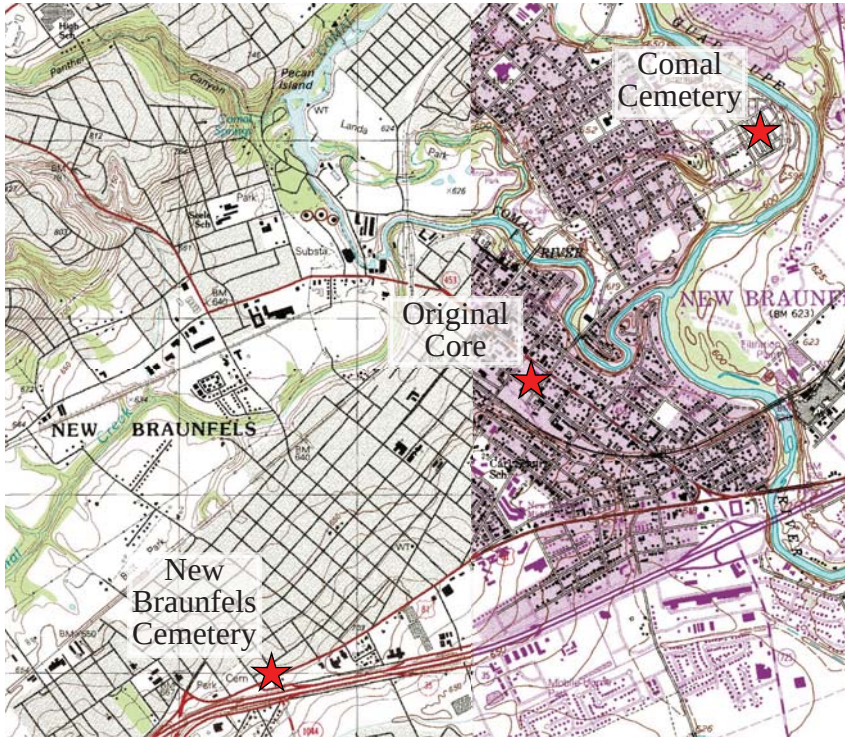


Figure 1-4. Detail of USGS quadrangle maps, annotated to highlight the relative locations of New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries. *U.S. Geological Survey. New Braunfels East and New Braunfels West, Texas.*

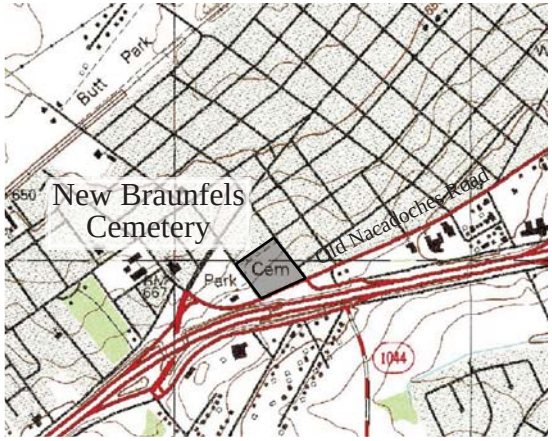


Figure 1-5. Location of New Braunfels Cemetery on a slope above Dry Comal Creek in the southwest part of New Braunfels, adjacent to Old Nacogdoches Road. *U.S. Geological Survey. New Braunfels West, Texas.*

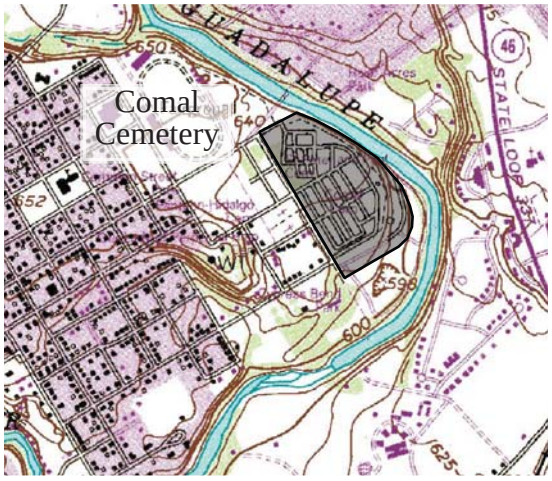


Figure 1-6. Location of Comal Cemetery on a high bluff above a bend in the Guadalupe River in the northeast part of New Braunfels. *U.S. Geological Survey. New Braunfels East, Texas.*

Topography

The New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries are almost equidistant from the original core of the city, the former approximately 1.5 miles to the southwest and the latter approximately 1.25 miles to the northeast (Figure 1-4). The New Braunfels Cemetery was sited on a gently-sloping hillside above Dry Comal Creek, a tributary that runs along the base of the Balcones Escarpment, eventually joining the Comal River close to the original core of the town (Figure 1-5). The cemetery's topographical relationship to the surrounding landscape is obscured today by residential development on the north and on the south by the massive IH-35 bridge embankment. The Comal Cemetery was established on a forty-foot bluff overlooking the Guadalupe River just north of its confluence with the Comal River (Figure 1-6). From a high point at its northwest corner, the cemetery slopes gradually to the southeast at a barely-perceptible 1%. The action of seasonal floodwaters have eroded the bluff at the north end of the cemetery, threatening landscape features, including historic fencing, a roadway, and perhaps eventually unmarked graves that may be in that location.

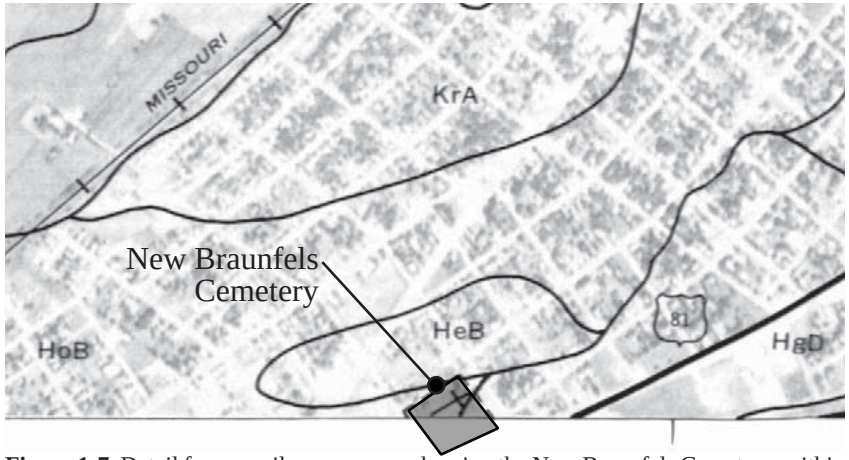


Figure 1-7. Detail from a soil survey map, showing the New Braunfels Cemetery within an area dominated by Houston Black clay soil (HoB). *Map 95, Soil Survey of Comal and Hays Counties Texas, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, 1981.*

Soils

The Blackland Prairie is typified by deep, fertile clay soils, but there are wide variations in depth and quality throughout the region and even within smaller areas, such as the city limits of New Braunfels.

Soil survey maps illustrate the difference between the soils within the two historic cemeteries. The New Braunfels Cemetery lies within an area dominated by Houston Black clay, a very dark gray clay soil with an overall depth of about 50 inches (Figure 1-7). This soil has a high shrink-swell potential and when dry, shrinks, creating cracks ranging from one-half inch to three inches in width and several feet deep.

On the other hand, the Comal Cemetery lies within an area dominated by Krum clay, which is often found on stream terraces (Figure 1-8). This soil has only a moderate shrink-swell potential and although minor cracking occurs, cracks are not deep because the surface layer averages only about 19 inches and has with a thick layer of perennially-moist clay subsoil to support it. This comparison is important in consideration of the conditions found in these two cemeteries; vastly more subsidence occurs in the New Braunfels Cemetery than in the Comal Cemetery (Figure 1-9).

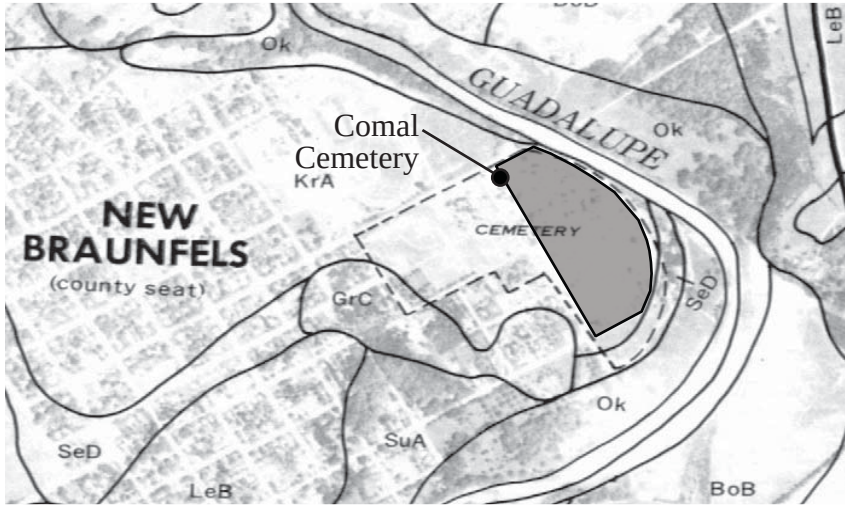


Figure 1-8. Detail from a soil survey map, showing the Comal Cemetery within an area dominated by Krum clay soil (KrA). *Map 95, Soil Survey of Comal and Hays Counties Texas, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, 1981.*

Figure 1-9. The subsidence of this grave cover and headstone in the New Braunfels Cemetery is the effect of their placement within Houston Black clay. *JMA, 2009.*

Historical Background

> *[She'd say],"you must say a prayer." And I'd catch her talking to her mother or her father. And I have to tell you, I still talk to them. I still talk to the people who have passed on, all the time, especially when I catch myself doing something that I knew my grandmother wouldn't like. And then she would also take us around not only to relatives, but also to people who owned stores…. [S]he would tell all of us the genealogy: "now this is another brother to your great-grandfather…." and she would explain the lineage of that plot.*
>
> *—**David Hartmann, Cemetery Committee**, on visiting the cemetery with his grandmother*

The Comal Springs were well known to indigenous groups, as well as the later Spanish explorers who crossed the region. In the late 17th century, the springs served as an important water source along what came to be known as the Old San Antonio Road. Many noted early Texas travelers utilized the springs, including Spaniard Marqués de Aguayo, whose 1720 expedition through the area resulted in reinforcement of the mission system, and the controversial Frenchman Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, whose actions both bolstered and confused the Spanish crown. The Comal Springs continued to attract attention, and in 1756 they became the focal point of a short-lived mission known as Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Native Americans encountered during the early contact period included members of the Tonkawa confederation and the Waco, as well as Karankawa and Lipan Apache.

Figure 1-10. Map of New Braunfels, dated 1881, shows the setting for the town in the valleys of the Guadalupe and Comal rivers and adjacent to the Balcones Escarpment. *Wikipedia.*

Spanish control of the area—and all of Texas—passed to an independent Mexico in 1821. Soon after, government official Juan Martín de Veramendi formally acquired the Comal Springs area as part of a vast—and ultimately contested—land grant. Permanent settlement began in the 1840s, when Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels, acquired considerable acreage for establishment of a colony of German immigrants, marking the beginning of what became the settlement of New Braunfels (Tyler, 1994: various entries).

German immigration to Texas began in the 1830s, spurred in large part by glowing reports written back to his homeland by Johann Friedrich Ernst, a German native who came to Texas in 1831 to join Stephen F. Austin's colonization efforts. By the early 1840s, following widespread publicity caused by Ernst's letters, a group of German noblemen organized the Adelsverein (*Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas*, or Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas) to promote immigration to Texas. The society

promised to its members: ship transportation to a port in Texas, as well as overland conveyance from there to a new colony; 320 acres of land to each family and 160 acres to single men; farming implements and other necessary supplies at a low price from the Adelsverein stores; and establishment and oversight of community institutions including churches, schools, and hospitals, and various infrastructure needs (Geue, 1970:12). Thousands of German families, many struggling to make ends meet because of job losses due to industrialization or overcrowding in rural farming areas, signed on to join the organized migration to Texas.

In 1844, the Adelsverein purchased a portion of the colonization rights previously granted to Henry Francis Fisher and Burchard Miller by the Republic of Texas government. The Fisher-Miller grant, consisting of some three million acres of land between the Colorado and Llano rivers in Central Texas, was to be the location of new communities of German settlers. Its location far inland from Gulf Coast seaports, however, as well as its vulnerability to Native American conflict, presented hindrances to settlement efforts. Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels, the appointed commissioner-general of the Adelsverein, decided to establish a colony closer to the coast, near the established settlements of San Antonio and Seguin. The site he chose, at the confluence of the Comal and Guadalupe rivers, was part of a Mexican land grant awarded to Juan Martín de Veramendi in the 1820s. Prince Carl, on behalf of the Adelsverein, purchased the land from the Veramendi heirs and made plans to establish a permanent settlement at *Las Fontanas*, or the Comal Springs (Biesele, 1930:111, 117-118; Geue, 1970: 15; Seele, 1979:23; Lich, 1996:31; Haas, 1968:16).

Cultural Influences on Funereal Landscapes

…when my mom died, I knew that I was the one that was going to be taking care…. I do believe I've observed that we passed down—the matriarch in each situation more or less took care of flowers…. When I go, I rake, I sweep, I put out flowers….

— Betty Kyle, Cemetery Committee

Germanic Influences

I think that one of the saddest things that I remember—I was twelve years old when my grandfather Wagenfueher died. He was a wonderful man; he was a handsome, smart, very distinguished person, and funny…. I was not allowed to go to the funeral; I'll never forget it. The funeral processions go by my house. I live in the house that was built in 1867 that my grandparents were married in. So, I knew the funeral procession was going to go by my house. I sat down at the piano and I think I played about an hour and a half. There were over two hundred cars in the procession for my grandfather's funeral…. I remember, though, being taken to the cemetery after the funeral to see the masses of flowers that were there. I also think that my family's faith is that there may be a grave there, but the soul's in heaven, and I have handled death differently than my peers all my life, I believe because of that.

— Betty Kyle, Cemetery Committee

The noted geographer Terry Jordan (Terry Gilbert Jordan-Bychkov, 1938-2003) made a lasting contribution to the public literature on Texas cemeteries through publication of his landmark study, *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy* (University of Texas Press, 1982). Long a devoted student of German-Texan lifeways and history, with many seminal works to his credit, Jordan believed German cemeteries served as significant field laboratories for understanding the culture. "Perhaps nowhere," he wrote, "is that imprint more vivid (and less researched) than in their traditional graveyards" (Jordan 1982: 89). Those words help provide the lead-in to the chapter he entitled "The Texas German Graveyard."

While noting the strong German tradition the early immigrants to Texas had for burials in sanctified land—i.e. adjacent to churches—Jordan also understood the powerful impact of acculturation in a new setting. As a result of the acculturation, both the New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries represent a departure from tradition. Where the German traditional influence is most clearly evident in the cultural landscapes of the two cemeteries, though, is in the adherence to order. As Jordan wrote, "Above all, the spatial layout of the Texas German cemetery bespeaks a Teutonic desire for orderliness and symmetry. Let the Anglos, blacks, and Hispanos strew their graves about in a comfortable hodge-podge; the German demands rigid geometry and *Ordnung*." He added, "One learns from a Texas German graveyard that there is a proper place for everything, and everything is in its place. Theirs is an orderly universe, in death as in life" (Jordan 1982: 97).

The Teutonic reverence for order is evident in the close proximity of graves, the rigid geometric pattern of the overall grid, and the abundance of curbing, both to surround family graves and

SEASHELL GRAVE COVERS

In her 1972 study of seashell decorations in Central Texas cemeteries, folklorist Sara Clark provided detailed historical background on a series of graves in Comal Cemetery. The distinct graves, which feature a mounded concrete form topped by giant Atlantic cockleshells artistically patterned in rows, were the work of H.T. Mordhorst (1864-1928) of New Braunfels. A native of Rostock, Germany, he emigrated to the U.S. with family members in 1882. Settling first in Ohio, he eventually made his way to Central Texas at the turn of the twentieth century.* Trained as a cement finisher, he worked on a variety of projects associated with homes, businesses, and agriculture. While vestiges of that work no doubt survive without attribution, his name lives on in association with the unique seashell grave covers he designed for the New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries, as well as cemeteries in Blanco, Comfort, Boerne, Seguin, Lockhart, Uhland, Geronimo, and other nearby towns (Clark 1972: 35-38). Clark described in detail the process the artist utilized:

> *In making his grave covers, Mordhorst first made a flat concrete base on which a wooden form was placed to mold the concrete. He used wire mesh… to give the concrete support internally when it was poured into the mold. The shells were filled with cement and a wire was twisted into each one to help hold the shell to the grave cover. He arrived at this method of attaching the shells by experimentation after his earlier shells came off too easily.*

Clark added that he ordered his shells from locales along the Texas coast and that they were shipped to him in New Braunfels via railroad (Clark 1972: 37).

Unfortunately, Mordhorst's design proved vulnerable to Texas weather over time, and many of the shells have since been broken, eroded, or stolen. Regardless, enough of his work survives to serve as a continuing testimony to his artisanship. His creative work in the medium of concrete places him in a select group of Texas folk artists that include Ray Kelley of Dripping Springs, who also designed shell-covered grave covers, and Dionicio Rodriguez of San Antonio, who created realistic and rusticated concrete art in the form of tree limbs and trunks, some of which is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Apparently, Mordhorst left no written record of why he chose to decorate grave covers with seashells, but the practice of their use in grave adornment goes back to ancient times in many cultures. Clark documents their presence in Paleolithic graves uncovered in Europe and notes the shell motif is also found on ancient Greek burial urns and Roman funerary objects. As with others who have studied the shell motif throughout history, Clark attributes the symbolic reference to the beginning of life, to rebirth, and even to life after death. In tracking the connection to the present, though, she is quick to note, "I wouldn't say that graves are decorated with shells in central Texas because of any powers attributed to the shells by their uses. I would say that here in twentieth-century Texas exists a probable remnant of an ancient and widespread association of sea shells [sic] with human burial." Mordhorst and other practitioners, she adds, "were all participants in a tradition that is older and more significant than they were aware of and that may indeed have continued quietly but steadily since prehistoric times in Europe. The custom has lost its symbolic meaning and magical power but has survived simply because it is traditional and because it has decorative value" (Clark 1972: 42).

**Some shell covers designed by Mordhorst are for graves that predate his arrival in New Braunfels and are considered to be associated with either a relocated grave or the artist's subsequent work at a pre-existing gravesite.*

individual graves. Curbing, while utilized by other cultures, particularly those of European ancestry, is nevertheless highly pronounced in many German-Texan cemeteries. Both cemeteries in this study utilize curbing to cluster graves in a tight, orderly fashion, but the practice is most evident in the Comal Cemetery, where the curbing also helps to define roads, pathways, and landscaping. In some cases, particularly in the older sections of both cemeteries, fences—again, for both family and individual burial plots—add to the orderliness and even substitute for curbing in places.

Jordan also observed the vernacularization of select plantings utilized by the German-Texans, who adopted traditional Southern plants such as roses, irises, and crepe myrtles. Such adaptation of available plant stock is understandable, given the harshness of Texas weather, the unreliable and intermittent availability of rainwater, and the diverse patterning of local soils. Jordan further notes that the German-Texans also planted evergreens in cemeteries (most notably Ashe juniper, commonly called "cedar"), a symbol from pagan times representing everlasting life, and pomegranates, a revered symbol of fertility (Jordan 1982: 101).

Germanic influences are also evident in tombstone engravings that utilize the German language and cultural symbols. To enhance this point, Jordan provided several examples from New Braunfels cemeteries. One is depicted in a photograph of the 1873 Lorenz Steinmertz tombstone, a vernacular (handmade) tablet stone with an arched top, located in the southwest section of New Braunfels Cemetery. Steinmertz, Jordan further observed, was a Hessian born in the village of Oestrich, Nassau, along the Rhine River. Jordan also notes stylized folk art carvings, including three eight-sided, asterisk-like

Figure 1-11. Sunray motif on tombstone. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

sun symbols called *Sonnenrad* and two six-pointed stars known as *Sechssterne*. *Sechssterne*, as Jordan noted, can also be seen on grave markers in the German cemeteries of Pennsylvania, and in parts of Germany that contributed to the Texas migration (Jordan 1982: 110).

Another German tombstone Jordan specifically mentioned is that of Johann Justus Kellner (1821-1851), which he also found in the New Braunfels Cemetery (see Figures 2-2 and 2-3). He included an 1873 photograph of the stone that indicates it had then suffered a severe break but been repaired. He called it "one of the finest folk tombstones that I have seen in the United States," and added, "Though much damaged, the Kellner stone, weathered to shades of amber and brown, remains lovely and is distinguished by the ornate use of Gothic arches, flowers, and stars" (Jordan 1982: 105). (See Chapter 2 for information regarding current condition.) While no doubt less exuberant in detail, stones depicting similar Gothic influences, such as lancet forms, can still be found in the Comal Cemetery.

Other Germanic symbols Jordan noted were turnip-shaped hearts and sunrays (Figure 1-11). He also mentioned the use of shadowboxes or wreath boxes that were often placed against tombstones in a fashion similar to personalized grave decorations found today in the more traditional Hispanic sections of the cemetery. The wreath boxes held personal mementos or bits of greenery, and several are clearly visible in historic photographs of Comal Cemetery, although they are no longer used.

In his study of Texas German graveyards, Jordan recorded many German epitaphs, and among the examples he provided in his book are several from the New Braunfels Cemetery, including this particularly poignant one from a grave marker for a two-year-old child who died in 1884:

Ich war der Mutter Trost	I was my mother's comfort
Dem Vater eine Freude,	A pleasure to my father,
Gott aber liebt mich mehr	But God loves me more
Denn diese alle beide	Than do these two
Kaum bluht ich auf	Hardly had I blossomed
Da fie lich ab	Before I fell off
Fiel aus de Wiege	Fell from the cradle
In das Grab	Into the grave

(Jordan 1982: 118-119).

Jordan's important work in documenting Texas German graveyards serves as a good foundation for further study and analysis in that aspect of cultural history. It is significant that in making his arguments for cultural identity, he used examples from both of the cemeteries that are the focus of this master plan. His insights—and indeed the last chapter of his book—point to the vulnerable nature of all burial grounds, as well as the need for a comprehensive approach to their preservation.

Hispanic Influences

> *Le dijo Jesus: Yo soy la resurreccion y la vida; el que cree en mi, aunque este muerto vivira. Juan 11:26 [sic]*
>
> *(From John 11:25: "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.)*
>
> *— Inscription from the grave of Anna O. Campos in the Comal Cemetery.*

The cultural impact of Hispanics on the funereal landscape is commonly richly layered and diverse, but also distinctive and identifiable. As geographer Terry Jordan noted in his book, *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy*, "The framework of cultural unity provided by the Spanish language and Roman Catholicism scarcely conceals fundamental contrasts. Hispanics in the Southwest," he observed, "run the gamut from Castilian to Indian and, consequently, bear a culture that is both varied and regionalized" (Jordan, 1982: 65).

Due to the historic development of Comal Cemetery, its initial planning and development strongly reflect the German-American and Anglo-American cultures that predominated in New Braunfels at the time. There are also three separate Catholic cemeteries nearby, but many Hispanic graves of recent years can also be found clustered along the Comal Cemetery's perimeter road on the east and southeast sides of the site (Figures 1-12 through 1-14). Given the clustering of the graves and the unique cultural character of the grave decorations, as well as the strong religious influences evident in design and iconography, the largely Hispanic sections collectively provide a distinct element within the cemetery. In contrast to the Teutonic order

and alignment that identifies much of the cemetery landscape, the Hispanic areas tend to emphasize individual graves rather than family groupings. There are exceptions, however, and some Hispanic graves are located within the perimeter road area and therefore adhere to the standard curbed plot configuration in that part of the cemetery.

While the individual grave markers themselves reflect general social trends in design, with in-ground stones, shouldered stones, and ashlar-cut stones among the most common, there is a marked exuberance in grave decorations that highlights the cultural and religious associations. Writing of such Hispanic reflections in his book, *Texas Cemeteries*, Bill Harvey observed, "These cemeteries are all about life—full of color and passion. Pinwheels, dolls, and ornaments of every kind imaginable adorn the graves in these cemeteries." And, he added, "Hispanic cemeteries are replete with reverence, but never somber" (Harvey 2003: 189).

The presence of numerous Hispanic graves within the setting of Comal Cemetery reflects both a historical reference to and a separation from the longstanding cultural custom of *camposantos*, or "fields of saints." In Mexico, the camposantos were often located within sanctified grounds, commonly sited adjacent to churches and cathedrals. In the Spanish borderlands of the U.S., they can still be found in more remote areas associated with vast ranches where Hispanics provided much of the labor force. In more populated areas, where other cultures predominated historically, it became more common to find Hispanic graves associated with existing cemeteries located on "unsanctified" land. Regardless, the graves retain their cultural ties through art, religious references, and individual expression. Folklorist Laura Sue Sanborn described

Figure 1-12. Detail of Hispanic grave decorations. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure 1-13. An Hispanic family plot. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure 1-14. Detail of Hispanic **g**rave decorations. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

those ties in her work on the camposanto as a sacred place. "Tranquil in its harmony with nature and yet a vibrant and colorful portrait of its people, both living and dead," she observed, "the camposanto is full of human drama and filled with poignant expressions of emotion" (Sanborn, 1990).

Taken as a cohesive group, the Hispanic graves in Comal Cemetery serve as an important reminder of the area's cultural history. They also provide a visually unique and readily identifiable part of the greater story represented by the community burial ground. As a result, any preservation plans should reflect the cultural ties to a high degree, given the vulnerability of some decorations as otherwise temporary or outdated. Perhaps more so than other sections of the cemetery the Hispanic areas are dynamic and ever-changing in character. Such traits in turn add to the overall historical significance of the cemetery.

Figure 1-15. A willow tree and roses, traditional Southern symbols used for tombstone ornamentation. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Southern Influences

> *Never step on a grave! Never curse in the cemetery! It's like a church. And of course we played, when no one was looking, in the pavilion. There was a huge pavilion [at Comal Cemetery]. It was kind of Eastlake style. It was quite large, and it had benches along the side. It lasted until about 1965, somewhere in there. It was late-19th century….*
>
> *— **David Hartmann, Cemetery Committee,** on rules of conduct for children in cemeteries*

Southern culture, an amalgam of Anglo-American, African American, and Native American traditions, has provided a common backdrop for Texas funereal landscapes, against which other groups offered their own vernacular adaptations. Within the broader context of Texas settlement from the era of nineteenth-century colonization through the modern era, the Southern culture served as a core determinant for town development in much of the state. Immigrants from the states of the Old South moved steadily into Texas in its formative colonial years, bringing with them their traditional practices, beliefs, customs, and folkways (Figure 1-15). The influences increased dramatically in the decades following the Civil War as scores of agriculturalists from the war-torn areas of the Old South moved west in search of new opportunities. Texas, essentially intact and open for development following the conflict, provided a reasonable venue for transplanting the culture. Historians and geographers have since debated where the Old South historically gave way to the West, but most recognize that the line of demarcation occurred in the general vicinity of Central Texas.

Southern influences in the New Braunfels cemeteries are perhaps most evident in the use of traditional landscape plantings. Among the most common examples are roses, oaks, junipers, irises, lilies, crape myrtles, wildflowers, and nandinas. Cultural influences can also be found in the orientation and spatial arrangement of graves. Older graves, especially, are often aligned on an east-west axis, with the feet placed toward the east so that, according to ancient tradition, the body will face toward the rising sun on the day of resurrection. The sun as a symbol of the spiritual trail dates to the pagan era, and early Christians adopted it as well, signifying Sunday as the holiest day of the week. Also traditional within the Southern culture is the grave arrangement for married couples, with the husband buried to the right of the wife, as the two would have stood at the time of their marriage ceremony. There are certainly exceptions to such general customs in most cemeteries, and the orientation of more recent graves may well relate more to existing roads and other features rather than traditional customs, but the overall layout nevertheless reflects the Southern norm.

Although traditional Southern cemeteries tended to focus on families through trans-generational groupings and utilize curbed family plots to some extent, they lacked the strict Teutonic order so clearly evident in Comal Cemetery. And, in comparison with ancient Hispanic traditions, Southern graveyards did not represent sanctified ground. But, as Terry Jordan noted, "Surviving as a relict [sic] of burial sanctity is the practice, almost universal, of siting southern cemeteries on high ground or slopes….The veneration of high places is far older than Christianity and permeates diverse religions around the world" (Jordan 1982: 33). Although the modern cityscape serves to obscure the topographic relation of the two cemeteries to the town of New Braunfels, at least from the casual observer, Jordan's observation holds true for both. The lack of formal sanctification, which is a departure from the norms of both European and Hispanic practices, is most likely a reflection of life along the frontier, where formality gave way to expediency and cemeteries often predated churches.

Evidence of Southern influence—with its diverse historic ties—can also be found in both cemeteries through the utilization of perimeter and interior fencing; the use of such classical tombstone symbols as the willow, lamb, rose, stylistic crosses (compared to the crucifix more commonly found on Hispanic gravestones), and clasped hands; the existence of grave covers and false crypts; and the presence of arched entryways known as lichgates, or corpse gates—the formal and ceremonial entries into the graveyard (Figures 1-16, 1-17, and 1-18). With regard to the latter, the broad entryway

Figure 1-16. A lamb indicates a child's grave. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure 1-17. Clasped hands decorate the top of a tombstone. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

provided vehicular access for the funeral procession, with side gates, such as those that remain in place at the main entry to Comal Cemetery, serving pedestrian visitors to the grounds. Lichgates are considered to be Anglo-Saxon in origin (Jordan 1982: 38-39).

The separation of races, a common characteristic of historic Southern cemeteries, is evident in both the New Braunfels Cemetery and the Comal Cemetery, although the historic patterning is more easily discerned in the latter. The New Braunfels Cemetery originally served the German-American and Anglo-American residents of the area, so a formal compartmentalization within the grounds does not technically exist. Separation came from within the community as a whole. The Comal Cemetery, however, was initially segregated internally, with a separate plot for African Americans known as the Freedman's Section. This section was set aside by design, originally delineated with a fence, being either a reflection of the German propensity for order, a result of existing Southern norms, or both. The fence has been since removed and the section is not immediately discernible as a defined feature in the landscape.

Figure 1-18. Formal entrance into Comal Cemetery. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Project Methodology

The Historic Preservation Plan for Municipal Cemeteries was approached as a collaborative effort involving the Cemetery Committee of the City of New Braunfels Parks Board; City of New Braunfels staff; JMA's professional staff, Laura Knott and Lane Burritt; and consulting historians, Dan K. Utley and Cynthia J. Beeman.

The project began with a start-up meeting of the JMA team, City of New Braunfels staff, and members of the Cemetery Committee. In the meeting, the group reviewed and clarified the scope of services, project goals, schedule, lines of communication, and other issues related to the project. The anticipated program and concerns related to the project were also discussed. The meeting was followed by tours of both cemeteries to observe condition issues and discuss particular concerns.

In the days following the meeting and tour, JMA's historical landscape architect and materials conservator documented in plan and photograph the conditions of above-ground features in both cemeteries, including: spatial organization, circulation, structures (fencing and plot enclosures), vegetation, water features, and small-scale features, such as site furnishings.

Following this visit, JMA conducted a public meeting, called a "Memory Workshop," to gather documents, oral histories, photographs, and other information regarding the history of the two cemeteries. The meeting was announced through newspaper, radio, and television venues, and through neighborhood associations and historic preservation organizations. Questions posed to the public included the following:

- Do you have family buried at either of these sites? Are there stories you'd like to share about them and their contributions to the community?
- What do you know about burial customs reflected in these cemeteries? How were monuments chosen, crafted, or designed?
- What sorts of trees, shrub, or flowers have been planted at family plots? Are there any rare or unusual plants growing within the cemeteries?

In addition to this information, photographs of ancestors that were buried in both cemeteries were gathered and scanned for use in historic research.

The historians on the JMA team also reviewed all available historical documentation regarding the two cemeteries, the summation of which became part of the master plan document. Research occurred at a number of archives, including City of New Braunfels offices, the Sophienburg Museum and Archives, and the Texas State Archives. The JMA team also reviewed relevant regulatory documents as provided by the City of New Braunfels and the Texas Historical Commission.

The JMA team assembled the preliminary findings from the existing conditions documentation and mapping activities and the historical information into a single report that was reviewed by the Cemetery Committee and City of New Braunfels staff. The preliminary findings report included a conditions assessment regarding cultural landscape features, including grave markers and plot enclosures. For grave markers, an overall assessment was made with details examined in a representative sample of typical markers and some of the more significant pieces. For trees and other vegetation, an overall condition assessment was made and particular specimens of note discussed in more detail. JMA attended a meeting with the Cemetery Committee and city staff to discuss their comments and develop group consensus about items to be developed further and other changes or additions that should be addressed in the report.

Based on the preliminary findings and on comments from the Cemetery Committee and city staff, JMA developed general management guidelines, a scheduled maintenance plan, and more detailed treatment and implementation plans for each cemetery. Projects were summarized by type and priority, and estimates of probable costs were developed. JMA then drafted recommendations regarding policy, including regulations, historic designation, emergency preparedness, recordkeeping, funding, and potential partnerships. This draft was reviewed by the Cemetery Committee and city staff. JMA incorporated recommended changes and additions into the report.

JMA presented the master plan to the Parks and Recreation Department Advisory Board and integrated the board's comments into the final report. This was followed by a presentation of the Historic Preservation Plan for Municipal Cemeteries to the City Council for final approval.

Further Research Recommended

Of primary importance in the pursuit of more information about the two historic municipal cemeteries is the need to document the extent of the mass grave in the New Braunfels Cemetery. Not only is the information of historical importance, but once the boundary is located, it will help determine how much space is available for additional burial plots in the area. If more space is discovered, the platting and sale of these plots would help supplement funds available for cemetery care and conservation. The extent of the mass grave would be determined with the use of ground penetrating radar (GPR) or other technology appropriate to use with local soils. In addition, it is also highly recommended that GPR or similar technologies be used in the proposed location of the visitor gathering area in the New Braunfels Cemetery to determine if there are graves within its boundaries.

Other recommended research includes the following:

- Locate owners of all plots within both cemeteries in order to determine their intentions toward using empty burial plots. If owners are not planning to utilize these plots, they may be willing to release the plots back to city ownership for re-sale.

- Document all grave markers and plot enclosures using the format recommended in this report and place information in a searchable electronic database that will then provide a baseline for prioritizing conservation work and recording actions taken.

- Document all trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs in both cemeteries using the format recommended in this report and place the information in a searchable electronic database that will provide a baseline for prioritizing plant care. Locations of all specimens should also be documented using GPS and incorporated into the city GIS system.

- Continue research regarding structures that were historically located within the cemeteries, such as grave shelters, fences, gateways, windmills, and plot fencing systems. This information would support proposals for new or replacement structures.

Chapter 2: General Management Guidelines

Planning for historic cemetery preservation begins with first determining the appropriate overall treatment approach and then developing broadbrush management guidelines that complement the approach. This chapter begins with an overview of the preservation philosophy used to determine the recommended treatment for the historic municipal cemeteries of New Braunfels. This is followed by management guidelines based on this philosophy that apply to preservation in both cemeteries.

Preservation Treatment Approach

Recognizing the importance of the New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries as important historic resources, while at the same time acknowledging the need to accommodate new uses and visitation, this chapter provides general management guidelines for cemetery preservation within the context of a **rehabilitation** approach.

In order to determine the most suitable approach for conservation of these two historic cemeteries, the four treatment approaches approved by the Secretary of the Interior for historic properties were considered. Described by the Secretary of the Interior as forming "the philosophical basis for responsible preservation practice and enable long-term preservation of a landscape's historic features, qualities, and materials," the approaches are defined as:

Preservation: the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a historic property. Includes stabilization work, where necessary, as well as ongoing preservation maintenance and repair of historic materials and features.

Rehabilitation: the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration: the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by removing features from other periods in its history and reconstructing missing features from the restoration period.

Reconstruction: the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

Three of these treatment approaches were determined inappropriate for this project for the following reasons: preservation is overly restrictive because it does not allow for enhanced interpretation and access; restoration and reconstruction are inappropriate because they assume, as a prerequisite, that sufficient documentation exists to accurately portray a lost historic condition. No documentary sources have been found that are detailed enough to support comprehensive restoration or reconstruction of either of these cemeteries to a particular period of significance.

Based on the expressed goals of the City of New Braunfels Parks Board and its Cemetery Committee, **rehabilitation** is recommended as the appropriate overarching treatment approach for the two municipal cemeteries. This approach allows for protection of a cemetery's historic character and its resources while carefully addressing the need for conservation work, enhancement of interpretive opportunities, improved circulation, and the replacement or addition of visitor amenities. Such work is necessary to preserve historic cemetery features but also serves to increase public interest and generate funding sources for conservation work.

Rehabilitation guidelines are based on the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* with *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (Guidelines). The ten basic principles that comprise these guidelines are intended to help preserve the distinctive character of a historic landscape while allowing for reasonable change to meet new needs:

1. A property will be used as it was historically, or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

These principals create a baseline to which intended changes to historic landscapes must be compared. These standards are neither technical nor prescriptive, but promote responsible preservation practices. The management guidelines that follow arise from these principals.

General Management Guidelines

Investigation and analysis of the New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries revealed that, while distinctly different in character, they are similar in the types of issues encountered. They will be managed by the same entity, so it is necessary to establish standard acceptable solutions to these issues. Therefore, these guidelines pertain to issues that are common to both cemeteries and should be considered during the planning and design review process for any preservation treatments, alterations, or new projects that are proposed.

