

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY MARKERS:
2011 Official Texas Historical Marker
Sponsorship Application Form**

Valid September 1, 2010 to November 15, 2010 only

This form constitutes a public request for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to consider approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the topic noted in this application. The THC will review the request and make its determination based on rules and procedures of the program. Filing of the application for sponsorship is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. The final determination of eligibility and therefore approval for a state marker will be made by the THC. This form is to be used for cemetery marker requests only. Please see separate forms for either Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (building) markers or subject markers.

NOTE: The Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation is a prerequisite for HTC markers. If the cemetery is not yet designated, that process must be completed, and not just in process, before applying for a marker. Information regarding the HTC designation can be found on the THC web site: (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/cemeteries/cemhtc.html>).

Marker title (must be exactly as listed in the HTC designation): Carrollton Black Cemetery

County: Dallas

Town (nearest county town on state highway map): Carrollton, Texas

Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above: Marker located just south of Beltline Road between I-35 E and 121 in Dallas County. Cemetery is located next to the Church on the Rock North.

NOTE: Historic Texas Cemetery markers must be placed at the cemetery being marked. They cannot be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Historic Texas Cemetery markers

Definition:

Historic Texas Cemetery markers are only for burial grounds previously approved for HTC designation. These markers recognize the historical significance of a cemetery and, with the use of interpretive plaques, provide background on associated communities, families, events and customs. HTC markers must be placed at the cemetery, but since cemeteries are protected under other existing laws, they convey no restrictions on the property.

Criteria:

1. **HTC designation:** All steps of the HTC designation process must be completed by the time of application for the HTC marker.
2. **Historical/cultural significance:** Completion of the HTC designation does not ensure approval for an HTC marker; it is only a prerequisite. The application for an HTC marker with an interpretive plaque must include the same type of detailed history required for other

markers. In addition to the Context, Overview, Significance and Documentation sections, it must also include a Description section that provides a detailed overview of the physical site and includes mention of the cemetery setting and descriptions of significant landscape features or noteworthy burial markers and funereal practices.

Special Considerations for HTC markers:

- HTC medallions can be ordered separately, but only for placement with a previously awarded THC marker that provides interpretation for the cemetery.
- Cemeteries are not eligible for subject markers or Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers.
- The narrative history component is not required if the sponsorship application is for an HTC medallion or for an HTC medallion with name and date plaque. It is required, however, for all other HTC markers. In all cases, though, a complete, current sponsorship application form is required.
- HTC medallions and interpretive plaques (including name and date plaques) must be displayed together. That is, they must appear as designed, with the medallion immediately above the plaque.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Any individual, group or county historical commission (CHC) may apply to the THC to request an Official Texas Historical Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements can be accepted or processed by the THC. For HTC markers with interpretive plaques, the required elements are: sponsorship application form; narrative history; and documentation.

- Completed applications must be duly reviewed, verified and approved by the county historical commission (CHC) in the county in which the marker will be placed.
- The sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation must be submitted as Microsoft Word or Word-compatible documents and sent via email attachments to the THC by no later than November 15, 2010. THC email accepts mail no larger than 10 MB.
- Required font style and type size are a Times variant and 12-point.
- Narrative histories must be typed in a double-spaced (or 1.5-spaced) format and include separate sections on context, overview, significance and documentation.
- The narrative history must include documentation in the form of reference notes, which can be either footnotes or endnotes. Documentation associated with applications should be broad-based and demonstrate a survey of all available resources, both primary and secondary.
- Upon notification of the successful preliminary review of required elements by the THC, a non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required. The fee shall be submitted to the THC within ten working days of application receipt notification.

APPROVAL BY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The duly appointed marker representative (chair or marker chair) noted below for the county historical commission will be the sole contact to the THC for this marker application. To ensure accuracy, consistency and efficiency, all information from and to the THC relative to the application—and throughout the review and production processes—will be via direct communication with the CHC representative. All other inquiries (calls, emails, letters) to the THC will be referred to the CHC representative for response. By filling out the information below and filing the application with the THC, the CHC representative is providing the THC with notice that

the application and documentation have been reviewed and verified by the CHC and that the material meets all current requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker program.

As chair or duly appointed marker chair, I certify the following:

- Representatives of the CHC have met or talked with the potential marker sponsor and discussed the marker program policies as outlined on the THC web site. CHC members have reviewed the history and documentation for accuracy and made corrections or notes as necessary. It is the determination of the CHC that the topic, history and documentation meet criteria for eligibility.

Name of CHC contact (chair or marker chair): Mr. Wheelice (Pete) Wilson, Jr.

