

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS  
AT THE  
FERRIS CEMETERY,  
DALLAS, TEXAS**

by

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*Report submitted to the Forest Hills Park Association*

**April 4, 1986**

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## INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological research at the Ferris Cemetery, located at the northwest corner of St. Francis Avenue and San Leandro Drive in Dallas, Texas. This cemetery was used for burial by the Ferris family and other neighboring inhabitants during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Subsequently it has fallen into disrepair and been severely vandalized. Recent residential development near the cemetery has caused concern that the area may be in danger of further adverse impact. As a result, archaeological investigations commissioned by the property owners were conducted at the cemetery at the suggestion of Mrs. Shirley Caldwell, Chairman of the Dallas County Historical Commission. The purposes of the archaeological investigations were to (1) map the location of all historical features remaining at the cemetery, (2) take notes on all features, and (3) undertake a program of subsurface investigation by removing 6 to 12 inches of topsoil to determine the feasibility of archaeologically detecting the grave shafts of unmarked graves. In the event this Phase One was successful and unmarked grave locations could be identified, a Phase Two was planned. This work was to (1) map all grave locations uncovered during the archaeological fieldwork, and (2) undertake additional subsurface investigations to define the limits of the cemetery. The ultimate objective of this work was to identify the boundaries of the cemetery and to make recommendations for future development in and around around the graves in such a manner as to avoid future damage to the cemetery.

Archaeological investigations were initiated at Ferris Cemetery by the members of the Forest Hills Park Association, present owners of the cemetery and the immediately adjoining property. Their goal was to undertake steps recommended by the Dallas County Historical Commission for reaching a resolution concerning Ferris Cemetery. The scope of the archaeological investigations was supported by the Dallas County Historical Commission and with the support and consent of concerned descendants of persons believed to be buried in the graveyard. Phase One of the

fieldwork, consisting of mapping, documentation, and initial verification, was conducted over two days, March 1 and 2, 1986. Phase Two, involving additional fieldwork to define the cemetery limits, was undertaken on March 8, 1986. All fieldwork was under the supervision of James E. Bruseth and Susan E. Lebo, consulting archaeologists.

## HISTORY OF FERRIS CEMETERY

The Ferris Cemetery is named for Warren Angus Ferris, an important figure in the early history of Dallas County. He was born in Erie, Pennsylvania in 1809 and spent much of his boyhood in New York State. As a young man, he left home for the West and spent time exploring and surveying the Rocky Mountains. He was the first to record the marvels of Yellowstone National Park, and produced several writings on his explorations, many of which were published in a book entitled *Life in the Rocky Mountains*. Ferris' involvement in Texas dates to 1836, when he was associated with the writing of the Texas Declaration of Independence. He is also reported to have been a Captain in the Texas army during the Battle of San Jacinto. In 1837, Warren Ferris was elected surveyor of Nacogdoches County, and this work brought him to the Dallas area. In 1840 he camped on the banks of White Rock Creek and began surveying what is today Dallas County. He homesteaded on a 640 acre tract of land (C.A. Lovejoy Survey No. 4), and in 1847 began to use a portion of the northeast corner of his property for a cemetery.

The history of the Ferris Cemetery is a tragic story of diligent but ultimately futile effort on the part of a few individuals to protect and promote the historical significance of the graveyard and overwhelming disinterest on the part of most of the citizens of Dallas. Appendix 1 chronicles the history of the cemetery based on records supplied through the courtesy of Mrs. Francis James of the Dallas County Historical Commission and represents a compilation of research by a variety of individuals. In the remainder of this section, a brief overview of the history of the cemetery is

presented.

The first reported burial in the cemetery was in 1847, when Ferris' son, Warren Jr., died. Other persons reported to have been buried there include Elizabeth Chenault, a neighbor of the Ferris family, who died in 1858 of typhoid fever, and Warren Ferris himself, who died in 1873. In 1890, Robert Ferris, son of Warren Angus Ferris, and Wes Chenault are reported to have cleared brush and vines from the family graves and to have built a fence around the family plots which were reported as being together. The last known burial was in 1906 when Reverend R. T. Taylor, a Black preacher, was interred. According to Robert Cole, a local historian and long-time defender of the cemetery who had visited the graveyard for more than 50 years, approximately 100 graves were located in the area. A Black part of the cemetery is reported to have existed near the creek running along the western edge of the cemetery. It is not clear if these graves were included in Cole's estimate. A listing of all presently known individuals buried at Ferris Cemetery is shown in Appendix 2.

After 1906, the cemetery fell into disrepair and was the subject of extensive vandalism. In 1924, Leon L. Fechenbach began construction of the Forest Hills Development on the old Ferris farm, and reportedly bulldozed the northern part of the graves and permitted local inhabitants to carry off tombstones for use as patio stones. In 1938 a local historian reported that the graveyard was "bramble-infested" and all tombstones had been broken. In the 1940s an infant was dug up, and the skull reportedly was used as a "gear shift knob" by a local high school boy. During the 1950s, Lucy May Smith, a Ferris descendent, visited the cemetery and repeatedly attempted to repair damage done by vandals and to clear brush and vines from the graves.

Various types of legal action were also taken over the years concerning the cemetery. In 1957 John B. Webster, Assistant District Attorney for Dallas County, outlined in a letter to Mrs. C.C. Fuller the legal penalties for desecration to cemetery property and indicated that the family

descendants would be legally capable of restoring the graveyard. However, no action ever came as a result of this letter. In 1967, Carl Ferris, a grandson of Warren Angus Ferris, hired a Fort Worth attorney to sue the City of Dallas for damages to the cemetery and to prevent the property from being sold or developed. Apparently Ferris lost his suit. Also in 1967, neighbors circulated a petition declaring the cemetery a menace and requesting three courses of action: (1) leave the lot as a cemetery, (2) turn it into a park, and (3) continue development. A representative of the Dallas Parks Department reported that the owners of the land were unwilling to do anything about the cemetery, and as a result the idea of a public park was dropped. In 1970 the Dallas City Council declared the cemetery abandoned and a public nuisance. The Council authorized the City Attorney to take legal action to have the bodies moved from the area; however, this activity was never undertaken.