These guidelines provide a balanced, reasonable, and disciplined approach to problem-solving. In and of themselves, they cannot be used to make essential decisions about which features of a historic landscape should be saved or changed, but should be implemented in conjunction with the more detailed treatment recommendations contained in subsequent chapters. This information will assist the City of New Braunfels in effectively and comprehensively preserving and protecting these important historic resources.

General

The following are general guidelines regarding the treatment of the two historic cemeteries:

- Maintain significant features of the historic cemeteries in good condition. Repair all condition issues identified as areas of concern in order of priorities detailed in subsequent chapters of this plan.
- Base all work involving historically significant features on documentation discovered through primary and secondary sources as described in subsequent chapters. If further documentary evidence is discovered subsequent to the final publication of this plan, consider adding it in an appendix and include it in considerations for treatment.
- Use the latest technologies, including GIS, GPS remote sensing, and new archeological methodologies, such as ground penetrating radar, in order to locate and identify landscape features, such as unmarked graves.
- Document all alterations to historically significant landscape features through drawings and photography.
- Ensure that any construction, demolition, or maintenance activity that involves ground disturbance is monitored by a qualified archaeologist. Involve archaeologists in early planning for new projects.

Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of these cemeteries represents aspects of the cultural heritage of New Braunfels. Preservation of these spaces contributes to the preservation of the overall historic character of the city. Consider the following:

- Maintain spatial relationships established during the historic period between landscape features. For example, maintain the plot grid that was established during the historic period of each cemetery.
- Consider the effects of new developments on historic spatial relationships. For example, if a visitor center is developed, ensure that structures do not overwhelm historic markers in size and scale.
- Replace historically-significant features slated for removal with compatible new features in order to maintain historic spatial patterns. For example, replacement fencing should be similar in height to the original.
- Consider the contribution of vegetation patterns to historic patterns of spatial organization, such as the division and enclosure of spaces. Replace historic trees and other plants in-kind (same species and form), with consideration towards the contribution of evergreen or deciduous qualities.

Circulation

Circulation issues concern both vehicles and pedestrians. The following guidelines can be applied to both cemeteries:

Vehicular Circulation

- Avoid removing historically significant roads or drives. If a road is no longer needed for vehicles, consider retaining it as a pedestrian pathway.
- Assure that if new roads or drives are essential to accommodate new uses, they are compatible with historic patterns and do not adversely impact existing historic features.
- Consider, if it is necessary to construct a new road, re-establishing a road or drive that was important during the historic period if its alignment can meet the needs of the proposed circulation network.

Parking

- Provide consolidated parking areas outside the boundaries of these historic cemeteries, or in concentrated areas within the cemeteries. Consolidation will have the following positive impacts:
  - Limit the impacts of vehicular circulation on historic resources.
  - Reduce the intrusiveness of the automobile on historic views.
  - Limit vehicular-pedestrian safety conflicts.

Pedestrian Circulation

- Retain historic pedestrian circulation patterns as much as possible.
- Consider the potential impacts of new pedestrian walks or other paved areas on historic circulation patterns, important views, and sensitive archeological resources.

Vegetation

Planted landscapes are dynamic compositions: their components grow, decline, and are eventually removed and/or replaced. The best approach to treatment of historic and cultural vegetation is to recognize cemeteries as cultural landscapes containing a variety of features, including trees and plants, that tell a story about a community and its history. Therefore, it is important to retain historic patterns of trees and other plants as much as is practicable in order to preserve the historic character of these landscapes.

Many historic trees and patterns of vegetation have been identified that contribute to the historic character of the New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries. The gradual loss of trees and other plants that grew during the historic period, however, has led to some erosion of this character. The primary goals concerning vegetation within the historic cemeteries of New Braunfels are the preservation of historic vegetation, replacement of historic vegetation that has been lost, and planting of new vegetation in a way that complements the historic character of these landscapes.

The following guidelines are offered as a framework for issues having to do with historic vegetation, replacement vegetation, or newly introduced vegetation:

Preserving Historic Vegetation

Conduct a detailed survey of all trees within the two historic cemeteries. The inventory should include information such as species, location, approximate age, trunk diameter, height, and condition. In addition, oral histories can contribute information regarding approximate date of planting, the person responsible, and the cultural significance of the plant. Some trees and other plants may have been planted as memorials and this information should also be recorded. Assess and record conditions using a tree inventory data sheet as developed by a certified arborist. The data sheet will help rank the tree as either in good, fair, poor, dead, or hazard condition using a matrix of points (refer example in Appendix B).

Any tree determined to be over fifty years in age should be noted as historic as it contributed to the character of these landscapes during the periods of significance. The following guidelines apply to the preservation of historic trees:

- Map all trees using GPS technology and add this information to city GIS data based to aid in vegetation management.
- Label selected historic trees using small identification markers adjacent to each tree and facing the closest pedestrian pathway. Do not attach markers directly to the trees and do not install with a footing; use instead markers mounted on stakes.
- Maintain historic trees unless they are dying, dead, diseased (and cannot be treated), or pose a safety hazard to the public or to a historic grave marker (and cannot be stabilized). Make every reasonable effort to treat or stabilize a historic tree that is diseased or damaged prior to considering removal. Stabilization can include simple solutions such as propping up a low-hanging limb or anchoring it in place with cables (Figure 2-1).
- Prune trees at maturity within or adjacent to graves as necessary to allow for pedestrian and vehicular passage. Prior to pruning, erect plywood structures over markers, to protect them from damage.
- Prune trees according to three priority levels:
    - **First priority**: conduct safety pruning of trees within the cemetery. Large, dead branches and trunks that cannot be stabilized present a safety hazard to visitors and may damage markers if they fall.
    - **Second priority**: prune to preserve the health of a tree, including improving its internal structure. Prune trees within or adjoining family plots or graves in order to allow passage beneath, keep sight lines clear, and to encourage air circulation that will lessen the growth of biological

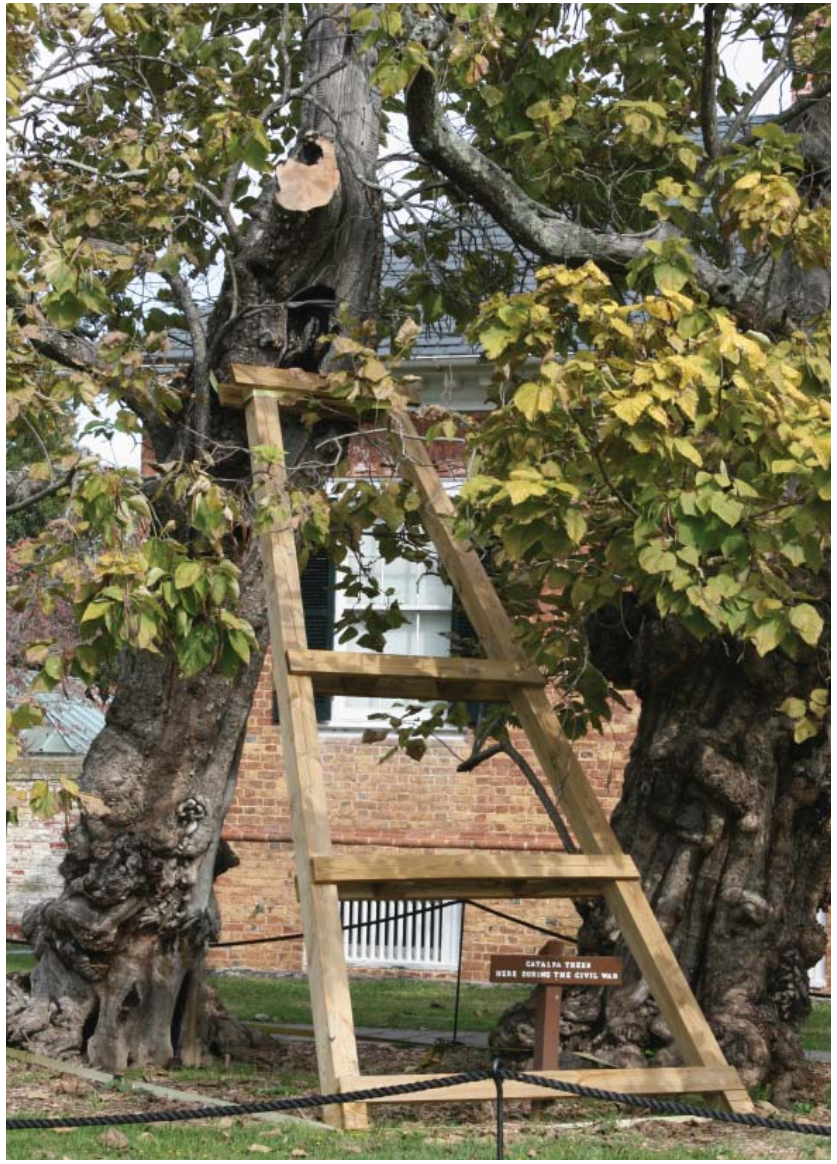


Figure 2-1. These two-hundred-year-old catalpa trees have been protected and stabilized for their value in interpreting the history of the Chatham House in Fredericksburg, Virginia. *JMA 2010.*

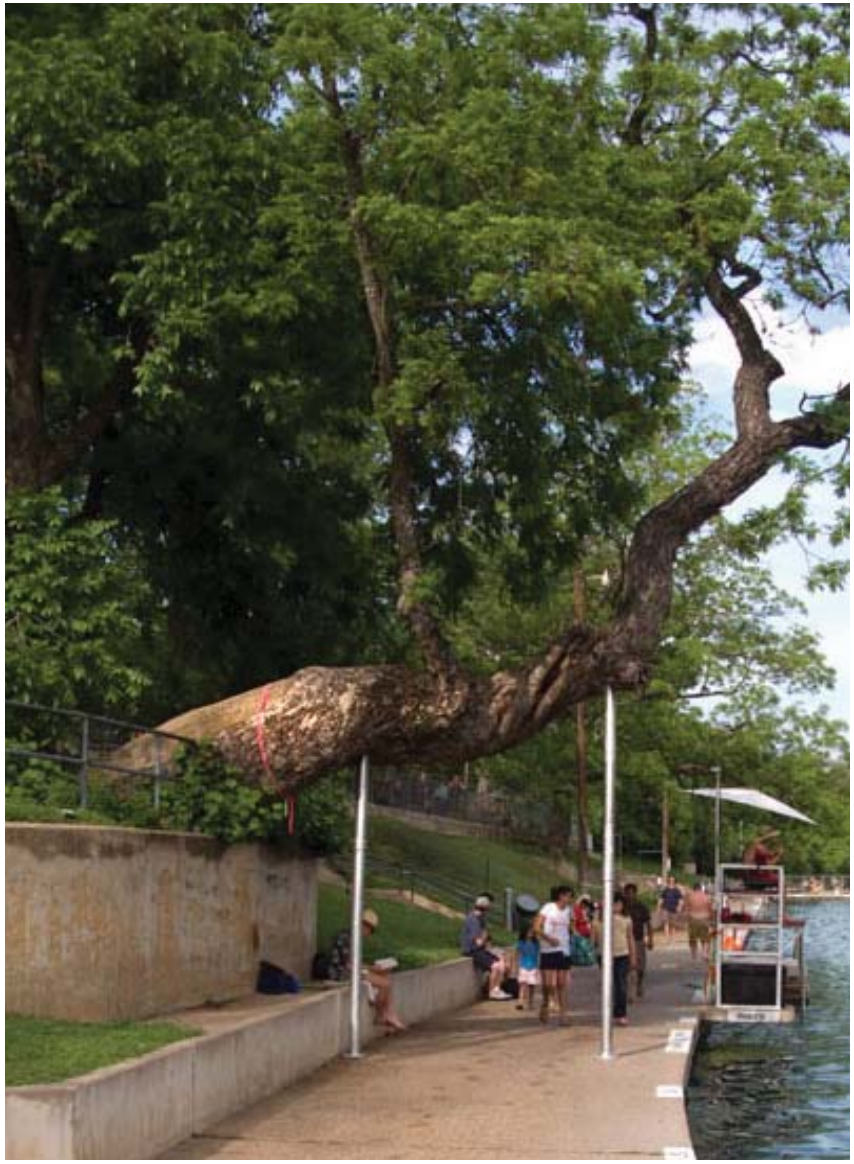


Figure 2-2. This pecan contributes to the historic character of Barton Springs in Austin and has been stabilized with steel posts. *JMA Collection.*

growth on markers. This rule applies only to trees that naturally form a canopy, not to those more shrub-like in form.

- **Third priority**: prune for aesthetics, such as enhancing the natural form and character of a tree or to encourage flowering.
- **Special Note:** avoid topping crape myrtles, but allow them to grow naturally and prune only to remove dead wood or crossing branches that may contribute to poor tree health. When pruning for flowering, follow horticultural best practices for the particular flowering season of the species in question.

- Ensure that the design of structures, markers, circulation, or plantings addresses the preservation of historic trees and does not negatively impact the health of root systems.
- Ensure that the root zones of historic trees are not compacted by parking, spoils storage, or storage of equipment or materials.
- Protect existing vegetation, especially trees, in areas impacted by new burials or other excavation activity, and closely monitor throughout the construction period. Tree roots typically extend well past the drip line of the tree. At a minimum, the area within the drip line should be protected from soil compaction from excavation equipment, which will inhibit water penetration to the root zone and threaten the health of the tree. If tree roots will be affected, root prune several months prior to excavation, if possible.
- Implement a cyclical maintenance program that includes periodic inspection of all trees for damage, disease, and/or evidence of decline in order to prevent deterioration or loss of plant material. Treat each condition appropriately and ensure that maintenance actions are well documented in the cemetery maintenance records. Frequent maintenance of vegetation will also prevent damage to adjacent and nearby resources, such as grave markers and fencing. Refer to Chapter 6, Maintenance Goals and Pracices, for more information.
- Educate cemetery maintenance staff on the significance of historic vegetation, and ensure that they receive training that is appropriate to the unique conditions within each cemetery.

Removing Historic Vegetation

- Remove historic vegetation only when it poses a hazard to humans, cultural resources, or natural resources due to its potential to drop limbs, fall, or transfer disease to other plants. Replace in-kind, whenever possible.
- Consider, if the growth of a tree is dislodging a grave marker, moving it away from the tree as a temporary measure instead of cutting down a tree that is a historic feature. Carefully document the marker and its location before and after relocation. If the marker is particularly significant, warranting removal of a historic tree, document the tree and remove using the Air-Spade methodology described below. Replace tree in-kind with sapling size.
- Conduct with work under supervision by a certified arborist with successful experience working at historically significant sites.
- Use the most ecologically-sensitive means of vegetation removal, such as hand-pulling or removal with small tools, before employing chemicals or heavy equipment.
- Minimize the use of heavy vehicles as much as possible to limit soil compaction in or around the root zone of other nearby trees; restrict use to times when soil is dry and firm to reduce erosion potential.
- Prior to tree removal, field-check clearing locations with an archeologist and/or historical landscape architect to ensure that other cultural resources will not be adversely affected.
- Cut all tree and shrub trunks to be removed flush with the ground and grind to remove without damaging adjacent features. Do not uproot stumps as this may disturb subsurface archeological resources.
- Remove felled trees and large shrubs by lifting, rather than dragging, which can gouge the ground surface.
- Cover immediately, if gouging occurs, any damaged areas with leaf litter or erosion control material, as appropriate, to reduce the potential for soil erosion, and replant the area with native or naturalized species of grass or groundcover.
- Ensure that the removal of any tree is noted in the tree inventory.
- When a tree is to be planted to replace a stump that is adjacent to a plot enclosure or marker, remove the stump using an Air-Spade or similar system, as follows:

1. Protect adjacent markers and curbs with wooden covers or other protective material.
2. With the Air-Spade, clear dirt from around the stump, exposing roots to approximately 12”.
3. Sever roots to enable removal of the stump to 12”.

Replacing Historic Vegetation

- Replace dead or damaged historic plant materials in-kind choosing specimens of the same species, variety, and form.
- If in-kind replacements are not available or appropriate (due to disease susceptibility, hardiness, maintenance requirements, etc.), replace with species of similar size, shape/habit, texture and color.
- Ensure that replacement vegetation is added to the tree inventory.

Planting New Vegetation

- Develop and adhere to a planting master plan that contains a list of preferred material for any future plantings within the cemeteries.
- Include in the planting master plan locations for tree-planting projects that would enhance the character of historic areas. Choose locations within non-historic areas that support their best qualities.
- Ensure that the plant palette incorporates appropriate species for specific locations. For example, avoid using a large-scale shrub adjacent to a walk--it may require excessive pruning to maintain at an appropriate scale.
- Engage an archeologist to monitor new planting efforts in areas that may contain subsurface cultural resources.
- Remove invasive plants within the cemeteries, unless they were planted as a memorial within a grave plot. Invasives are hardy and some have been used as ornamentals within the cemeteries because of their survivability. These include Chinese parasol tree, nandina, privet, glossy ligustrum, and others. Remove these ONLY if they are causing damage to a historic resource. However, it is likely that species such as hackberry and mulberry were bird-seeded and can be removed with impunity.
- Maintain mulch around specimen trees to prevent impact from mowers and trimmers. However, keep mulch pulled away from trunk to prevent bark rot. Do not allow mulch to mound and create “mulch volcanos.”

Vegetation Maintenance

Develop a maintenance guideline handout to be distributed to contractors and individuals responsible for mowing, trimming, and weeding in the historic cemeteries. The fragility of these historic landscapes must be emphasized to those working within them. Train crews with an emphasis that a historic cemetery is handled differently than a typical residential or commercial property. Guidelines include:

- Use turf wheels on riding mowers in the historic cemetery.
- Cut grass up to, and no closer than, three (3) inches from every marker. The rest of the turf will be trimmed with a line trimmer (weed whips) using a line that measures no more than .09" in diameter and does not possess a metal core, unless unique considerations are discussed and agreed upon prior to cutting.
- Rake up and discard off premises all large clumps of grass debris left by mowers.
- Use discharge guards on all mowers to protect the gravestones from thrown debris. Emphasize to workers that mowing equipment should never make contact with headstones or plot enclosures.
- Alternate the direction of mowing every other cut to prevent ruts created by repetitive use.
- Equip all mowers with rubber bumpers on the decks, any axle assembly, or other feature on the mower that might come in contact with a stone while mowing. This can be fabricated out of old inner tubes or tires and can be riveted on. Loose cell foam can also be used as a bumper.
- Direct the discharge chute of mowers away from markers while mowing.
- Report any damage immediately to a representative of the Parks Department (refer to Emergency Preparedness, Chapter 3).
- Report to an archeologist experienced with work in historic cemeteries all areas of depressions in the soil resulting from burial shaft settling or removal of trees or shrubs. If the depression is a safety or drainage hazard and the decision is made to fill it in, it is important to determine whether or not it is that of an unmarked grave. Archeologist will have been previously designated, referring to Emergency Preparedness.
- Discontinue use of herbicides to control grass growth within family plots; chemicals such as herbicides and fertilizers can potentially interact with and damage marker stones, particularly those of limestone and marble.

Trees within the historic cemeteries give these landscapes unique character, grace, and spatial order. Many of the evergreens are over one-hundred years old. Preservation, care and maintenance of these trees is paramount to maintain the integrity of both cemeteries. Maintenance of the trees requires strategies for preservation, removal, re-planting and developing horticultural practices for proper nutrition and growth.

Recommendations for tree maintenance are as follows:

- Fertilize the trees annually with a slow release fertilizer;
- Inspect the trees to make sure the root systems are not interfering with gravestones and that broken limbs are not safety hazards;
- Work in cooperation with private owners to replace a tree that has sustained damage or is no longer viable;
- Consult with a landscape architect about replacing a tree with the exact species, particularly historic specimens such as the Ashe juniper. It may not be economically or environmentally feasible to replace certain species. Also consult a certified arborist who has experience with historic landscapes and trees;
- If a tree needs to be removed due to disease, damage, or conflict with gravestones, it is best to cut it as close to the ground as possible, then allow the stump to decay without assistance of chemicals. After the stump has decayed topsoil can be added and the area reseeded.;
- Remove all new volunteer growth at least once a year to avoid damage caused by unchecked fast-growing invasive species;
- Trees and shrubs should be investigated for pruning needs on a regular basis to protect people and cemetery artifacts from falling branches;
- A five-year cycle of pruning is advised for normal maintenance; and
- After inclement or windy weather the cemetery should be inspected for tree damage that would necessitate pruning or staking.

Structures

Structures, such as fencing systems, are important character-defining features of historic cemeteries. The boundary fences around each of the historic cemeteries has a negative effect on the historic character of these properties. Recommendations include replacing these systems with black-painted metal picket fencing, where budget allows (Figure 2-3). Lengths of fencing in less visible locations could be replaced with black vinyl-coated chain link (Figure 2-4).

The following general guidelines should be considered prior to undertaking any repair or rehabilitation work on historic structures:

- Repair rather than replace deteriorated structures whenever possible. If the severity of deterioration requires replacement, the new structure should match the original in design, color, texture, materials, and other visual qualities. Existing materials should be reused to the greatest extent possible.
- Document existing structures before and during demolition removal with photographs, scaled drawings, and notes, giving particular attention materials, color, texture, dimensions and construction technique.
- Design new structures to complement or enhance the historic character of the cemeteries. For example, concrete block and plastic are not appropriate materials.
- Ensure that materials are not taken from historic structures unless the structure has been approved for demolition and fully documented.
- When possible, new materials should match historic materials being replaced (i.e. cast iron is replaced with same, rather than with plastic or vinyl).

Figure 2-3. Example of a black metal picket boundary fence. *JMA 2010.*

Figure 2-4. Example of a black vinyl-coated chain-link boundary fence. *JMA 2010.*

Figure 2-5. Cemetery information kiosk of a contemporary design, using historic materials set into the surrounding cemetery wall. *JMA 2010.*

Recommendations also include the development of a visitor gathering area in each of the historic cemeteries. Each should be furnished with a kiosk that would contain a map of the cemetery and other information in both poster and brochure formats. The design of these kiosks should be of a simple design that will not present a false sense of history, yet reference the historic character of the cemeteries (Figure 2-5).

Small-scale Features

Few records have been found that document small-scale features within the cemeteries during the periods of significance. However, the age of individual grave markers is fairly easy to determine by their style, patina, weathering, and sometimes by the death date of the deceased, although this is not a reliable determinant. The relative age of other features such as plot curbing and fencing can be determined in the same way. Other features, such as flower urns and grave decorations, benches, and trash receptacles, are more ephemeral in nature and are likely more recent than the markers.

Recommendations for small-scale features within the historic cemeteries focus on two goals. The first is the conservation of historic markers, curbing, and fencing. The goal of conservation in this context is to extend the life and integrity of these features using planned appropriate interventions to prolong the life of the materials of which they are composed. Although some of these features require repair, most can endure with proper treatment.

The second goal is the provision of site furnishings to enhance visitor comfort and orientation. Improvement of the visitor experience is crucial to gaining the public support needed to sustain ongoing conservation of these historic resources. Guidelines regarding these two important goals are as follows:

Grave Markers

Most of the grave markers within the two historic cemeteries were carved or otherwise manufactured from marble, limestone, granite, or metal. Most of the oldest markers are marble or limestone and range from good to poor condition while the newer and more weather-resistant granite markers are more intact (see Appendix C for more information on typical conditions).

Overall, materials are in relatively good condition due to the dry and temperate climate of the area, when compared to similar materials in more humid regions or areas with freeze-thaw conditions. The following recommendations are offered (note that proposals for all work must be approved by the City of New Braunfels prior to implementation):

- Prioritize work as follows:
  - **Level One**: *Imperative*. This work involves life/safety or structural failure issues and should be implemented as soon as possible. For example, if a damaged or dislocated marker appears likely to topple or otherwise is a threat to health and safety, it would be considered Level One. Immediately stabilize severely tilting or broken markers with wood frames until they can be re-set.
  - **Level Two**: *Required* (1-3 Years). This work involves major repairs that should be carried out within the next one to three year period. This includes professional treatment of major cracking and disaggregated materials and removal of biological growth. It is also important during this period to conduct public education regarding appropriate repair and cleaning techniques and training of maintenance staff regarding best mowing and trimming practices.
  - L**evel Three**: *Desirable* (3-5 Years). This work does not have immediate life safety or material degradation implications, but if not pursued soon, may lead to future loss or degradation and loss of historic integrity. This is also the category for issues that only affect surface conditions. *Note:* failure to address Level Three conditions can escalate problems to Level Two or Level One status with corresponding increases in repair costs. Level Three work can include cleaning to treat general soiling, evaluating concrete encasements and other inappropriate repairs to determine interventions, and determining if severity of damage to sculpture indicates replacement.

    This priority system reflects anticipated acceleration of the deterioration process over time. At a certain point during that process, materials reach a "point-of-no-return" after which it may become impossible or financially prohibitive to rehabilitate or restore building components, or systems reliant upon that material. Although fiscal planning for maintenance or repair can effectively respond to the varying levels of immediacy indicated in the information presented above, Level 3 conditions cannot be ignored completely. Failure to address those conditions can escalate problems to Level 2 or Level 1 status with corresponding increases in repair costs.

    Highly Recommended: annual budgeting for cyclical repairs.

- Document every marker (see Appendix B for sample forms).
- Add a provision to the City of New Braunfels Cemetery Regulations that prohibits the paving of family plots or individual graves in concrete or the encasement in concrete of historic markers. Concrete encasement can hasten the deterioration of markers.
- Instigate an immediate ban on use of rider mowers and string trimmers with metal cores in the immediate vicinity of all markers. If a string trimmer must be used, a round nylon line is preferable to contoured, extruded line or a line with a metal core.
- Avoid the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers around historic markers. Acidic chemicals can deteriorate marble and limestone while alkaline chemicals can deteriorate granite. Use organic methods instead, or treat weeds by hand pulling. Consider installing a gravel covering or plant a family plot or individual grave in groundcover.
- Develop a procedure for documenting and handling loose marker fragments: they are particularly vulnerable to theft, discard, or damage from vandalism or maintenance practices. The following process is recommended:
    - Carefully document all fragments in the location they are found prior to removing them for storage. Record by measurements, descriptions, and photographs. Note fragments that are missing but not yet located.
    - Provide a secure storage area for broken and displaced material and a methodology for cataloging these materials.
    - If protected storage is not feasible, consider documenting the fragments and burying them behind the parent stone (the remaining large, standing fragment) a few inches under the soil surface. Here they will be preserved and suffer less deterioration than if they are left to weather. The steps for burying are as follows:
        1. Dig a hole 10” deep, in which the stone can lie flat;
        2. Place 2” of clean, graded sand in the hole for drainage;
        3. Place the stone flat and face up in the sand; and
        4. Cover the stone with a 2” layer of sand and then 6” of soil.
- Reset a marker only if in danger of toppling or breaking because of severe leaning. Document the marker carefully before commencing work and do not proceed without professional advice if the marker appears fragile in any way. The following guidelines for resetting are recommended:
    - Follow recommendations provided by cemetery preservation professional when commencing a resetting project.
    - Accomplish resetting using a crew of volunteers that have been trained by a cemetery preservation professional.
    - Take particular care in resetting marble or limestone markers as they are vulnerable to interior fractures that may be invisible from the outside.
    - Avoid attempting to reset granite markers as they are quite heavy and should instead be reset by a monument company.
- Repair markers only under the guidance of qualified cemetery conservators familiar with historic local materials and their particular qualities. All required lab tests should be performed by an experienced architectural conservation lab.
- Document every marker to be repaired with diagrams, notes, and photographs before, during, and after restoration.
- Consider the compatibility of physical properties of the repair material, such as that used for patching and crack repair, and the natural substrate to determine if they react to the environment in the same way. This will aid in longevity of repairs and will prevent accelerated degradation of the materials from inappropriate repairs. Evaluate the following properties before selecting a material:

    Appearance: Repairs should be virtually indistinguishable from original work; selected fillers, cements, and mortars should closely match the existing material in both color and texture. Document all repairs thoroughly to insure there can be no future misinterpretation of a marker’s true history.

    Dimensional Stability: Materials should have a low drying shrinkage rate, typically defined as less than 0.05%.

    Consistency: Repair material should be consistent in appearance and performance in every application and batch used for a single object.

    Vapor Permeability: Some repair materials have additives that make them less permeable than the masonry they are repairing, which may cause stress and damage to the historic materials adjacent to the patch.

Use of repair materials with high vapor permeability prevents moisture entrapment between the repair and adjacent material, allowing internal moisture to escape without causing deterioration.

Thermal Expansion: Coefficient of thermal expansion of repair materials should be matched to expansion coefficients of the materials to be repaired in order to allow long-term durability in exterior exposures that are subject to wide temperature variations.

- Note that not all cracks in masonry require repair and may simply be a part of the natural weathering process for some stone masonry. Small, hairline cracks on vertical surfaces of stone masonry should not be repaired unless they are deep or run through the unit.
- Note that cracking through masonry units may require the installation of a pin for reinforcement and a cementitious patch or grout repair. Mend broken vertical stones, particularly marble, with threaded nylon rods and polyester resins or other approved materials. Long, deep cracks in the masonry must be patched using a knife-grade patching compound to prevent further moisture penetration. The visual impact of such a repair should be minimized by using a colored mortar that is similar to the color of the masonry being patched. Fill chips or other voids with mortars made of lime, cement, and stone dust matching the original material.
- Repair small pieces of masonry lost through spalling with a cementitious patching compound that matches the color and hardness of the masonry. Proprietary patching compounds must only be installed by trained masons. Many manufacturers offer training courses and product certification for masons. Commercially-available patching compounds can be either Portland cement-based or natural hydraulic lime-based. It is important to choose a patching compound that is compatible with the masonry to be repaired.
- Repair damaged areas of masonry that are too large to patch by installation of a masonry dutchman. In this procedure, the deteriorated portion of the masonry is cut away and a new piece of masonry (the dutchman) is installed to match the existing. Dutchman repair is a much more durable repair than a cementitious patch repair. A cementitious patch may need to be replaced after 10-15 years, while a properly-installed dutchman should last as long as the masonry itself. Dutchman repairs require skill to install correctly and should not be attempted by inexperienced personnel.
- Know that cleaning treatments fall into three general categories: water-based, chemical, and mechanical methods. Water-based methods include pressurized water spray, heated water treatments, and mist-spray. Chemical methods involve the use of soaps, detergents, acidic and basic cleaners, and biocidal treatments in a variety of gels, liquids, pastes, and poultices. Mechanical cleaning methods include the use of tools, such as brushes, scrapers, and specialized rotating and laser-based cleaning equipment. It is possible to combine treatments for the best results, such as combining mild mechanical methods with low-pressurized water spray.
- Clean markers only to reveal the original colors and other qualities of a stone, uncover inscriptions that are hidden by biological growth and dirt, or remove accumulated material that could lead to stone deterioration in marble and limestone. Light soiling and biological growth may be acceptable, particularly if inscriptions and carvings on the stone are still legible. Some surfaces may be too delicate to clean and should be evaluated by a professional conservator, particularly limestones that are weathered and may not retain a protective finish, or that are disaggregating. The Texas Historical Commission has developed a short set of guidelines for cleaning cemetery markers:
  - Use a non-ionic soap. One of the most readily available soaps is Orvus®, which can be found in feed stores. Mix a solution of one heaping tablespoon of Orvus® to one gallon of clean water (it comes in either liquid or paste form).
  - Pre-wet the stone thoroughly with clean water and keep the stone wet during the entire washing process.
  - Thoroughly wash the wet stone using natural bristled, wooden handled brushes of various sizes. The use of plastic handles is not recommended, as color from the handles may leave material on the stone that will be very difficult to remove.
  - Be thorough. Wash surfaces and rinse thoroughly with clean water.
  - When cleaning marble or limestone, one tablespoon of household ammonia can be added to the above mixture to help remove some greases and oils. Do not use ammonia on or near any bronze or other metal elements.

    - Lichens and algae can be removed by first thoroughly soaking the stone and then using a wooden scraper to gently remove the biological growth. This process may need to be repeated several times.
    - Not all stains can be removed. Do not expect the stones to appear new after cleaning.
    - Do not clean marble, limestone or sandstone more than once every 18 months. Every cleaning removes some of the face of the stone. However, occasionally rinsing with clean water to remove bird droppings and other accretions is acceptable.
    - Keep a simple treatment record of the cleaning, including date of cleaning, materials used and any change in condition since last cleaning (such as missing parts, graffiti and other damage). These records should be kept at a central location where the condition of the stones can be monitored over time.
- Note also that, when cleaning is necessary, low-pressure water washing can be effective. Water pressure should be no stronger than 150-200 pounds per square inch (psi). Any cleaning method using water should not occur when the temperature will fall below 50 degrees Fahrenheit for three days (72 hours) after cleaning.
- Consult a masonry conservator before using any chemical cleaners. Chemical treatments should be approached with great caution because they can cause irreversible damage. Do not use any household chemicals, such as bleach, on grave markers.
- Choose inconspicuous test panels on monuments to be cleaned and evaluate to avoid over cleaning. Chemical cleaners must be chosen by a knowledgeable professional who understands the type and condition of the masonry material to be cleaned. Only non-acidic neutral pH detergents should be used in conjunction with non-metallic brushes or scrapers; metal brushes can permanently damage masonry. Acidic cleaners or highly alkaline cleaners can damage historic materials and should be avoided.
- Remove biological staining using an approved masonry cleaner containing a quaternary ammonium compound, if shown to be appropriate for the stone.
- High-pressure, abrasive sandblasting with hard, sharp blasting media should never be used on historic masonry because it is extremely damaging.

Plot Curbs and Coverings

Curbs and coverings that enclose family plots and individual graves within the two historic cemeteries range from good to poor condition. The primary cause of poor conditions is the high shrink-swell conditions of some soils or failure of metal connectors. In heavy clay, if a feature was not installed on a deep gravel footing, then it will likely shift and eventually displace in response to soil movement.

With the exception of shell covers, repair of masonry plot curbs should have a priority over repair of coverings until more information is available regarding their origins and date of installation. The following recommendations are focused on curb repair and preservation:

- Instigate an immediate ban on use of mowers and string trimmers with metal cores around all curbs. If a string trimmer must be used, a round nylon line no heavier than 0.08-inch is preferable to contoured and extruded lines.
- Document all curbs, noting materials, dimensions, and locations, and recording conditions with photographs. Curbs made from marble or limestone are more vulnerable to deterioration and should take priority over those of granite or concrete unless individual features are particularly threatened.
- Prioritize work using the Level One through Level Three methodology as recommended in the Grave Markers section, above.
- Reset plot curbs formed from masonry units as follows (poured concrete curbs are integral to their location and cannot be reset, only stabilized and maintained, or replaced):
    1. Document material, condition, and location carefully prior to commencing work. Note if and how individual units are tied together, whether by metal pin or other material and the condition of the connectors,
    2. Lift individual units and number to match plan locations so that the border can be reassembled accurately;
    3. Excavate for a compacted gravel footing for stability and increased drainage, as recommended by a civil engineer; and
    4. Reassemble plot curb structure, using either stainless steel or nylon ties.

Plot Fencing

The historic cemeteries contain large collections of wrought iron, cast iron, bent steel, and in one instance, wood, fencing. In addition, there are bronze and zinc elements used as small fence components. The paint has failed from most metal and wood elements and some metal elements exhibit pitting, but in general most of the metal patina surfaces are stable due to the dry climate of the area. Some plot fences have been regularly maintained by cleaning and painting. Treat plot fencing as follows:

- Secure immediately all cemetery plot fencing with a padlock system to prevent theft. Such lock systems might include those types used to secure bicycles. Assure that materials used are compatible with the historic character of the cemetery. For example, brightly colored locking systems should not be used.
- Document all plot fencing (see Appendix B for sample forms).
- Take particular care when treating the metal plates embossed with the name and location of the manufacturer — it is rare to find these still attached to historic fencing.
- Prior to cleaning and painting, evaluate the overall condition of the fence or object to determine if actions beyond protection and maintenance are required. Cleaning and painting may not be appropriate for all fencing within the cemetery — some fences have stable patinas and may be better left alone.
- Treat ironwork only if surface is not stable and rust is causing structural deterioration. If necessary to preserve ironwork, remove multiple layers of deteriorated paint using appropriate methods, including wire-brushing for non-decorative elements exhibiting light rust. However, first test to assure than the cleaning method will not damage the metal as soft metals can be easily abraded by wire brushes or blasting. Otherwise, for cast iron and wrought iron, hand scraping and wire brushing are appropriate. Bent steel fencing may be more sensitive to scraping and brushing — test the surface prior to treatment. Low pressure grit blasting may also be used if it does not abrade the surface.
- Multiple layers of paint may also be removed with an alkaline paint stripper followed by application of a neutralizing afterwash. Elements with severe corrosion should be removed to a shop for repair.
- Apply appropriate paint or other coating after cleaning to decrease corrosion rates, if applicable. Newly-cleaned metal should be protected immediately with a rust-inhibiting primer. Low-VOC alkyd-based enamel paints are recommended for field finishing. Zinc-rich primers may be applied in a carefully controlled shop setting. Latex and other water-based paints are not recommended.
- Choose colors that do not detract from the historic character of the cemetery, such as black or dark green.
- Reset fence posts that are out of plumb. Fence posts may be set in concrete or other masonry foundations. Fence posts may be reset with a cementitious grout or with lead.
- Tighten all loose bolts, screws, and other anchors using a lubricant. Replace missing anchors where necessary with new stainless steel anchors.
- Install new architectural grade, polyurethane sealant at all joints between cast iron fence pieces and at all bolts and other anchors. The correct installation of sealant will help keep water out of the fence assembly.
- Replace missing fence sections and other metal elements, such as finials, as priorities allow. A number of fencing companies now produce replicas of historic fencing elements for this purpose. Refer also to the Chicora Foundation's website about cemetery fencing: http://chicora.org/cemetery-fences.html.
- Avoid replacing fence sections if they can be repaired. If they cannot be repaired, replace with new materials that match the original in design, color, texture, material, and other visual qualities.
- Ensure that materials are not taken from another historic fence unless the fence has been approved for removal and fully documented prior to demolition.
- Remove paint from wood fence surfaces if blistering and peeling reveals bare wood. Use methods that minimize potential damage to the underlying wood and only remove loose paint, leaving paint that adheres well to the surface. Repair damage to wood, sand, and repaint. Refer to *Preservation Briefs 10: Exterior Paint Problems on Historic Woodwork*, for more information (see Chapter 7: References).