Mailing address: 214 Samuel Blvd., #3-H **City, Zip:** Coppell, TX 75019

Daytime phone (with area code): 972/741-3894 **Email address (required):**

wwilsonjr@theatrecoppell.com

CHC comments or concerns about this application, if any:

PERMISSION OF CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Cemetery association representative or property manager (required): Rev. Willie Rainwater

Address: 2006 Southern Oaks **City, State, Zip:** Carrollton, TX 75007 **Phone:** (972) 242-0933

NOTE: The cemetery association or surrounding property owners will not receive copies of general correspondence from the THC. All procedural correspondence (notice of receipt, requests for additional information, inscriptions, shipping notices, etc.) — with the exception of payment notices, if applicable — will be sent via email to the CHC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary.

SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT INFORMATION

Prospective sponsors please note the following:

- Payment must be received in full within 45 days of the official approval notice and must be accompanied by the THC payment form. The THC is unable to process partial payments or to delay payment due to processing procedures of the sponsor. Applications not paid in the time frame required may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be cancelled or postponed.
- Payment relates to sponsorship of the marker in partnership with the THC, which provides the match for program costs.
- Payment does not constitute ownership of a marker; Historic Texas Cemetery markers and other Official Texas Historical Markers are the property of the State of Texas.
- If, at any time during the marker process, sponsorship is withdrawn, a refund can be processed, but the THC will retain the application fee of \$100.
- The Official Texas Historical Marker Program provides no means of recognizing sponsors through marker texts, incising or supplemental plaques.

Marker sponsor (may be individual or organization): State Representative Burt Solomons

Contact person (if applicable): Landon Bell

Mailing address: 1029 Rosemeade Parkway, Suite 108 City, Zip: Carrollton, Texas 75007

Email address (required): landon.bell@house.state.tx.us Phone: 214-533-6580

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, residence addresses, post office box numbers and rural route numbers are not permitted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Name: Landon Bell

Street address: 1029 Rosemeade Pkwy, Suite 108 City, Zip: Carrollton, Texas 75007

Daytime phone (required): 972-394-3904 Email (required): landon.bell@house.state.tx.us

TYPE AND SIZE OF HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY MARKERS

As part of its review process, the THC will determine the appropriate size marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other THC markers, relevance to the Statewide Preservation Plan and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative. In making its determination, however, the THC will also take into account the preference of the CHC, as noted below.

The sponsor/CHC prefers the following size marker:

- 27" x 42" HTC marker with post (\$1,500)
- 27" X 42" HTC marker without post* (\$1,500)
- 18" x 28" HTC marker with post (\$1,000)
- 18" x 28" HTC marker without post* (\$1,000)
- HTC medallion (only for cemeteries with existing Official Texas Historical Marker) (\$300)
- HTC medallion and name and date plaque, with post (\$650)
- HTC medallion and name and date plaque, without post (\$650)

*For an HTC marker without post, indicate to what surface material it will be mounted:

- wood
- masonry
- metal
- other (specify)

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION (via email required)

When the CHC has determined the application is complete, the history has been verified and the topic meets the requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, the materials should be forwarded to the THC via email at the following address:

markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us.

- The CHC or marker chair should send an email containing the following attachments (see attachment function under file menu or toolbox on your computer):

- This application form
- The subject history and documentation if the application is for an interpretive marker (no history required for either medallion only or medallion and name and date plaque orders)

RECORDS RETENTION BY CHC: The CHC must retain hard copies of the application as well as an online version, at least for the duration of the marker process. The THC is not responsible for lost applications, for incomplete applications or for applications not properly filed according to the program requirements. For additional information about any aspect of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, visit the Markers page on the THC web site (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigns/madmark.html>).

Texas Historical Commission
History Programs Division
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
Phone 512/463-5853
history@thc.state.tx.us



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

Carrollton Black Cemetery

I. CONTEXT

When William and Mary Larner moved to Texas from Carrollton, Illinois on March 30, 1837 after selling all of their property,¹ they became one of the first settlers to the now Carrollton area.² They came to Carrollton with their three children, John, Mary, and Patrick and established a homestead on the land with a patent or deed². Mary Larner died sometime after 1844 and is suspected to have been buried on the homestead¹. Afterwards William Larner remarried Elizabeth Pearson, a widow with three daughters who were Margaret, Martha, and Phebe and continued living on the homestead. William Larner died in January of 1850 and it is also possible that he was buried on the land with his first wife, which soon after became a cemetery. This may make this cemetery the first established in Carrollton sometime between 1843 and 1850¹. This cemetery became what is now known as the Carrollton Black Cemetery.

II. OVERVIEW

Some of Carrollton's early African-American citizens were buried in the Carrollton Black Cemetery. The cemetery is located in the Elizabeth (Larner) Newby Survey on Belt Line Road, approximately one-half mile west of Stemmons Freeway (IH-35E).

The Carrollton Black Cemetery was established on a forty-acre site owned by Mr. Scott Boswell, an early African-American Carrollton farmer. Mr. Boswell bought the land in 1871. It was then purchased by Mr. C. B. Baxley in 1915 with a deed exclusion for the cemetery. Mr. Baxley, a dairy farmer, acquired the land for grazing purposes. The cemetery dimensions are specified as 100 feet by 78 feet. The cemetery was enclosed by a fence in 1981 to help preserve the site.