In conclusion, despite the efforts of some dedicated individuals to preserve and protect the cemetery, development of the Forest Hills area by Fechenbach, coupled with vandalism, has reduced the graveyard to its present state. Today only highly fragmented tombstones remain, and provide scant testimony to the historical significance of the area.

## GOALS AND PROCEDURES OF FIELDWORK

As mentioned in the Introduction of this report, fieldwork was conducted in two phases. **Phase One** was concerned with documenting cemetery features and determining the feasibility of using archaeological investigations for finding unmarked graves. The first part of **Phase One** consisted of flagging all cemetery features. A *feature* is any man-made element, whether it be a tombstone fragment or a fence footing, present on the ground. The objective was to assess the range of features and to determine their distribution. The area that was investigated by this

procedure is shown in Figure 1, and covers all six lots bordered on the north by St. Francis Avenue, on the east by San Leandro Drive, and on the south and west by a small creek running through the area. Two persons spent much of a day intensively inspecting the area. This included the space around and between the houses that have been constructed on some of the lots.

Next, a detailed map was made showing the locations of all features and key landmarks such as house locations and graded areas. The purpose of this was to examine the distribution of gravestone fragments over the entire six lot area, and to use this spatial map to forecast where below-ground graves might be present. The assumption was made that gravestones are usually broken nearby the grave site and the distribution of fragments can identify the locations of graves.

All gravestone fragments were numbered and detailed notes were made on each one; the notes are reproduced in Appendix 3 and the numerical designations refer to the original the field map, which has been delivered to the Forest Hills Association. Two types of observations were found to be most important. First, fragments that were *in situ*, a term used to indicate the marker was still in its original position, were noted separately from fragments that were away from their original position. The goal of this activity was to locate as many in-place grave locations as possible. The second important observation was the material used for the marker. This information was instrumental in identifying the *minimum number* of gravestones present. In other words, this allowed us to identify the number of tombstones that originally existed before being scattered over the area. This information helped establish an estimate for the total number of graves represented.

The next activity associated with Phase One investigations was to determine the feasibility of archaeologically detecting unmarked graves. Archaeology involves excavation of the soil, and in this instance the goal was to remove the topsoil and observe grave *shafts* below the ground. The theory behind this type of work is that soil is naturally layered in zones of different texture and

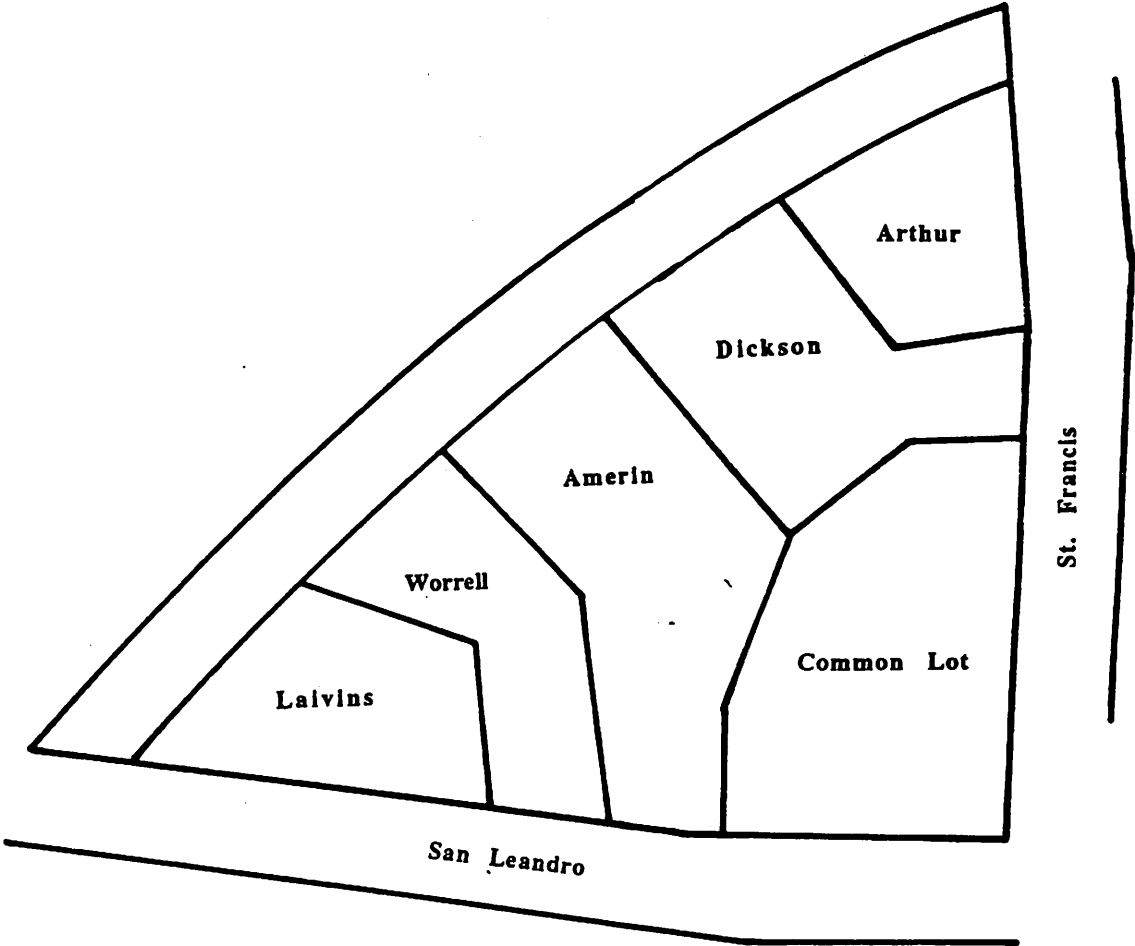


Figure 1. Location of property lots investigated during fieldwork .