Site Furnishings

Furnishings such as benches and trash receptacles exist within both cemeteries to provide for the comfort and convenience of visitors. Most benches have been installed by individuals within private burials plots, so there is a need for public resting and gathering places with seating, drinking fountains, and trash receptacles in both cemeteries. Such furnishings offer an alternative to resting on grave markers and littering.

Most of the open space within both cemeteries is occupied by either cemetery drives or private plots. However, both cemeteries contain under-utilized areas in which clusters of seating can be arranged for visitors to rest and refresh. Proposed locations will be discussed in more detail in each of the cemetery sections.

Most existing trash receptacles have been provided adjacent to cemetery drives. While placed in convenient locations, their battered and rusty appearance detracts from the historic character of both cemeteries. It is recommended that they be replaced.

For bench seating and for trash receptacles, a comprehensive site furnishings plan should be developed. This plan would identify appropriate locations for new furnishings and make recommendations on their design:

- Develop a single theme for site furnishings to use in conjunction with all future projects and improvements in both cemeteries in order to achieve a unique identity and cohesive design aesthetic for these historic properties.
- Assure that new site furnishings and objects are not historic replicas from any period, but contribute to the overall historic character of the cemeteries in scale, design, and materials (Figures 2-6 and 2-7).

Figure 2-6. This bench is contemporary in design, but references its historic setting in its slat design and curved armrests. *Landscape Forms.*

Figure 2-7. This trash container was designed to match the bench. *Landscape Forms.*

Signage

An upgraded informational and directional signage system is needed for both cemeteries. While details are covered in the treatment recommendations presented below, both cemeteries have some common needs. In each, a grave location system could easily be provided in map form in a kiosk structure, as mentioned, above (see Figure 2-3). In addition, more in-depth historic information would assist the visitor in understanding the importance of these sites in the history of New Braunfels. This can be presented in written or graphic form, or in a podcast transmitted from the kiosk. To assist with wayfinding, interior street signs should be updated, added, and/or repaired and entrance signage improved:

- Visitor kiosks should display a map of the cemetery that indicates numbered or lettered sections and provide this information in flyers that visitors can take with them. This information can be associated with a web site that the visitor can use to look up a particular name and then go to the cemetery to find that particular grave with ease.
- Consider using small, ground-level markers that coordinate with cemetery maps to identify individual sections of the cemetery for ease in grave location (Figure 2-8).
- Signage within and between cemeteries should share a consistent visual identity. A comprehensive plan for signage is recommended in order to

Figure 2-8. Section marker at Andersonville National Cemetery. *JMA 2008.*

solidify this visual identity. Such a plan would provide graphic standards, technical specifications, and sign detail drawings that should be consistently applied to all new signage at the historic cemeteries. This plan could be based on comprehensive signage plans that have already been developed for the City of New Braunfels and should relate to other signage systems visually.

Commemorative Features

Commemorative features include markers and other memorials of various sizes, scales, and materials, as well as special tree plantings. These objects provide important links to historic and more recent events and persons associated with the City of New Braunfels. Together with their landscape setting, they are integral components of the historic cemeteries. To adequately plan for their retention and maintenance, as well as future additions, consider these guidelines:

- Create a long-term plan and vision for the accommodation of future commemorative features. The plan should identify appropriate types and locations for proposed features, including statuary, monuments, and memorial tree plantings.
- Prepare a comprehensive commemorative feature maintenance program that includes a manual to guide work for each type of marker or memorial such as bronze plaques or marble sculpture. Markers and other memorials are revered objects that require regular maintenance to remain in good condition.
- Inspect memorials regularly to ensure that they remain in good condition. Document inspections with reports and photographs to aid in the understanding of any chronic conditions.
- Maintain bronze or copper elements through the application of clear wax or acrylic coatings. Wax coatings require more frequent re-application, but are easier to touch up. Acrylic coatings must be stripped and replaced in entirety. Maintain the original designed landscape compositions surrounding markers and memorials as part of the history of the objects. Repair or replace overgrown plantings and cracked paving, for example, and correct poor site drainage.
- Refer to guidelines established for vegetation for further information regarding care and maintenance of important trees and other memorial plantings.

Archeological Resources

Both cemeteries are important archeological sites. There are many burials in both cemeteries that are unmarked and that have not been yet located using the technologies that are now available, such as ground-penetrating radar. Great care should be taken when considering new burials in any areas outside known and delineated family plots:

- Conduct ground-penetrating radar to located unmarked graves in both cemeteries.
- Consider the archeological potential and significance of a previously undisturbed site when selecting a site for new burials or other projects that involve subsurface ground disturbance.
- Evaluate proposed construction projects in consultation with a professional in an appropriate discipline such as archeology, history, or architectural history.

- Obtain the services of a trained professional archeologist to conduct testing of any new construction sites with the potential to contain archeological resources.
- Avoid impacts to archeological sites by designating a limit-of-disturbance area around the resource. The limit-of-disturbance area should be determined by an archeologist.
- Consider preparing a comprehensive archeological resources management plan for the historic cemeteries to better inform future projects. The plan should include: a complete inventory of previously recorded archeological sites within (and immediately adjacent to) the cemeteries; cultural contexts describing the prehistoric and historic-period occupations in the vicinities of the cemeteries; a map depicting archeologically sensitive areas; a summary of all previous archeological research conducted in the vicinities; a map depicting previously surveyed areas; a map depicting previously disturbed areas and/or areas where no archeological resources could exist for other reasons; and significance criteria, research priorities, and site evaluation protocols that can be used to inform future archeological survey, investigation, mitigation, and planning decisions.

Chapter 3: Policy and Funding Recommendations

The New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries are a valuable historic part of our cultural heritage. The cemeteries should serve as a resource for the living, connecting the past with the present. Our goal is the preservation the records of community history, cultural history, landscape heritage and architecture contained within the cemeteries. This can be accomplished through conservation, preservation and education.

— Cemetery Committee of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 2010

This chapter discusses issues and makes recommendations regarding cemetery management policy and preservation funding. It begins with an overview of the regulations and laws affecting cemetery preservation in New Braunfels. The next section discusses historic preservation designation at several levels and how it can affect cemetery preservation. This is followed by recommendations regarding emergency preparedness and recordkeeping. The chapter concludes with a section describing the various funding sources and recommendations on partnerships. Following most discussions is a short paragraph highlighting the most important actions that should be taken to address these issues.

Regulations and Laws

A number of regulations and laws, ranging from local to federal, may affect preservation activities conducted within the New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries. Plans for all activities should be reviewed by the City of New Braunfels Historic Preservation Officer (HPO) prior to commencement of work.

Local Law

According to the New Braunfels City Code (Section 26-1), prior to setting or resetting grave markers, repairing curbs, or any other related services within any city-owned cemeteries, one must first obtain a license to do so. In order to obtain this license, one must apply through the City Secretary, pay a $50.00 application fee, and furnish a certificate of general liability insurance (for the opening and closing of graves, only). Each license will expire on December 31 of the year received and each reapplication will also incur a fee of $50.00. It is advisable to check with the city attorney regarding the necessity of the certificate of insurance if grave opening or closing is not part of the services. It is also advisable to check whether a representative of the city, such as city staff or volunteers, need this certificate for resetting markers or repairing graves.

It is recommended that consideration be given to amending this section of the Code to add provisions for the protection of resources within the two historic cemeteries. In Massachusetts, for example, proposals to restore gravestones must be reviewed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth prior to the issuance of a permit for such work. In the case of New Braunfels, proposals could be reviewed by the HPO prior to permitting. The HPO would assure that such proposals meet national and state preservation standards. This review could also involve the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

Highly Recommended: appointment of a Volunteer Coordinator that would be responsible for managing volunteer activities at both cemeteries and be a liaison with city staff.

State Law

Three sections of the State of Texas Health and Safety Code affect cemetery maintenance and preservation. Section 713.025 gives any private person the right to maintain a grave or burial lot in a municipal cemetery if the person has a legal interest (meaning a legal title) in the grave or burial lot; or is related within the fifth degree by affinity or consanguinity (determined under Chapter 573, Texas Government Code) to, or is a direct descendant of, a person interred in a cemetery maintained by a trustee.

Section 713.002 generally provides that any city or town that owns or has control of any cemetery has the power to maintain the cemetery. This was further detailed in May of 2009, when the Texas Legislature amended Section 713.011 to charge a municipality that "operates or has jurisdiction over a public cemetery" with the responsibility to "maintain the cemetery in a condition that does not endanger the public health, safety, comfort, or welfare." In this context, maintenance includes:

1. repairing and maintaining any fences, walls, buildings, roads, or other improvements;
2. leveling or straightening markers or memorials;
3. properly maintaining lawns shrubbery, and other plants;
4. removing debris, including dead flowers and deteriorated plastic ornaments; and
5. promptly restoring gravesites following an interment.

This is an improvement for the state of cemetery preservation within Texas because, prior to the amendment of this section, municipalities were not legally allowed to perform any work within privately-owned cemetery plots within written approval from the owner. Often descendents of the original owners are difficult to locate or do not even know that they inherited burial plots.

It would follow, then, that although an individual plot in a municipal cemetery is owned by a private party, if the municipality is called to protect the health, safety, comfort, or welfare of the public then representatives of that municipality would then be permitted to conduct any or all of the above-listed activities on any burial plot within said cemetery without permission of the plot owner. This suggests that the volunteers that represent the City of New Braunfels, might then be permitted to conduct these activities without permission of the plot owner. The City of New Braunfels should be consulted, however, prior to the commencement of such activities because, while the law may allow representatives of the city to perform restorative work on grave markers, it is not known if any municipality that has taken on these kind of projects.

Another state law affecting cemetery preservation is the Antiquities Code of Texas (Title 9, Chapter 191 of the Texas Natural Resources Code of 1977, revised Sept. 1, 1997). If a historic cemetery is owned by a political subdivision of the State of Texas (city, county, etc.), all burials within are protected as archeological sites. This means that headstones may also be protected along with the interments as either part of the archeological deposit or as separate architectural features associated with the site as a whole. Because, as according to the Antiquities Code, no deposits can be "removed, altered, damaged, destroyed, salvaged, or excavated" by anyone without a permit from the THC, the resetting of headstones and curbs may be affected by this law. The City of New Braunfels should be consulted regarding the applicability to work planned in the Comal and New Braunfels cemeteries.

In addition, political subdivisions of the state must notify the THC before a publicly-owned cemetery that is 50 years old or older can be altered beyond on-going maintenance and daily cemetery activities. The THC has a policy regarding historic graves and cemeteries that calls for recordation, protection, and preservation whenever possible (Texas Historical Commission).

Highly Recommended: that research be conducted into the application of Section 713.01 of the State of Texas Health and Safety Code to determine permitted activities associated with the preservation of features within privately-owned cemetery plots.

Federal Law

If any cemetery preservation activities are federally funded, permitted, or approved, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that the responsible agency consider the effects of these activities on historic properties that are either listed on the National Register of Historic Places or are eligible for inclusion. Four divisions at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review and monitor federal projects: Archeology, Architecture, Community Heritage Development, and History Programs. Together, these divisions evaluate sites, including cemeteries, for their eligibility for the National Register. Once it is positively determined that both historic cemeteries are eligible for the National Register, then Section 106 would apply.

Finally, Section 4(f) of the federal Department of Transportation Act (49 USC 303) concerns transportation projects that would use or impact a significant historic site. Under this law, federal agencies cannot approve a transportation project that requires the use of any publicly owned land from a significant historic site, unless a determination is made that there is no feasible and prudent alternative, and that the project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the property resulting from the use. This law would affect the New Braunfels Cemetery in particular, because of its proximity to IH-35.

Historic Designation

Local Designation

Designation for important historic landmarks within New Braunfels has been established to address their protection and preservation. Such recognition can be useful to raise public awareness of a historic cemetery and also to assist with fund-raising efforts. A historic landmark in New Braunfels may be designated if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. Possesses significance in history, architecture, archeology, or culture;
2. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local, regional, state, or national history;
3. Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
4. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction;
5. Represents the work of a master designer, builder, or craftsman; or

6. Represents an established and familial visual feature of the neighborhood or city (Ord. No 96-9.§ I, 2-26-96).

Both the New Braunfels Cemetery and the Comal Cemetery meet most of these criteria and are therefore eligible for local designation.

Once designated, any person or group proposing an alteration, restoration, reconstruction, or new construction project that may affect the appearance and cohesiveness of the designated cemetery would have to first obtain an alteration certification from the HPO authorizing the change. The application would be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) which would then issue its findings through the HPO. Potential projects that may be affected might include the addition of large commemorative markers, demolition/construction of structures (including buildings, entrances, fencing), or extensive tree-planting initiatives.

State Designation

Historic cemeteries in Texas can be designated under the Historic Texas Cemetery program, which offers options for Historic Texas Cemetery medallions and interpretive markers. These two programs are described in more detail, below.

Historic Texas Cemetery

Within the State of Texas, a cemetery that is considered worthy of recognition and preservation for its historic associations is eligible to be listed as a Historic Texas Cemetery through the THC. A cemetery is eligible for recognition as such if it is either 50 years old or otherwise exceptionally significant. Because such a designation assures that the cemetery is included in county deed records as a historic property considered worth of preservation, it can increase its visibility and public recognition. The Comal Cemetery was designated a Historic Texas Cemetery in 2000; to date, no application has been made to nominate New Braunfels Cemetery.

Subject Markers

The THC has a program for providing subject markers at historic properties to reveal aspects of local history that are important to a community or region. Subject markers were once used to identify historic cemeteries, and in 1976, the THC placed a subject marker at New Braunfels Cemetery. This metal marker is located in the approximate center of the cemetery and briefly describes the historic significance of the site. The THC has replaced this program for cemeteries with the Historic Texas Cemetery designation (see above).

Federal Designation

Some cemeteries may also be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, a designation managed by the National Park Service and administered through the Texas Historical Commission. While it is not common for a cemetery to be listed, its significance under four Criteria may lead to designation. Refer to specific application of the Criteria for each cemetery in Chapters 4 and 5.

Highly Recommended: that both cemeteries be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Emergency Preparedness

Severe weather events and acts of vandalism can have a devastating effect on an historic cemetery in a short period of time. It is important to have a plan of action in place for addressing such emergencies.

To establish an emergency plan, first generate a call list to inform the appropriate parties, depending on the type of emergency event. Because the New Braunfels Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) operates both cemeteries, a representative should be assigned as the first tier investigator for any emergency event. That person would then contact people on the appropriate call list.

The second tier call list for storm events should include, for example, the city arborist or urban forester to address tree issues, a local architectural conservator to address damage to grave markers and historic fencing, and an archeologist in the case of soil disturbance. In the event of vandalism, the list should include the local police and an architectural conservator if there is damage to historic resources.

Teams of volunteers can be organized as the third tier to assist the second tier in carrying out inspections, damage mitigation, assisting in clean-up and repair, documentation, and other activities. The first and foremost concern, however, should be personal safety. Because monuments may be unstable and damaged trees can shift with winds and continue to drop large branches, volunteers should work only under the guidance of a qualified professional.

Other issues include:

- Release of information to the public: in the event a city public information officer is not available, only a person designated by PARD should speak to the media about events and the course of action being taken.

- Crime scene preservation: if a large vandalism event has occurred, the first tier designee may close the site to the public until initial investigation is completed.
- Structural stabilization: areas will be roped off and signage placed if a risk to the public is determined.
- Documentation: on the callback list, identify those volunteers who will work with an approved format to document any damage. All photos and notes should be turned over to the lead person before the volunteer leaves the site.

Highly Recommended: that a three-tiered emergency preparedness plan be established for the historic cemeteries.

Recordkeeping

According to the New Braunfels City Code, the city sexton is responsible for keeping a register of all dead buried in each municipal cemetery. Information required for the register includes name, age, race and sex, place of birth (if known), residence and time of death, time of interment and the number of the lot in which interred (City Code, Sec. 26-28). The city sexton is also responsible for making monthly reports in writing to the city manager, listing the number and kinds of interments, the names of the interred with the date, age, sex, race and cause of death, if known.

Currently, the city sexton is housed at Comal Cemetery in the maintenance shed and office. Here the sexton maintains paper cemetery maps, records, and handouts describing cemetery regulations and guidelines. All cemetery sales records are processed through and stored in the City Secretary's office. There is no centralized storage location where all the cemetery records can be accessed. In addition, many cemetery records are also still in paper form, which renders them more vulnerable to damage and loss.

Highly Recommended: that a computerized recordkeeping system for cemetery documentation and maintenance be investigated for use for all municipal cemeteries. All documentation regarding the historic cemeteries should be organized within the system in a digital format: paper documents and photographs should be scanned and made easily available. The format should be configured so that it is also a resource for researchers to identify locations and historical information regarding burials within these and other municipal cemeteries.

Grave Ornamentation and Maintenance

The city sexton's office distributes to the public copies of cemetery regulations, including specifications regarding the size of grave spaces, markers, and allowed ornaments and plantings. In addition, all purchasers of new internments are given a copy of excerpts from the Cleaning Stone section of the THC's "Developing a Master Preservation Plan for a Historic Cemetery" publication.

According to city Cemetery Regulations, all owners of plots within the Park Plan section of the Comal Cemetery (Blocks 684-687) are restricted to using markers that will not exceed 12" x 24" in size and are no more than 6" thick. Double markers may not be more than 14"x72"x6" in size. Markers may be constructed from either granite or bronze. Temporary markers, copings, curbs, hedging, borders, or any other plantings or enhancement are not allowed. Only single flower vase can ornament a single grave or two for a double marker. There are no regulations regarding marker size and ornamentation for the rest of the Comal Cemetery, nor for the New Braunfels Cemetery.

The city sexton conducts two major cleanup efforts at the two municipal cemeteries: one in March and one in October. During these cleanups, all artificial flowers and "other materials determined to be unsightly" are removed from the cemeteries (City of New Braunfels). The notice for these cleanups recommends that the public remove any articles that have sentimental value before the cleanup occurs. As decorations placed on graves and in family plots are extremely personal in nature, violations of stated policies are difficult to address.

Highly Recommended: that city staff review current regulations and revise to ensure best practices for cemetery maintenance, and that guidelines for policy enforcement be clarified.

Highly Recommended: that city sexton distribute to plot owners guidelines for monument maintenance, stone cleaning, cleaning and maintenance of metals, and a blank form to aid them in keeping a record of cleaning that would then be returned to the sexton for inclusion in monument documentation. Regular training on grave marker maintenance should also be available to the public.

Funding and Partnerships

Grants for Historic Preservation

It is helpful for a property to have already received historic designation or be eligible for designation in order to receive funding for preservation. Designation or eligibility assures the funding body of the significance of the site. The following are possible funding sources for cemetery preservation:

Local Funding Sources

According to Chapter 26 of the City Code, "Cemeteries," income from activities related to municipal cemetery use and care comes from the following sources:

- Proceeds from the sale of cemetery lots, the price of which is established by the city manager; the sale price for plots not in Park Plan sections is $350, which is slightly below fees charged by surrounding municipalities;
- $50.00 annual license fee paid for grave openings, closings, setting and resetting of grave markers, repairs to curbing, or any other related services;
- $25.00 permit fee payable to the city by the owners of a cemetery lot, or their representatives, whenever a grave is opened or closed; this money goes into the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund and can be used for cemetery maintenance;
- Sale of plots in the Park Plan section of the Comal Cemetery at a price of $375 each, which currently goes into the General Operating Budget for the city, not into the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund (there are a total of 1,246 perpetual care plots out of a total of 12,551 spaces), which places an undue limitation on funds that can be used for cemetery maintenance; and
- Income from trust funds set up to support maintenance on cemetery plots.

Because the historic municipal cemeteries are almost full, which limits potential income, current and future funds are not enough to pay for the appropriate level of maintenance necessary to care for these historic resources. In addition, the Perpetual Care Fund, pays only for the care of cemetery grounds, but not markers or plot enclosures.

In addition, many plots within both cemeteries have not been used by the families that own them or have placed deposits for their use. For example, there are currently over 100 spaces at the Comal Cemetery that have been partially paid for, with balances owed for over 90 days. Some of these deposits were made many years ago. At the time of purchase, customers are told that they have 90 days to pay the full balance, but this information is not provided to the customer in writing, nor is there follow-up for collection. These plots are not used, but have not been released for resale.

Finally, there are also many plots in both cemeteries that are owned by families, but were never used. It may be that many of these families no longer live in the area and may not even know that they own these plots. Resale of these plots is also another potential funding source if a system could be developed for locating these families.

Highly Recommended: that city staff contact customers with outstanding balances to confirm if a purchase is still desired. If so, customers should be given a deadline by which to pay in full or relinquish the plot. If the customer no longer wishes to own the space, a refund can be issued and the space resold.

Highly Recommended: that the city review the sale prices for cemetery plots and raise to the levels comparable to those charged by surrounding municipalities.

Highly Recommended: that funds from sale of plots in the Park Plan section be placed into the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund or the Park Maintenance Operating Budget, instead of the General Operating Budget.

Highly Recommended: that research be conducted to determine the owners of all plots, particularly those that have not been used. Owners of these unused plots could be contacted to see if they are aware of ownership and to inquire if they wish to keep the plots or would like to sell them back to the city for resale. Ownership information can also be entered into the cemetery and updated as needed.

State Funding Sources

Texas Preservation Trust Fund:

- Administered by: Texas Historical Commission
- Type of funding: 1:1 match to $50,000
- Projects funded: preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, or reconstruction (development projects); property acquisition; planning studies; or heritage education (training projects)

- Other: all acquisition and development projects required to grant an easement to ensure the long-term preservation of the grant-assisted property

Texas Heritage Trails Program:

- Administered by: Texas Historical Commission
- Type of funding: matching grants for projects that enhance the heritage tourism experience
- Projects funded: advertising and media support
- Other: involvement provides networking opportunities with other heritage tourism organizations

Texas Historical Foundation:

- Administered by: Texas Historical Foundation
- Type of funding: grants up to $5,000
- Projects funded: historic preservation

Other: current focus is on archeological projects in Texas

National Funding Sources

Historic Preservation Fund:

- Administered by: National Park Service (distributed by the State Historic Preservation Officer)
- Type of funding: 1:2 matching grants
- Projects funded: surveys, preservation studies, National Register nominations, engineering studies, etc., meeting Secretary of the Interior Standards
- Other: 10% of available funds go to Certified Local Governments (CLG), New Braunfels is a CLG and received a grant from this fund for a historic resources survey in 2009.

National Trust Preservation Funds:

- Administered by: National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Type of funding: 1:1 matching grants from $500 to $5,000
- Projects funded: preservation planning and educational efforts (architecture, archeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fund raising, organizational development, law, preservation education) and intervention funds for preservation emergencies
- Other: property should be listed or eligible for listing on the National Register

National Endowment for the Arts Access to Artistic Excellence Grants:

- Administered by: National Endowment for the Arts
- Type of funding: 1:1 matching grants from $5,000 to $150,000
- Projects funded: preservation of significant works of art/cultural traditions
- Other: may be available to conserve cemetery sculpture and shell mounds

Preserve America Grants:

- Administered by: National Park Service
- Type of funding: 1:1 matching grants; minimum $20,000-$250,000
- Projects funded: supports planning, marketing, research, training, and interpretation directed towards economic and educational opportunities related to heritage tourism; does not fund “bricks-and-mortar” projects
- Other: granted only to Preserve America Communities, of which New Braunfels is one

National Endowment for the Humanities Grants:

- Challenge Grants:
    - Administered by: National Endowment for the Humanities
    - Type of funding: 1:3 matching grants to $500,000
    - Projects funded: preservation and conservation programs, construction and renovation of facilities, equipment/software, fundraising costs, staff salaries
    - Other: historical societies and historic properties are eligible
- Preservation Assistance Grants:
    - Administered by: National Endowment for the Humanities

    - Type of funding: 1:3 matching grants less than $6000
    - Projects funded: possible source for monument and sculpture conservation
    - Other: typical recipients include libraries, museums, historical societies, archival repositories, arts and cultural organizations, and town and county records offices

- Collaborative Research Grants
    - Administered by: National Endowment for the Humanities
    - Type of funding: 1:1 matching grants, $25,000 to $100,000
    - Projects funded: could be used for archeological and other scholarly investigations of the cemeteries
    - Other: supports full- or part-time research activities

- America's Historical and Cultural Organizations: Planning and Implementation Grants:
    - Administered by: National Endowment for the Humanities
    - Type of funding: 1:1 matching grants, $40,000 to $75,000
    - Projects funded: can be used for planning and implementation of an interpretive program

Potential Partnerships and Programs

The following organizations or programs present partnering opportunities for various cemetery preservation projects:

New Braunfels Parks Foundation
Highly Recommended: maintain an alliance with the New Braunfels Parks Foundation, a 501c3 that exists to support park projects. This organization can raise money and support for the work needed in the historic cemeteries. Benefits of such an alliance include the following:

- Non-profit corporations that have 501(c)(3) (tax-exempt) status are eligible for local, state, and federal tax exemptions.
- Grants and some other donations are also easier to obtain if the group has 501(c)(3) status. Many foundations and government agencies limit their grants to tax-exempt groups.
- Board members, officers, and employees of the non-profit are also protected from personal liability for corporate debts or lawsuits. However, if a director does not perform his or her job in the non-profit's best interests, they can be held liable.
- Corporations are entities separate from the individuals who manage them, making the group's mission and structure above the personal interests of persons and assuring continuity, thus making the organization more attractive to donors.
- Additional benefits include lower postal rates and free public service announcements, among others.

Activities to raise funds for restoration and cleaning of historic markers that can be organized through the Parks Foundation include:

- conducting inventories of markers, curbing, fencing, and vegetation;
- conducting cemetery cleanup events;
- developing brochures and guided walks to increase public awareness of both sites;
- researching bank records for unused trust funds designated to maintain specific graves;
- developing a venue for sales of notecards, rubbings, cemetery guides, photographs, or even plants propagated from cemetery cuttings or bulb divisions;
- researching descendents of deceased and contacting them to solicit donations for plot care;
- soliciting donations from associated businesses, such as funeral homes and monument companies;
- establishing a trust fund for the care of the historic cemeteries;
- networking, to support preservation activities, with other non-profits such as:
    - German-Texan Heritage Society
    - Sons of Confederate Veterans

    - United Daughters of the Confederacy
    - Sons and Daughters of the Republic of Texas
    - Order of the Sons of Hermann
    - New Braunfels Firefighters Association
    - Texas Free and Accepted Masons
    - Comal Garden Club
- and conducting other fund-raising activities such as:
    - themed walking tours and Volksmarches;
    - photo competitions and workshops;
    - genealogy workshops and family history events;
    - historic tours;
    - working with local scout groups to complete cemetery projects;
    - preservation workshops;
    - bird and nature watching; and
    - community clean-up days.

Adopt-A-Plot program:

- Instigated by many cemeteries: individuals, groups, or organizations commit to care for a particular cemetery plot over a period of time.
- Plot care would include weeding plot coverings and caring for plant materials within the plot, as well as reporting to the Parks Department any problems such as damaged trees or headstones. Activities could also include documenting and inventorying markers, curbs, plot covers, and vegetation.

Local heritage tourism:

Groups in the New Braunfels area that are interested in heritage tourism include the Comal County Historic Committee, the Sophienburg Museum and Archive, the New Braunfels Conservation Society, the New Braunfels Heritage Society, the City of New Braunfels Historic Landmark Commission, the Comal County Genealogy Society, and the German American Society

A cooperative relationship between these groups would advance the cause of heritage tourism within the area.

Highly Recommended: with the help of these heritage groups, develop a marketing plan to promote heritage tourism in the New Braunfels area that includes historic properties such as the New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries.

Texas Historical Commission Historic Cemeteries Program

This is a program operated as part of THC's services and is managed by the THC Cemetery Coordinator. The program provides information and support for groups interested in preserving historic cemeteries within the state. Services also include assistance in listing a site as a Historic Texas Cemetery. This designation provides official recognition and official recordation in county deed records as "historically dedicated property worthy of recognition." For a cemetery to be eligible for assistance by the THC, it must be either designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery or determined by the THC to qualify as an eligible property under the criteria for designation. The cemetery must be at least fifty years old, its history must be documented, and the cemetery must be a "secured burial place of human remains." Comal Cemetery was designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery in 1999.

Highly Recommended: that designation of the New Braunfels Cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery be pursued.

RIP Guardians

One way to raise public awareness of the value of these two historic cemeteries is to form a local RIP Guardian group. This program is administered by the THC as part if its cemetery survey initiative. The acronym, RIP, refers to the goals of the THC, to "Record, Investigate, and Protect" the resources of historic Texas cemeteries. The THC helps local RIP groups preserve and protect their historic cemeteries by providing education, consultation, and assistance to these groups. There has not yet been an RIP group established in Comal County.

Once a cemetery receives designation as a Historic Texas Cemetery, the THC will provide preservation assistance to local RIP Guardians groups in the form of education and consultation for various activities. At minimum, the local group can coordinate up to two cleaning projects for the adopted site each year, based on need. The THC will provide training, educational and promotional materials, and will seek sponsors for basic supplies for each cleaning effort. Other tasks, such as cemetery designation, cemetery surveys, maintenance, funding, education, and conservation can be pursued with this assistance.

Preservation Texas

Preservation Texas is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to historic preservation in Texas. Relevant programs include awards for preservation of significant sites in the state, preservation educational opportunities, the Texas' Most Endangered Places Program, advocacy for actions by the state legislature and public agencies, and the Texas Preservation Day/Summit. This may be an excellent resource for support in cemetery preservation.

Texas Heritage Trails Program:

The Hill Country Trail Region program provides technical, financial and marketing assistance to heritage regions across Texas, helping to revitalize local economies, increase visitation to cultural and historic sites, and raise the awareness of the importance of historic preservation to the tourism industry. It is recommended that the historic municipal cemeteries be included in their listings for historic properties.

CASE STUDY:

OLD CITY CEMETERY, LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

Twenty years of dedicated volunteer and sponsor work are behind the shining success of the rehabilitation of the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia. What had been a neglected historic burial ground is now an important destination spot for both local citizens and heritage tourists. The story began in the 1980s when four members of the Southern Memorial Association took on the beautification of the Confederate Section of the Old City Cemetery. A year later, when a violent wind storm destroyed hundreds of large shade trees and toppled an antique garden structure close to adjacent graves, the group's interest immediately expanded to encompass the entire cemetery. As a result, today the cemetery has become a popular gathering place, containing such attractions as its nationally-famous antique rose collection and other horticultural displays, as well as three small museums that interpret aspects of the history of Lynchburg. Not only has the cemetery been preserved and even rehabilitated, but the interest generated by the work has spread to the surrounding neighborhood, which has also undergone a revival. Today, the cemetery hosts annual community events such as the Garden Club of Virginia's Annual Horticultural Field Day, the Antique Rose Festival, and the Memorial Day Bird Walk. It is also a popular setting for weddings and other family and community gatherings.

Over the years, cemetery preservation and restoration projects have been supported by the City of Lynchburg; the Keep Lynchburg Beautiful Commission; the National Society of Colonial Dames; the Lynchburg Bird Club; the Lynchburg Humane Society; the Master Gardeners; the Girl Scouts; the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants; the Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society; several local garden clubs; plant nurseries from all over the U.S.; local design firms and construction companies; local funeral service companies, churches, and banks; and hundreds of donors, family trusts, and volunteers, all organized by the nonprofit Southern Memorial Association (SMA). The success of the SMA, which now manages the cemetery in partnership with the City of Lynchburg, and the hundreds of volunteers and contributors they have marshaled over the last twenty years is inspiring. The Old City Cemetery is an outstanding example of how the passionate interests of a few galvanized a larger community and led to the preservation of this important historic resource, and contributed to the revitalization of a community. More information about the cemetery projects can be found online at the SMA website, *www.gravegarden.org*, or in the recently published book by Director Emerita Jane Baber White, *Once Upon a Time...A Cemetery Story*.

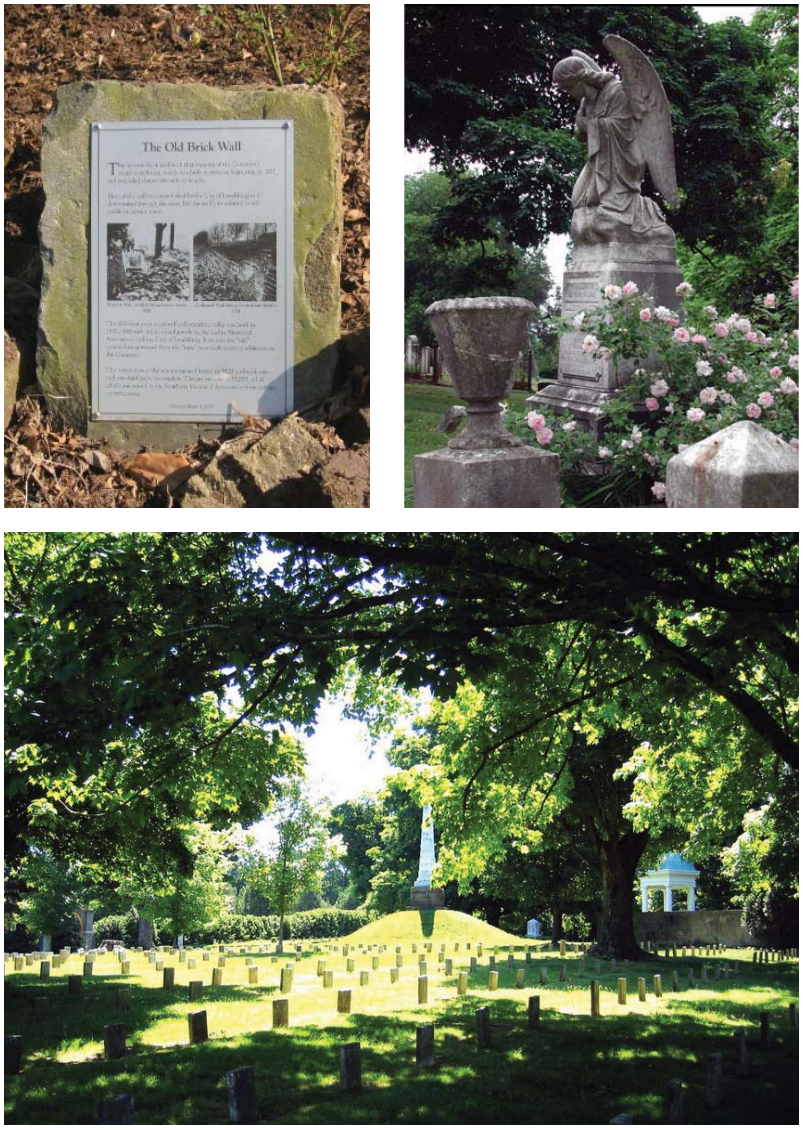


Figure 3-1. Images from the Old City Cemetery. *JMA 2009 and the Southern Memorial Association web site, www.gravegarden.org.*

Chapter 4: New Braunfels Cemetery

Historical Overview

> *I remember going to the New Braunfels Cemetery to my great-great-great-grandfather's plot—and my great-great-grandfather and a number of other people, there are nine people buried in that plot—and there were carved walnut crosses, black walnut, because he was a cabinetmaker here in New Braunfels. That's August Wilhelm Hartmann. But since then they've all disappeared.*
>
> ***— David Hartmann, Cemetery Committee***

The first group of German settlers—less than three hundred, according to ship lists—that came to Texas under the auspices of the Adelsverein arrived at the Port of Galveston in November of 1844. From there, they were transported to the debarkation point at Indianola (also known as Carlshafen at the time), and then began their trek inland via a wagon train led by Nicolaus Zink, a civil engineer and former German army officer hired by the society. The immigrants finally arrived at the site that would become New Braunfels—named for Prince Carl—on Good Friday, March 21, 1845 (Biesele, 1930:120). Zink surveyed the town site, laying out both town lots and farm lots (about ten acres each) for the immigrants, and platted the town's public squares and streets (Figure 4-1). At the southwestern edge of town alongside the Nacogdoches-San Antonio Road, he set aside four acres for a public graveyard, the New Braunfels Cemetery (Seele, 1979: 24; Haas, 1968: 24; New Braunfels Cemetery historical marker file; Dykes-Hoffmann, 2003:86-89).

The settlers immediately set about building dwellings and planting crops in and around the town site. As more Germans boarded ships and immigration continued, conditions proved challenging. According to one historian, "Between October 1845 and April 1846, thirty-six ships brought 5,257 immigrants to Texas under the auspices of the Verein. Those who came in the fall and winter fared well enough, but tragedy struck those who came in the spring and summer of 1846" (Geue, 1970:17). Problems with overland transportation contracts resulted in thousands of immigrants being stranded for months on the coastal beaches near Indianola, struggling to build whatever minimal shelter they could, and diseases—including dysentery, typhoid, malaria, and cholera—soon took a toll. Some four hundred people died at the coast, and as the remainder of the settlers made their way inland, many more died and were buried along the way (Biesele, 1930: 129-131; Geue 1970: 17; Haas 1968: 54-68).