Until the Civil War, it was customary to bury slaves on their owner's land, but after the Emancipation, former slaves and their families wished to have their own cemeteries. It should be noted that there were very few African-American families who lived in what is now considered Carrollton. The settlers living in this area were mostly from Illinois and Missouri where slavery was "frowned upon" and these less-affluent farmers did not feel the necessity to invest in slaves.

The history of the cemetery reflects the history of the black community in Carrollton⁶. After the children of William Larner scattered or were released to friends or neighbors the property remained in limbo until the proper ownership was established. This is where we can speculate that Mr. Scott Boswell purchased the land in 1871. Where he used the land for farming and officially established it as a cemetery sometime in the late 1800's¹. Until Mr. C. B. Baxley purchased the land from him with a deed exclusion for the cemetery. Later owners respected the site and burials continued through the years⁶.

Descendents of the early African-American families recall burials that took place at this site when they were children. Two gravestones are still visible: DAVIS and LOVING⁵. Many graves are still visible. Mrs. Eunice M. Epps stated that the following families have members interred in the cemetery: Collins, Harris, Patterson, Boswell, Silverburg, Ingram, Davis, Payton,

Cole, Hicks, Oliver, Loving, Welch, Jackson, Hunnicutt, Williams, Bradley, Booth, Allen, Purvis and Foster². The final interment in this cemetery is believed to be Joyce Collins in 1960.

Unfortunately, this site was subject to flooding from the Elm Fork of the Trinity River which was hurtful to the survivors and no doubt caused the loss of some of the gravestones⁵. In 1960, flooding at the Trinity River has contributed to the loss of most of the markers⁶. Therefore, burial on higher ground was accomplished whenever possible throughout the years. In fact, many old-time Carrollton settlers were buried in White Rock Cemetery located in Addison, Texas.

III. SIGNIFICANCE

The Carrollton Black Cemetery is significant because of the importance of the location. It represents the beginnings of Carrollton, Texas as well as early residents that Carrollton had. It is also an important landmark for the early African-American residents of Carrollton as it was dedicated as an African-American Cemetery by the Dallas County Plat Map in the 1930's². The 1850 and 1860 U.S. Census even confirms the establishment of three settlers who were buried in the cemetery: William H. Davis, Elizabeth Lerner, and Elisabeth Hewby³.

Nearly 150 years after the Carrollton Black Cemetery was founded, it brought the community together on Juneteenth⁴, a very fitting holiday for the occasion. About 70 individuals from all around Carrollton got together and decided to do a Cemetery cleanup, in appreciation of its significance to the community. This not only brought the community together, but also a lot of local historical intrigue including some descendants of those buried in the cemetery⁴.

It is an important site that acts as a historical lynchpin and reminds the city and surrounding area about its past. Ms. Annie Heads Rainwater, a black resident and local activist for racial equality in the area, advanced progress on the issue of race when developers tried to bulldoze the Carrollton Black Cemetery to make way for commercial offices.⁷ Ms. Rainwater's involvement in the issue, along with her work toward desegregation of schools in the area, helped to bring a new meaning to the cemetery's place in local history.⁷ A volunteer at the 2009 cleanup encapsulated this by stating, "This is what it's all about, people sharing love. We've come a long way in this community."⁴

The Carrollton Black Cemetery has been referred to by many names, including Carrollton Memorial and Carrollton Community. It is appropriate to mark this site to protect it and commemorate the lives of those who are buried there. In 2002 Carrollton Mayor Pro Tem Herb Weidinger said, "The individuals that are buried here had a lot to do with the growth of Carrollton. So it is important to commemorate the lives of those buried here."⁶ It is an area of significance that allows are community to come together to remind itself of the past and better appreciate where we are today.

IV. DOCUMENTATION

¹ Jackson, George. Sixty Years In Texas. Glen Allen, VA: Wilkinson Printing Company, 1908.

² Troup M., Alexander. Carrollton Memorial Cemetery: c. 1843-1850. n.d.

³ United States Bureau of the Census. United States Census 1850 and 1860. 1850 & 1860.

⁴ Jennings, Diane. "A Working Holiday." The Dallas Morning News 20 June 2009, Region-Carrollton sec.

⁵ Ogle, Georgia Myers. "Burial Customs; Cemeteries." Elm Fork Settlement. 1977.

⁶ Williams, Edward Lynn. "Carrollton Black Cemetery." Carrollton-Farmers Branch TXGenWeb. The USGenWeb Project. Web. 11 Nov. 2010.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txccarro/Cemeteries/Carrollton_Black/index.htm>.

⁷ Stafford, Scott. "Black Cemetery's Place in History Commemorated with a City Marker." The Dallas Morning News 23 June 2002, Northwest Bureau