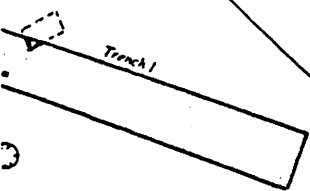


color. Whenever a hole is dug into the soil, the natural layering, or *stratigraphy*, of the soil is disturbed. This disturbance can be seen when the topsoil has been removed. The topsoil must be removed first, however, because the actions of tree roots and discoloration from decaying vegetation make it difficult to see soil disturbances in the upper 6 to 12 inches.

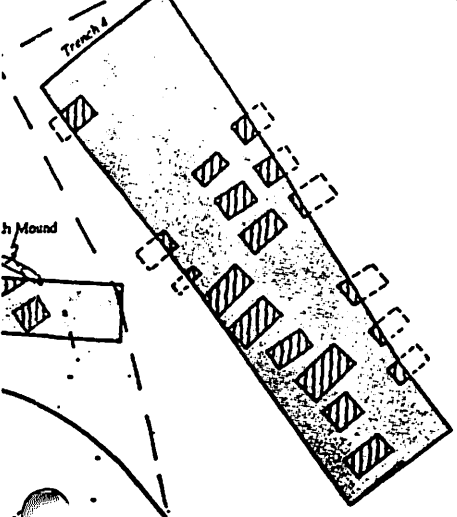
A small bulldozer was brought in to do the excavation, and three trenches were excavated (labeled Trenches 1 through 3 on Figure 2). Between 6 and 12 inches of topsoil were removed to get down to the subsoil (Figure 3). After this, shovels and trowels were used to further clean the exposed subsoil since the bulldozer left considerable amounts of loose dirt over the trenches. This work was successful in locating the *shafts*, or holes, of graves, and as a result **Phase Two** work was undertaken next.

**Phase Two** investigations involved the use of a landscaping tractor with a backblade for additional scraping on the bulldozed trenches. Since the bulldozer had left considerable quantities of loose soil, the tractor was used to provide a more efficient means of removing this dirt than shovels and for providing a clean exposure of the entire trench for mapping purposes. The three trenches were cleaned in this manner and the graves were mapped. Next, an area that had been graded in the 1970s for a proposed tennis court was scraped with the tractor to help define the limits of the cemetery to the northeast. Since the topsoil had already been removed from this area, a wider trench (Number 4 on Figure 2) was able to be examined than in Trenches 1 through 3. Several graves were found and mapped. Four additional trenches were excavated in the eastern half of the Common Lot (see Figure 1). Since Trenches 1 through 3 had defined the western and southern limits, the eastern limits were investigated by the additional trenches. These four trenches (Numbers 5 through 7) failed to detect any graves.

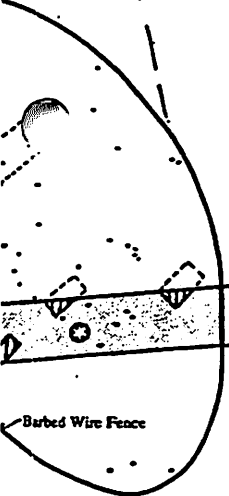
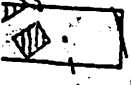
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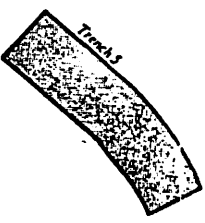
Limit of Graded Area



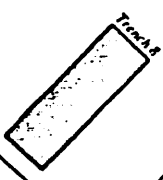
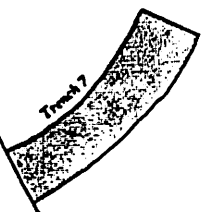
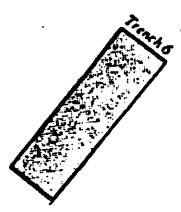
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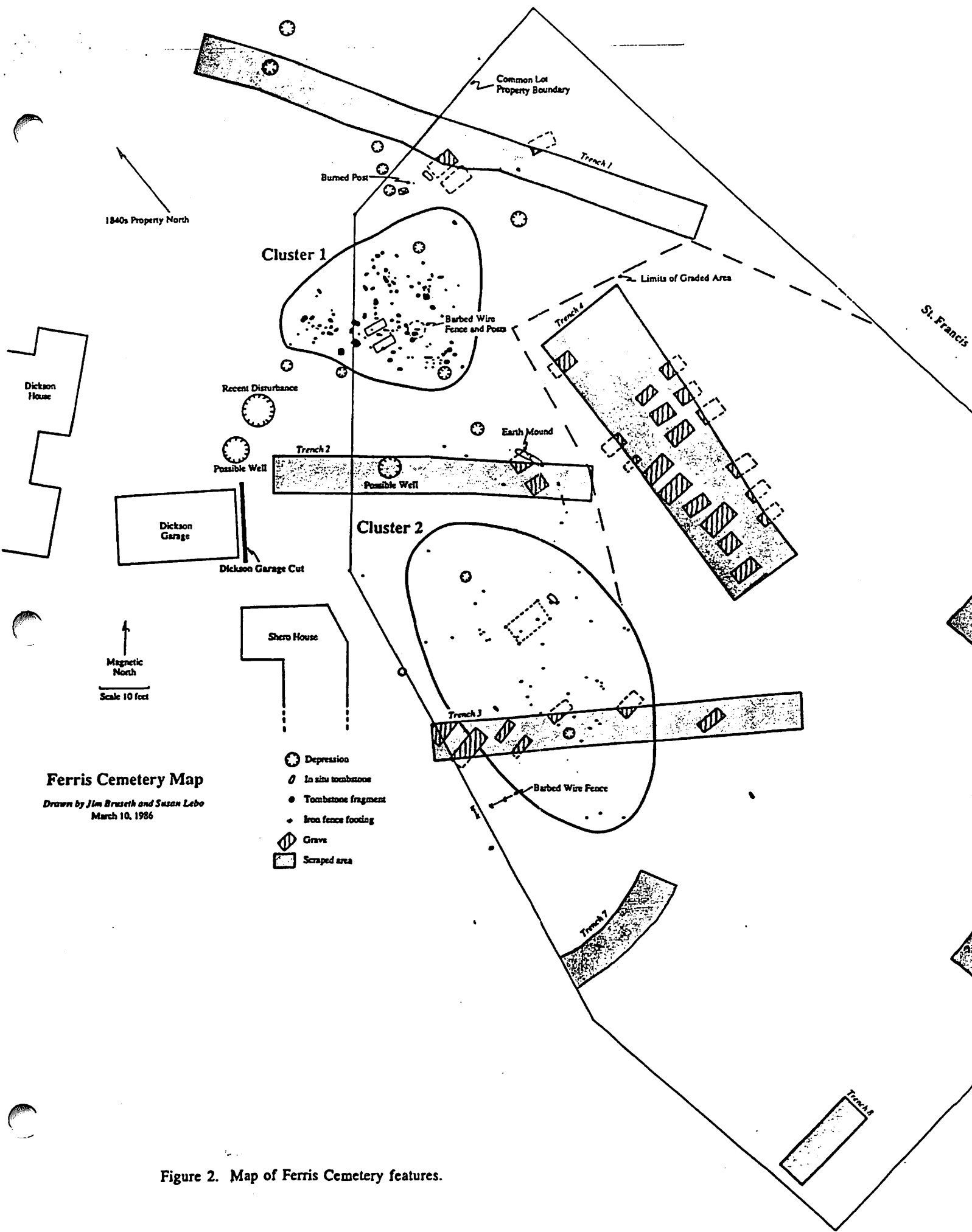