The Rev. Louis C. Ervendberg, spiritual leader for the colonists who founded the German Protestant Church, now called the First Protestant Church, conducted hundreds of funerals, and kept ledger books that provide a written record of early immigrant deaths. Notations in the first burial

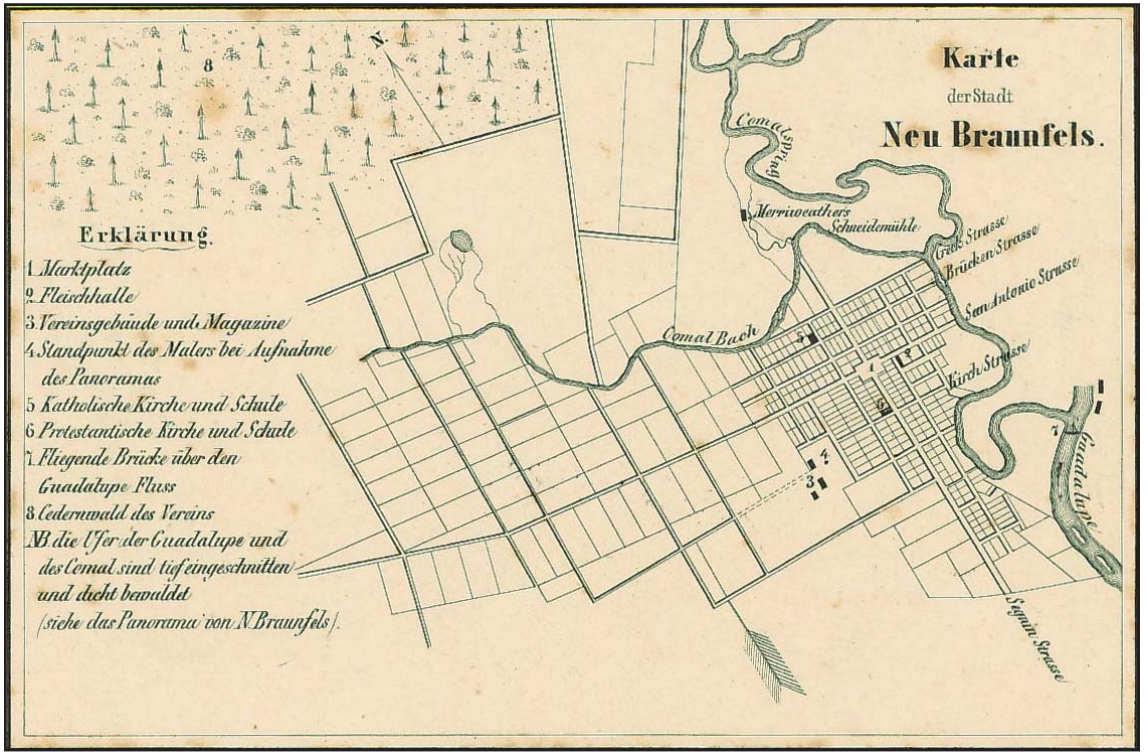
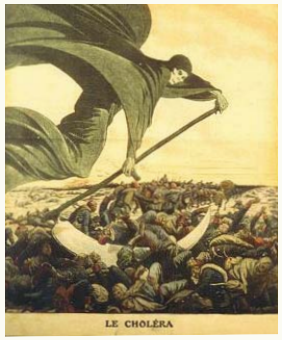


Figure 4-1. Early map of New Braunfels. *Source: Karte des Staates Texas, 1849. Perry Castaneda Library Map Collection web site, University of Texas at Austin.*

CHOLERA

The deadly disease known as cholera has long had a devastating effect on populations around the world, and today it is still considered endemic in remote parts of Asia, Africa, and South America. In the United States, King Cholera reigned from roughly the early 1830s until the era of Reconstruction in the 1870s. Major outbreaks occurred in 1832, 1849, and 1866, with smaller, localized epidemics occurring in the intervening years, including the one that struck New Braunfels in 1846. As cholera ran its course, thousands died in swift epidemics that spread through major population centers such as New York City, Chicago, and New Orleans. Highly infectious, the gastrointestinal disease results from exposure to the bacterium *Vibrio cholera*, primarily through contaminated foods or drinking water. The infection causes rapid dehydration, and death can occur in just a matter of hours. So devastating and all-encompassing were the U.S. epidemics that it was not uncommon in some communities for victims to lie unburied in the streets for days or to be interred quickly in mass graves that remained unmarked by individual tombstones.



Drawing of Death bringing the cholera. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cholera.jpg

ledger—covering the years 1845-1854—recorded burials in the New Braunfels Cemetery, revealing several interments that took place at sea prior to the immigrants' landing in Texas and others that occurred along the route at places near Indianola, Agua Dulce, Gonzales, Cuero, Victoria, and Seguin.

More than two dozen people were listed as buried on the bank of the Guadalupe River (Burial Ledger, 1845-1854, First Protestant Church Archives, New Braunfels).

Prominent early settler Hermann Seele wrote about the immigrants arriving in those years, their early town-building efforts, and the epidemics that took so many lives:

> *Settlers arriving in New Braunfels camped at random under the shady trees on the banks of the Guadalupe, where a ferryboat had started operation, or they built themselves huts of poles covered with grass thatch. Others bought a place for themselves and built log cabins, to which framed structures with clapboards or stone walls and shingled roofs were added during the year. The largest building was the German Protestant Church, which was used for divine service from the end of March 1846 and could also be used for a school. A tavern and a general store were also opened, and later a larger store was built. A number of immigrants, who mostly arrived sick, were given emergency shelter in a long open shed built on piles and covered with branches and thatch. There, the number of deaths rose to over three hundred. Only a few of the dead could be placed in coffins because of the lack of boards. During the summer as many as three—wrapped in canvas or blankets—were transported together every morning by a teamster in the employ of the society to the cemetery, where they were buried in the prescribed manner by the appointed gravediggers.*
>
> *However, many of the dead who could not be brought across the Guadalupe because of the high water were interred on the far bank of the river. There were always those present who were willing to perform this final service of love. The surviving orphans were housed in a large tent set up by the society near the church and were placed in the care of a foster mother and supervised by the pastor* (Seele, 1979: 28-29).

According to Pastor Ervendberg's records, the first burial in the New Braunfels Cemetery was that of Elise Catharina Reh Peter, who died on June 23, 1845. The cause of death was listed as "mucous fever," and a notation next to her name reads "the cemetery was dedicated by this burial." Her husband, Gerlach Peter, also died and was buried the following month; by the end of that year nineteen more settlers were interred in the cemetery (Burial Ledger, 1845-1854, First Protestant Church Archives, New Braunfels). By the end of 1846, almost four hundred burials were recorded. The graves of Elise and Gerlach Peter are unmarked, as are those of many early settlers, including the more than three hundred victims of the 1846 epidemics buried in a mass grave that covers a large portion of the cemetery property. City of New Braunfels minutes from July 12, 1847, record the following resolutions regarding the cemetery:

> *RESOLVED, that the 4 acres of land allotted to New Braunfels Cemetery be enclosed with a good fence.*
>
> *RESOLVED, that all deaths be registered before burial.*
>
> *RESOLVED, that a sexton be employed to dig graves at least 5 feet deep for a child. Fees of 25 cents for a child's grave under one year of age; 75 cents for under 12 years of age and $1.00 for an adult's grave* (New Braunfels Cemetery marker file).

The oldest gravestone in the cemetery is that of ferry operator Johann Justus Kellner (1821-1851). Photographed by noted cultural geographer Terry Jordan in 1978 and cited by him as one of the finest in America, Kellner's elaborately carved stone bearing three ancient hex signs suffered extensive damage over the years and now rests in pieces encased in cement (Figures 4-2 and 4-3).

Figures 4-2 and 4-3. Johann Justus Kellner's gravestone in 1978 (left) and in 2009 (right). *Terry Jordan, 1978. Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure 4-4. Shell motif grave covering by local craftsman Henry Mordhorst. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Of the more than 750 marked graves, many bear stones or cast metal markers inscribed in German, and many exhibit unique symbols and decorations. A number of graves are decorated with shell-motif coverings by local craftsman Henry Mordhorst (Figure 4-4). Fences and curbs surround numerous plots, and statuary of angels and other images can be seen throughout the site (Figures 4-5 and 4-6).

The City of New Braunfels has maintained the cemetery throughout its history, and as of 1945 ceased selling plots. No new burials have been allowed in the cemetery since 1976, except for those in plots purchased prior to 1946. The Texas Historical Commission installed a subject marker in the New Braunfels Cemetery in 1976. The marker describes the significance of the cemetery as follows:

> Dedicated at the burial of Mrs. Elise Peter on June 23, 1845, a few months after New Braunfels was founded. This cemetery gave rest to many colonists in early years of hardships that besieged the German emigration company. Gerlach Peter, husband of first tenant, was buried in July as one other of the twenty fatalities of 1845. There were 348 burials in 1846. A ferry operator, Johann Justus Kellner (1821-51), has the oldest stone. There are 753 marked and hundreds of unmarked graves. The last vacant lot was sold in 1945. No burials are allowed except in lots purchased before 1946.

Figures 4-5 and 4-6. Examples of angel and other statuary in the cemetery. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Though surrounded by a chain link fence, the cemetery has nevertheless fallen victim in recent years to vandalism and theft, with many stones destroyed, stolen, or damaged (Figure 4-7). Well-meaning repairs have also led to further deterioration of some markers (Figure 4-8).

Figure 4-7. The effects of vandalism, theft, and deferred maintenance threaten the integrity of the cemetery. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure 4-8. Encasement of this marker in concrete has hastened its deterioration. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Spatial Organization

New Braunfels Cemetery was platted at the far southwest end of the original city grid on the higher slopes above Dry Comal Creek, in the traditional Southern manner (see Chapter 1). However, the orientation of roadways and burial plots is northwest to southeast with headstones facing southeast, which reflects the orientation of the city grid rather than a strict adhesion to southern tradition. The orientation of the original burials related to the epidemics is unknown; however, burial plots were delineated within this open area in 1915 and several sold before the discovery of the mass grave (Figures 4-9 and 4-10).

An embankment that supports IH-35 blocks long-range views from the cemetery to the east and small houses enclose the cemetery on its northwest side. A chain link fence provides a translucent enclosure on all sides and is supplemented on the southeast and southwest sides by a hedge of ligustrum and trumpet creeper (refer to Vegetation section).

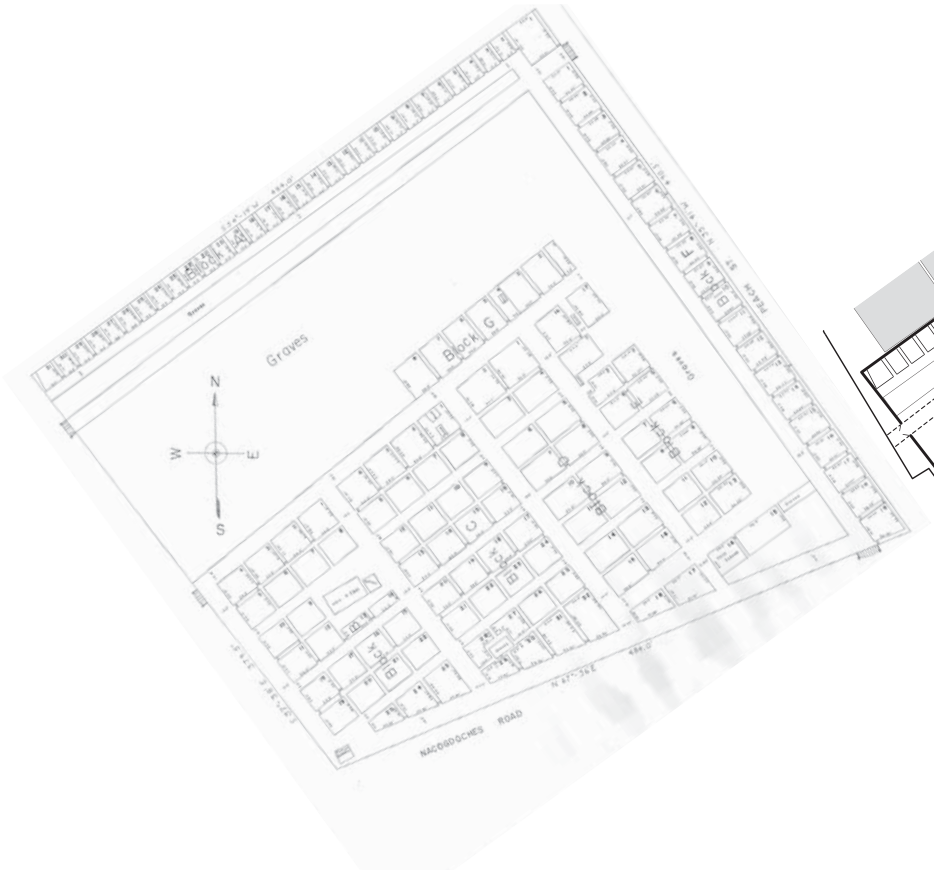


Figure 4-9. Plat of burial plots mapped in 1915 by A. Marbach. Note that much of the plat overlies what was later discovered to be the location of the mass grave of victims of the cholera epidemic of 1846. *City of New Braunfels.*

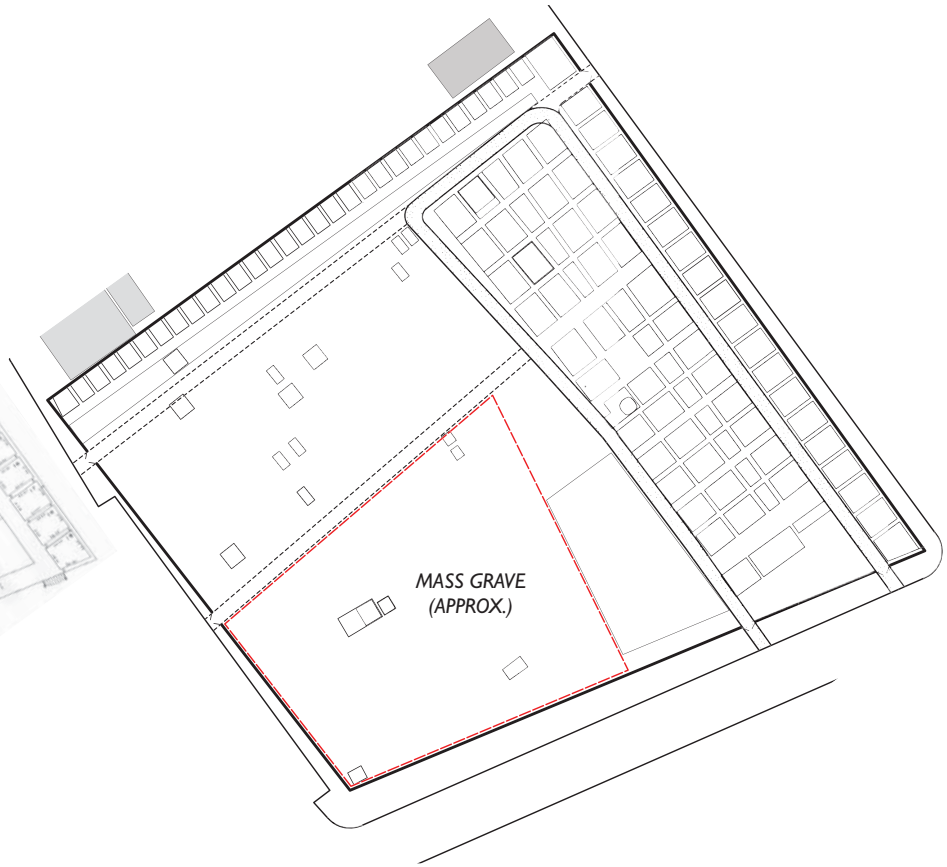


Figure 4-10. Current plot layout, based on Marbach's plat, showing areas of known burial plots and the area containing the mass burial. The orientation of the burials related to the cholera epidemic is not known. *Annotated by John Milner Associates, Inc.*

Circulation and Access

Internal circulation is hierarchical in arrangement, with a loop road providing the primary vehicular circulation, grass tracks providing additional vehicular access, and narrow paths between burial plots providing pedestrian access (Figure 4-11) Primary vehicular access into the New Braunfels Cemetery is accomplished via two double gates set in the chain link security fence that borders S. Elliot Knox Boulevard (Figure 4-12). Ideally, a vehicle would enter through the east gate, circle through the cemetery on the gravel-paved loop road and exit through the west gate. There are three other sets of double gates, but they are usually kept locked. These gates would provide access into the cemetery from Peach and Grape avenues on what are barely defined grass tracks (Figure 4-13). A lot along Grape Avenue provides parking for a skate park across the street and a small gate provides pedestrian access from the lot into the cemetery from this lot. Parking within the cemetery also occurs on the loop road or one of the grass tracks. The main loop road is in only fair condition, being uneven and heavily rutted in some places. The grass tracks are seldom used but are stable for use in dry weather. Vehicular access is sketchy after heavy rains due to the absorptive quality of the heavy clay soils.

Pedestrian circulation within the cemetery occurs along the loop road, grass tracks, and grass paths between the burial plots, which are often defined with concrete or stone curbs (Figure 4-14). Formal access points into family burial plots are often defined by low thresholds set into the curb or via concrete or stone pathways (Figures 4-15 and 4-16). Two pedestrian gates are set in the boundary fence (see Figure 4-11).

Pedestrian circulation within the cemetery is occasionally treacherous due to soil subsidence, particularly in locations adjacent to burial plots where fill soil was not adequately packed or due to the shrink-swell qualities of Houston Black clay.

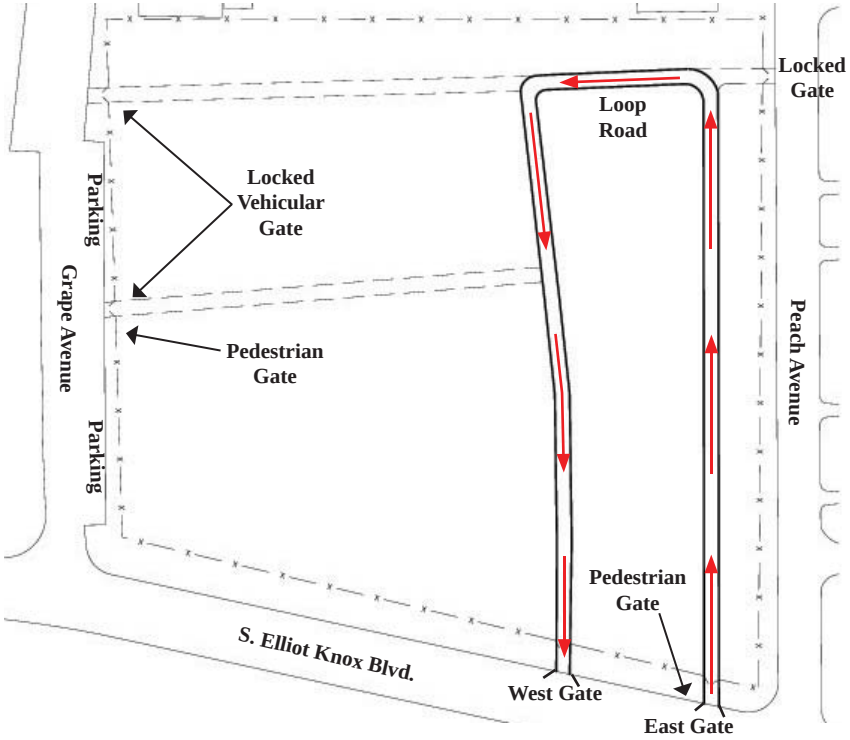


Figure 4-11. The main drive circles through the cemetery; additional grass tracks lead to locked vehicular gates. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-12. Main entrance to the New Braunfels Cemetery and the gravel-paved loop road. Note the double vehicular gate and single pedestrian gate to the left. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-13. Grass track leading into the cemetery from Grape Avenue. The road profile indicates grading for a road, now grassy indicating lack of use. *JMA, 2009.*

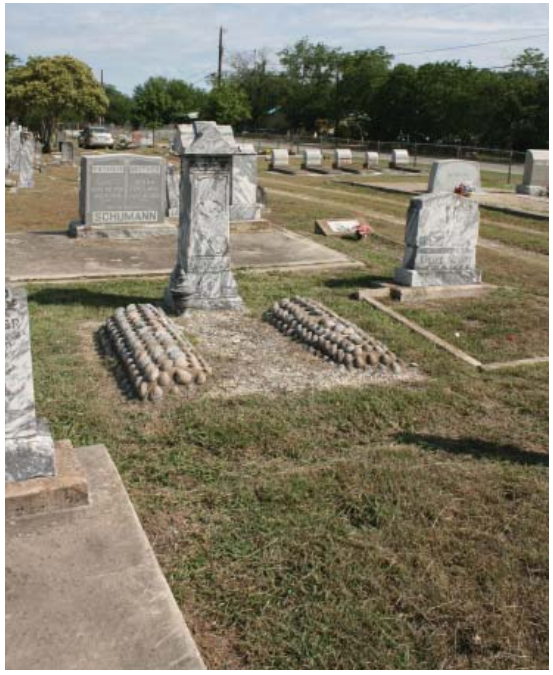


Figure 4-14. Pedestrian circulation is accomplished via informal grass paths between plots. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-15. Typical stone threshold leading into a family plot. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-16. Recently-constructed concrete path leading to a bench within a family plot. *JMA, 2009.*

Vegetation

Trees

New Braunfels Cemetery hosts a small variety of plants, and they are few in number (Figure 2-17). Locals report that many trees that once grew in this cemetery have died and not been replaced. Traditional evergreen cemetery trees of Texas, such as Ashe juniper (*Juniperus ashei*) and Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), are present and some are historical plants (refer discussion, below) (Figure 2-18). Other planted trees include one live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), a number of crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*), glossy privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), and Monterrey oak (*Quercus polymorpha*) (Figures 2-19 and 2-20). Trees that may be volunteers include mulberry (*Morus* sp.) and hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*). Most deliberately-planted trees are in the northeast half of the cemetery.

Figure 4-17. Plan showing the distribution of both evergreen and deciduous tees throughout the New Braunfels Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-18. Elderly specimens of Ashe juniper (left) and Italian cypress (right). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-19. Live oak planted at the center of the cemetery adjacent to the flagpole. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-20. "Watermelon Red" variety of crape myrtle. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-21. Japanese ligustrum hedge planted along the east and south sides of the cemetery for screening purposes. *JMA, 2009.*

Shrubs, Vines, and Bulbs

Shrubs found within the cemetery include Japanese ligustrum, used as a boundary hedge (*Ligustrum japonicum*), a few shrub roses (*Rosa* spp.), Spanish bayonet (*Yucca aloifolia*), and two specimens of dwarf pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) (Figures 4-21, 4-22, 4-23, and 4-24). The roses may be "antiques" because they appear to have been surviving for some time without much maintenance. Trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*) grows in several locations along the south fence (Figure 4-25). It is possible that these vines are volunteer, but their placement also suggests that they may also have been planted. Bulbs found in the cemetery include crinum lilies (*Crinum* spp.) and narcissus (*Narcissus* spp.) (Figures 4-26 and 4-27). Others may also be present but were not evident during the site visit.

Figure 4-22. Rose that may qualify as an antique variety. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-23. Dwarf pomegranates growing in a family plot. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-24. Spanish dagger planted to accent a burial plot. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-25. Several specimens of trumpet vine grown along the south boundary fence. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-26. Crinum lilies were planted in a row at this burial plot. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-27. A border of narcissus ornaments this burial plot. *JMA, 2009.*

Plot Enclosures

Family plots and individual graves in the New Braunfels Cemetery are often bounded by curbs that mark their extents. Curb materials vary widely, ranging from ornate marble to simple poured concrete (refer Appendix A). Curbs are often punctuated by finials at their corners and at the formal entrances to plots; finial styles range from classical to Gothic to modern (refer Appendix A). The primary condition issue affecting plot enclosures in the New Braunfels Cemetery is the expansive nature of the Houston Black clay on which the cemetery was established. This soil develops deep and wide cracks during dry, hot weather, leading to collapse and local subsidence of features (Figure 4-28). Other problems include subsidence damage and maintenance practices. The use of rider mowers to maintain the cemetery is a practice that occasionally leads to damage of cemetery features (Figure 4-29). In addition, the use of weed trimmers with wire cores is an unnecessary source of damage to enclosures (Figures 4-30 and 4-31).

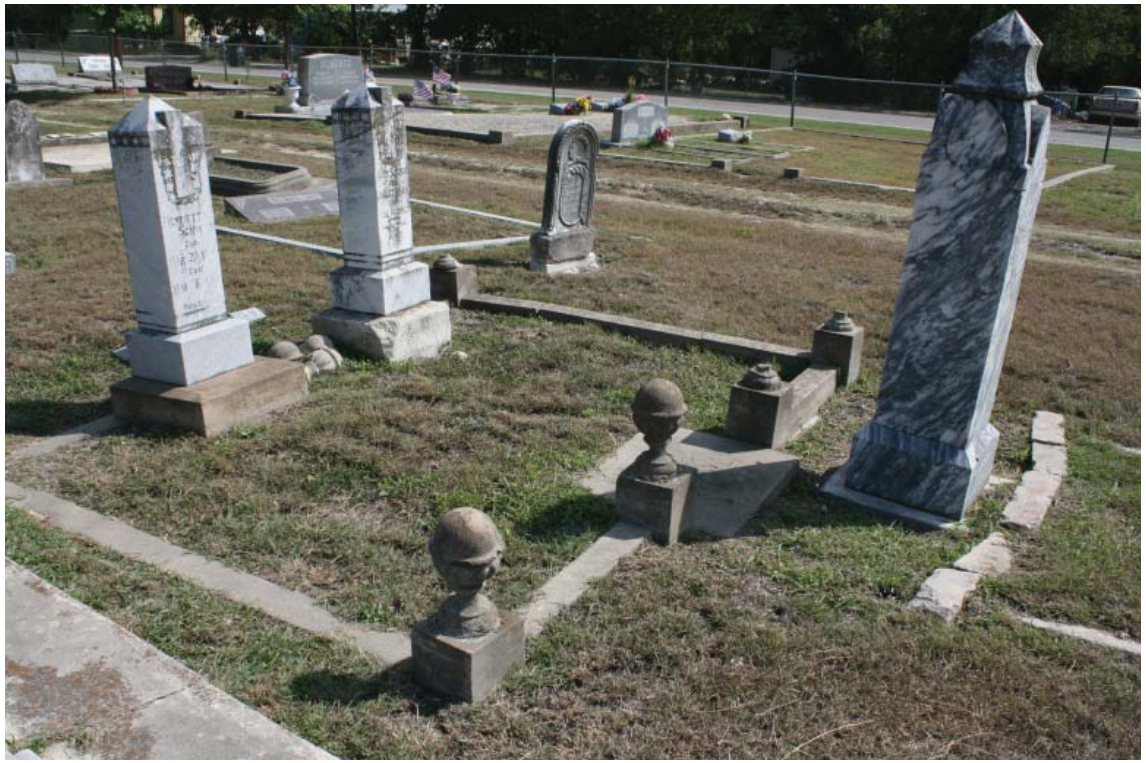


Figure 4-28. Condition issues such as cracking, falling, and displacement can be traced to the expansive nature of Houston Black clay. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-29. Tire tracks from a rider mower appear on this concrete plot covering. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-30. Metal-core string trimmer marks found in New Braunfels Cemetery *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-31. Curb failure from disaggregation combined with careless maintenance practices. *JMA, 2009.*

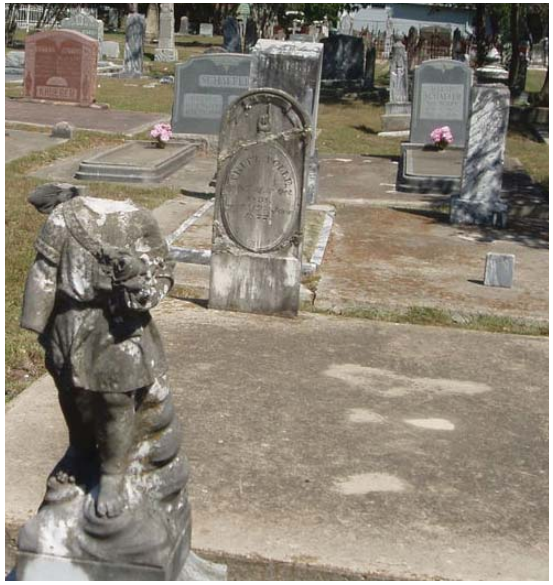


Figure 4-32. A variety of types and extents of plot covers characterize the New Braunfels Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-33. Shell-encrusted grave covers constructed by H.T. Mordhorst in the late 19th century. His work can also be found in the Comal Cemetery and in other cemeteries in the Central Texas region. *JMA, 2009.*

Plot Coverings

It is common for burial plots in the New Braunfels Cemetery, both family and individual, to be covered with either concrete or gravel, and even occasionally, shells (Figures 4-32 through 4-36 and refer Appendix A). Traditionally, family plots and graves were regularly scraped of all vegetation, a practice common in the South. However, the practice has been generally replaced by the complete paving of a family plot or grave in concrete or gravel. There are examples of both types of paving in the New Braunfels Cemetery. There are also many examples of the shell-encrusted graves crafted by H.T. Mordhorst in the late 19th century (refer Chapter 1, Seashell Covers).

Plot coverings in the New Braunfels Cemetery have also been affected by soil subsidence and careless maintenance practices. The seashell covers are fragile and negatively affected by weathering.

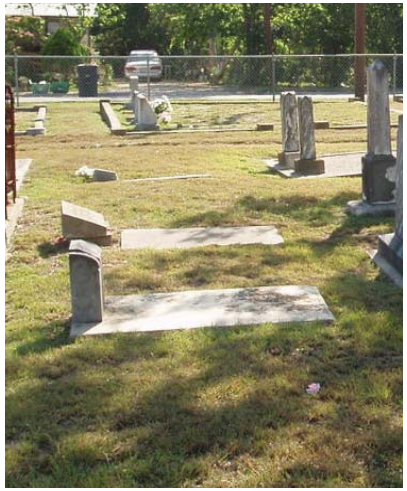


Figure 4-34. In New Braunfels Cemetery, individual graves are often covered with concrete. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-35. Concrete plot covering displaced by local soil subsidence. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-36. Series of three family plots that has been paved in a layer of grey granite gravel. Although these are not susceptible to subsidence, they do require regular weeding. *JMA, 2009.*

Grave Markers

New Braunfels Cemetery contains a wide variety of grave markers, from simple tablets to hand-carved marble sculpture. These markers vary in condition, ranging from excellent to poor. As with other features, the primary problem affecting marker condition is soil subsidence due to the local soils leading to tilting, cracking, falling, or other damage (Figure 4-37). Other problems include loss of major marker features due to falling or vandalism; disaggregation (loss of binder) from weathering or rising damp; aggressive cleaning; biological growth from excess moisture; general soiling from dirt, grime, or debris; inappropriate repairs; and encasement in concrete (Figures 4-38 through 4-46 and see Appendix C). Encasement is a local custom to preserve older or broken headstones by encasing them in a concrete slab (Figure 4-47). This obscures historic materials and may cause damage to historic materials by trapping in moisture or by directing movement to the historic material. There are also some examples of good repairs in the cemetery (Figure 4-48).

Figure 4-37. Soil movement was the likely cause of the tilting and eventual falling of this marker. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-38. This angel sculpture may have been the victim of vandalism. *JMA, 2009.*

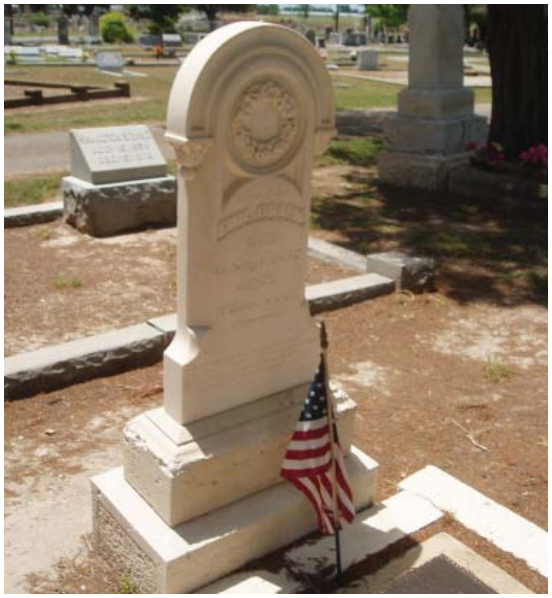


Figure 4-39. Severe erosion and spalling of a limestone tablet. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-40. Erosion of hand lettering on a headstone. This condition can lead to a loss of historical information. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-41. Aggressive cleaning can be as dangerous as no maintenance at all. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-42. Lichen, although slow-growing, can damage soft materials, such as this marble. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-43. Red lichen appears to be common on granite markers in this area. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-44. Features such as hand lettering are vulnerable to damage from weathering and biological growth. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-45. This broken marble stone was poorly repaired with epoxy. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-46. This broken limestone marker was poorly repaired with cement. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-47. This headstone had broken off its base. Concrete slab into which it was laid has failed on the subsiding soil and caused further damage. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-48. Good repair accomplished with a steel brace supporting a very fragile headstone. *JMA, 2009.*

Plot Fencing

The New Braunfels Cemetery contains a variety of Victorian and more recently-installed wrought or cast iron fencing, “gas pipe” fencing, and bent steel fencing (refer Appendix A). Although much of the fencing was originally painted, the paint on most has failed and some exhibit pitting and material loss (Figures 4-49 through 4-53). Most patina surfaces are stable, though, likely due to the relatively dry climate. Of most concern is the ongoing loss of historic fencing by vandalism, breakage, or other mechanical damage, as well as sections of fencing missing due to theft (Figures 4-54 through 4-57). Note that the faceplates are particularly fragile as they can be easily removed by vandals.

Figure 4-49. Most original coatings are missing from metal elements. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-50. Pinhole damage and lichen are common on many elements. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-51. Rust bloom is evident on some elements. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-52. Cast iron fence that has been painted silver. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-53. Pitting and rusting are prominent problems. Prioritize faceplate protection as an important part of the historic record. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-54. The gate has been removed from this plot fence. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-55. Soil movement has led to shifting and lifting of the anchoring system of this fence. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-56. This cast iron fence has been damaged, possibly due to soil subsidence. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-57. The gate of this fence has fallen off, but has been retained. *JMA, 2009.*

Water Features

Irrigation is provided in the New Braunfels Cemetery by a series of above-ground hose bibs connected to the municipal water system by underground piping. There are no ornamental fountains or any other type of water feature within the cemetery. The age of the system within the cemetery is not known, but it appears to be functional (Figures 4-58 and 4-59). A plan for this system has not been located.

Figure 4-58. The presence of a hose attached to this hose bib indicates active use of the system. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-59. Example of a typical above-ground hose bib in the New Braunfels Cemetery *JMA, 2009.*

Structures

Fence System

The New Braunfels Cemetery is screened by a chain link boundary fence that was installed after the construction of IH-35 in that area (Figure 4-60). The fence is in good condition except for the stretch along S. Elliot Knox Boulevard, where it has been damaged by vehicle impact (Figure 4-61).

Figure 4-60. Sign that identifies this as a Cyclone brand fence made by U.S. Steel. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-61. New Braunfels Cemetery boundary fence damage caused by vehicular impact. *JMA, 2009.*

Site Furnishings

Furnishings provided for visitor use within the New Braunfels Cemetery include flagpoles, informative and commemorative markers, a bench, trash receptacles, and planters. Two flagpoles have been installed in the cemetery: one close to the boundary fence in the approximate center of the southeast side and one in the approximate center of the cemetery (Figures 4-62 and 4-63). An Official Texas Historical Marker was installed also at the center of the cemetery and describes its significance in Texas history (Figure 4-64). Two additional commemorative markers were installed in memory of families who founded New Braunfels and who suffered losses to the cholera epidemic (Figure 4-65). Other furnishings include one bench, several trash receptacles, and a number of small planters (Figures 4-66, 4-67, and 4-68). The bench was placed on a family plot and is in good condition. The trash receptacles are in poor condition with holes and dents. The planters, which were installed to ornament various family and single plots, are in varying condition.

Figure 4-62. Flagpole along the southeast side of the cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-63. Flagpole and other memorials at the center of the cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-64. Official Texas Historical Marker. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-65. Commemorative markers. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-66. Concrete bench placed within a family plot. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-67. One of several trash receptacles in the cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 4-68. Three types of planters on family and single plots. *JMA, 2009.*

Significance

In order to develop treatment recommendations that are well-grounded in national standards, this master plan proposes areas and periods of significance, evaluates the cemetery under National Register Criteria, and determines its integrity.

The New Braunfels Cemetery is significant in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Ethnic Heritage (European), Exploration/Settlement, Health/ Medicine, and Social History. It is proposed that the period of significance for the New Braunfels Cemetery extend from 1845, when the cemetery was established, to 1945, when the City of New Braunfels ceased selling plots. Although burials have continued to occur in established plots within the cemetery since that time, there no significant changes to the essential structure of the site.

The applicable Criteria for Evaluation for the New Braunfels Cemetery are presented below, along with one Criterion Consideration. Per National Register requirements, except for archeological sites and cemeteries nominated under Criterion D, burial places must also meet the special requirements of Criteria Considerations C or D, which refer to graves and cemeteries, and possibly to A (religious properties) or other Criteria Considerations. Although the New Braunfels Cemetery is eligible under Criterion D, its eligibility under Criteria Consideration D is also explored in order to emphasize the importance of its association with the history of the early settlement of New Braunfels.

