

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

WRITING THE NARRATIVE HISTORY FOR THE HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

One of the requirements for the Historic Texas Cemetery Designation (HTC) is a short narrative history. This can be included on the actual application or as an attachment. It does not have to be as lengthy as the narrative for a marker; however there are some things that we look for. Here are some pointers to help you produce the narrative history for your cemetery.

- Explain the key facts in the development of the cemetery.
- Provide the information in chronological order.
- Answer the following questions to the extent that you are able; you may not be able to find the answers to all these questions:
How and when did the cemetery start? How do you know this?
How did it get its name(s)? Was it associated with a person, community or church?
Who first owned the land surrounding the cemetery?
If no longer active, why not? When was the last burial?
Are there any historically significant people buried there?
If there is a cemetery association, when did it begin?
- Include a bibliography. A bibliography is a list of those sources you used to write the history such as deed records, books, articles, or websites. You can find examples of bibliographies on the internet and in books such as the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

A sample narrative and bibliography are below. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Texas Historical Commission Cemetery Preservation staff at the address and/or email at the bottom of this page.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Provide a brief history of the cemetery with bibliographic references. Use additional pages if needed.

In 1875, John & Lucinda Ebert settled in the Jergenson area on the John Wilson Survey. They built a dogtrot style cabin, which was abandoned in 1900 when Lucinda died. The cabin has since been destroyed. The first burial was for John Ebert in 1875. According to family lore he requested to be buried "on the pleasant little hill," hence the name of the cemetery. When Lucinda became sick, her wish was to be buried at the "dog run" cemetery next to John, thus the secondary name was established. A few family members continued to be buried at the small cemetery until 1912, when subsequent family members chose to be buried at the larger Gilchrist Cemetery. The last burial at Pleasant Hill was for Asa E. Walters, husband of John & Lucinda's second daughter Gertrude.

Bibliography

Prater, Elihu. *Beyond the Rim: A History of Early Post Oak County*. Jergenson: Post Oak County Historical Commission, 1978.

Deed Records. Office of the Post Oak County Clerk, Post Oak County Courthouse, Jergenson.

Petry, Frank M. Interview with John Dalman, September 9, 2005. Tape and notes only, available at the Post Oak County Library, Jergenson

Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276
512.463.6100
fax 512.475.4872
thc@thc.state.tx.us



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www.thc.state.tx.us