St. Francis



San Leandro



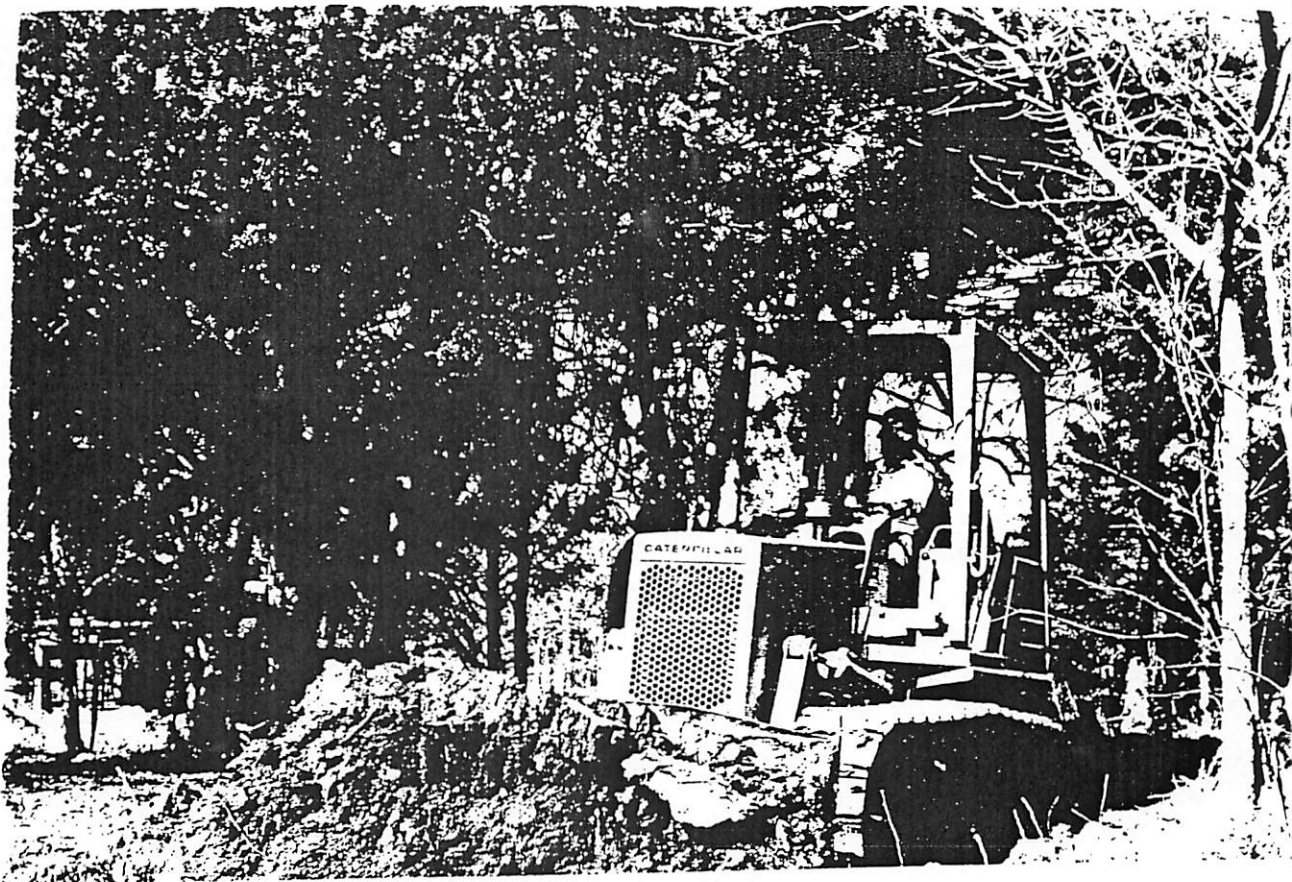


**Ferris Cemetery Map**

*Drawn by Jim Bruseth and Susan Lebo  
March 10, 1986*

- ⊙ Depression
- In situ tombstone
- Tombstone fragment
- ◆ Iron fence footing
- ▧ Grave
- ▨ Scraped area

Figure 2. Map of Ferris Cemetery features.