Criterion A: *Properties can be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.*

New Braunfels Cemetery was the first municipal burial ground in the town. It was established for the new community of German settlers that immigrated in 1845 into Central Texas under the auspices of Adelsverein. The cemetery was dedicated in 1845 by the burial of the first recorded victim of the epidemics that took nineteen more settlers that year, and over four hundred in the year following. It is these three events, the settlement of New Braunfels in 1845, the establishment of the cemetery, and the subsequent cholera epidemic of 1845-1846 — the victims of which are buried in the New Braunfels Cemetery — that make the cemetery significant under Criterion A.

Criterion C: *Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*

New Braunfels Cemetery contains a number of shell-motif grave coverings attributable to Henry T. Mordhorst (1864-1928) of New Braunfels. He crafted most if not all of the shell covered grave mounds located in this and the Comal Cemetery, as well as many others in Central Texas (refer to Chapter One, Seashell Covers).

In addition to Mordhorst's work, New Braunfels Cemetery contains an assortment of grave markers that range from early hand-carved marble and limestone tablets, to Victorian obelisks and statuary of marble and granite, to low-rise 20th century granite-shouldered stones. These represent common American artistic values from just prior to the Civil War to the mid-20th century.

New Braunfels Cemetery also exhibits two traits of a traditional southern folk cemetery in Texas, as described by cultural geographer, Terry Jordan: spatial arrangement and traditional cemetery plants.

Jordan observed the tradition of the subdivision of cemeteries into family plots segregated by surname and/or blood kinship and defined with curbs or fencing. This tradition can be observed in the New Braunfels Cemetery where most defined plots were established for family groups and are marked by low curbs or metal fencing.

The New Braunfels Cemetery also reflects folk traditions in the use of evergreens to ornament family plots. Evergreens symbolize eternal life in the folk cemetery and were often planted within family plots or adjacent to particular graves. There are two notable specimens, one, an Ashe juniper and the other an Italian cypress, growing at the center of the cemetery and are likely surviving from the historic period.

Other plants commonly used in folk cemeteries in the south include roses, lilies, irises, crape myrtles, and nandinas. Two specimens of a deep pink rose can be found in the New Braunfels Cemetery, as well as specimens of crinum lily, Dutch iris, crape myrtles, and nandina. Yucca, particularly Spanish dagger, is also used there as an ornamental evergreen.

Criterion D: *Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.*

New Braunfels was established as a frontier town by German immigrants in the 1840s and this cemetery was their first community burial grounds. It also contains the remains of victims of the epidemics that swept through the settlement just as it was becoming established. These victims were buried in a mass grave over the period of about two years; the boundaries of this mass grave have not been positively identified. Further investigation of the cemetery may reveal additional information about the early settlement of New Braunfels.

Criteria Consideration D: *A cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.*

Refer to justification under Criterion A.

Integrity and Threats

To be eligible for National Register listing, a property must retain integrity to the period of significance. The evaluation of existing conditions at the New Braunfels Cemetery reveals that this burial place and its overall setting retains integrity to its most important period of use, which is from 1845 to 1945.

Assessment of integrity is based on an evaluation of the existence and condition of physical features dating from a property's period of significance, taking into consideration the degree to which the individual qualities of integrity are present. The seven aspects of integrity included in National Register criteria are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, as described below (National Park Service, 44).

L**ocation** refers to the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where a historic event occurred. The New Braunfels Cemetery has integrity of location because it remains where it was originally platted. Cemeteries that were relocated to make way for a project such as a highway or dam would not have integrity of location even if those interred were from the original cemetery.

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The New Braunfels Cemetery retain its overall design from the period of significance, including the containment of the cemetery within the block created by three streets, its orientation to the approximate location of what was the Nacogdoches Highway, the grid of burial plots and pattern of markers that dates around 1915, and its original circulation pattern.

Setting refers to the physical environment of a historic property. The setting of the New Braunfels Cemetery has changed dramatically since 1945 with the construction of IH-35 and the accompanying visual and aural intrusions. The greatest threat to the integrity of the New Braunfels Cemetery is continued change to its setting that would further detract from its historic character, such as adjacent land uses that would increase noise and visual intrusion into the site.

Materials are the physical elements that were combined during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. While enough materials of construction, decoration, and planting survive to communicate the cemetery's historic character and maintain integrity, many are vulnerable to a number of threats. Many early markers, particularly those crafted from marble or limestone, have been damaged and many others are threatened by damage resulting from local soil conditions that lead to tilting and falling. Many lengths of the Victorian metal fencing that once surrounded family plots have been stolen or lost to weathering or other damage. In addition, traditional plantings have been lost to lack of maintenance or removal, particularly trees that have been perceived as hazardous and have been removed and not replaced.

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. This evidence of craft as found in the markers, plot enclosures, and fencing within the cemetery is threatened due to weathering, vandalism or deferred maintenance. One example is the weathering and deterioration of the seashell plot covers, which, if allowed to continue may lead to the loss of those features and a loss of integrity.

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The ability of the New Braunfels Cemetery to express this feeling is threatened due to the combined effects of the loss of historic materials within the cemetery and the changes to its setting that detract from its historic character.

A**ssociation** is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The cemetery has integrity of association because the mass grave and other burials that contribute to its significance are extant and thus the cemetery maintains its associative historical link with early community events.

Treatment Recommendations

Overview

Overall treatment objectives are to improve the New Braunfels Cemetery setting to re-establish its sacred and contemplative character; to enhance public accessibility with signage, introduce a visitor gathering space, and provide visitor orientation; preserve, repair, and conserve cemetery monuments, plot curbing, and plot fencing; and to re-establish historic patterns of cemetery vegetation (refer to Figure 4-72, New Braunfels Cemetery Treatment Plan, below). This work will help maintain the overall existing integrity of the property and generate support that may slow the loss of integrity in the future.

Spatial Organization

The primary goals regarding spatial organization within the cemetery are to, first, emphasize the separate nature of the site from its surroundings and second, to create a central, focused gathering space for visitors. Recommendations towards accomplishing these goals include the following:

- Augment vegetative screening around the cemetery to increase the feeling of separation from its modern setting.
- Create a central gathering space in the location of the unoccupied Plots 1 and 3, as follows:
    - Remove spoils pile to off-site location;
    - Perform archeological investigation prior to planning and implementation of this project to insure that the work will not disturb any unmarked graves;
    - Design and install seating and visitor kiosk;
    - Plan locations for additional memorials.

Circulation and Access

Overall goals are to organize vehicular circulation to minimize pedestrian/vehicular conflict, off-road driving, and subsequent damage to historic resources. It is also important to provide safe and stable pedestrian access routes and increase ease of wayfinding. Recommendations are as follows:

- Install a large entrance/cemetery identification sign at the east driveway entrance. The sign should be contemporary in design, but be compatible with the historic character of the site (Figure 4-69).
- Identify the main drive within the cemetery as a one-way loop road. This is to minimize vehicular conflict due to the narrowness of the internal loop.
- Pave and identify the head-in parking on Grape Avenue as serving the cemetery. Re-open and sign the pedestrian entrance on that side or install a stile. Provide signage visible from the I-35 access road that will direct new visitors to the parking area.
- Install a pedestrian entrance with a gate or stile on the north side of the cemetery for access from Peach Street and the neighborhood.
- Fill sinkholes in pathways between cemetery plots to increase pedestrian safety.
- Fill ruts and potholes in gravel driveway, compact, and maintain.

Access should also consider visitor wayfinding tools:

- Provide a grave locator system with a graphic plan of the cemetery, a brief account of its history and significance, visitor registration, and operational information for visitors.
- Provide this information either off-site, in a kiosk close to the parking area, or in a small visitor kiosk at the center of the site.

Figure 4-69. This cemetery entrance gate is modern, but references the history of the cemetery in its arched design and serif-style lettering. *American Legion Reynoldsburg Post 798.*

Vegetation

According to written and local lore, New Braunfels Cemetery was more heavily vegetated in the past than it is today. Unfortunately, no documentation has been found to date regarding plantings installed since 1846, but some idea of the density of plantings in the past can be gained by examining photos, stumps, and other remains of vegetation. The best approach is to start by vigilant protection of historic vegetation that remains. With this in mind, the primary goal of vegetation treatment in the New Braunfels Cemetery is to preserve and enhance the historic character of the cemetery through protection and replacement of existing historic trees and other plants.

Also related to enhancing historic character are other goals addressed in this section, including using vegetation to screen incompatible views from inside the cemetery, reducing mowing and trimming to protect grave markers, and interpreting the location of unmarked graves.

Historic Trees and Other Vegetation

The key to retaining the character of historic sites is to ensure over time that specimen trees remain as landscape features through a program of replacement in-kind. The following recommendations address features of such a program:

- Replace historic trees and plants that have been known to be removed.
- Identify, through consultation with historical horticulturist, the varieties of roses, crinums, and other shrubs and bulbs located within the cemetery. These plants have proven themselves to be hardy and self-sustaining; however, to preserve these plants as records of historic cultural practices, they should be protected by regular inspections for pests and disease, and a watering regimen in periods of drought.
- Remove volunteer trees (usually mulberry, hackberry, glossy privet) that are threatening plot borders, fences, and markers. Retain other volunteer trees as needed for shade and screening.
- Ensure that over time, specimen trees remain as historic features within the landscape with a program of in-kind replacement.
- Renovate antique roses; consider propagating these roses for sale. Consult with the New Braunfels Conservation Society for further information about the variety, their history, and recommended care.
- Renovate dwarf pomegranate specimens; consider propagating for sale.
- Consider propagating historic bulbs and perennials for sale.

Entrance and Boundary Vegetation

The cemetery boundary and its entrance are the first introduction to the cemetery for the typical visitor. In order to enhance the visual appeal of the cemetery, consider the following:

- Treat boundary vegetation so that it provides a more inviting image from the street and conveys the solemnity and dignity of the cemetery. Consider the following:
  - Alternate A: Retain ligustrum hedge, fill in gaps in-kind, and maintain per current schedule.
  - Alternate B: Trim ligustrum hedge to fence height (4') and supplement with trees along IH-35 and Grape Street for additional screening of views to IH-35. Where space allows, use large shade trees such as live oak, cedar elm, or other native species that thrive as street trees in heavy clay. Space trees in a regular pattern in order to convey the dignity of the cemetery. Where space is narrow or there are overhead utilities, use smaller trees.
  - Alternate C: Remove ligustrum hedge along the IH-35 access road and Grape Street, and replace with one composed of shrubs with a looser habit—use single species to convey an organized appearance. Species might include Texas sage, elaeagnus, winter honeysuckle, or abelia. Consider supplementing hedge with an evenly spaced row of trees as space allows outside the boundary fence.
- Mark the main cemetery entrance with ornamental trees, such as crape myrtles, which have proved to thrive in this area. This will help visitors locate the cemetery and make the cemetery more visible in general to the public.
- Plant the north and south corners of the cemetery with shrubs and perennials to mark its extents.

New Plantings

- Prior to commencing installation of new plant material in unplanted areas, consult an archeologist to assure that planting activities will not disturbed cultural resources.
- Consider, in order to reduce mowing within the interiors of family plots and protect them from mower and trimmer damage, planting plots with low maintenance and xeric groundcovers. For example, in sunny areas, buffalograss is an excellent replacement for other turf grasses because it

does not spread by runners and does not need mowing or trimming (Figure 4-70). Other groundcovers, such as Asian jasmine, horseherb, phlox, verbena, trailing rosemary, silver germander, winecup, trailing juniper, and sedum can be used in sunny locations. Asian jasmine and horseherb also do well in shade, but other choices include English ivy and ajuga.

- Consider interpreting the mass grave by planting the area with native grasses and wildflowers. The planting should be located within the outlines of the mass grave as identified by archeological investigation. The area would be maintained by minimal mowing and defined by maintenance of turf grass throughout the rest of the cemetery (Figure 4-71). Maintenance of this special planting will identify the area as having a particular significance and will assist visitors in understanding the history of the cemetery.
- Set aside spots in the proposed visitor gathering area for memorial or ornamental plantings. Assure that there is a hose bib nearby for watering new plants.
- Establish buffalo grass in the rest of the cemetery to decrease the amount of mowing required.
- Encourage a program of community propagation of plants within the cemetery that may be historic. This will assure that if a plant is lost, it can be easily replaced. A propagation program can also be a fund-raising source.

Water Features

- Document the watering system, including piping diagram and location of all hose bibs, valves, backflow preventers, and meters. If there is no backflow preventor, install one to protect the public water supply.
- Test the watering system that serves the cemetery. Check to see that all hose bibs are in working order and that the water pressure is optimum. Check for leaks in the system.
- Replace any broken pipes or non-functioning spigots.
- Install hose bibs as needed in areas of the cemetery that do not appear to be adequately served. They should be spaced at a maximum of 100’ apart to accommodate at 50’ hose.
- Install a drinking fountain in the visitor gathering area and assure that it is provided with a backflow preventor.

Figure 4-70. Buffalograss is a native groundcover and maintains itself at around 8-10” height. *JMA Collection.*

Figure 4-71. Native grass and wildflower area edges defined by mowing. *JMA Collection.*

Structures

- Replace the cemetery boundary fence with a black-painted metal picket fence or other material that will present a more attractive appearance, such as black vinyl-coated chain link (see Figures 2-3 and 2-4).
- Consider installing heavier posts or even bollards along the IH-35 access road to prevent automobiles from damaging the new fencing.
- Design and install a lichgate at the northeast cemetery entrance to both identify the cemetery and to indicate the preferred vehicular entrance (see Figure 4-69).

Small-Scale Features

Grave Markers

Many of the oldest markers in the New Braunfels Cemetery are marble or limestone and are in only fair to poor condition, or broken, while the newer granite markers are intact. Most markers, however, are leaning in at least one direction due to local expansive soil conditions. Four problems stand out:

1. Poor remediation solutions towards reducing maintenance of plots have included the encasement of markers and sometimes entire family plots in concrete. The chemicals in concrete interact aggressively towards limestone and marble in particular and can lead to deterioration of the material. In addition, concrete can bond with these materials and lead to structural disintegration.
2. Damage to markers is caused by aggressive use of lawn mowers and string trimmers with metal cores.
3. Shifting and eventual toppling or breaking of markers that is caused by unstable soil conditions.
4. Dislocation or tilting of markers from tree growth.

The following are general recommendations (refer to Management Guidelines, above, for more information):

- Reset tilted markers to a vertical position, adding a compacted gravel base when resetting to minimize the effects of the high shrink-swell qualities of the Houston black clay. Consult with a civil engineer for specifications regarding gravel base.
- Repair damaged markers using techniques as directed by materials conservator specializing in marble and limestone.
- Remove markers that were vertical and now set in concrete from concrete and reset in vertical position, repairing breaks as recommended. This work should only be done under the supervision of a materials conservator
- Clean markers as recommended in Chapter 2, General Guidelines and Recommendations.

Plots Curbs and Coverings

Most of the curbs and coverings that enclose family plots and individual graves within the New Braunfels Cemetery are in poor condition. The primary cause is high shrink-swell capacity of the Houston black clay on which the cemetery was located. If such a feature was not installed on a deep gravel footing—and most were not—then it will likely shift and eventually displace in response to the soil movement.

While most of the plot enclosure curbs are historic, it is likely that the concrete plot coverings are more recent responses to the problem of plot maintenance. Repair of plot curbs should have a priority over repair of coverings until more information is available. Refer to Chapter 2, General Guidelines and Recommendations for additional guidelines.

Plot Fencing

New Braunfels Cemetery has a large collection of wrought iron, cast iron, and bent steel fencing. The paint has failed from most metal elements and some elements exhibit pitting, but in general most of the patina surfaces are stable due to the dry climate of the area. Some plot fences have been regularly maintained by cleaning and painting. Refer to Chapter 2, General Guidelines and Recommendations for additional information.

Site Furnishings

Consider adding a visitor gathering area at the center of the cemetery with benches, an informational kiosk, and other visitor amenities, as appropriate. Refer to Chapter 2, General Guidelines and Recommendations for additional information.

Figure 4-72. New Braunfels Cemetery Treatment Plan

Prioritized Project List and Estimate of Probable Costs

Priority One (to be completed within 1-2 years)

Item	*Cost*
Document all trees and plants (volunteers)	volunteer
Document all markers, curbs, fencing, etc. (volunteers)	volunteer
Locate plot owners to release vacant grave plots (volunteers)	volunteer
Research location/species of removed trees (volunteers)	volunteer
Replace missing ligustrum shrubs on south and west sides (50 total)	$ 3,750.00
Pave and stripe parking (2850 sf $ $2.00)	$ 5,700.00
Conduct ground penetrating radar to determine boundary of mass grave	$ 5,000.00
Remove spoils pile	staff
New trash receptacles (six at $800)	$ 4,800.00
Native grass and wildflower planting at mass grave	$ 1,000.00
Identify, renovate, and propagate antique roses (materials only)	$ 50.00
Secure historic fencing (20 locks @ $15)	$ 300.00
Right tilting tabular monuments (materials only: tools, sand)	$ 500.00

Priority Two (to be completed within 3-5 years)

Item	*Cost*
Replace chain link boundary fence with metal picket (6’ ht./1185 lf)	$ 70,000.00
Install new lichgate (actual cost will be based on design)	$ 10,000.00
Plant vines along north boundary fence (18 plants)	$ 200.00
Accent borders at cemetery corners	$ 5,000.00
Ground penetrating radar at visitor gathering area	$ 1,500.00
Install visitor kiosk (actual cost will be based on design)	$ 8,000.00
Install benches for gathering area (two)	$ 5,000.00
Plant additional live oak in visitor gathering area	$ 500.00
Conserve damaged monuments, Phase 1 (25 total)	$ 6,250.00

Priority Three (to be completed within 5-7 years)

Item	*Cost*
Plant live oaks along Elliot Knox (nine trees)	$ 4,500.00
Remove stumps (volunteers, PARD Air Spade — cost of hauling)	$ 250.00
Replace historic trees that have been removed (30 plants only)	$ 3,750.00
Conserve damaged monuments, Phase 2	$ 7,500.00

Chapter 5: Comal Cemetery

Historical Overview

> *I remember there used to be an oak tree there, which was beautiful. A lot of people would park under that oak tree and walk all over there. But see, they changed that and closed that all up with a chain link fence across it. So that's where my mother and father are, and my aunt and uncle, they're all in that area over there.*
>
> *— **Mary Johnson**, on the historic entry to Comal Cemetery along Common Street*

A map dated December 1868 shows the streets and grid pattern of the original townsite of New Braunfels, as well as the communities of Comaltown and Braunfels to the north of New Braunfels between Comal Creek and the Guadalupe River. Adjacent to the Guadalupe, just east of a ferry crossing shown between the points where Commerce and Common streets reached the river, is a roughly two-block-square area labeled simply "Graveyard" and indicated with a cross (Figure 5-1). This area was the original core of the Comal Cemetery.

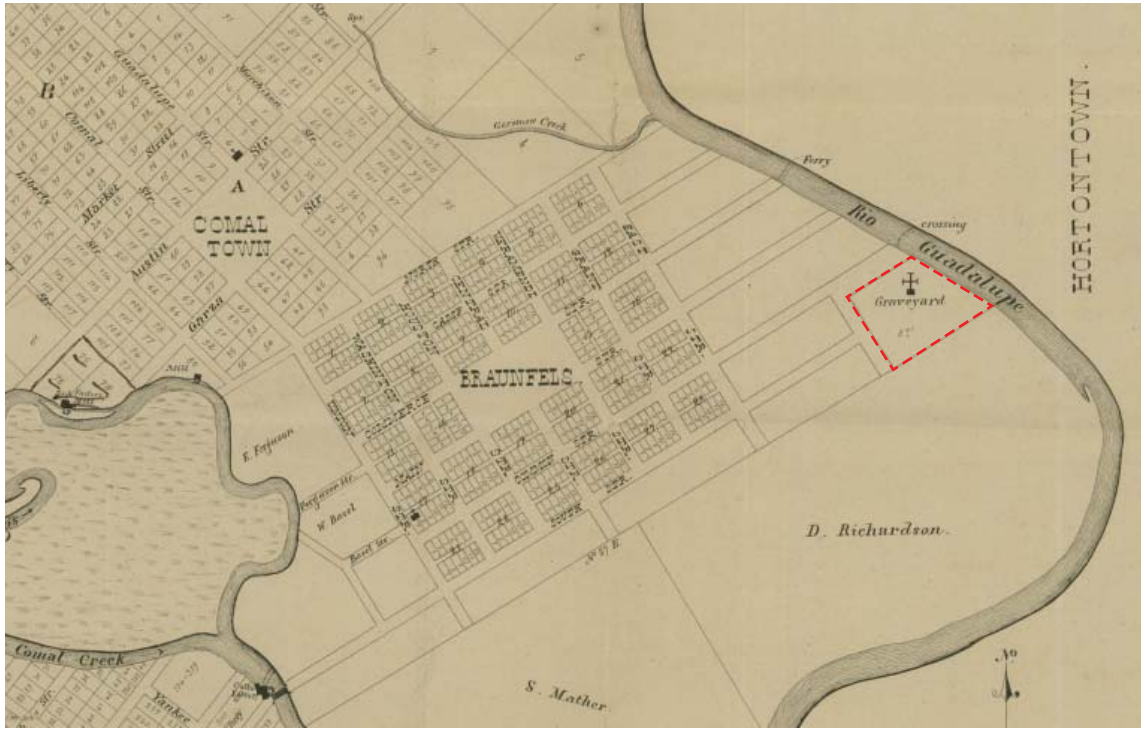


Figure 5-1. Detail of the 1868 Map of New-Braunfels, Comal Co., Texas, showing the original street and grid pattern Original Comal Cemetery boundary is shown in red. *Texas State Archives.*

An item quoted from the April 10, 1868, issue of the *Neu Braunfelser Zeitung* (newspaper) reported: "Mr. John F. Torrey offers to give the City of New Braunfels 8 acres for a cemetery out of his so called 'Point' tract of land between the Guadalupe and Comal Rivers…. The citizens of New Braunfels and area would be asked to furnish the fencing and beautification of that grounds and improvement of the street to the cemetery." A bond filed in the Comal County Clerk's office a month earlier detailed Torrey's offer and named, in addition to himself, John Goldenbagen, J.J. Groos, and Ernst Gruene as trustees of the proposed cemetery. Groos surveyed the land, reserving 2,000 square feet for Torrey, Matthew Taylor, Sam Mather, and Daniel Murchison. The document signed by Torrey further stated the land was given "for the exclusive use of a public graveyard and provided that the said Trustees or the public will have said piece or parcel of land properly fenced and inclosed [sic] and provide for a proper hearse and other necessary funeral implements."

By June of that year a contract was let to John H. Petry for the construction of "a standing cedar fence around the Comal Cemetery," and two months later another article in the newspaper announced the availability of cemetery plots to the public, mentioned sales of subscriptions to the association, and listed charges ranging from $1.75 for a small grave (for children under age 10) to $2.50 for a large grave, with an additional fifty-cent charge for those who had not subscribed. The article further stated Johann Pfeiffer "accepts the position of Gravedigger for this place, and the Public is also happy that they have someone to turn to when they need a grave prepared."

Torry, along with Goldenbagen, Groos, and Gruene, petitioned the Texas Legislature for a state charter; the law incorporating the Comal Cemetery Association passed and became effective on August

13, 1870. Interestingly, considering the issues that would one day plague the site, language detailing punishment for vandalism was included in the legislation:

> *Any person who shall willfully destroy, mutilate, deface, injure or remove any tomb, gravestone, monument, fence, railing or other structure, tree, shrub, plant or flower, placed in said cemetery for protection or ornament, or otherwise, or injure any lot in said cemetery, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by fine not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars, and imprisonment in the county jail of not less than ten nor more than thirty days, and shall also be liable in damages before any court of competent jurisdiction, in the name of said corporation….* (Senate Bill 169, 12th Legislature, First Called Session)

Following passage of the legislation, Torrey filed papers with the Comal County Clerk to release the previous bond and give clear title to the Comal Cemetery Association trustees. Some years later, in an 1886 letter to New Braunfels mayor Joseph Faust, written from his home in Granbury in Hood County, Torrey spoke of the need to find new trustees for the cemetery association since he had moved out of the county and Groos had died. He also gave a brief history of the establishment of the cemetery, and explained why he and the other original trustees had requested a state charter from the legislature.

It is believed earlier graves existed in the Comaltown area, probably in loosely organized or arranged graveyards near the bank of the Guadalupe River as related by Hermann Seele and others. In his letter to Faust, Torrey wrote, "The old cemetery was bad location on account of soil. I lost four boys and selected, on the near adjoining west of present cemetry [sic] on hill and burried [sic] my little ones there…. My children are on east side of the Live Oak tree, a small cedar of natural growth…." He went on to say several neighbors asked for permission to bury their loved ones near the Torrey children's graves, but that he had rejected an offer to sell one acre for burial purposes, believing it to be too small an area. Instead, he made the offer to donate the original eight acres in 1868, and "Mr. Goldenbargen [sic] got a subscription for making of fence & gate, from all citizens that would donate etc. J.J. Groos surveyed the same and left ground for Masonic Order and for Freedmen, which shows in the Plot." He further stated, "Before the Ground was laid off my brother died & Capt. Murchison, and some irregularity in the survey [occurred] in them lots." He also relates a story regarding a conflict with the mayor: "In Mayor Goldbecks [sic] time (Goldbeck was mayor from 1867-1872) he took [possession] of the ground and paid no respect to order nor regarded no individual rights, as expressed in my donation etc., took the key from the sexton & forbid persons from burying [sic] so much so, that persons living out of the corporation would come and get inside of the fence & burry [sic] in any place or Avenue." About that same time, Torrey assisted a neighbor, Mr. Alves, in burying his father (presumably Freidrich Alves, who died in March 1868), who had been killed by a mad cow.

JOHN F. TORREY

Connecticut native John Frink Torrey (1817-1893) is widely recognized as one of New Braunfels' earliest businessmen. With his brothers David and Thomas, he moved to Texas in 1838. They settled first in Houston and opened a store, John F. Torrey and Brothers, and became associated with Sam Houston in trading with Native Americans. John Torrey also opened several other Texas businesses in the early 1840s, including a tavern near the site of present San Marcos. In 1844 he entered into a contract with the Adelsverein to furnish wagons and horses to bring groups of German immigrants from the port at Indianola to the settlement at New Braunfels. Arriving in 1845, he chose to stay in the new colony and quickly established a general merchandise store and a horse-powered gristmill on the Comal River at Comal Creek. Partnering with several other settlers, he built progressively larger mills on the river, and in 1850 opened a facility to manufacture wooden doors, sashes, and blinds. Over the years, his enterprises were plagued by misfortune. A fire destroyed the mill and factory in 1861, and eight years later an even larger manufacturing complex he built after the fire—including a sawmill, two gristmills, a flour mill, cotton gins, and a textile mill—were heavily damaged by a flood and a tornado. Although he again rebuilt most of the complex, another devastating flood in 1872 marked the end of his attempts to harness the water power of the Comal for his manufacturing businesses.

In 1851, John Torrey married Laura Dittmar, daughter of a local German family. Together they had seven children who lived to adulthood; another four sons died in infancy or childhood. The four boys were buried on Torrey family land on a bluff above the Guadalupe River west of the Comal Cemetery. In 1868, Torrey gave eight acres to the City of New Braunfels to begin the Comal Cemetery. He and three other men—J.J. Groos, John Goldenbagen [Goldenbergen], and Ernst Gruene—formed the Comal Cemetery Association, served as its trustees, and in 1870 succeeded in obtaining a state charter for the cemetery association from the Texas Legislature. Torrey eventually left New Braunfels and settled in Hood County on a land grant near Comanche Peak. He died at his son's home in San Antonio in 1893 and was buried there in the Alamo Masonic Cemetery.

After the mayor fined Torrey $15.00 for his act of kindness, which he paid after a court appearance, he decided to approach the legislature for a state charter to formalize the operations of the cemetery. Also in the letter, Torrey mentioned his plan to reinter his four sons in the Comal Cemetery, but if that occurred there is no clear record of it (Torrey to Faust, Oct. 20, 1886). In 1924, Torrey heirs sold the plot known as the Torrey Cemetery Lot—the 2,000-square-foot plot Torrey reserved for himself, Taylor, Mather, and Murchison in the 1868 deed—to the City of New Braunfels for $120.00 (Comal County Deeds, Book 49, pp. 601-603).

The first formal use of the Comal Cemetery—as recorded in the sexton's record book—occurred with the burial of Fredrich (Fritz) Hartwig, who died on August 12, 1873 (Figure 5-2). Local tradition holds that residents referred to the area around the cemetery as *Die Peins*, or The Pines, due to the many large evergreens (actually Ashe junipers, or *Juniperus ashei*) growing there (Figure 5-3). (The earliest sexton's record book, translated by Alfred Brueckner in 1987, bore that same title.)

A few months after Torrey's October 1886 letter to Mayor Faust regarding the need for new trustees, the cemetery association amended the charter to transfer the duties of the corporation's trustees to the New Braunfels city council. At the same time, the site name formally changed to Comal Cemetery of New Braunfels. Officials approved the document, signed by surviving original trustees Torrey, Goldenbagen, and Gruene, and filed it with the Texas Secretary of State on January 25, 1887 (Amended Charter of the Comal Cemetery Association, Texas Secretary of State records; copy in Torrey family vertical file, Sophienburg Archives, New Braunfels; also recorded in Comal County Deeds, Book 32, pp. 289-290).

Figure 5-2. Hartwig gravestone. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

The City of New Braunfels has been responsible for operations and maintenance of the cemetery ever since the 1887 charter amendment, and the city has employed a sexton since that time to oversee both the Comal and the New Braunfels cemeteries. Community groups and individuals have also played a part in caring for the graveyard, and local citizens have taken an active interest in the appearance of the site for more than a century. In 1891, for instance, a group of thirty-five women petitioned the city council to make arrangements to provide adequate water to the site and promised "we will create a fund among ourselves for

Figure 5-3. "Die Peins." *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

maintenance… and beautification of the sacred grounds" (City Minutes, May 1891, Vol. 10, p. 175, quoted in "Torrey Gives 8 Acres to City…" *New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung*, March 26, 1963).

Over the years, the Comal Cemetery has been enlarged to almost 25 acres with the acquisition of additional acreage adjoining the original eight-acre donation. The city purchased 6.93 acres from Heinrich Kellermann in 1913, and ten acres from E.A. and Ella M. Eiband in 1927 (Comal County Deeds, Book 34, p. 192 and Book 54, pp. 497-498). The cemetery appearance has also changed over the years, although the basic layout remains intact, with additional plots developed and platted in later years in an orderly grid system of streets and avenues.

An early photograph depicts the original entrance to the cemetery as a gabled lichgate, likely of wood construction, and painted white. It is set in an unpainted picket fence, likely the "standing cedar fence" listed in 1868. A white painted wooden step stile provided pedestrian access (Figure 3-4). A wooden windmill was also located on the site during that period.

The wooden entrance was replaced around 1910 by a tripartite cast metal and bent steel lichgate with one vehicular and two pedestrian openings (Figure 5-5). It was likely at the same time that the cedar picket fence was replaced by a woven metal fence, a portion of which remains in that location today. Road construction in 1974 necessitated the relocation of the tripartite lichgate from Common Street to Peace Avenue (see Figure 1-18). It was replaced with a double twisted wire gate that remains in the original entrance location (see Figure 5-17, below).

Prior to the construction of the Common Street bridge in 1974, that street terminated in a roughly circular cleared area that may have been used for parking for the cemetery (Figure 5-6). While there were other entrances into the cemetery at that time, the Common Street entrance was still in use. From that parking area also extended what may have been a service road along the bluff edge.

From the late-19th century and well into the mid-20th century, a grave shelter was used in the Comal Cemetery. It appears in the background of an undated photograph of the Tays family plot as a Queen Anne style open-air pavilion with solid cedar-shingled perimeter railings (Figure 5-7). A notable detail is the wave-style sheet metal cresting on the ridge of the pavilion's hipped roof. A similar, if not identical, cresting was sold during that period by the W.F. Norman Sheet Metal Company, founded in 1889 in Nevada, Missouri. Locals report that the pavilion was demolished in the 1960s; new graves have been platted, sold, and occupied in its former location (Figure 5-8). The wooden windmill is also gone, reportedly removed sometime in the mid-20th century.

Figure 5-4. View northwards along Avenue A towards the original wooden entrance to the Comal Cemetery. A wooden windmill is visible at center right and a concrete post, possibly a street sign, is visible at the lower right corner. The cemetery is vegetated primarily in hackberries, a fast-growing native shade tree. *Sophienburg Archives.*

The city has changed and updated the cemetery's perimeter fences over the years from the original cedar paling to woven-wire in the late-19th and early-20th centuries, and then to the current chain link fence in the 1950s. Ornamental metal lichgates, now mark two entrances off Peace Avenue.

During the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed a concrete and stone outdoor stage at the base of the bluff that forms the cemetery's eastern boundary. The backdrop retaining wall of the stage is just outside the cemetery boundary. Just above it, a building housing the sexton's office was constructed at the far eastern edge of the cemetery. The date of its construction is not known.

At least two instances of reinterments from other cemeteries into the Comal Cemetery have occurred in recent years: one group from the Canyon Lake area in the late 1950s due to construction of the dam and lake and another from the Eden Home for the Aged in San Antonio in the 1990s (Figures 5-9 and 5-10). The current Eden Home plot also contains a monument relocated from its previous location (Figure 5-10).

The Comal Cemetery currently contains more than 12,500 burials and is still active. The City of New Braunfels provides for the sale of plots, with records kept in the sexton's office as well as at the city secretary's office. The city provides basic maintenance of the site through a private contractor, although many plots also receive individual care from family members of those buried there.

Figure 5-5. View of the tripartite cemetery lichgate in 1974 when the Common Street bridge was under construction. The entrance gate was moved shortly thereafter to its current location on Peace Avenue. *Sophienburg Archives.*

Figure 5-6. Aerial photograph from 1973 showing the terminus of Common Street at the Comal Cemetery. *HistoricAerials.com.*

Figure 5-7. Historic view of the Tays family plot showing the pavilion in the background. *Sophienburg Archives.*

Figure 5-8. Current view of the pavilion site. After it was demolished, the area was subdivided into grave plots. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

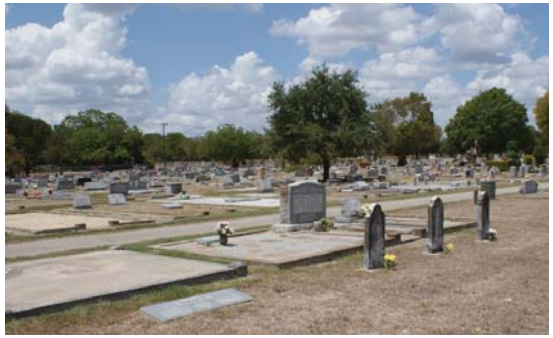


Figure 5-9. Canyon Lake reinterments. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure 5-10. Eden Home monument. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

HERMANN SEELE

In the life of every thinking and conscientious person, there are certain events and happenings which, however insignificant and ordinary they may have seemed at the time, come in the course of time to be recognized as having an intimate and decisive influence on the shaping of his destiny and his endeavors, both for himself and others. Only later, when God's dispensation and intervention have become clearer to him, does he realize what great significance and importance the days on which such events occurred have had in his life. He may consider himself fortunate if, after a span of years, he not only retains in his mind a vivid recollection of such days but also holds this memory to be dear and of great worth. Through it his spirit is filled with gratitude and joy.

> — Hermann Seele, "A Recollection of the Time of the First German Settlement in West Texas," translated by Edward C. Breitenkamp in *The Cypress and Other Writings of a German Pioneer in Texas* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1979), page 77. [Originally published as *Die Cypresse und Gesammelte Schriften* by the *Neu Braunfelser Zeitung*, 1936.]

Fortunately for students of the German immigrant experience in Texas, Hermann Seele retained "in his mind a vivid recollection of such days." His diaries and other writings provide an invaluable first-hand account of the early years of settlement in New Braunfels, including the tragic story of the 1846 epidemic that claimed the lives of hundreds of colonists whose remains are buried together at the New Braunfels Cemetery.

Born Friedrich Hermann Seele on April 14, 1823 in Hildesheim, Hanover, Germany, Seele immigrated to the Republic of Texas in December 1843, landing at the port of Galveston. Two years later, he joined with members of the Adelsverein, newly arrived from Germany in the spring of 1845, and accompanied them to the new colony of New Braunfels located at the confluence of the Guadalupe and Comal rivers in the Texas Hill Country (referred to in his writings as West Texas). Tapped by the colony's spiritual leader, the Rev. Louis Ervendberg, to open a school for the settlement's children in August 1845, Seele is recognized as the town's first schoolteacher. Fluent in English as well as German, he often provided much-needed translation services for his fellow immigrants, and he quickly became a prominent community leader. His election as district clerk of the newly-organized Comal County in 1846 began a legal and political career that interspersed with his work as an educator and writer throughout his life. During the years of the American Civil War, he served as adjutant and inspector general for the local militia, was elected mayor of New Braunfels, and served as a representative to the Texas Legislature.

As an educator, Seele taught and was a board member at the New Braunfels Academy, and in 1871 he organized what is considered to be the first state teacher conference. As an attorney, he successfully represented the citizens of New Braunfels in a protracted lawsuit regarding title to the Comal Tract, the land acquired for the town by the Adelsverein from the heirs of Juan Martín de Veramendi in 1845. A prolific writer, Seele helped his friend Ferdinand Lindheimer found the *Neu Braunfelser Zeitung* (newspaper) and often contributed columns as well as editorial services. He was secretary of the German Protestant Church, now called the First Protestant Church, for more than five decades, and as a member of the local traditional German singing society promoted singing festivals (*saengerfests*) in communities across the state. Married to the former Mathilde Blum in 1862, he was the father of five children. Hermann Seele died on March 18, 1902, one month shy of his seventy-ninth birthday, and was buried in Comal Cemetery.

