CHCs and Cemetery Preservation
THC’s Historic Cemetery Preservation Program

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintain an inventory of cemeteries</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess the condition of cemeteries</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide an inventory of cemeteries for public</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean or repair objects in cemeteries</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain an inventory of cemetery orgs.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner with cemetery organizations</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Encourage Projects That:
• Result in long-term impact
• Emphasize preservation
• Generate public awareness
• Build capacity
• Use resources wisely
• Benefit all cemeteries
• Demonstrate a strong preservation ethic
• Rooted in inventory, assessment
• Direct preservation outcome?
• Resources used efficiently, effectively?
• Wide-spread benefit?
• Demonstrates preservation knowledge, ethic?
• Long-term impact?
• Builds support?
CHCs & Cemetery Preservation Study Project

Telephone interviews = 40 counties
Online Survey = 126 counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Population</th>
<th># Responses</th>
<th>% Responses</th>
<th>Vs. # Statewide</th>
<th>Vs. % Statewide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1: Under 5,000</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2: 5,000-10,000</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 3: 10,001-50,000</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 4: 50,001-100,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 5: Over 100,000</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Findings: Common Challenges

- Lack of maintenance (or best practices)
- Not enough people (who care or to do work)
- Not enough money
- No cemetery trustee (no one’s in charge)
- Difficult to access cemeteries on private property
Key Findings: Cemetery Activities

**What = Successful Preservation:**

- Maintain a list of cemeteries in county
- Locate and document abandoned cemeteries
- Monitor conditions and threats
- Maintain accurate burial records
- Obtain accurate GPS coordinates

**CHCs Report Doing This:**

- Maintain a list of cemeteries in county
- Locate and document abandoned cemeteries
- Monitor conditions and threats
- HTC Markers & Designations
- Work w/ city, county, law officials to enforce laws
Key Findings: Inventory

Keep it safe and accessible! Make good use of it!
A Suggested Framework for County-Wide Cemetery Preservation

1. Identify all cemeteries in county.
2. Determine who is working with each cemetery.
3. Determine what each cemetery needs.
4. Determine how the CHC can help preserve the cemetery itself or help others preserve the cemetery. Take action accordingly.
IDENTIFICATION & ASSESSMENT

• Foundation for any type of preservation plan
• Boosts efficiency, effectiveness
• Promotes responsible use of resources
• Emphasizes county-wide approach
• Aligns with CHC’s statutory assignments (Local Gov’t Code Chapter 318)
...Break...

10 Minutes
IDENTIFY
Your CHC is about to update an inventory that was first prepared several decades ago. Think about:

• **Who** might have compiled it?

• **What information** was available to them then?

• Are there **directions**? Could you drive to it now?

• Why might it be challenging to use this inventory?

• **What improvements** might you need to make the next time?
• Is it complete?
• Does the old inventory have a map?
• Directions
• What are some of the challenges to use this inventory?
• What information they would have had available to them at the time?
• What resources do we have available today?
• What improvements might you need to make this time around?
Google Earth

Cemeteries of Brazoria County Texas

Gloria B. Mayfield, Cemeteries of TX Project Manager

Last updated: May 23, 2008
# Details for Menard (Atlas Number 7373001605)

Cemetery — Atlas Number 7373001605

- **Record Data**
- **Map**

## Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery ID Number</td>
<td>PK-C016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery Name</td>
<td>Menard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Names</td>
<td>Menard’s Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directions</td>
<td>SE area of county, on a dirt road that forks to the N about 1.2 miles from Hwy 146.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Polk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTC Designation Date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⚠️ Report an error with this data
IDENTIFY – What information to collect

- Name
- AKA
- Location
IDENTIFY – What information to collect

- Name
- AKA
- Location

- Description
  - # of Graves
  - Dates
- Rough Size
A team is a combination of Researchers and Explorers, Gatherers and Enterers.

Everyone has something to offer.

All age groups can be included.
Divide and Conquer
TYPES OF CEMETERIES

Perpetual Care, County, and Municipal, Cemetery Organization

Abandoned Cemetery
- No Cem. Organization
- No Conservatorship
- Not Maintenance

Unknown Cemetery
- Does not appear on map(s) and/or deed(s)

Unmarked Grave(s)

Unidentified Grave(s)

Unverified Cemetery
- Location with some evidence of interment that has not been verified by a professional

Identity Known

Identity Unknown
BREAK
10 min
CHCs know who (if anyone) is responsible for each cemetery and how to contact them.
FOREST HILL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

1700 South Washington Avenue

JOHN A. and MAHALA JONES FAMILY CEMETERY

This is a private family cemetery reserved for the direct descendents of John A. and Mahala Jones. No burials are
• Make regular contact
• Keep tabs on activities & goals
• Connect them with one another
• Connect them with preservation resources
• Communicate CHC’s willingness and capacity to assist
Make it easier for stakeholders to make connections.
No Caretaker

With Caretaker
Who to contact? Who gives permission?
LUNCH BREAK
45 min
Assess – Endangerment Factors (needs and threats)

- Knowing the types of threats and how to prioritize
- Laws
- Preservation guidelines
Natural Threats
Man-Made Threats
Is it a threat?
Preservation Guidelines
FACTORS IN DETERMINING ENDANGERMENT LEVEL

- Not Fenced
- Adjacent Development
- Not Maintained
- Broken markers
- Owner won’t allow access
- Vandalism
- Cemetery Association is acting without bylaws
- Does not appear on a map
- No signage
- No visible markers
- Cem ass’n’s record-keeper in hospital
- Remote; difficult to get to
- No evidence of recent visitation
- Trash, dumping area,
- Off-road vehicle tire marks
- Gate won’t close
- No cemetery association
Access & Law Enforcement
Assess – Top 5, ok maybe 6 Cemetery Laws

Texas Health and Safety Code
• Access
• Definitions
• Dedication
• Notices

Texas Penal Code
• Enforcement
• Criminal Penalties
BREAK
10 min
CHCs know how to address a cemetery’s needs and/or support the work of others.

Raise Public Awareness & Build Capacity
• Raise awareness of preservation standards and best practices.
• Promote resources available from THC, CHC, and other relevant partners.
• Implement programs that foster an understanding of cemeteries as cultural landscapes.
In Dayton, a fence comes down that marked a racial divide

Why Oakland Cemetery, Where 127 Years of Dallas’ History is Buried, Has Suddenly Been Abandoned

By Robert Wilonsky - The Dallas Morning News - Published at 5:27 pm on August 30, 2019
The Path to Stewardship

- Curiosity
- Awareness
- Understanding
- Care About
- Care For

Adapted from CIH Training, National Association for Interpretation
Options for New Trusteeship, per Health & Safety Code

- Form a nonprofit org. of plot owners = 711.022
- Local (municipal) possession = 713.009
- County trust fund = 713.021
- County maintenance = 713.028
- Permanent conservatorship by nonprofit org. = 715
CULTIVATE
BREAK
10 min
Izabella Z. Nuckels
Environmental Program Coordinator
City of Austin | Parks and Recreation Department
Cemetery Operations
Q&A
THURSDAY
Lost and Found: The Nexus of Cemetery ID, Archeology, Urban Planning, and Community Involvement  9:30 AM-10:45 AM
Breakout Session 1B

All You Need to Know About Masonry Cleaning  2:15 PM-3:30 PM
Breakout Session 3A

FRIDAY
Mindful Masonry: The Basics of Preserving Historic Masonry  9:30 AM-10:45 AM
Breakout Session 5B

ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVESTONE STUDIES 2020
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 23-28 IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

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