## RESULTS OF FIELDWORK

The fieldwork at Ferris Cemetery was successful in accomplishing all intended purposes. First, baseline documentation was made on the cemetery features present at the site. Unfortunately, this documentation primarily recorded the results of years of neglect and extensive vandalism of the grave markers. However, the mapping did identify two clusters of stone fragments. Cluster 1 (see Figures 2 and 4) was located in the northern section of the common lot and contained eight *in situ* grave marker bases. Since this is topographically the highest part of the six lots, we believe this to be the location of the original Ferris family graves and probably the Chenault family graves. Two burned posts were found in this area and may correspond to the descriptions of similar posts noted



Figure 4. Tombstone fragments in Cluster 1.

by Lucy May Smith in the 1950s. These burned posts are believed to be part of the fence placed around the Ferris and Chenault family graves in the 1890s.

Cluster 2 is located downslope to the south and consists of several fragments of tombstones largely south of the iron fence footings that are associated with Reverend R. T. Taylor's grave (Figure 2). A significant difference in the materials used for gravestones between this area and Cluster 1 was noted. Cluster 1 markers usually consisted of granite or cement cast into elaborate designs and shapes. Cluster 2 markers, on the other hand, consisted of limestone fragments, some minimally shaped, and large rocks with no shaping at all. The gravestone fragments suggest a lower socioeconomic status for the individuals interred in this area. This information, combined with



Figure 5. Grave shafts uncovered during field investigations.

the location of Reverend Taylor's grave (a Black preacher) in this cluster, provides a high degree of probability that this area is represents the Black portion of the cemetery mentioned by several historical sources. It is located downslope from the Anglo part of the cemetery, which is a common pattern found in many historic cemeteries in Texas, and is positioned towards the general direction of the creek, a reference made in several of the historical sources.

The mapping of cemetery features combined with the archaeological removal of topsoil to locate grave shafts was successful in defining the limits of the cemetery. Although some graves are located on the Dickson and Amerin lots, the vast majority of the cemetery is located on the Common Lot. It appears that burials were first placed on the highest portion of the property (Cluster 1 vicinity), and that this location was used for the Ferris and Chenault families. Graves are sparse and somewhat scattered in this area, suggesting that people were buried over several years and that there was little concern for closely spacing the graves. As time proceeded, burial continued to the east and south of the original graveyard area, and based on the tighter spacing of graves, greater numbers of people were being interred than before. In fact, rows of graves are clearly evident and suggest concern for maximum use of cemetery space.

A total of 31 grave shafts was located (see Figures 2 and 5) during field investigations. In addition, the observations on tombstone fragments suggest a minimum of 36 markers are represented. As noted earlier, most of these appear to be located on the Common Lot, and despite years of vandalism and grading in 1978 for a tennis court, the vast majority of the deceased remain undisturbed below ground. Only the surface markers of these graves have disappeared. Ironically, the removal of the gravemarkers may have actually prevented vandals from digging into the graves and doing further, and irreversible, harm to the deceased.

The field investigations conducted over the remainder of the property, including around and between the existing houses, did not turn up any additional evidence of graves. Special attention was given to the area adjacent to the creek in hopes of detecting the remains of the Black portion of the cemetery, historically reported to be in this area. No tombstone fragments were found. Several oval surface depressions, similar to ones found over the cemetery on the higher portion of the property, were observed. However, these are believed to be from digging by vandals and not to

identify the location of graves. Several of these depressions were investigated on the higher elevations of the cemetery during bulldozing, and in all cases they failed to confirm the location of graves below the surface. This further confirms the interpretation that the Black part of the cemetery is believed to be associated with tombstone Cluster 2. While inspecting in and around the houses, a recent excavation cut for the Dickson garage (see Figure 2) was examined for grave shafts that might have been encountered during construction. This cut was made by a bulldozer as part of the preparation for the garage slab. This work failed to locate any graves, and adds further support to the interpretation that the majority of the cemetery is located on the Common Lot.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the archaeological investigations conducted at the Ferris Cemetery, we are able to make several recommendations to the landowners known as the Forest Hills Park Association. These recommendations are offered in an attempt to help resolve the current problem over use and development of the property adjacent to the cemetery.

1. Have the area that encompasses all known and all probable additional graves legally restricted by property deed so that future development cannot be undertaken in this location. Specific types of development that should be prohibited in this area include any activity that will disturb the soil below six inches deep. Moreover, no building or other permanent structure should be erected over this ground. Uses of this property that are compatible with the deed restrictions include removing brush and trees to improve the beauty of the area and planting of trees, ornamental shrubs, and flowers for landscaping purposes. The area also should be open for descendants to pay respect for the deceased. Other uses that are considered compatible include hiking trails, picnicking, and similar non-destructive activities.



2. The remainder of the the Common Lot should also have deed restrictions instituted. These would permit development in this area provided that the ground to be impacted is first scraped and inspected by a trained archaeologist for grave shafts. Any graves must be disinterred to the area identified in Recommendation Number 1, or the proposed construction should not be allowed.

3. Broken and scattered tombstone fragments can be removed as part of the beautification effort, but *in situ* markers must be left in place. These should be identified to the property owners in the field by an archaeologist. As added protection, these may be covered with soil to prevent further vandalism.

4. An historical marker should be erected to denote the historical significance of the cemetery and to serve as a common gravestone for all persons interred in the cemetery. This marker should be constructed in such a manner as to include the names of the known dead and to allow additional names of deceased to be added as they are uncovered by future historical research.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archaeological investigations conducted at Ferris Cemetery have greatly benefited from the advice and information provided from many individuals. Mrs. Shirley Caldwell, Chairman of the Dallas County Historical Commission, deserves much credit for realizing that archaeology might be able to help resolve the situation concerning the cemetery. She also offered many constructive comments during all phases of the project. Francis James, also of the Dallas County Historical Commission, supplied numerous records and other historical documents that proved invaluable during researching the background of the cemetery. Much of the history of the Ferris Cemetery presented in this report would not have been possible without her help. Rita Barnes shared her knowledge and research data with us, and allowed us to define the problem at the cemetery more clearly. Robert West and Lee Trasher, both land surveyors in Dallas, offered their recollections on the cemetery over the past several years. Lucille Boykin, of the Dallas Public Library, also freely shared of her knowledge of the cemetery history. And finally, the staff of the DeGolyer Western Library at Southern Methodist University made accessible the historical records of the late Homer DeGolyer for review. All of these individuals deserve thanks from the authors of this report, and also must be spared any errors of interpretation, which lie solely with the authors.