Noteworthy Burials

It's respect for them. It's important to me because I want them to know that I care and it's very important to me, and I really agonize when I know that the poinsettias have been there too long, or that there are things that are going on there….

*— **Betty Kyle, Cemetery Committee,** on her personal philosophy for preservation*

Gruene Family

Ernst Gruene, Sr. (1819-1914), the only original trustee of Comal Cemetery Association to be buried in the cemetery, was a Comal County commissioner from 1864 to 1866. His son, **H.D. Gruene** (1850-1920), built the store, gin, saloon, and dance hall in the Comal County town named for his family.

Blumberg Family

Ernest Blumberg (1836-1902) owned the first beer distributorship in New Braunfels. His son, **Ferdinand Gustav Blumberg** (1879-1952), served on the city council and was mayor of New Braunfels from 1922 to 1926.

The first recorded burial in Comal Cemetery is that of **Fritz Hartwig** (1837-1873).

Henne Family

Louis Henne (1840-1912) built what is now the oldest hardware store in Texas, including a tin shop and lumberyard, located on S. San Antonio Street.

Gustav Hoffmann (1817–1889) was the first mayor of New Braunfels, 1847-48, and also served as a county commissioner, 1851-54, and a State Representative, 1872-74. He was a decorated Civil War veteran.

Voelcker Family

Pharmacist **Carl Julius Voelcker** (1821-1877) was New Braunfels mayor, 1875-1877; Comal County justice of the peace, 1860-64; and a First Founder of New Braunfels. An intruder murdered his daughter, Emma (1861-1874), and seriously wounded a neighbor, Helen Faust, who was spending the night at the Voelcker home. A jury later convicted Mrs. Faust's husband, William Faust, of the crime.

Preiss Family

Balthauser Preiss (1829-1910) was an undertaker and also operated a livery stable. He is buried with his three wives: **Louise C. Muenich Ervendberg**(1820-1887),previously married to the Rev. L. C. Ervendberg, first pastor of the German Protestant Church, now First Protestant Church; **Louise Hoffmann Strademann** (1846–1893), widow of Adolph Strademann; and **Pauline Baetge** (1853-1937), daughter of Carl & Pauline Baetge, who was born in the house now located at Conservation Plaza. Henry Mordhorst crafted the shell grave coverings.

Pfeuffer Family

George Pfeuffer (1830-1886) was fifteen years old when he and his parents left Germany and sailed to Texas, arriving in November 1845. After the family arrived in New Braunfels, he worked for a short time as a clerk in John F. Torrey's store, but soon relocated to Corpus Christi where he found work as a bookkeeper. He remained in Corpus Christi for about fifteen years, during which time he was elected to the city council. He met and married Susan Gravis, and in 1861 they and their family moved back to New Braunfels. Following the Civil War, he began a successful sawmill, flour mill and woolen manufacturing business, George Pfeuffer and Brother. Appointed to fill an unexpired term as county judge in 1877, he won election to the office in 1880. During the following decade, Gov. Oran M. Roberts appointed him to the governing board of the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College (Texas A&M University), and he also served as a senator in the 18th and 19th Texas legislatures, where he chaired the committee on education.

Somers V. Pfeuffer (1856-1928), a son of George and Susan Pfeuffer, worked with his father in the family business, and assumed leadership following George Pfeuffer's death in 1886. Like his father, he held public office both locally—as a member of the New Braunfels City Council for a dozen years—and at the state level representing Comal, Blanco, Hays, and Gillespie counties in the 25th and 26th legislatures.

Johann Jahn (1816–1883) A craftsman known for the handmade furniture he made in the early days of the New Braunfels settlement, Jahn served on the first New Braunfels City Council.

Henry Mordhorst (1864 –1928) made the shell covered graves located in the New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries, as well as many others in Central Texas. (This image is not of his grave, but is an example of his craftsmanship.)

One of the most celebrated residents of early New Braunfels was **Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer** (1801-1879), a noted botanist and journalist. A native of Frankfurt, Germany, the university-trained Lindheimer taught school in his native country until his unpopular political activities caused him to immigrate to the United States in 1834. He settled first in Illinois, but soon traveled via New Orleans to Mexico, where he began collecting and classifying plants and insects. Caught up in the growing fervor of the Texas Revolution, he returned to New Orleans, where he joined a company of volunteers from Kentucky. By 1837, he was in Texas serving in a Republic of Texas Army company commanded by Col. John Coffee (Jack) Hays.

Within a few years, Lindheimer resumed his scientific studies, working as a field agent for Dr. Asa Gray of Harvard University and traveling throughout South Texas to collect more plant species. His encounter with the Rev. Louis Ervendberg, also a plant collector, led to his association with the Adelsverein, and he accompanied Prince Solms to the site of the new settlement of New Braunfels in 1844. He settled on land granted to him by the Adelsverein and continued his botanical work. Widely considered the "Father of Texas Botany," Lindheimer is credited with identifying and classifying hundreds of species. In addition to his scientific endeavors, he also established the *Neu Braunfelser Zeitung* newspaper in 1852; he remained editor until 1872. During his tenure at the newspaper, he advocated for states' rights and supported the Confederate cause during the Civil War, a position opposed by most German immigrants.

Lindheimer died in New Braunfels in 1879 and was buried in the Comal Cemetery. In 1936, the Texas Centennial Commission placed monuments at his former home (now a museum) and on his grave. His wife, **Eleanora Reinarz** (1818-1895), is buried beside him. Local oral tradition, oft repeated, maintains that the rosemary bush planted on Lindheimer's grave thrives, while attempts to propagate the same plant on his wife's side of the plot fail repeatedly, due to the fact that she strongly disliked rosemary.

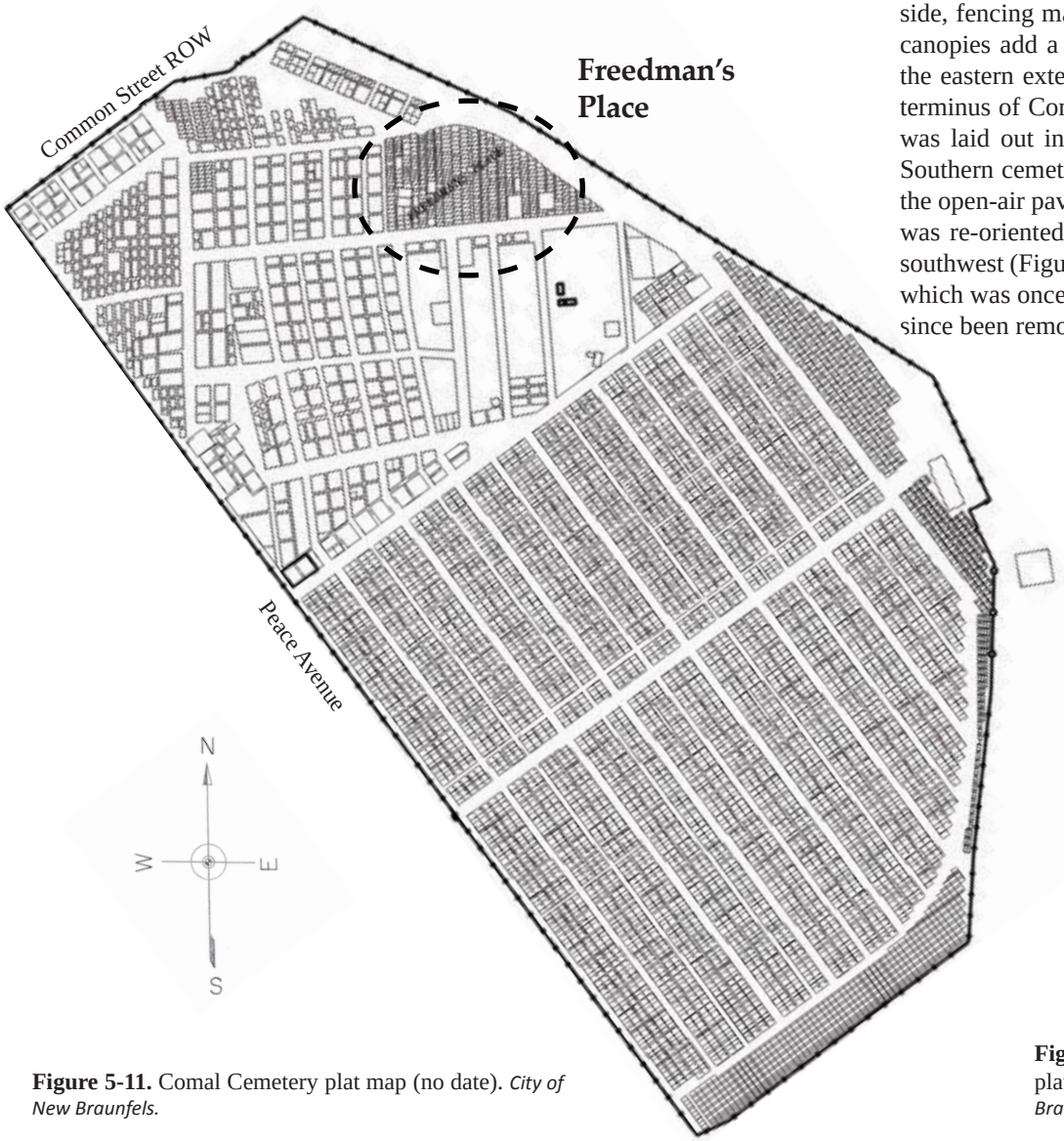
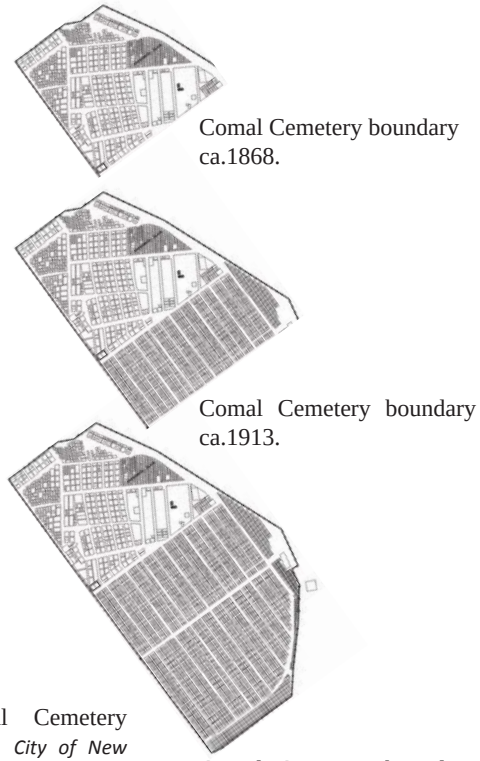


Figure 5-11. Comal Cemetery plat map (no date). *City of New Braunfels.*

Spatial Organization

Comal Cemetery is located on a high bluff and organized by a series of grids, reflecting successive platting campaigns. A dense stand of trees encloses its east side, fencing marks its boundary on the north, south and west sides, and trees canopies add a vertical dimension (Figure 5-11). The cemetery once marked the eastern extents of the town of Braunfels and was located at the northeast terminus of Common Street (see Figure 5-1). When established, the cemetery was laid out in a generally north-to-south grid in the customary manner of Southern cemeteries. The main entrance was on the cemetery's north end and the open-air pavilion was nearby. After Peace Avenue was established, the grid was re-oriented; now two-thirds of the cemetery grid is aligned northeast to southwest (Figure 5-12). Of particular note is the location of Freedman's Place, which was once fenced separately from the rest of the cemetery. The fence has since been removed.



Comal Cemetery boundary ca.1868.

Comal Cemetery boundary ca.1913.

Comal Cemetery boundary ca.1927.

Figure 5-12. Comal Cemetery plat map progression. *City of New Braunfels.*

Circulation and Access

Primary access to the Comal Cemetery is via three vehicular entrances along Peace Avenue. These replaced historic access from the old extension of Common Street (Figure 5-13). Currently, there are three vehicular entrances into the cemetery from Peace Avenue, two of which are marked with arched lichgates (North Lichgate and South Lichgate) and a third controlled by a double chain link gate (Mather Gate) (Figures 5-14, 5-15, and 5-16). The North Lichgate is thought to have been installed in the 1920s, but the South Lichgate, the tripartite entrance mentioned above, was moved from Common Street to its current location after 1974. Additional access is available through the two sets of double gates that once led from Common Street into the cemetery, but these are rarely used today (Figure 5-17). Pedestrian access into the cemetery is provided by openings in the boundary fence controlled by stiles set into the chain-link fence that surrounds the cemetery (Figure 5-18). An additional pedestrian gate is set in the old section of fence at the old entrance (Figure 5-19).

Asphalt drives lead from the three main vehicular gates into and through the cemetery following the orthogonal layout of the burial plots. (Figure 5-20) Dirt tracks in-between and crossing the asphalt drives assure vehicular access to most every grave (Figure 5-21). Pedestrians have additional access via dirt or grass paths between the family plots (Figure 5-22).

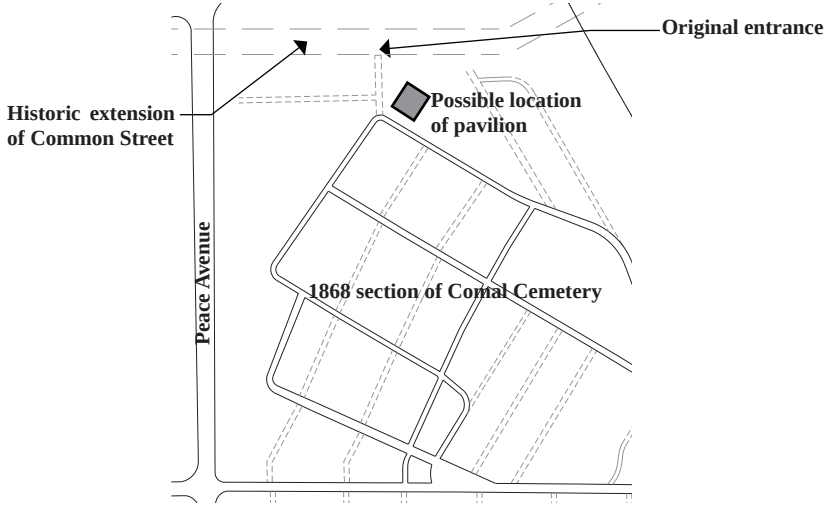


Figure 5-13. Approximate location of the historic extension of Common Street and original entrance location. Note also approximate location of the historic pavilion. *JMA, 2009.*

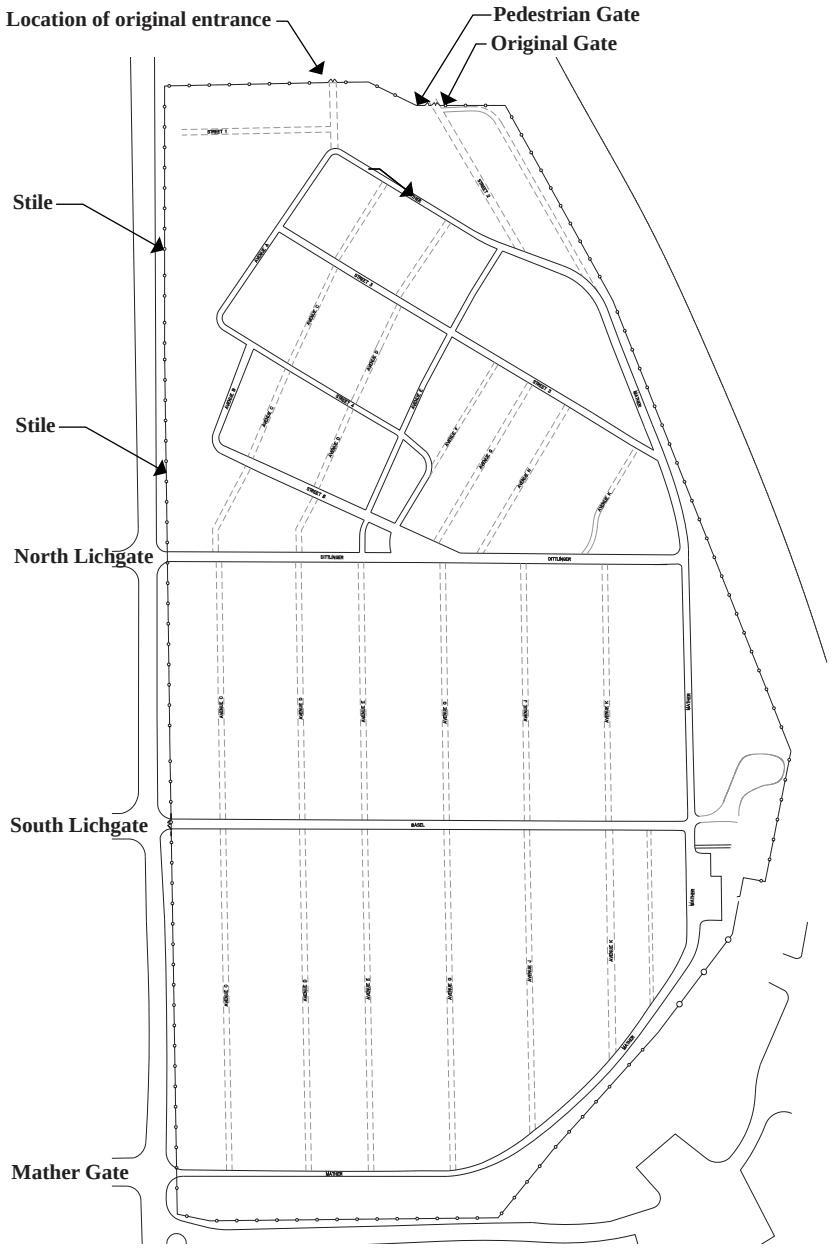


Figure 5-14. Asphalt and dirt tracks provide circulation that reflects the grid of burial plots within Comal Cemetery. Five vehicular gates are indicated on the plan. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-15. North Lichgate. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-16. South Lichgate. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-17. Twisted wire double vehicular gate that marks the original cemetery entrance. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-18. Pedestrian stile set into the chain link fence surrounding the Comal Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-19. Pedestrian entrance set into the old fence on the northwest end of the cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-20. Typical asphalt drive within the Comal Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-21. Typical dirt track within the Comal Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

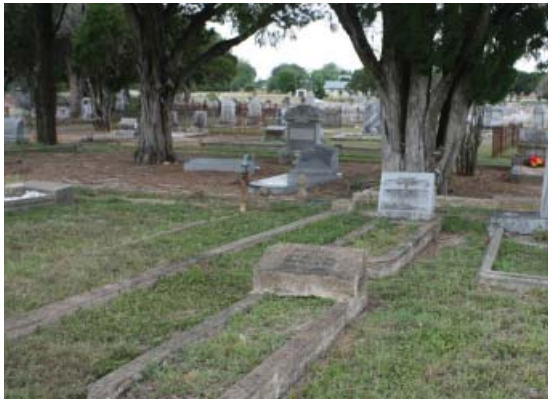


Figure 5-22. Pedestrians access graves via grass paths throughout the cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Vegetation

Evergreen Trees

Comal Cemetery contains a large number of trees and plants of varying species (Figure 5-23). Those that contribute most strongly to the historic character of the cemetery are the evergreens: Ashe juniper (*Juniperus ashei*, known locally as "cedar"), Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), and arborvitae (*Thuja orientalis* and possibly *T. occidentalis*) (Figure 5-24). Evergreens symbolize eternal life in the Upland South folk cemetery and were often planted within family plots or adjacent to particular graves (Gregory: 107-136). Many Upland South folk cemetery traditions were brought to Texas by those who emigrated from states such as Tennessee and Alabama. The practice was maintained by the German settlers and they carried on this familiar tradition in Central Texas.

Ashe juniper is native to the Central Texas area (Figure 5-25). Most of the specimens found within the Comal Cemetery today were deliberately planted, often either in the four corners of a family plot or in the center. They were also used to line the cemetery drives (see Figure 5-7). This area was known historically as Die Peins, or, "The Pines," after the prevalence of cedar there, so it is no surprise that the species would be chosen as a low-maintenance, yet symbolic, ornamental. Note that the cedars in Comal Cemetery are concentrated in the oldest section, suggesting that as the cemetery was expanded, the planting of cedar as a cemetery ornamental may have gone out of fashion, particularly after the first World War.

Italian cypress was also a popular choice for ornamenting family plots within the Comal Cemetery (Figure 5-26). Locally known as the "cemetery tree" it is a native to the Mediterranean region. The success of the Italian cypress in adapting to hot and dry climates has made it popular throughout the southern United States. Its vertical form punctuates the otherwise flat cemetery landscape and, like the popular cemetery obelisk, provides a vertical place marker visible from a distance.

Arborvitae is also found throughout the cemetery in both tree and shrub form (Figures 5-27 and 5-28). While not a native, it is well adapted to Central Texas, except for a susceptibility to spider mites.

Other evergreen trees found within the cemetery include Texas mountain laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*), glossy privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), Texas persimmon (*Diospyros texana*), and live oak (*Quercus fusiformis*), but these are not as prevalent and are primarily found in the newer sections of the cemetery.

Figure 5-23. Plan showing the distribution of both evergreen and deciduous trees throughout the Comal Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

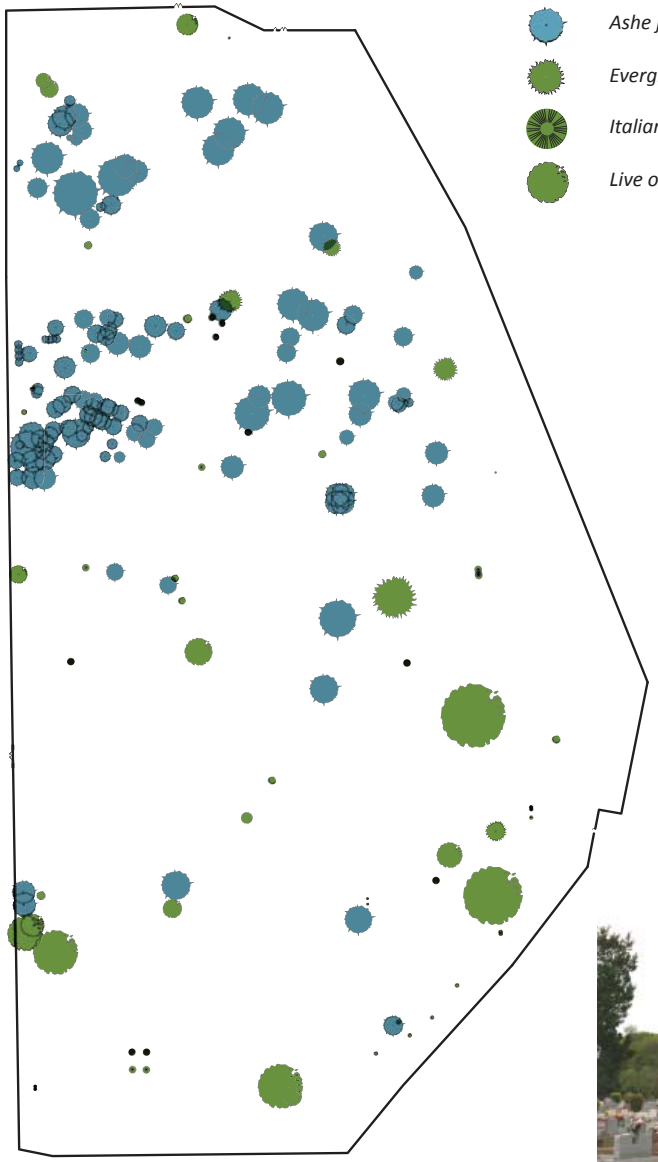


Figure 5-24. This figure shows the predominance of evergreens, particularly Ashe juniper, in the oldest section of the cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-25. Ashe juniper (*Juniperus ashei*) grove located in the west side of the northern third of Comal Cemetery. This is the oldest section of the cemetery with graves dating to 1873. *JMA, 2009.*

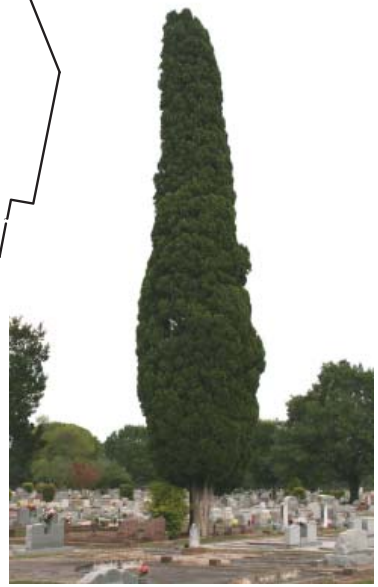


Figure 5-26. Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-27. Arborvitae tree (*Thuja occidentalis*). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-28. Arborvitae shrub (*Thuja orientalis*). *JMA, 2009.*

Deciduous Trees

Deciduous trees found with the Comal Cemetery include pecan (*Carya illinoinsis*), red oak (likely *Quercus texana*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), mulberry (*Morus* sp.), box elder (*Acer negundo*), Japanese pagodatree (*Styphnolobium japonica*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), and chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*) (Figure 5-29). Of these, the pecan, ash, oak, bald cypress, and sycamore provide a high canopy of shade in the southern end of the cemetery and along the river bluff (Figure 5-30). Redbud, crape myrtle, and chaste tree are popular for their seasonal flowers and were planted as ornamentals (Figures 5-31 and 5-32). The others, hackberry, mulberry, box elder, and Japanese pagodatree, are notorious volunteers within the Central Texas area and were likely planted by wildlife. However, because of the advanced age of the Japanese pagodatree depicted below, this particular specimen may have been planted and maintained as an ornamental (Figure 5-33).

Figure 5-30. Sycamore, pecan, oak, and ash provide shade in the south end of the cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-31. This redbud provides a floral show in the spring. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-32. Off-season, blooms are provided by hanging baskets installed on this crape myrtle. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-33. Japanese pagodatree that provides an exotic accent within the cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-29. This plan shows the distribution of deciduous trees throughout the Comal Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-34. Mixed planting of shrub junipers and other evergreens. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-35. A Barbados cherry of this size is unusual in this part of Texas *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-36. This small, single bloom type of rose is found in several locations throughout the cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Shrubs, Vines, Perennials, And Bulbs

Shrubs, vines, perennials, and bulbs have been planted throughout the Comal Cemetery to ornament family plots or individual graves. Evergreen shrubs are primarily boxwood (*Buxus* sp.) or nandina (*Nandina domestica*), but examples of other nandina varieties and some shrub junipers are also found throughout (Figure 5-34). Deciduous shrubs include Texas lantana (*Lantana camera*), Texas sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*), spirea (*Spirea* sp.), and St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). Of note is the presence in the oldest part of the cemetery of a large specimen of Barbados cherry (*Malpigea glabra*), a native to the American tropics and Vietnam (Figure 5-35). Also of note are several antique roses (*Rosa* sp.), generally with small pink or dark pink flowers (Figure 3-36). Texas lantana is often spread by birds, so it is not known if these were deliberately planted ornamentals (Figure 3-37). There are several specimens of spirea in the cemetery, but none are thriving, due to the high alkalinity of the local soils.

Two types of vines are found within the cemetery: Asian jasmine (*Trachelospermum asiaticum*) and English ivy (*Hedera helix*). Asian jasmine is found only in one location and was planted to drape over the matching graves of a married couple (Figure 5-38). English ivy is used as a groundcover, but it also enjoys climbing deciduous trees.

The most common perennials and bulbs found within the Comal Cemetery are Dutch iris (*Iris* sp.), narcissus (*Narcissus* sp.), crinum (*Crinum* sp.), grape hyacinth (*Muscari* sp.), asparagus fern (*Asparagus plumosis*), and wandering Jew (*Tradescantia zebrina*) (Figure 5-39).

Figure 5-37. Specimen of Texas lantana (*Lantana urticoides*) This species is a favorite of butterflies. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-38. Asian jasmine planted to blanket the graves of a husband and wife. Note presence of asparagus fern which is said to have been planted in the cemetery as a ready addition to floral arrangements. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-39. This healthy stand of iris ornaments the graves of an old German family from New Braunfels. *JMA, 2009.*

Plot Enclosures

In the Comal Cemetery, family and individual burial plots are usually outlined by low curbs, these often punctuated by low piers in a variety of designs. Most curbs, particularly in the southern two thirds of the cemetery, are made of poured concrete in a simple, functional style (Figure 5-40). However, there are a few instances of other materials being used, such as marble, grey and red granite, concrete masonry units or more complex concrete designs, fieldstone, or even salvaged building materials (Figures 5-41 through 5-43 and see Appendix A).

Conditions range from excellent to poor. Many older masonry unit curbs suffer from displacement due to inadequate footings, failure of pinning systems, dislocation from subsidence, or disaggregation (Figure 5-44 and 5-45). Other problems include damage created by current maintenance practices. Rider mowers are used as a cost-effective way to control weed and grass growth but can lead to damage of cemetery features (Figure 5-46). In addition the use of weed trimmers with wire cores is an unnecessary source of damage to enclosures (see Figure 5-41).

A wide variety of finials ornament the curbs within the Comal Cemetery. Both Classical and Gothic styles are represented, as well as handful of vernacular examples. Interestingly, in at least two instances, missing finials have been replaced with specimens of local stone, including one fossilized shell and a boulder of ferrous stone (see Appendix A).

Figure 5-40. Poured concrete is the most commonly used material for plot curbs in the Comal Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-41. Grey granite curb with pier displaying Classical ornamentation. Note damage by weed trimmers at corner. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-42. Unusual curb fabricated from poured concrete and concrete masonry units. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-43. A corner planter created with concrete in a family plot. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-44. The pinning system for this marble curb has failed and the units displaced. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-45. This concrete curb is disintegrating. This two-pour technique may have been executed incorrectly. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-46. This concrete curb shows damage, likely from a rider mower. *JMA, 2009.*

Plot Coverings

It is common for burial plots in the Comal Cemetery, both family or individual, to be covered with either poured concrete or gravel, and even occasionally, pavers (Figures 5-47 through 5-50). Traditionally, family plots and graves were regularly scraped of all vegetation, a practice common in the South and adopted by German immigrants to this area (Figure 5-49). There is still at least one scraped grave in the Comal Cemetery. However, because there are few families who now have the time to do this work, or perhaps live away from their ancestors' graves, the practice has been replaced by completely paving a plot or grave in a hard material.

Plot coverings are in relatively good condition, when compared with those at the New Braunfels Cemetery. General soil movement and subsidence is not a problem with the soils at Comal.

Figure 5-47. Concrete plot cover poured up to the curb level. Note wheel tracks left by a rider mower. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-48. Gravel used to fill plot beds, both individual and family, in Comal Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-49. This family plot has been maintained by scraping, a historic custom. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-50. Large grouping of shell-encrusted burial covers found in the Comal Cemetery. These shell covers are delicate and easily damaged. *JMA, 2009.*

Grave Markers

Markers within the Comal Cemetery range in style and form from 19th-century carved marble and limestone tablets and sculpture, to more modern machine-cut granite pieces (see Appendix A). Conditions range widely, depending on the stone used and events of falling damage or vandalism, but in general, most markers are in good condition. The primary problems affecting marker condition are localized instances of soil subsidence, damage from falling tree branches, and aggressive cleaning (Figure 5-51). Other than these issues, the markers suffer only from the accumulation of dirt, lichen, and black mold which makes some of them difficult to read (Figures 5-52, 5-53, and 5-54).

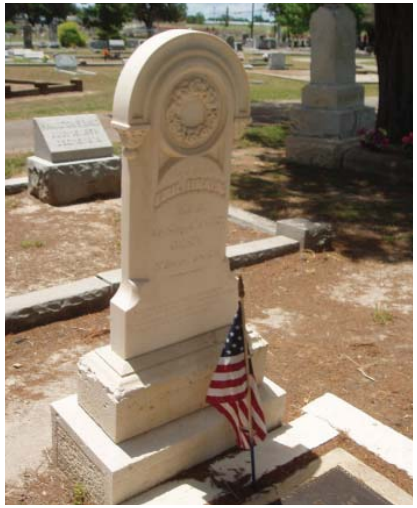


Figure 5-51. This limestone marker has been aggressively scrubbed and bleached, a practice that may lead to faster deterioration of the material. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-52. This grave marker from the 1870s shows an accumulation of dirt, mold, and lichens, which make it difficult to see the carvings. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-53. This bronze marker for the Eden Home burials may become illegible if not cleaned and maintained. *JMA 2009.*

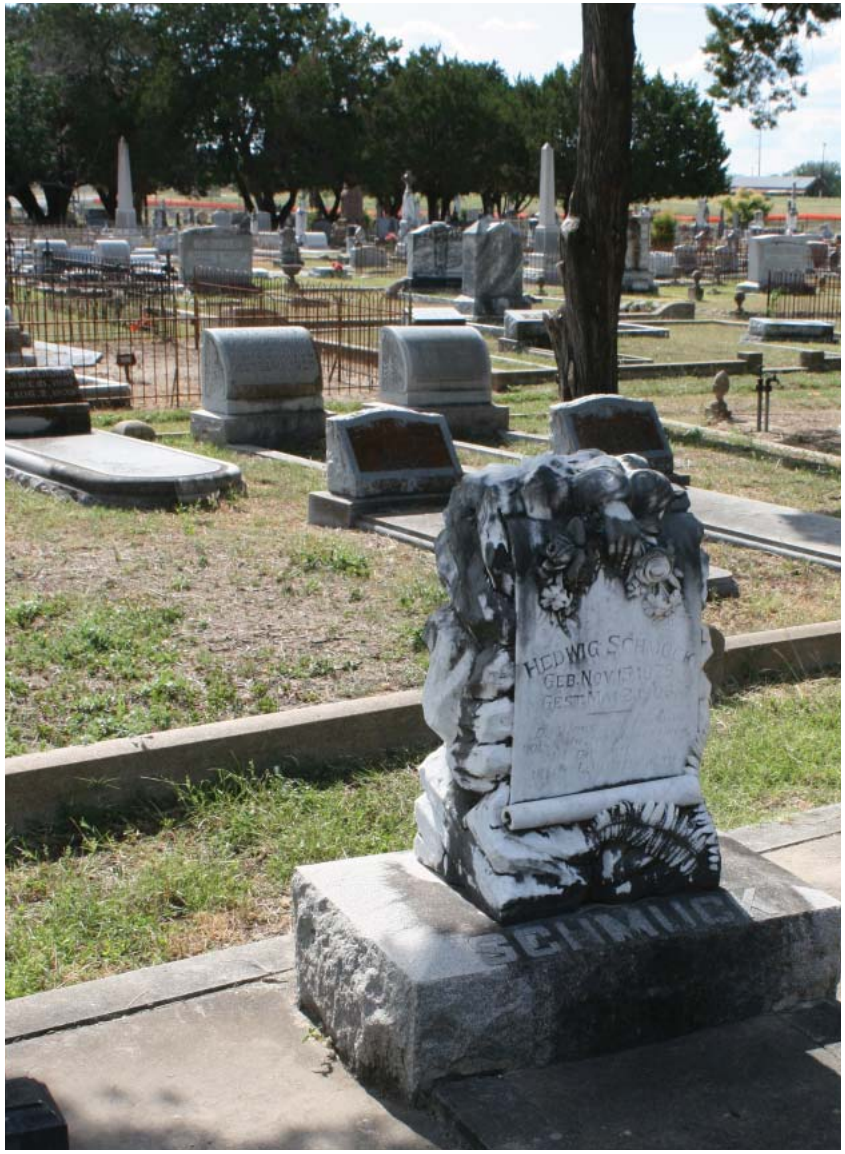


Figure 5-54. Photograph showing the wide variety of monuments in the Comal Cemetery, ranging from the hand-carved tablet in the foreground to machined granite tablets and obelisks in the mid- and background. *JMA, 2009.*

Plot Fencing

The Comal Cemetery contains a variety of Victorian-era and more recently-installed wrought or cast iron fencing, “gas pipe” fencing, woven wire fencing, and bent steel fencing (see Appendix A). Many of the fencing systems were ordered from catalogs furnished by companies such as Stewart Iron Works and other companies that were active in producing cemetery fencing in the early 20th century (Figure 5-55). There is also one example of a wood fence, designed in the Colonial Revival style (Figure 5-56).

Conditions of the plot fencing within the cemetery range from good to poor. Some fences, such as that surrounding the Lindheimer grave, have been maintained in good condition, repaired, and painted (Figure 5-57). Others exhibit some displacement of posts and gates due to local subsidence or vegetation growth (Figure 5-58). Many fences have an oxidized patina with some pitting and lichen growth. More delicate examples of post-and-chain enclosures have been damaged by vegetation (Figure 5-59). More than one family plot is missing sections lost to theft (Figure 5-60).

Figure 5-55. Faceplate exhibiting pitting and rusting. Protecting such features should be a high priority. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-56. Unusual wood fence with Colonial Revival features, such as the diagonal fence boards and cut out ornamental silhouette on the gate. The original paint is peeling to reveal unprotected wood. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-57. This cast-iron picket fence around the Lindheimer family plot is kept in good condition. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-58. The gate in this unusual gas-pipe fence has been set askew due to shifting from vegetative growth. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-59. Enclosure composed of stone posts and chain. The posts have been displaced by vegetative growth. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-60. The cast-iron entrance gate, featuring a weeping willow, was stolen from this family plot. *JMA, 2009.*

Water Features

Irrigation is provided in the Comal Cemetery by numerous above-ground hose bibs connected to the city water system by underground piping (Figure 5-61). A plan for this system has not been located. There are no ornamental fountains or any other type of water feature within the cemetery.