Lastly, we wish to thank Bill Dickson and the other owners of the Forest Hills Park Association for their assistance in all aspects of this project. They supplied much help, including heavy equipment for scraping in the field, their own hand labor, and advice.

Appendix 1

TIME LINE OF FERRIS CEMETERY HISTORY

Date	Event	Reference
1840s	October 1840 Warren Angus Ferris began a series of surveys in the vicinity of White Rock Lake which included 3 parcels given to his half-brother, Clarence A. Lovejoy. One included the Forest Hills section where he homesteaded in 1845 and where he is buried in the family graveyard. W. A. Ferris' second wife, Frances Moore and a niece, are also buried there.	DeGolyer, Homer L. <i>Conquest on the Three Forks</i> , n.d. Unpublished MS
1840s	Article was prompted by recent vandalism of Ferris Cemetery. According to Robet Cole, a local historian, Warren A. Ferris married in 1841 and his wife was given a half-section of land by Ferris' half-brother, Clarence Lovejoy, for a home site. Ferris and his wife built their home on the land near Garland Road and San Leandro.	<i>Dallas Morning News</i> Newspaper Dated February 23, 1958
1847	First burial in the Ferris Cemetery was that of Warren Ferris, Jr., son of Warren A. and Frances M. Ferris.	
1852	The graveyard on the Ferris property began being used as a community cemetery in 1852.	<i>Dallas Times Herald</i> Newspaper Dated June 20, 1976 "Dallas Pioneers' Gravesite Just Land For Sale"
	The cemetery was located in the eastern portion of the Ferris's 640 acre homestead on the C.A. Lovejoy Survey No. 4 in the present 8300 block of Forest Hills.	Unpublished Manuscript compiled by Suzanne Starling, 1985
1858	Elizabeth Chenault, a neighbor of the Ferris family, died of in a typhoid fever epidemic in 1858. A child buried next to her also died from typhoid fever.	<i>Dallas Morning News</i> Newspaper Dated February 23, 1958 Dated June 20, 1976
	Elizabeth Chenault is referred to as the first individual buried in the Ferris Cemetery (see articles listed to the right). However, Warren Ferris, Jr., a son of the Ferris' died in 1847, and his grave is the oldest in the cemetery.	<i>Dallas Times Herald</i> Newspaper Dated June 22, 1956 "Pioneer's Graves: Time Threatens Old Burial Place"
1873	Article recorded Ferris' death as February 8, 1873 and that he was buried in the family graveyard at the northeast corner of his farm. Based on these data the Ferris Cemetery was a "graveyard" by 1873.	<i>Dallas Morning News</i> Newspaper Dated February 23, 1959 "Warren Ferris Here Before Neely Bryan"

## Appendix 1—continued

Date	Event	Reference
ca. 1890	Robert Ferris, son of W. A. Ferris, and Wes Chenault cleared brush and vines from the family graves and built a fence around the old lots which were together.	Unpublished manuscript compiled by Suzanne Starling, 1985
1906	Reverend R. T. Taylor, a Black preacher, was the last individual buried in the cemetery. He died April 11, 1906.	
1924	Leon L. Fechenbach began construction on the Forest Hills Development on the old Ferris farm and cemetery. Starling stated that according to neighbors and family members, Fechenbach allowed homeowners to carry off gravestones for their patios and garden. In addition, he desecrated the cemetery by allowing the construction of St. Francis Road through the northern portion of the cemetery.	Unpublished manuscript compiled by Suzanne Starling, 1985
1938	A local historian reported that the cemetery was "almost inaccessible, bramble-infested, many iron fences removed, all stones broken".	<i>Dallas Times Herald</i> Newspaper Dated June 20, 1962
1940s	An infant burial in the cemetery was dug up (most probably one of a pair of infant graves located in the center of Cluster 1).	<i>Dallas Times Herald</i> Newspaper Dated June 20, 1976
1950s	Lucy May Smith visited Ferris Cemetery and worked on maintaining several plots, recorded vandalism in cemetery. Photograph of Elizabeth Chenault's grave indicates a tablet marker. Photograph of wooden head and foot markers possibly those of W. A. and Wife, and two sons, located in center of Cemetery (Cluster 1).	Personal photographs
1956	According to Robert Cole, a local historian there were "somewhere around 75 marked graves in the cemetery and more unmarked graves". He placed the total number of graves at over 100. By 1956, many of the tombstones had been carried away by people to use in their gardens and patios. Marble and bois d'arc stakes had been present as markers in the cemetery.	<i>Dallas Times Herald</i> Newspaper Dated June 22, 1956 "Pioneer's Graves: Time Threatens Old Burial Place".
1957	John B. Webster, Assistant District Attorney for Dallas County, in reply to a letter from Mrs. C. C. Fuller concerning restoration of the Ferris Cemetery, stated	Letter to Mrs. C. C. Fuller from John B. Webster, District Attorneys Office Dated June 17, 1957

Appendix 1—*continued*

Date	Event	Reference
1957	the penalties for desecration to cemetery property, and that if the land had been dedicated for public burial, then family descendants would be legally capable of restoring the graves to their original condition. However, no evidence was presented to substantiate that the land had in fact been dedicated as a cemetery.	<i>Letter to Mrs. C. C. Fuller -continued</i>
1958	Vandalism of cemetery was recorded. Police discovered attempts to uncover graves in a cemetery located east of White Rock Lake.	<i>Dallas Morning News</i> Newspaper Dated February 21, 1958 "Police Discover Attempt to Unearth Old Graves"
1958	According to Robert Cole, a local historian, the Ferris Cemetery was used for both Blacks and Whites, and it fell into disrepair ca. 50 years earlier (ca. 1908).	<i>Dallas Morning News</i> Newspaper Dated February 23, 1958
1959	In a "Letter to the Editor", Walter McCausland suggested initiating a campaign to preserve the cemetery as a historic spot, and to "commemorate suitably the life and achievements of this interesting and colorful pioneer". No action was taken on this proposal.	<i>Dallas Times Herald</i> Newspaper Dated February 23, 1959 "Letter to the Editor"
1962	Lucy Pounds Smith, a great granddaughter of Warren Ferris, appealed to city officials to save the cemetery. Following an exhibit honoring Ferris at the Dallas Public Library, there was a final campaign by family descendants to preserve the Ferris Cemetery, by having it cleaned, fenced, and a memorial marker placed there to honor Ferris.	Unpublished manuscript compiled by Suzanne Starling, 1985
	Letter sent by Ferris' descendants identified location of Ferris Cemetery in the extreme eastern edge of the Forest Hill Addition and surrounded by San Leandro, St. Francis and San Pedro Block 5226. The petition requested the placement of a marker (at no cost to the City) by the Dallas County Historical Society.	Petition sent by Ferris' descendents to the Honorable Commissioners Court of Dallas County
	Carl Ferris, a grandson of Ferris hired a Fort Worth lawyer to sue the City of Dallas for damages to the cemetery, and to prevent Fechenbach from selling or developing the property. Ferris lost the suit.	
1965	Numerous civic organizations and Boy Scout groups made plans to clean up some of the city's abandoned and	<i>Dallas Times Herald</i> Newspaper Dated May 23, 1965

Appendix 1—continued

Date	Event	Reference
1965	neglected cemeteries. One of the cemeteries selected for cleaning was a "cemetery at St. Francis and San Leandro in the Forest Hills area near White Rock Lake" (Ferris Cemetery).	<i>Dallas Times Herald</i> Newspaper Dated May 23, 1965 - <i>continued</i>
1967	According to the article, only the base of the Ferris (W. A. Ferris?) tombstone remains. T. L. Garrison, an amateur historian, stated that Ferris' tombstone was topped by angels.	<i>Dallas Times Herald</i> Newspaper Dated June 20, 1976
1967	Neighbors living in the area of the Ferris Cemetery circulated a petition to declare the cemetery a menace. Only one marker still had an inscription; all of the others had been defaced. The remaining marker read: <i>In Memory of Elizabeth Chenall</i> , with the dates 1820 and 1858 carved below.	<i>Dallas Times Herald</i> Newspaper Dated July 30, 1967
	Three options were under consideration for dealing with the Ferris Cemetery: (1) leave the lot as it was, (2) turn it into a park, and (3) continue with proposed housing development. A Dallas City Ordinance specified that in order to build on the property the graves had to be moved, and the consent of the family owning the land was necessary before any steps could be taken. An assistant director of the Park Department reported that the family that owned the land was unwilling to do anything with or about the cemetery. As a result, when the idea for a park was brought before the Park Department, it was dropped.	
1969	Letter recorded the presence of a small, family cemetery located at St. Francis Avenue and San Leandro Drive, City Block 26/5277, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, which had been set aside as a community burial ground by W. A. Ferris in 1852. The property was originally platted in 1924 (Vol. 3, Page 17 of Dallas County Map Records), and was replatted in 1955 (Vol. 17, Page 3). No mention was made of a cemetery in either record. Based on data provided to him (Walker) by Robert Cole, graves were visible on all lots except Lot 3.	Office Memorandum sent by L. P. Walker to Mr. Ted MacMaster, Assist. City Attorney of Dallas Dated December 18, 1969  Walker refers to the cemetery as: <i>St. Francis Cemetery</i>
1970	W. R. Conger recorded that he had compiled some records pertaining to the Ferris Cemetery. He also indicated that vandals had moved a number of gravestones and as a	Letter from W. R. Conger to Ruth Cooper dated February 23, 1970

Appendix 1—*continued*

Date	Event	Reference
1970	result, considerable information had already been lost concerning the identification and location of original grave plots. In addition, Conger stated that he believed the Chenault grave was still located on its original site, and that W. A. Ferris may have been buried next to them.	Letter from W. R. Conger- <i>continued</i>
1970	The Dallas City Council declared the cemetery a <i>nuisance</i> and recognized that Ferris and his wife, Frances, and at least 8 other people were buried there. The Council authorized the City Attorney to take legal steps to have the bodies removed to a public cemetery. No action was taken on this matter. No record of the graveyard was found at that time on either deed records or plat maps. The cemetery was listed as a non-registered graveyard.  No evidence was presented to the Dallas City Council demonstrating the existence of a perpetual care fund for the Ferris Cemetery.	<i>Dallas Times Herald</i> Newspaper Dated June 20, 1976  Resolution of the City Council of the City of Dallas Dated February 2, 1970
1973	Letter provided information on Ferris descendants still residing in Dallas, and several other individuals interested in the Ferris Cemetery. She also mentioned that County Surveyor Robert H. West, Mrs. Robert Cole, Mrs. Charles L. Hunt or Mr. W. R. Conger could provide additional information about the desecration of the cemetery by Fechenbach's real estate development interests.	Letter from Ruth Cooper to Ted McMaster dated July 5, 1973
1976	Deed indicated that Lots 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A, Block 26/5277 of Forest Hills Addition No. 2 as recorded in Vol. 27, Page 3, of the Map Records of Dallas Co., were conveyed to Walter Dahlberg by Henri L. Bromberg, Jr., Attorney for: Henriette Fechenbach Cline, C.L. Cline, Patricia Cline Holmes, J. R. Broomberg, Jr. Edward S. Broomberg and Alan R. Broomberg, Trustees under the will of Felice F. Broomberg. This deed indicated that a cemetery (name not given) was located or had been located on certain portions of this property, and that some graves still existed on one or more of the mentioned lots.	Warranty Deed Record for Dallas County Vol. 76115, Page 2202
1984	Deed indicated that Lot 3C, Block 26/5277 of Forest Hills as recorded in V76116, P2202 and filed July 6, 1976 was conveyed to Juris Laivins and Carolyn Lee Laivins by M. Gene Niswander and Mary Louise Pastre Niswander. This	Warranty Deed Record for Dallas County Vol. 84088, Page 0860