In 1891, a group petitioned the city council to make arrangements to provide additional water at the site. At least one hose bib that may date to that period has been found in the oldest section of the cemetery (Figures 5-61 and 5-62).

There is no automatic irrigation system in this cemetery; in order to protect grave markers from excessive water contact, it is strongly recommended that none be installed.

Figure 5-61. Two hose bibs within the Comal Cemetery. The one to the left may date from the original system installed ca. 1891. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-62. This fixture may indicate the location of a valve. *JMA, 2009.*

Structures

Buildings

Comal Cemetery contains a small wood frame and steel siding building that houses the sexton's office and storage for maintenance equipment and other materials (Figure 5-63). About 100 feet to the south of this building is a stage and backdrop constructed of native stone by the CCC in the 1930s. This structure is located just on the other side of the cemetery boundaries within the adjacent park. One wall of this structure has collapsed and subsequent erosion threatens the stability of the cemetery sexton's office from its south corner.

Figure 5-63. This small frame and metal building houses the sexton's office and equipment storage. The construction date is not known. The stone backdrop of the CCC-constructed stage is just below the chain link fence to the right. *JMA, 2009.*

Boundary Fence Systems

Two types of fencing are used to secure Comal Cemetery: galvanized chain link and woven wire. The chain link encloses most of the cemetery, except on the northwest end, where woven wire is used, perhaps remaining from the early period of use of the original entrance (Figures 5-64 and 5-65). Chain link was also used to patch breaks in the woven wire fence. Particularly interesting are the hand-made galvanized pipe stiles installed for 24-hour pedestrian access to the cemetery.

Figure 5-64. Comal Cemetery boundary and pedestrian entrance stile. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-65. Older woven-wire fence along the northwest boundary of Comal Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-66. Flagpole at the cemetery entrance. *JMA, 2009.*

Site Furnishings

Site furnishings at the Comal Cemetery include a flagpole, benches, trash receptacles, planters, signs, and memorial decorations. The flagpole was installed adjacent to the north lichgate by Post 7117 of the United States Veterans of Foreign Wars (Figure 5-66). There are also a number of benches installed throughout the cemetery, most in private plots (Figure 5-67). Each of the two public meditation areas that have been designated on the north-and southeast edges of the site has a metal bench (Figure 5-68). Other furnishings include metal trash receptacles, in varying conditions, placed throughout the site (Figure 5-69). Street markers are provided throughout the site to aid visitors in finding family plots; most are in good condition, but a few have been knocked askew by vehicles (Figure 5-70). Planters and other decorations have been installed within private plots (Figures 5-71 and 5-72).

Figure 5-67. A wide variety of benches has been placed on private plots within Comal Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-68. One of two areas set aside for public meditation within the Comal Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-69. Metal trash receptacle. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-70. Cemetery street marker damaged by a vehicle *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-71. Example of a planter on a family plot. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 5-72. Decorations found along the edges of the cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Significance

The Comal Cemetery is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Because a nomination has not yet been prepared, it is necessary to first propose areas and periods of significance, evaluate the cemetery under National Register Criteria, and determine its integrity in order to support the development of treatment recommendations that are well-grounded in national standards.

The Comal Cemetery is significant in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Ethnic Heritage (European), Exploration/Settlement, Health/Medicine, Science, and Social History. In addition, it is proposed that the period of significance for the Comal Cemetery ranges from 1868, when the cemetery was established, to 1960, which is fifty years prior to the year of this evaluation and documentation.

This cemetery was designated an Historic Texas Cemetery by the Texas Historical Commission in 2000 for its age and historic associations, particularly for its status as an early local area cemetery. The cemetery is associated with the cultural heritage of early German settlers, American descendents of the Scotch-Irish, African Americans, and Mexican Americans. Religious heritage expressed is primarily Protestant; a few Catholic dead were buried at Comal, but most were interred across Peace Avenue in one of the Catholic cemeteries. Fraternal and other organized groups represented include Woodmen of the World, Hermann Sons, Fireman's Association, Elks Lodge, and Masons.

The applicable Criteria for Evaluation for the Comal Cemetery are presented below, along with one Criterion Consideration. As per National Register requirements, except for archeological sites and cemeteries nominated under Criterion D, burial places must also meet the special requirements of Criteria Considerations C or D, which refer to graves and cemeteries, and possibly to A (religious properties) or other Criteria Considerations. Although the Comal Cemetery is also eligible under Criterion D, its eligibility under Criterion Consideration D is explored in order to emphasize the importance of its association with the history of the early settlement of New Braunfels.

Criterion B: *Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.*

Comal Cemetery is the final resting place for a number of persons who were of outstanding importance to the community of New Braunfels from the its establishment in 1845. These include Hermann Seele (1823-1902), early settler, the town's first schoolteacher and mayor of New Braunfels, who wrote for the Neu *Braunfelser Zeitung* newspaper and served as representative to the Texas Legislature. His friend, one of the most celebrated residents of early New Braunfels, Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer (1801-1879), noted botanist and journalist, is also buried at Comal. Widely considered the "Father of Texas Botany," Lindheimer is credited with identifying and classifying hundreds of botanical species.

Criterion C: *Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*

Comal Cemetery contains a number of shell-motif grave coverings attributed to Henry T. Mordhorst (1864-1928) of New Braunfels (see explanation of the significance of his work under Criterion C for New Braunfels Cemetery, in Chapter Four).

In addition to containing many examples of the work of Mordhorst, Comal Cemetery also has an assortment of grave markers, including early hand-carved marble and limestone tablet markers, vertically-oriented Victorian obelisks and statuary of marble and granite, and low-rise mid- to late-20th century granite shouldered stones. These represent the common artistic values of the American period from just prior to the Civil War to the current day.

Comal Cemetery also exhibits many traits of a traditional southern folk cemetery in Texas, as described by cultural geographer, Terry Jordan: orientation and spatial arrangement; traditional flowers, plants, and trees; fences and lichgates; grave decoration; and grave scraping.

The tradition of the subdivision of cemeteries into family plots segregated by surname and/or blood kinship and defined with curbs or fencing and aligned on an east-west axis is strongly expressed in the oldest section of Comal Cemetery, which was developed prior to 1910. After that time, family plots were oriented with the alignment of Peace Avenue, which meant that the foot of each burial was pointed to the northeast. This suggests a change in local attitudes toward burial traditions.

The oldest section of Comal Cemetery also reflects earlier traditions regarding the use of evergreens to ornament family plots. Evergreens symbolize eternal life in the Upland South folk cemetery and were often planted within family plots or adjacent to particular graves. Particular favorites used in the Comal

Cemetery were Ashe juniper, Italian cypress, and arborvitae. Ashe juniper was frequently planted within the family plots, often in the four corners, or used to line the access drives within the cemetery.

Fences and lichgates are also considered by Jordan to be traits of a southern folk cemetery originating in Great Britain. Comal Cemetery has always been surrounded by a boundary fence. Today most of it is composed of chain link, but an earlier type was woven wire; remnants can be observed on the north end of the cemetery.

The lichgate, or "corpse gate," is a ceremonial entranceway to a cemetery that is typically spanned by an overhead arch. It is through this entrance that the funeral procession traditionally passes. Comal Cemetery possesses two lichgates: the oldest, now at the central entrance off of Peace Avenue (North Lichgate), was originally at the north end of the cemetery, but moved to its present location some time after 1974. The other lichgate was installed around 1910 to 1913 as the southwest entrance to the cemetery off of Peace Avenue (South Lichgate).

Grave decoration varies widely throughout Comal Cemetery and it is clear that local traditions have changed through its history. One early photograph shows the Tays family plot decorated with flowers and at least one can of German beer. The same photograph shows a large number of decorative shadow boxes holding floral arrangements in the background. The most lively decorative traditions appear today in relation to Hispanic graves at the southern and eastern edges of the cemetery. Here ornamentation includes large religious statuary, silk flowers, flags, and windchimes.

Grave scraping, another old southern tradition, has all but died out in the Comal Cemetery. Only one family plot maintained by scraping was observed in the field. Today, grass is prevented from growing on graves and within plots by the use of herbicide sprayed under the auspices of perpetual care contracts.

Criteria Consideration D: *A cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.*

Refer to justification under Criterion A.

Integrity and Threats

To qualify for National Register listing, a property must retain integrity to the identified period of significance. The evaluation of existing conditions at the Comal Cemetery reveals that this burial place and its overall setting retain high integrity for its most important period of use, which is from 1868 to 1960.

Assessment of integrity is based on an evaluation of the existence and condition of physical features dating from a property's period of significance, taking into consideration the degree to which the individual qualities of integrity are present. The seven aspects of integrity included in National Register criteria are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, as described below (National Park Service, 44).

L**ocation** refers to the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where a historic event occurred. The Comal Cemetery has integrity of location because it remains where it was originally platted.

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The New Braunfels Cemetery retains the overall spatial composition and orientation dating from its last expansion in 1927, the design of the grid of burial plots within, and its original circulation patterns.

Setting refers to the physical environment of a historic property. The setting of the Comal Cemetery has changed somewhat since 1960 with the construction of the Common Street bridge in 1974, but that change did little to affect the overall integrity of the cemetery. The greatest threat to the integrity of the New Braunfels Cemetery is riverbank erosion activity that, if exacerbated, will negatively impact the historic character of the cemetery.

Materials are the physical elements that were combined during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. At the Comal Cemetery, lengths of some of the metal fencing used to enclose the cemetery have been preserved at its northern end, as well as the original lichgate, although it was relocated after 1974 to its current location on Peace Avenue. Many examples of metal fencing from the late 19th century remain, as well as many of the earliest markers and masonry plot curbing. In addition, the large collection of evergreens, cedars in particular, persist in the oldest part of the cemetery.

While these materials have survived from the period of significance, many are vulnerable to a number of threats. A few early markers and enclosures, particularly those crafted from marble or limestone, have been damaged and

many others are threatened by damage from vehicles or falling tree branches. Some of the Victorian metal fencing that once surrounded family plots has been stolen or lost to weathering or other damage. In addition, traditional plantings have been lost to lack of maintenance or removal, particularly trees that have been perceived as hazardous and have been removed and not replaced.

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. This evidence of craft is found in the markers, plot enclosures, and fencing within the cemetery; of particular note is the workmanship exhibited by the seashell plot covers crafted by Mordhurst. These are fragile and especially vulnerable to the effects of weathering, vandalism, and deferred maintenance.

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The Comal Cemetery retains integrity in its expression of the qualities of quiet, serenity, and separation that were important during the period of significance. Feeling is a quality that is vulnerable to changes in the setting of a historic property.

A**ssociation** is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The cemetery has high integrity of association because of the presence of the burials that contribute to its significance; thus the cemetery maintains its associative historical link with people important in the early history of New Braunfels.

Treatment Recommendations

Overview

Overall treatment objectives for Comal Cemetery are to: introduce a visitor gathering space; provide improved visitor orientation; preserve, repair, and conserve cemetery monuments, plot curbing, and plot fencing; and preserve and re-establish historic patterns of cemetery vegetation (refer to Comal Cemetery Treatment Plan, below).

Spatial Organization

The primary goal regarding spatial organization within the cemetery is to create a central gathering spot for visitors that would include an informational kiosk and benches. Recommendations towards this goal include the following:

- Consider moving maintenance equipment storage off-site and the sexton's office to a new location, or renovation of existing buildings to improve their exterior appearance.
- Remove the spoils piles adjacent to the sexton's office and arrange for an alternate location for spoils storage.
- Remove, if buildings are relocated, all existing paving and curbing around the sexton's office to open up platted burial plots that can then be sold (refer inset detail).
- Create a visitor gathering space in the general location of the sexton's office or in the renovated building (refer inset detail). This gathering space might contain an information kiosk, seating, trash receptacles, a drinking fountain, and other visitor amenities, such as parking.

Topography

The primary issue affecting topography is the potential for erosion along the cliff edge of the river from the actions of floodwaters. This cycle of scouring and lateral shift of stream beds is common, particularly in rapidly developing areas (Figure 5-73). This may eventually lead to the loss of graves and markers. The following actions are recommended:

- Investigate the rate at which the cliff edge of the cemetery along the river is eroding.
- Develop a plan for relocating these graves and markers based on the results of the investigation.

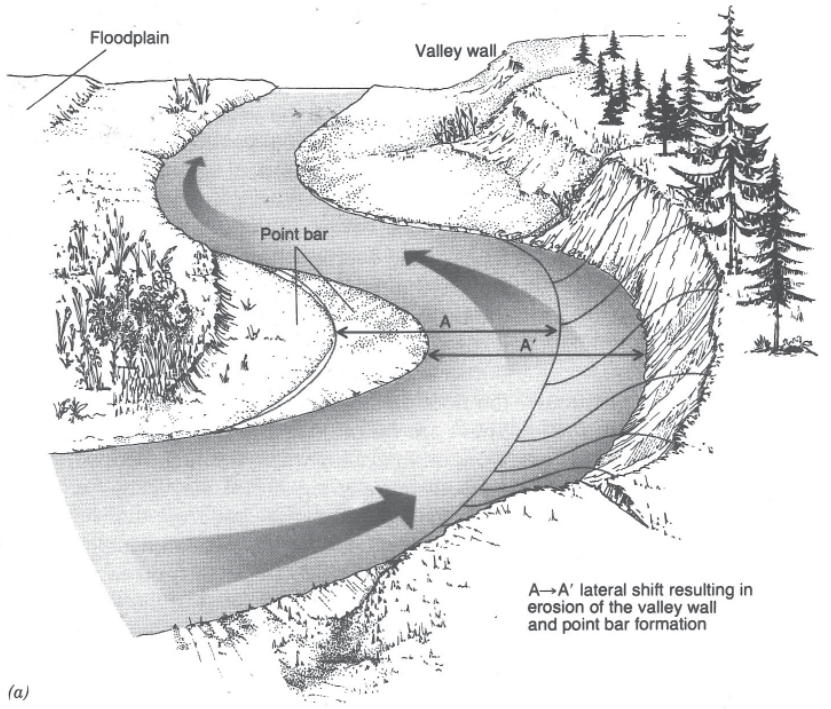


Figure 5-73. Increased stormwater runoff, often the result of new development, causes scour and lateral shift in local waterways. *Marsh, 1998, 253.*

Circulation and Access

Overall goals are to organize vehicular circulation to minimize vehicular conflict, off-road driving, and subsequent damage to historic resources. It is also important to provide safe and stable pedestrian access routes and increase ease of wayfinding. Recommendations are as follows:

- Consider limiting vehicular traffic within the cemetery to the asphalt-paved drives (Figure 5-74). The secondary drives, which are gravel-paved can continue to be pedestrian access-ways.
- Consider, when repaving asphalt drives, using a chip seal method wherein local gravel is pressed in to the base layer of asphalt. This lessens the visual impact of new asphalt and supports the historic character of the site.
- Fill sinkholes in pathways between cemetery plots to increase safety of pedestrian access.

Access should also consider visitor wayfinding tools:

- Provide a grave locator system at the visitor gathering area with a graphic plan of cemetery, a brief account of history and significance, visitor registration, and operational information for visitors.
- Provide improved internal drive signage and include information about accessible routes through the cemetery.

Figure 5-74. The blue lines overlaid on this aerial photograph indicate drives within the oldest part of the cemetery that are recommended for vehicular use. Intermediate roads should be closed to vehicular traffic. *JMA 2009.*

Vegetation

Comparison of historic with existing conditions suggests that Comal Cemetery was more heavily vegetated in the past than it is today (refer Figures 5-4, 5-6, and 5-7). The density of plantings in the past can be gained by close study of historic photographs and examination of stumps and other remains of vegetation, but of highest priority should be the documentation and vigilant protection of all historic vegetation that remains. With this in mind, the primary goal of vegetation treatment in the Comal Cemetery is to preserve and enhance the historic character of the cemetery through protection and replacement of existing historic trees and other plants and the reduction of mowing and trimming in order to protect grave markers, enclosures, and fencing.

Historic Trees and Other Vegetation

Key to retaining the character of historic sites is to ensure over time that historic vegetation is preserved and maintained. When lost, vegetation should be replaced in-kind, that is, with the same species, variety, and form. The following recommendations address features of such a program:

- Replace historic trees and plants that have been known to be removed. Determine the species and location by close study of historic photographs, compilation of oral histories regarding cemetery vegetation, and identification of stumps and other vegetative remnants.
- Identify, through consultation with a historical horticulturist, the varieties of historic shrubs and bulbs located within the cemetery. These plants have proven themselves to be hardy and self-sustaining; however, to preserve these plants as records of historic cultural practices, they should be protected by thorough documentation, regular inspections for pests and disease, establishment of a watering regime in periods of drought, and, when all else fails, replacement in-kind.
- Remove volunteer trees (usually mulberry, hackberry, tree ligustrum) that threaten plot borders, fences, and markers. Retain other volunteer trees as needed for shade and screening.
- Ensure that over time, specimen trees remain as historic features within the landscape with a program of in-kind replacement.

- Consider propagating historic plants as a fund-raising project. Consult with the New Braunfels Conservation Society and other historic plant sources for further information about varieties, history, and recommended care.

New Plantings

Important to maintaining community interest in a historic cemetery is the opportunity for additional memorial or other decorative plantings within the cemetery. Prior to installing new plant material in traditionally unplanted areas, conduct an archeological investigation to assure that planting activities will not disturbed cultural resources. The following recommendations are offered:

- Consider, in order to reduce mowing and trimming within the interiors of family plots, planting them with low maintenance and xeric groundcovers, such as Asian jasmine (*Trachelospermum asiaticum*) (refer Figure 5-38). Buffalograss is also an excellent replacement for other turf grasses because it does not spread by runners and does not need mowing or trimming. Other groundcovers, such as horseherb (*Calyptocarpus vialis*), creeping phlox (*Phlox subulata*), trailing verbena (*Verbena x hybrida*), prostrate rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*), silver germander (*Teucrium fruticans*), winecup (*Callirhoe involucrata*), creeping juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*), and sedum (*Sedum* sp.) can be used in sunny locations. Asian jasmine and horseherb also do well in shade, but other choices for shade include English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and ajuga (*Ajuga reptans*).
- Set aside locations in the proposed visitor gathering area for memorial or ornamental plantings. Assure that there is a hose bib nearby for watering new plants.

Water Features

The goal for the treatment of water features within Comal Cemetery is to provide for visitor comfort and to facilitate the care of vegetation within the cemetery to protect and enhance its historic character. Recommendations are as follows:

- Consider expanding existing water lines to supply a drinking fountain in the visitor gathering area.
- Document the locations of all hose bibs within the cemetery and, using a metal detector, locate and document the underground piping system. Locate meters, valves, and backflow prevention systems.
- Install a backflow preventer, as necessary, to protect the public water supply.
- Test all spigots to determine their condition and functionality, including water pressure. If water pressure is not adequate, conduct necessary repairs.
- Document all historic spigots and determine their functionality and piping location. If possible, restore these spigots to use.

Structures

The historic character of Comal Cemetery is negatively affected by the appearance of the sexton's office/maintenance shed and the galvanized steel chain link fence that borders the cemetery. In the spirit of preserving the historic character of the cemetery through treatment of these structures, the following recommendations are offered:

- Consider remodeling, relocating, or demolishing the sexton's office/ maintenance shed. Redesign the area to accommodate an informational kiosk and other visitor amenities or reuse the building for this purpose. Assure that any activity involved in removal or renovation of the building does not damage the CCC-constructed stone stage and backdrop on the slope below.
- Replace the cemetery boundary fence with a black-painted metal picket fence or other material that will present a more attractive appearance (refer to figures in Chapter Two). In order to lower costs, the existing fence could be replaced with black vinyl chain link.
- Retain pedestrian stiles and repaint with black enamel.
- Conduct paint testing on both lichgates to determine original paint color. If indicated, restore/paint to match the original condition. Alternatively, the lichgates could be repainted black.
- Repair and preserve woven wire boundary fence at north end of cemetery. Where repairs have been made with chain link, replace patches with new woven wire fencing chosen to match the original.

Small-Scale Features

Recommendations regarding small-scale features within Comal Cemetery are focused on two goals: first is the preservation and maintenance of historic markers, enclosures, and fencing; the second is the provision of furnishings and signage to accommodate visitor comfort and ease of way-finding.

Grave Markers
Most of the grave markers within the Comal Cemetery are in good condition. Maintenance practices and damage from falling tree limbs cause the few incidences of marker damage within the cemetery.

The following are general recommendations (refer to Chapter Two, General Management Guidelines, above, for other recommendations):

- Instigate an immediate ban on the use of riding mowers and metal core trimmers within the oldest section of the cemetery in the vicinity of historic enclosures and markers.
- Encourage establishment of groundcovers within curbed plots to reduce the amount of mowing and trimming required.
- Consider reestablishing gravel in the pedestrian pathways between family plots. This will reduce mowing and subsequent curb and marker damage.

Plots Curbs and Coverings
Refer to Chapter Two, General Management Guidelines.

Plot Fencing
Refer to Chapter Two, General Management Guidelines.

Site Furnishings
- Provide a grave locator system with a graphic plan of cemetery, a brief account of history and significance, visitor registration, and operational information for visitors. This information could be provided in a kiosk at the visitor gathering center described above in the Spatial Organization section. Refer Chapter Two, General Management Guidelines, for example.
- Replace the chain link fence with black painted metal picket fence to lessen visibility of fence from the road. An alternative to pickets is black vinyl-coated chain link. Refer Chapter Two, General Management Guidelines.
- Add benches throughout the cemetery and replace trash receptacles to match new benches. Choose simple, contemporary designs that will not present a false sense of history and not detract from the historic character of the cemetery. Refer Chapter Two, General Management Guidelines.
- Replace existing cemetery drive identification signage with new signs that complement the cemetery's historic character (Figures 5-75 through 5-77). Use steel, concrete, stone, or other durable material that can withstand potential vehicular impact.

Figure 5-75. Low stone street markers keep viewsheds clear. *JMA Collection.*

Figure 5-76. Simple cast metal marker that would complement the historic character of the cemetery. *Holland Supply Company website.*

Figure 5-77. Cast concrete street marker. *JMA Collection.*

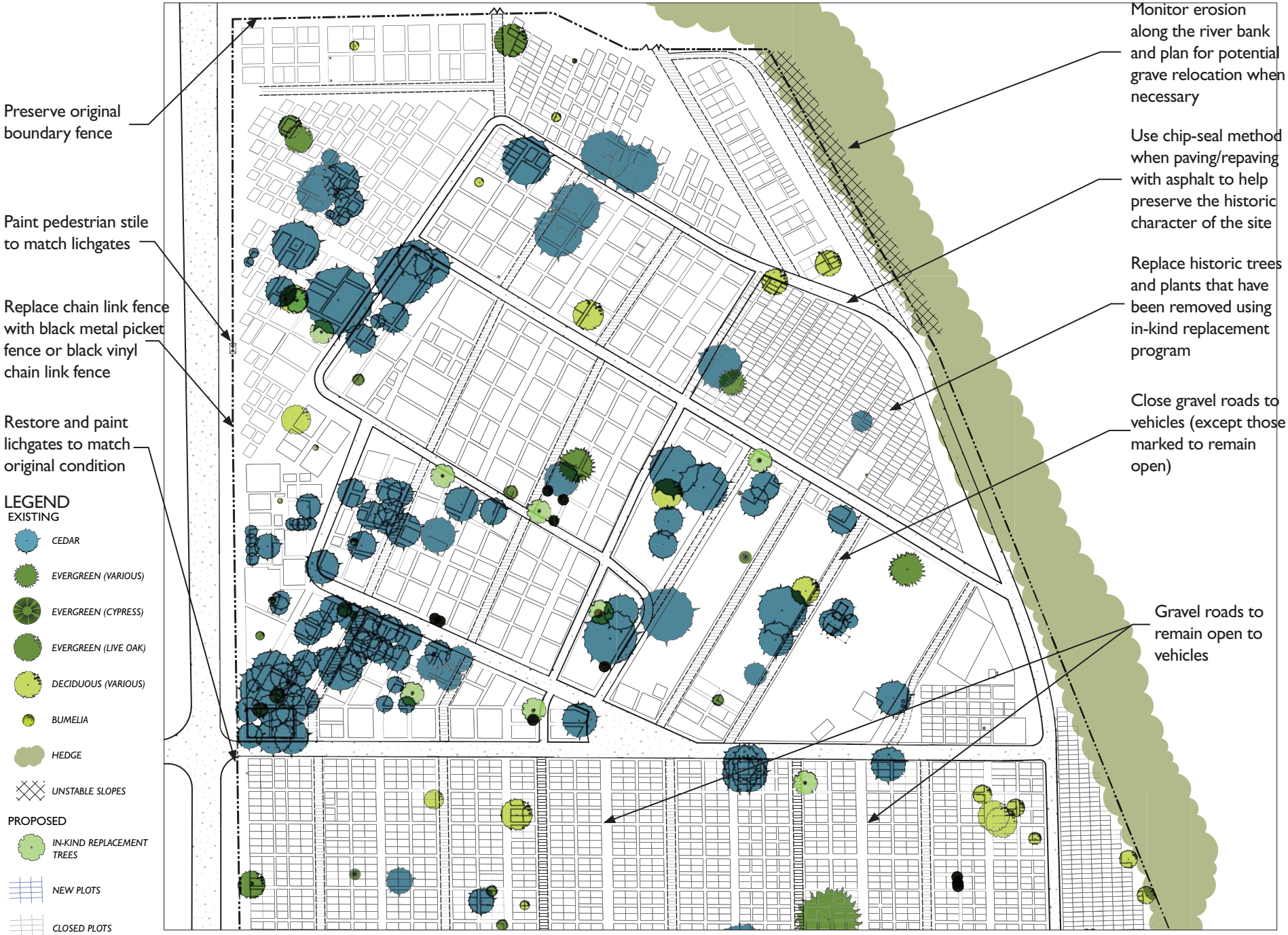


Figure 5-78. Comal Cemetery Treatment Plan - North

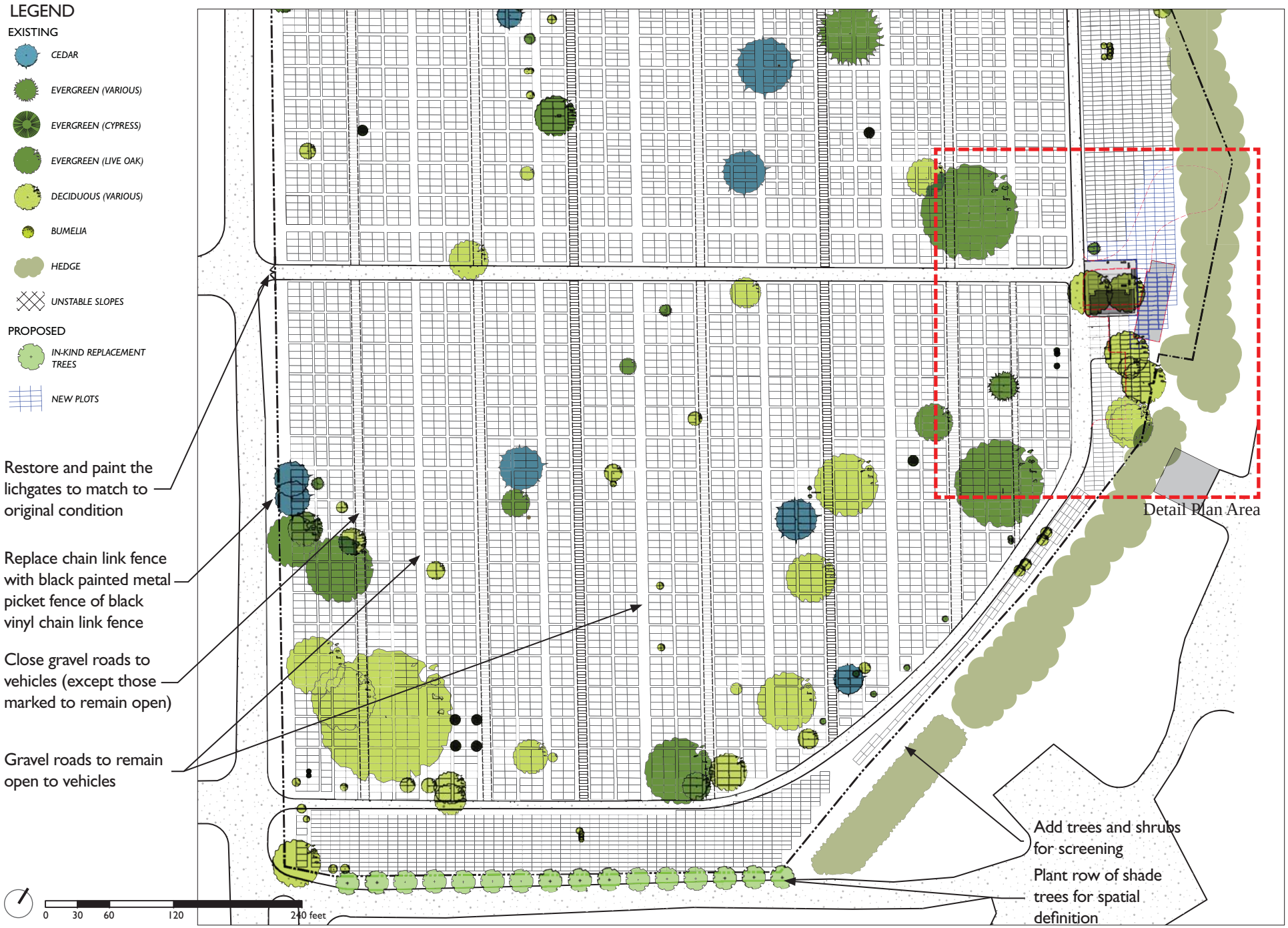


Figure 5-79. Comal Cemetery Treatment Plan - South

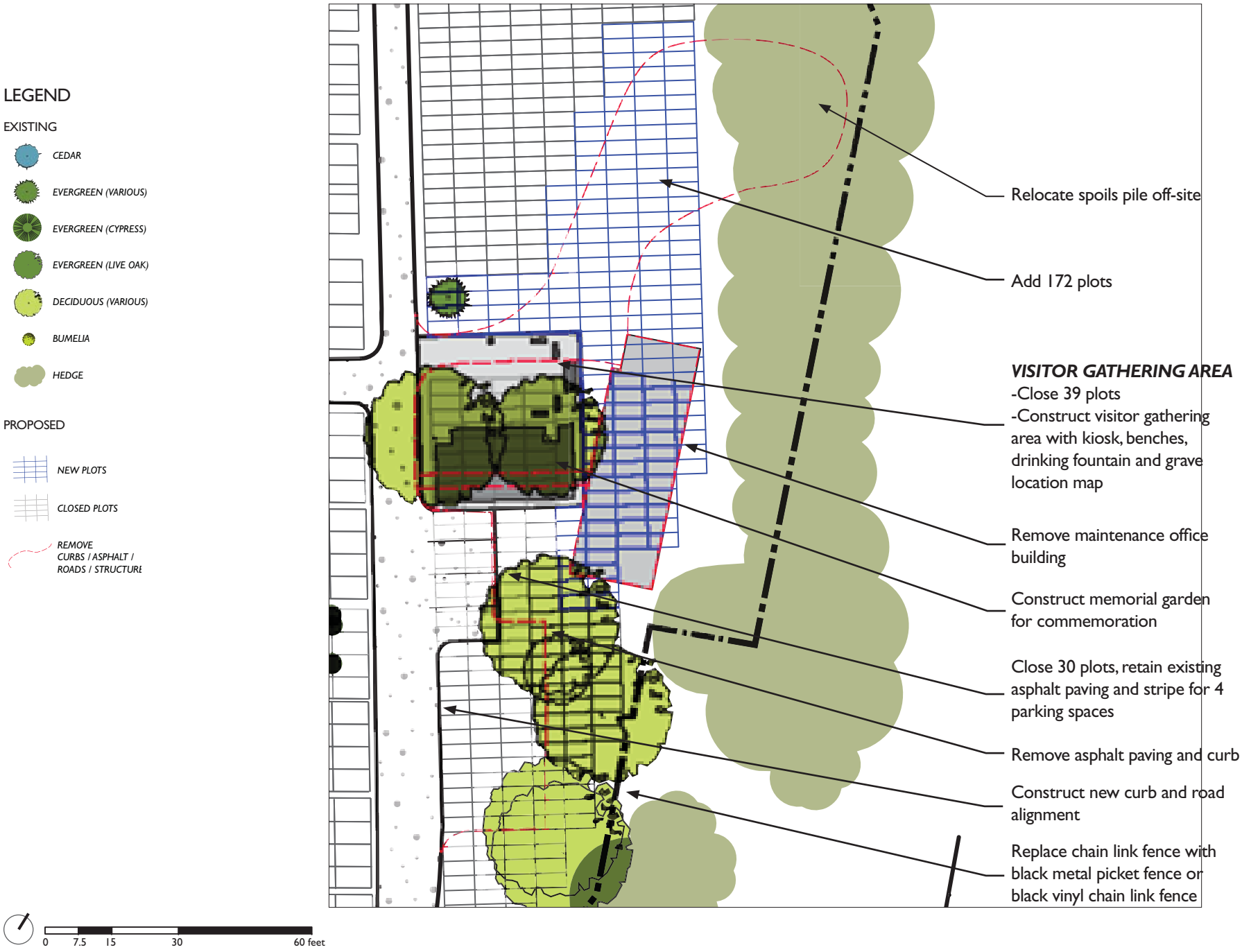


Figure 5-80. Comal Cemetery Treatment Plan-Detail

Prioritized Project List and Estimate of Probable Costs

Priority One (to be completed within 1-2 years)

Item	*Cost*
Document all trees and plants	volunteer
Document all markers, curbs, fencing, etc.	volunteer
Locate plot owners to release vacant grave plots	volunteer
Research location/species of removed trees	volunteer
Remove spoils pile	staff
New trash receptacles (12 total)	$ 9,600.00
Secure historic fencing (30 locking assemblies)	$ 450.00
Right tilting tabular monuments (tools and sand, volunteer labor)	$ 500.00

Priority Two (to be completed within 3-5 years)

Item	*Cost*
Remove stumps (use of PARD Air Spade — cost of hauling)	$ 1,500.00
Replace historic trees that have been removed (100 with vol. labor)	$ 8,500.00
Replace cemetery street signage (includes 30 with design)	$ 7,500.00
Conserve damaged markers, Phase 1 (25)	$ 7,500.00

Priority Three (to be completed within 5-7 years)

Item	*Cost*
Replace fence and gates with black vinyl coated chain link	$ 60,000.00
Repaint pedestrian stiles and lichgates in black enamel	$ 2,000.00
Install visitor kiosk (actual cost will be based on design)	$ 8,000.00
Install benches for gathering area (4)	$ 10,000.00
Conserve damaged markers, Phase 2 (25)	$ 7,500.00

Chapter 6: References

Sources Cited

Books and Articles

Armbruster, Henry C. "John F. Torrey's New Braunfels Years." *Texana* (Austin: Texian Press, 1966), Vol. IV, No. 3, pp. 201-212.

Biesele, Rudolph Leopold. *The History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861*. Austin: R. L. Biesele, 1930.

Brueckner, Alfred. Sexton Records of Comal Cemetery ("The Peins"), New Braunfels, TX, 1873-1900. New Braunfels: Comal County Genealogical Society, 1987.

City of New Braunfels, Cemetery Regulations, nd.

Clark, Sara N. "The Decoration of Graves in Central Texas with Seashells," in Hudson, William Mathis, ed. *Diamond Bessie and the Shepherds* (Denton: UNT Press, 1998).

Comal County Genealogical Society. Burial Records of Old New Braunfels Cemetery, Comal County, Texas. Copied by Alfred Brueckner. New Braunfels: Comal County Genealogical Society, 1987.

Comal County Genealogical Society. Burial Records of Old New Braunfels Cemetery and Comal Cemetery, including Freeman Section, 1917-1957. New Braunfels: Comal County Genealogical Society, n.d.

Comal County Genealogical Society. Cemeteries of New Braunfels in Comal County, Texas. New Braunfels: Comal County Genealogical Society Texas Sesquicentennial Project, 1985.

Comal County Genealogical Society. Comal Cemetery Records, Volume I, 1873-2001, Part 1, A to Key. New Braunfels: Comal County Genealogical Society, 2002.

Comal County Genealogical Society. Comal Cemetery Records, Volume I, 1873-2001, Part 1, Key to Z. New Braunfels: Comal County Genealogical Society, 2002.

Dykes-Hoffmann, Judith Lynn. On the Edge of the Balcones Escarpment: The Urband and Cultural Development of New Braunfels and San Marcos, Texas, 1845-1880. Dissertation, University of Texas at Austin, 2003.

Fey, Everett Anthony. *New Braunfels: The First Founders, Vol. I: The History*. New Braunfels: Sophienburg Museum and Archives and Comal County Genealogical Society, 1994.

Geue, Ethen Hander. *New Homes in a New Land: German Immigration to Texas, 1847-1861*. Waco: Library Binding Co., 1970.

Goff, Myra Lee Adams. "Hermann Seele came to Texas in 1843," *New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung*, July 24, 2007.

Gregory, Rosemarie Leissner and Myra Lee Adams Goff. *A Journey in Faith: The History of the First Protestant Church, New Braunfels, Texas, 1844-1995*. Austin: Nortex Press, 1994.

Haas, Oscar. "Torrey Gives 8 Acres to City for Cemetery, Lots to Church," *New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung*, March 26, 1963.

_____. *History of New Braunfels and Comal County, Texas, 1844-1946*. San Antonio: Burke Publishing Company, 1968.

Harvey, Bill. *Texas Cemeteries: The Resting Places of Famous, Infamous, and Just Plain Interesting Texans*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2003.

Jasinski, Laurie. "This Hallowed Ground," (*Canyon Lake: VIEW Magazine*, 1990), Vol. 10, No. 1, Spring Quarterly, pp. 28-30.

Jordan, Terry G. *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1982.

Lich, Glen E. *The German Texans*. San Antonio: The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, 1996.

National Park Service. *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1990, rev. 1997.

Sanborn, Laura Sue. "Sacred Places of the Southwest", *Places*: Vol. 7: No. 1 (1990), Article: http://repositories.cdlib.org/ced/places/vol7/iss1/LauraSueSanborn.

Seele, Hermann. *The Express and Other Writings of a German Pioneer in Texas*. Translated by Edward C. Breitenkamp. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1979. (Originally published as *Die Cypresse und Gesammelte Schriften* by the Neu Braunfelser Zeitung, 1936.)

Texas Historical Commission. Preserving Historic Cemeteries: Texas Preservation Guidelines, Texas Historical Commission web site: http://www.thc.state.tx.us/publications/guidelines/Preservecem.pdf

Tyler, Ron, ed. *The New Handbook of Texas, Volumes 1-6.* Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1996.

Archival Sources

Comal Cemetery Association, Amended Charter, Texas Secretary of State, January 14, 1887. Copy in Comal Cemetery vertical file, Sophienburg Archives, New Braunfels.

Comal Cemetery, Historic Texas Cemetery file, Texas Historical Commission. Austin.

Comal County Deed Records (copies in Comal Cemetery vertical file, Sophienburg Archives)

- John F. Torrey, Bond for Deed, March 21, 1868, Book I, pp. 505-506.
- John F. Torrey, Release of Bond for Deed, September 27, 1870, Book K, pp. 283-284.
- Heinrich Kellermann to City of New Braunfels, September 26, 1913, Book 32, pp. 289-290.
- Heirs of John Torrey, Emmie Torrey, Adele Torrey, Mrs. Rosie Torrey Harn, Mrs. Ed Torrey, Henry C.A. Torrey, Mres. Geo C. Torrey Vaughan, John Torrey, to City of New Braunfels, July 24, 1924, Book 49, pp. 601-6-3.
- E.A. and Ella M. Eiband to City of New Braunfels, December 29, 1927, Book 54, pp. 497-498.

Ferdinand J. Lindheimer, Official Texas Historical Marker file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

New Braunfels Cemetery, Official Texas Historical Marker file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Hermann Seele, Official Texas Historical Marker file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Senate Bill 169, An Act to Incorporate the Comal Cemetery Association, Enrolled August 13, 1870, Records of the Legislature, Texas State Archives, Austin.

John F. Torrey Early Mill and Factory, Official Texas Historical Marker file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

John F. Torrey, Bond for Deed, March 21, 1868, Comal County Deed Records, Book I, pp. 505-506.

John F. Torrey to Joseph Faust, October 20, 1886, copy in Torrey vertical file, Sophienburg Archives, New Braunfels.

Maps

Bird's Eye View of New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas, 1881, map #1889, Texas State Library and Archives, Austin

Karte von den Vermesfugen im Grant und in der Gegend Zwischen demselben und New Braunfels zusammengestelt & gezeichnet von H. Wilke, 1850, map #1997b, Texas State Library and Archives, Austin

New-Braunfels, Comal Co. Texas, December 1868, map #2807a, Texas State Library and Archives, Austin

U.S. Geological Survey. New Braunfels East, Texas [orthophotomap]. 1:24,000. 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic). Reston, Va.: USGS, 1988.

U.S. Geological Survey. New Braunfels West, Texas [orthophotomap]. 1:24,000. 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic). Reston, Va.: USGS, 1988.

Wermand, E.G. "Physiography of Texas." University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology web site, http://www.beg.utexas.edu/UTopia/images/pagesizemaps/physiography.pdf, accessed 25 September 2009.

Recommended Reading

Books and Articles

Anson-Cartwright, Tamara. *Landscapes of Memories: A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries, Repairing Tombstones*. Toronto: Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, 1997.

Ashurst, John and Francis G. Dimes (eds.). *Conservation of Building & Decorative Stone*. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann, 1998.

(Chicora Foundation) *Recording Historic Cemeteries: A Guide for Historical Societies and Genealogists*. Columbia: Chicora Foundation, 1998.

(City of Boston) *The Boston Experience: A Manual for Historic Burying Grounds Preservation*. Boston: Boston Parks and Recreation, 1989.

Hosley, William and Shepherd M. Holcombe, Sr. *By Their Markers Ye Shall Know Them*. Hartford: The Ancient Burying Ground Association, Inc., 1994.

Laurenzi Tabasso, M., "Stone cleaning as a conservation treatment: aims, requirements and available techniques," in *Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage*: proceedings of the 1995 LCP Congress, Montreux, 24-29 September, Lausanne, Switzerland, 1996, pp. 465-468.

Mayer, L.R., "The care of old cemeteries and gravestones," Markers. 1, 119-142 (1979/80).

Maxwell, Ingval, Ratish Nanda and Dennis Urquhart. *Conservation of Historic Graveyards (Guide for Practitioners No. 2)*. Edinburgh: Historic Scotland, 2001.

Naude, Virginia N. and Glenn Wharton. *Guide to the Maintenance of Outdoor Sculpture.* Washington: American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, 1993.

Strangstad, Lynette. *Preservation of Historic Burial Grounds.* Washington DC: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1993.

_____. *A Graveyard Preservation Primer.* Walnut Creek CA: Alta Mira Press, 1995.

Thiel, M.J. (ed.). *Conservation of Stone and Other Materials*. London: E & FN Spon, 1993.

Thompson, Sharyn. *Florida's Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook.* Tallahassee: Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board, 1989.

Trippe-Dillon, Tammie. *Grave Concerns: A Preservation Manual for Historic Cemeteries in Arkansas.* Little Rock: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, n.d.

Walker-Kluesing Design Group. *Preservation Guidelines for Municipally Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries.* Boston: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, 2002.

Weaver, Martin E., Removing Graffiti from Historic Masonry, Technical Preservation Brief 38. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1995. Available at www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/brief38.htm.

Webster, Robin G.M. (ed.). *Stone Cleaning and the Nature, Soiling and Decay Mechanisms of Stone.* Shaftesbury (Dorset): Donhead Publishing, 1992.

White, Jane Baber. *Once Upon a Time...A Cemetery Story.* Lynchburg, Virginia: Blackwell Press, 2009.

Whitford, M.J. *Getting Rid of Graffiti: A Practical Guide to Graffiti Removal and Antigraffiti Protection.* London: E & FN Spon, 1992

Zielinski, A.K. *Conservation of Cemeteries.* Toronto: RestorTech Press Toronto, 1988.

Websites

(AGS) Association for Gravestone Studies: *http://www.gravestonestudies.org/*

(Anon.) Gravestone restoration and cleaning: *http://www.geocities.com/scvinfo/restoration.html*

(Arkansas Historic Preservation Program) Preservation of Arkansas's historic cemeteries:*http://www.arkansaspreservation.org, preservation-services/cemeteries-preservation/.*

(CGN) Connecticut Gravestone Network: *http://www.ctgravestones.com/.*

(Chicora Foundation) Cemetery preservation: *http://www.chicora.org/cemetery-preservation.htm.*

(Conservation Solutions) Case studies: *http://www.conservationsolution.com/work casestudies.html*

(CSP) Cathedral Stone Products: *http://www.jahnmortars.com index.html.*

Dunk, J., and J. Rugg. 1994. The Management of Old Cemetery Land: Now and the Future - A Report of the University of York Cemetery Research Group. Crayford: Shaw & Sons. *http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/chp/crg.*

Grimmer, Anne E., "Dangers of abrasive cleaning to historic buildings," Pres. Brief 6: *http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/brief06.htm.*

McGanee, Susan H. and Mary W. Edmonds. South Carolina's Historic Cemeteries: a preservation handbook. South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1997 *http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/hstcm.pdf.*

Mackay, R. 1990. Cemetery Conservation. Technical Information Bulletin No. 27. Sydney: Royal Australian Historical Society. *http://www.rahs.org.au/publications.html#TIS*

(Preservation Resource Group) Publications available from PRG *http://www.prginc.com/Publications/index-pubs.html*

Price, C.A. (The Getty Conservation Institute) Stone Conservation: An Overview of Current Research. *http://www.getty.edu/conservation/resources/stoneconservation.pdf*

(ProSoCo) Restoration & conservation *http://www.prosoco.com/ProductList.asp?m=0&i=3*

(Save Our Cemeteries) Restorations *http://www.saveourcemeteries.org/restoration/index.htm*

(Saving Graves) Lifting stones with a tripod hoist*: http://www.savinggraves.com/education/bookshelf/tripod.htm*

(Sculptor.Org) Cemeteries *http://www.sculptor.org/Cemeteries/default.htm*

(The Texas Historical Commission) Historic cemeteries in Texas *http://www.thc.state.tx.us/cemeteries/cemdefault.html*

(US Heritage Group) Masonry restoration, mortar testing and matching, lime mortar and stone patch supply. *http://www.usheritage.com*

(University of Portsmouth) Gravestone weathering *http://www.envf.port.ac.uk/geo/inkpenr/graveweb/gravestone.htm*

Weaver, Martin E., "Removing graffiti from historic masonry," Pres. Brief 38: *http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/brief38.htm*

Wikipedia,http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Old_map-New_Braunfels-1881.jpg

Further Resources

Examples of standardized forms for grave marker surveys can be found at the following site: *http://www.rootsweb.com/~wapsgs/education/cemetery_documentation.PDF and http://shpo.prd.state.or.us/ochc/hccsurvey.php*

Also consult:

Association for Gravestone Studies
278 Main Street, Suite 207, Greenfield, MA 01301
Tel. (413) 772-0836
infor@gravestonestudies.org
www.gravestonestudies.org

Chicora Foundation
P.O. Box 8664, Columbia, SC 29202
Tel. (803) 787-6910
www.chicora.org/cemetery.htm

NPS Technical Preservation Services Preservation Briefs (http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm):

- 02: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings
- 06: Dangers of Abrasive Cleaning to Historic Buildings
- 10: Exterior Paint Problems on Historic Woodwork
- 15: Preservation of Historic Concrete
- 17: Architectural Character - Identifying the Visual Aspects of Historic Buildings as an Aid to Preserving Their Character
- 25: The Preservation of Historic Signs
- 27: The Maintenance and Repair of Architectural Cast Iron
- 32: Making Historic Properties Accessible
- 36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes
- 38: Removing Graffiti from Historic Masonry
- 42: The Maintenance, Repair and Replacement of Historic Cast Stone

Appendix A: Typologies

Curb Typology

In both the New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries, both family and individual burial plots are often outlined by low curbs, some punctuated by low piers of a variety of design and many of these supporting ornamental finials. The curbs are usually of poured concrete, but are also fabricated from red granite, grey granite, marble, concrete masonry units, fieldstone, or other materials (Figures A-1 through A-10) (NB= New Braunfels Cemetery, CC=Comal Cemetery). Styles of piers range from Gothic to Classical to vernacular (Figures A-5 and A-49). Some plot borders are also ornamented by intermediate piers with carved motifs (Figure A-4). A wide variety of finials ornament the curbs in both Classical and Gothic styles, as well as handful of vernacular examples (Figures A-51 through A-58). In general, the finials have survived more successfully than the host curbs although there have been instances of theft. Interestingly, in at least two instances, stolen finials have been replaced with local stone, including one fossilized shell and a boulder of ferrous stone (see Figures A-57 and A-58).

Figure A-1. Simple poured concrete curb and pier surrounding a family plot (CC). This type is the most common in both cemeteries. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-2. The bedstead formed of poured concrete is also very common in both cemeteries (NB). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-3. Ornate poured concrete curb and stepped threshold for a family plot (NB). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-4. Red granite curb enclosing a family plot with piers framing its threshold (NB). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-5. Grey granite curb ornamented with a low pier with a classical motif (CC). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-6. Ornate marble curb outlining a double burial plot (CC). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-7. Ornate concrete units enclose an individual plot (CC). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-8. Native field limestone curb with piers that surrounds a family plot (NB). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-9. Simple concrete masonry unit plot border constructed with garden edging (CC). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-10. Another individual plot bordered with garden edging (CC). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-11. Classically-styled finial. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-12. Orbs are also Classical. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-13. Acorns represent strength and patience. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-14. Gothic finial with rusticated finish. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-15. Gothic finial with a more pronounced arch. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-16. Finial made from a fossil shell mortared to a curb pier. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-17. Finial made from a specimen of round local stone. *JMA, 2009.*

Plot Cover Typology

Concrete and gravel paving of family or individual burial plots is common in both cemeteries. It reflects the attempt of descendents to show respect for their dead by maintaining neat conditions, but at the same time, the dilemma of having fewer human and financial resources to practice grave scraping or other traditional maintenance practices. Concrete and gravel paving, however, have their own problems. Concrete paving on plots often suffers displacement and cracking over time due to the quality of the clay soils (Figure A-33). Concrete work that involves an initial pour with second, finish pour of finer aggregate can weather or fail when water seeps underneath the topping (Figure A-36). Animal burrows can also affect the stability of plot covers, as can general erosion leading to undermining (Figures A-37 and A-38).

While gravel plot covers are not affected by stabilization issues, they present a continual problem in weed control. Raised plots are particularly problematic in that it is difficult to control grass and weed growth within current maintenance budgets except to use power trimmers. This can lead to damage to curbing and monuments. Another option is to gain control through the use of herbicides, but this is less environmentally preferable. Herbicide use is the current practice for weed control in those plots with perpetual care contracts.

Figure A-18. Two family plots that have been covered by poured concrete (NB). Note that the shrink-swell tendency of the soil has led to cracking. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-19. Gravel-paved plots have fewer subsidence issues, but gravel attracts weeds (CC). In this case, maintenance crews use herbicide for control. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-20. Raised plots are plagued with weeds and grass, which are difficult to control except through trimming or removal by hand (NB) *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-21. This concrete topping failed due to issues of ponding where water pools and seeps into masonry (NB). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-37. Individual burial plot covered with concrete. Note that subsequent erosion has bevelled the over pour, indicating the shallow depth of the work (NB). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-38. These shell-encrusted plot covers suffer from cracking due to subsidence and also loss of most of their shell ornamentation (NB). *JMA, 2009.*

Grave Marker Typology

'They would be in the church, and then they would go from the church to the cemetery, and then there would be just a few words said at the cemetery. At that time, years ago, you would stay there at the cemetery until—they don't do that now—they would go ahead and let the body down, you would sit there until they covered it up, put the flowers on it and everything, and then everybody would leave. Now, they don't do that. They say a few words, then they say you're dismissed, and people go around and talk for a few minutes, then get in their cars and leave. And then if you want to see the grave when it's, you know, the next day you can go out there and see what the flowers and things are on it.'

- Mary Johnson *on changes in grave side services over the years*

Collectively, grave markers found in the New Braunfels and Comal cemeteries reflect the rich cultural and historical diversity of the community, and serve as important reminders of the evolutionary nature of grave design from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. They are, in effect, architectural representations of cultures, styles, and social trends, as well as invaluable historical records of families and individuals. While each marker is unique in some respects, there remains a broader context best identified by type and style. This typology is therefore designed to provide a general overview of dominant elements within the cemeteries and to serve as a reference point for planning and interpretive purposes.

In general, the cultural landscapes of the two cemeteries trend from the vertical elements as the earliest to the horizontal as the most recent. Materials include quarried stone (both regional and from sources outside Texas), metal, concrete, wood, decorative glass, ceramics, and other materials. Grave decorations include landscaping materials, mementos, concrete items, benches, floral arrangements, rocks, glass, ceramics, and seashells.

A typology has been developed to described these grave markers as a group. The major categories include: architectural stones, ashlar-cut stones, false crypts, folk art, military stones, metal markers, wood markers, vertical markers, statuary, shouldered stones, and modern markers (Figures A-1 through A-32).

ARCHITECTURAL STONES: grave markers that reference architectural elements or periods, most often of classical influence, but also exhibiting Gothic and Victorian elements.

Figure A-1. This ornate arched gateway plot marker has both Classical and Gothic elements (CC). Its overall form, the three urn finials, and plaques with acanthus leaves are Classical references, while the arched opening is Gothic in style. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-33. Victorian markers characterized by their cross-gabled tops and other features (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-2. The Classical influence can be seen in this marker's Tuscan columns and triangular pediment (NB). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-4. The lancet shape of this marker suggests a Gothic influence (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

ASHLAR CUT STONES: generally rectilinear stones with a smoothed or steel rolled face for the inscription side and quarry (rough cut) faces on the other sides; may be both vertical or horizontal in massing.

Figure A-5. Example of an ashlar cut stone. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

FALSE CRYPTS: elevated slightly above the surrounding land and usually capped with a one-piece stone or concrete slab that covers the gravesite.

Figure A-6. Example of a false crypt. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

MILITARY: standard, arched-top, white marble stone design used to denote the graves of military veterans; date from the nineteenth century to the present (metal plaques also used in recent years).

Figure A-7. A military marker executed in marble. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

BAS RELIEF DETAILING: carvings that appear to stand proud of the stone face.

Figure A-8. Example of a bas relief detail executed in granite (NB). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

FOLK ART: an individualized style of design; often exuberant and evocative of family or cultural associations; may include personal mementos, such as photographs, letters, toys, pottery, religious decorations, statuary, and wind chimes.

Figure A-9. Garden figurine (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-10. Hand made headstone (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-11. Hand-crafted shell mound (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

METAL: comprised entirely of metal or incorporating major components of metal; can include iron, bronze, zinc, aluminum, and other materials. See also Modern stones.

Figure A-12. Metal cross with mixed symbology. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-13. Metal cross made by Alamo Ironworks (NB) *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

WOOD: Once common in most Texas cemeteries, especially in the pre-railroad era before the ready availability of manufactured stones, wooden markers (and fences and grave houses, as well) were susceptible to erosional elements, insect infestations, and fires. Wooden markers are among the rarest and most vulnerable elements in the cemeteries. See also Folk Art.

Figure A-14. Wooden cross with metal plaque (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

TABLET STONES: relatively thin, vertical stones; generally from an earlier era, particularly the nineteenth century; most often comprised of marble and limestone; vulnerable to breakage; tops of tablet stones show a variety of finishes, from simple flat lines to ornate arches.

Figure A-15. Limestone tablet (NB). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-16. Tablet exhibiting a hex symbol (NB). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-17. Limestone arched-top tablet with weeping willow motif (NB). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

VERTICAL MARKERS: A variety of markers with a vertical orientation. More common in the Victorian era and transitioning to horizontal markers beginning in the early 20th century.

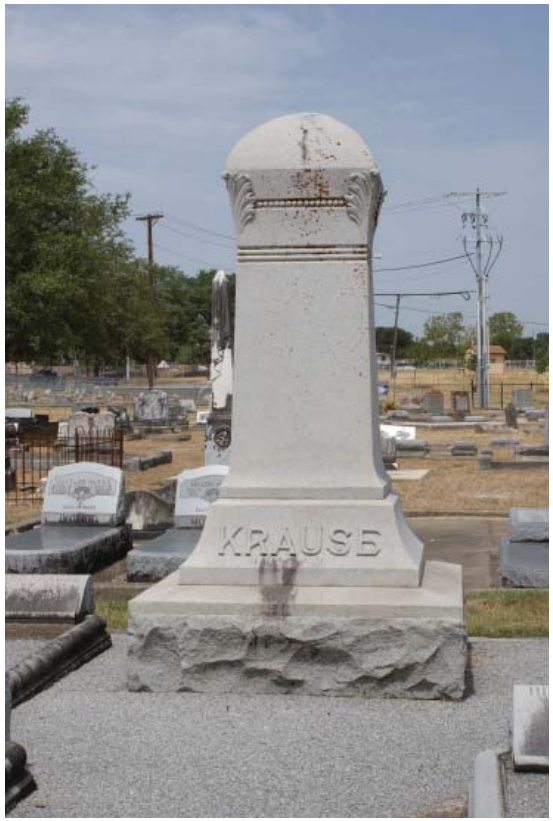


Figure A-18. Example of a monumental type marker: generally large vertical or broadly massed stones centrally located within a plot to denote the family name; also found at graves of prominent individuals, they range in design from relatively simple, with clean lines, to highly ornate and stylized (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-19. Example of an obelisk, a monolithic, vertical pillar that tapers to a pyramidal point at the top; ancient design; most often associated with earlier burials (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

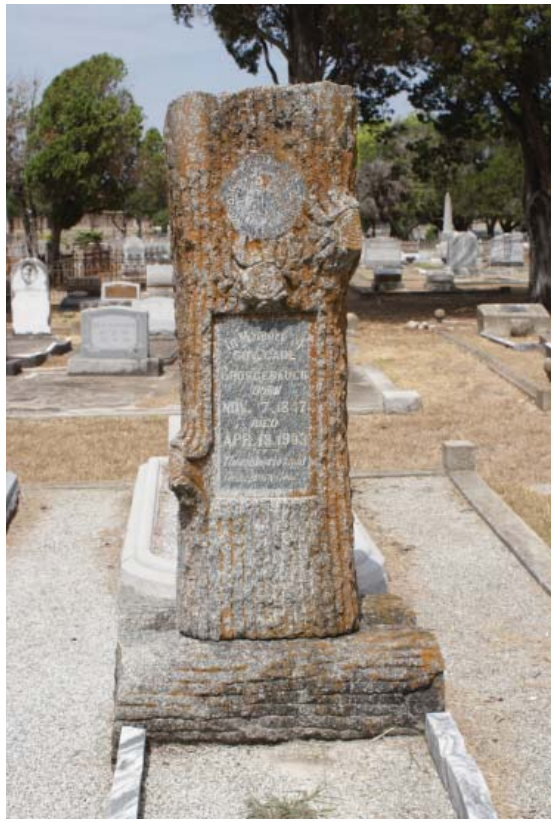


Figure A-20. Example of a rustic-style vertical marker (CC). These stones are shaped to reflect natural elements; the most common are Woodmen of the World monuments, which typically feature stylized timber motifs (tree trunks, cut logs, etc.) *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

VERTICAL MARKERS - TRANSITIONAL: Taller markers were more common in the Victorian era. These examples show a transitioning period to horizontal markers beginning in the early 20th century.

Figure A-21. Square, columned stones have a relatively short (3-4 foot) squared shaft; generally from the early twentieth century at a pivotal point in overall monument design from vertical to horizontal massing; may be topped by stylized draped material, flowers, and other elements (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-22. Pulpit stones are squared, columnar stones evocative of a preacher's pulpit, often topped with a Bible. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-23. Pearly gates motif often found on columnar stones from the early twentieth century; stylized gates may feature accompanying elements, most often doves, crosses, crowns, hands, or heavenly streetscapes; the pearly gates motif may also be found on larger vertical stones from the same time period. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

STATUARY: most commonly replicating angels and saints, as well as other religious figures and iconography; may include urns, lambs, and other funereal representations.

Figure A-24. Angel carved from marble (NB). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-25. Lamb statue for a child's grave (NB). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-26. Pillow, or scroll stones are evocative of a headrest on a funeral bier; most designs of this type in the New Braunfels cemeteries feature a side scroll or other decorative motif; they can be both horizontal and more elevated. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

SHOULDERED STONES: monolithic, modern stones evocative of Palladian design, shaped with a higher, vertical center element flanked symmetrically by shorter side panels (shoulders); the tops of shouldered stones are generally polished, allowing them to shed water efficiently.

Figure A-27. Shouldered stones carved from red granite (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-28. Split-shouldered stone, similar in overall massing to the shouldered stone, but with the central element separated or replaced with space for a vertical floral arrangement (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-29. Slab stones are monolithic, flat stones that cover the gravesite; may be mounted flush to the ground or slightly elevated; see false crypts (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

MODERN: dating generally from the 1960s to the present, reflecting a general trend in cemetery maintenance that emphasizes low, horizontal markers that allow greater access for mechanized mowers and trimmers.

Figure A-30. This flat granite marker has been personalized with an engraved image of a fish (CC). *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-31. These slat, stylized metal plates (most often bronze or brass) attached to concrete or stone bases and may include detachable metal vases for floral arrangements. Some recent military veterans' graves also incorporate the metal plaques. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Figure A-32. These in-ground horizontal markers are flush-mounted to ground level (CC). They can be made from either metal or stone. *Cynthia J. Beeman, 2009.*

Fence Typology

Together, the two historic cemeteries display a large and varied collection of primarily Victorian wrought and cast iron fencing, bent steel fencing, "gas pipe" fencing, post-and-chain, and a few zinc fencing elements (refer Figures 2-50 through 2-54). Many of the fencing systems were ordered from catalogs furnished by companies such as Stewart Iron Works, which was active in producing cemetery fencing in the early 20th century. In the Comal Cemetery, there is also one example of a wood fence, designed in the Colonial Revival style (Figure 3-70).

Figure 3-112. Traditional two-rail fence with modified *fleur de lis* picket top (CC). Inscription on plot entrance gate reads "F. Moureau, 1876." *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-113. Three-rail fence with flattened floral picket tops (CC). Note spear-point top on corner post. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-114. Traditional three-rail fence with spear-point pickets (CC). Inscription reads "Lindheimer" and the manufacturer is identified as Springfield Architectural Iron Works in Springfield, Ohio. Note pipe-style corner pose. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-115. Three-rail scalloped picket fence with spear point picket top and flat metal scroll work decorating the gate (CC). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-116. Bow-and-picket fence with ornate cast iron gate posts (CC). A small plate identifies the manufacturer as "The Stewart Iron Works, Cincinnatti, Ohio." This branch of the company closed in 1914. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-60. Traditional three-rail metal fence with simple finials and a bent metal gate. Metal plaque indicates manufacture by the Cincinnati Iron Fence Company. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-117. Short-long picket fence with "broken arrow" ornamentation (CC). Plates identify the manufacturer as "The Valley Forge Patent" fence company of Knoxville, Tennessee, that closed ca. 1903. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-123. This ornate, cast-iron fence with a weeping willow motif surrounds a family plot (CC). The fence panels are supported by cast posts ornamented with a spiral design and acanthus patterns, and toped with a spear-point finial. The matching entrance gate was stolen. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-62. One of the few cast-iron fences found in the New Braunfels Cemetery. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-120. Unusual bent steel fence supported by steel pipes topped with spear-point finials (CC). Gate supports a plate identifying this as the Goreth family plot. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-64. "Gas pipe" fencing was used to mark the boundary of this family plot (NB). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-124. This unusual wood fence surrounds a double family plot (CC). It displays Colonial Revival features, such as the diagonal fence boards and cut out ornamental silhouette on the gate. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure A-65. Unusual bent metal fence with aggressive spear finials and posts topped with acorn shapes (NB). The finials are probably zinc because they have not rusted. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-121. Fence constructed of iron or steel pipe with ornamental connectors and ball post finals (CC). Connectors are decorated with acanthus motifs and gate topped with an attached plaque displaying the family name. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-119. Woven wire fence supported by a system of steel tubing (CC). Acorn finials top the gate posts, the gate is ornamented by scrolled bent steel, and the fence sections with bent or cast metal with a Celtic-type cross design. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-118. Remains of a system of stone posts and looped, spiked chain (CC). *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-122. This woven-wire fence is held in place by a steel T-frame that is attached to large, steel, open-frame posts (CC). The gate is topped with scrolled bent steel with an acorn finial. *JMA, 2009.*

Figure 3-118. System of posts, single rails, and looped chain (CC). Note the floral motif and the spiked chain links. *JMA, 2009.*

Appendix B: Documentation

Documentation of Markers and Enclosures

Organized documentation of the architectural features of each plot should be used for the management of cemetery resources. Documentation is important so that the history of previous interventions can help guide appropriate maintenance and future treatments. Documentation can include information on the type, condition, repair records and other data on each plot:

- Create an electronic database of cemetery plots that includes known burial information, wall and fence features, monument type and condition, inscriptions, and photographs.
- Curate the collection of monuments and other cemetery features as an important collection of historical artifacts.
- Establish a working relationship with an architectural conservator to provide ongoing consultation for various conservation issues to ensure that correct methods and practices are applied.
- Work with the Texas Historical Commission to develop additional guidelines for cemetery records and cemetery management that complement the recommendations set out in this master plan.

Attached are the sample Monument Survey Data Form and Structures Survey Data Form to use a guide in documenting grave markers and structures such as plot enclosures, fencing systems, and others. Also attached is the Texas Historical Commission's Cemetery Survey Form. These forms should be further tailored to adapt to these particular cemeteries and the survey methodology.

Documentation of Vegetation

Thorough documentation of cemetery vegetation is important for the management of historic plants, trees in particular. Locate each tree, shrub, and perennial planting using GPS and incorporate into the city database. Then, assess the condition of historic plants referring to the attached Vegetation Survey Data Form. Although this was developed for trees, it can also be used to document shrubs and other historic plants.

OAKWOOD CEMETERY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MONUMENTS SURVEY DATA SHEET

Date Surveyed: _____

ID No. _____

Date _____

Orientation ☐ N-S ☐ E-W

Quadrant _____ Plot _____

Image No. 1 _____
Image No. 2: _____
Image No. 3: _____
Image No. 4: _____

Type

- ☐ Headstone
- ☐ Footstone
- ☐ False Crypt
- ☐ Cenotaph
- ☐ Gravehouse
- ☐ Sarcophagus
- ☐ Mausoleum

Other: _____

Material

- ☐ Granite
- ☐ Limestone
- ☐ Cast Iron
- ☐ Wrought Iron
- ☐ Concrete
- ☐ Zinc
- ☐ Bronze
- ☐ Stucco
- ☐ Wood
- ☐ Marble
- ☐ Metal

Other: _____

Design:

- ☐ Three-Dimensional
- ☐ Two-Dimensional
- ☐ Applied Decoration
- ☐ Grave Goods
- ☐ Symbolism

No. Internments _____

Single Burial ☐

Mutliple Burial ☐

Family Name _____

Name 1 _____	Birth 1: _____	Death 1: _____
Name 2 _____	Birth 2: _____	Death 2: _____
Name 3 _____	Birth 3: _____	Death 3: _____
Name 4 _____	Birth 4: _____	Death 4: _____
Name 5 _____	Birth 5: _____	Death 5: _____
Name 6 _____	Birth 6: _____	Death 6: _____
Name 7 _____	Birth 7: _____	Death 7: _____
Name 8 _____	Birth 8: _____	Death 8: _____
Name 9 _____	Birth 9: _____	Death 9: _____
Name 10 _____	Birth 10: _____	Death 10: _____

Condition

Notes

Recorded By

Encoded By

SAMPLE CEMETERY SURVEY FORM

Name of Cemetery _____ County _____
Location Ref. No. _____ Photo Date _____
Name of Recorder _____ Negative No. _____
Date of Recording _____

NAME(S):
_____
Last First Middle

MARKER AND ASSOCIATED OBJECTS:
❒ head ❒ tablet with slotted base
❒ foot ❒ curbing
❒ crypt ❒ fencing
❒ slab ❒ other _____

MATERIAL:
❒ granite ❒ concrete
❒ marble ❒ metal
❒ limestone ❒ combination
❒ sandstone ❒ other _____
❒ wood

ORIENTATION (marker faces):
❒ N ❒ S ❒ E ❒ W ❒ NE ❒ SE ❒ NW ❒ SW

OVERALL DIMENSIONS: Width_____ Height _____ Depth _____

CARVED SURFACES:
❒ front ❒ side panels
❒ back ❒ end panels
❒ top ❒ other _____

CONDITION OF CARVING:
❒ mint ❒ traces
❒ clear but worn ❒ illegible
❒ mostly readable ❒ underground

DESCRIPTION OF DESIGN: _____
_____
_____
_____

OVERALL CONDITION:
❒ soiled ❒ biological activity ❒ tilted/fallen/sunken
❒ stained ❒ erosion ❒ open joints
❒ delaminating ❒ blistering/flaking/scaling/powdering ❒ fragmented
❒ graffiti ❒ cracked ❒ losses
❒ other damage_____
❒ previous repairs_____

RECORD INSCRIPTION:

Photo

Repairs (date) _____
Work Performed _____
_____

OAKWOOD CEMETERY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
STRUCTURES SURVEY DATA SHEET

Date Surveyed: _____

ID No: _____ Quadrant: _____ Image No. 1: _____ Image No 3: _____

Plot No. _____ Image No. 2: _____ Image No 4: _____

Type

- ☐ Enclosure
  - ☐ Wall
  - ☐ Curb
  - ☐ Fencing
- ☐ Seating
- ☐ Building
- ☐ Other _____

Material:

- ☐ Concrete
- ☐ Brick
- ☐ Marble
- ☐ Granite
- ☐ Metal
  - ☐ Cast Iron
  - ☐ Wrought Iron
  - ☐ Wires
    - ☐ Barbed Wire
    - ☐ Decorative Wire
    - ☐ Cyclone

Other: _____

Description

Condition

Notes

Recorded B y

Encoded B y

OAKWOOD CEMETERY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
VEGETATION SURVEY DATA SHEET

Date Surveyed: _____

ID No.: _____ Quadrant: _____ Image No: _____

Common Name _____ Species _____

Type

- ☐ Large Tree
- ☐ Small Tree
- ☐ Shrub
- ☐ Perennial
- ☐ Ground Cover
- ☐ Other:

Height _____

Average Spread _____

Tree Class

- Class:I ☐
- Class:II ☐
- Class:III ☐
- Class:IV ☐

Caliper Inches _____

Spread _____

- N ☐
- S ☐
- E ☐
- W ☐

Condition

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

Recommendation

- ☐ Prune
- ☐ Remove
- ☐ Treat for disease
- ☐ None

Notes

Recorded By

Encoded By

Appendix C: Condition Definition Chart

General Condition Definitions

The following chart illustrates the typical conditions identified within both cemeteries:

Condition	Description	Causes	Sample Photograph
Biological Growth	Problems related to growth or infestation of fungi, algae, or microbes. This may result in staining and bio-deterioration of masonry pore structure. Lichen florets and discs are the most common problem in these cemeteries. Some general algae growth and red biological staining also appears.	Excess moisture, temperature flux, and retention of moisture by grass cuttings left on markers.	
Cracking-Minor 1/4" to 1/2" **Major- <1/2"**	Narrow, medium, or wide separations in surfaces that extend through the thickness of a layer or entirely through the unit. Detrimental cracks promote loss of material strength and encourage further deterioration through moisture penetration.	Differential stress, pressure, temperature and humidity variations, mechanical defects, or structural failure.	
Disaggregation	Irreversible loss of binder from the matrix of the stone. Disaggregation may occur on markers and plot enclosures due to weathering, freeze-thaw action, or inherent properties in the material such as an internal weakness.	Deterioration of binder within the stone from moisture.	

Encasement	The practice of embedding historic materials into concrete or other modern materials with the intention to preserve them. This practice, however, obscures these historic materials and may cause damage by trapping in moisture or by directing movement to the historic material.	Embedding in concrete.	
General Soiling	Any foreign matter (inorganic or organic) which accumulates on a historic material over time, commonly referred to as dirt, grime, or other residues.	Found in protected areas that are not frequently washed by rain. Also occurring in areas of debris build-up, such as grass cuttings.	
Inappropriate Repair	Repairs with mortars and epoxies that have a poor color match and are too firm for the surrounding material, leading to the eventual exacerbation of cracking and separation.	Poor maintenance or lack of understanding of physical properties of a material. This image shows inappropriate epoxy repair of marble.	
Loss	Damage to elements of the historic fabric of markers of plot enclosures that may be defined as significant due to its effect on a character-defining feature. This especially effects cemetery statuary.	Vandalism or breakage caused by tilting, falling, and tree limb falls.	

Mower, Trimmer, or Vehicle Damage	Lawn mowers, trimmers, and larger vehicles have scratched and chipped markers and plot curbs within both cemeteries. This most often affects masonry curbs and markers that are located at the corners of cemetery lanes.	Scratch pattern from trimmers, and chips and other damage from mowers and other vehicles.	
Open Joint	Loss of a weather-tight seal between units of two or more pieces of masonry. Often this extends to the complete loss of mortar, leading to loss of structural integrity of the feature.	Erosion leading to cracking, lack of maintenance, and moisture penetration.	
Over Cleaning	Aggressive cleaning methodologies that leave residual chemicals behind that further damage material or which cause surface loss from repetitive cleaning events. These are typically done with power washing and bleach.	Aggressive bleaching and scouring with sodium hypochlorite (common bleach), which contains salts that damage stone. The use of beach often leads to yellowing and eroded surfaces.	
Over Growth	Plots where vegetation has not been maintained or replaced as appropriate. Typically, tree roots can displace masonry or cause upheaval.	Lack of appropriate horticultural maintenance of historic trees and shrubs.	

Soil Shrink and Swell	Heavy clay soils susceptible to shrink-swell cycles lead to monument and curb upheaval.	Soil movement has caused upheaval and tilting of these monuments and shell covers.	
Ponding	When water collects in pools on flat surfaces, it causes the saturation of surrounding materials and undue stress.	Poor design (does not drain) or areas of erosion.	
Rising Damp	Movement of moisture upward through permeable materials by capillary action; water migrates up through the material and waterborne soluble salt deposits are left in the voids and pores. Rising damp can be identified by a line of efflorescence or micro-cracks at the level of evaporation. Salts from the soil can be potentially dangerous if they remain in the masonry and crystallize beneath the surface as subflorescence, which may eventually cause the surface of the masonry to spall.	Joint failure, poor grading of foundation, failure of protection from water penetration, or inherent properties of the material.	

Historic Preservation Plan for Municipal Cemeteries

New Braunfels, Texas

John Milner Associates, Inc.
300 West Main Street, Suite 201
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

Laura Knott, Project Manager
Lane Burritt, Materials Conservator
and
Dan K. Utley, Historian
Cynthia J. Beeman, Historian