Appendix 1—*continued*

Date	Event	Reference
1984	deed stated that a cemetery (name not given) was located or had been located on certain portions of this property, and that some graves still existed.	Warranty Deed Record for Dallas County Vol. 84088, Page 0860- <i>continued</i>
1985	Paula Rosenbaum, an amateur genealogist learned in October that some of her relatives were buried in the Ferris Cemetery in the area of a residential development. Rosenbaum was incensed and "vowed to see the graves disinterred and the remains moved." Through a series of discussion with the Forest Hills homeowners and city officials, efforts are being sought to reach a solution. The only graves still evident in 1985 were located in the Common Lot. No human remains were found on the five adjoining residential lots.	<i>Dallas Times Herald</i> Newspaper Dated November 24, 1985
1986	This letter outlines several concerns and directions towards reaching a satisfactory solution to the status and future of the Ferris Cemetery between descendents of individuals buried there and the current landowners.	Letter from Shirley W. Caldwell, Chair of the Dallas County Historical Comm. to Mr. Charles Anderson, Manager of the City of Dallas Dated January 31, 1986



Appendix 2

INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS BURIED IN THE FERRIS CEMETERY

Name	Death Date	Age at Death	Month of Death	Cause of Death	General Comments
Warren Ferris Jr.	1847		August		son of W. A. Ferris; first burial in cemetery
Dye, Benjamin	1852	59	July		
Emily Ferris	1853	4	April		dau. of W. A. Ferris
Elizabeth Chenault	1858	38	September	typhoid fever	also listed as Chendull
Chenault infant	1858			typhoid fever	
unknown	1860				
William Ferris	1866	16	July		son of W. A. Ferris
Sage, Daniel	1866	64	May		
Price Ferris	1867	5	July	kicked by a horse	son of W. A. Ferris
Frances Moore Ferris	1869	34	April	died after childbirth	wife of W. A. Ferris
Sarah Francis Ferris	1869	<1	April	born & died; ≤2 mos.	dau. of W. A. Ferris
Warren A. Ferris	1873	62	February		
Dye, Sarah Cozear	1879	81	May		wife of Benjamin Dye
Tabor, Charles	1879	1			
Edward Ferris	1884	24	September		son of W. A. Ferris
Boyette infant	1886	<1		born & died	
Tabor, infant	1892	<1		born & died	child of W. Alexander
Hearndon, Jennie Allis	1899	19	June		
Pemberton, Clarence	1899	32	July		also listed Carangel P.
Rev. R. T. Taylor	1906	39	April		black preacher; last burial in cemetery
Atwood child	n.d.				
Atwood child	n.d.				
Bell, infant	n.d.	2-3			black child buried 50' from corner on San Leandro (in street)
Boyette, G. T.	n.d.				
Chenault, Wesley M.	n.d.				
Grace, Rosa Ryan	n.d.				
Grace,	n.d.				husband of Rosa Grace
Ryan, John	n.d.				
Sage, Ben	n.d.				brother of Daniel Sage
Sage, Jane	n.d.				wife of Daniel Sage
Sage, Jeff	n.d.				
Sage, Jim	n.d.				son of Daniel Sage
Tabor, C. T.	n.d.				son of W. Alexander
unknown	n.d.		April		

Appendix 3

GRAVE MARKER FRAGMENTS AT THE FERRIS CEMETERY

Frag. Number <sup>1</sup>	Grave Number <sup>2</sup>	Dimensions <sup>3</sup>	Material <sup>4</sup>	Frag. Type <sup>5</sup>	Marker Type <sup>6</sup>	Location <sup>7</sup>	General Comments
S 1	1	23 x 14	G	B	V	C1	oriented 35° E of N
S 2	5	52 x 20.5	C	B	FC	C1	possible infant twin; see S3
S 3	6	52 x 20.3	C	B	FC	C1	see S2; both oriented 30° E of N
S 4	3	7 x 4	L	B	VII	C1	oriented 35° E of N
S 5	4	9 x 2.2	C	B	VII	C1	oriented 35° E of N
S 6	7	13 x 4	L	B	VIII	C2	
S 7	9	11 x 4	C	B	VII	E OF C2	6 fragments
S 8	10	23 x 13	G	B	V	C2	marker may replace NS164
S 9	11	18 x 1.5	C	B	VII	C1	90° off alignment
S10	12	7 x 4	L	B	VII	C1	
S11	31	6 x 1 1/2	W	T	XXI	C1	
S12	32	3 1/2 x 1 1/2	W	T	XXI	Trench 4	Burial in Trench 4; no foot marker
S13	33	6 x 1 1/2	W	T	XXI	Trench 4	Burial in Trench 4; foot marker present
S14	34	6 x 1 1/2	W	T	XXI	Trench 4	Burial in Trench 4; foot marker present
S15	35	6 x 1 1/2	W	T	XXI	Trench 4	Burial in Trench 4; no foot marker
S16	36	too deteriorated	W	T	XXI	Trench 4	Burial in Trench 4; foot marker present
NS 01		2.5 x 2	C	?		N of C1	
NS 02		5.5 x 4.5	C	?		N of C1	
NS 03		14 x 9	C	?		N of C1	
NS 04		4 x 3	C	T		C1	
NS 05	20	7 x 5.5	C	B	IV	C1	
NS 06		8 x 7	C	?		C1	
NS 07	8	11 x 9	C	B	FC	C1	
NS 08	20	5.5 x 4.5	C	B	IV	C1	
NS 09		9 x 9	C	B	II	C1	
NS 10		9 x 6.5	C	T		C1	
NS 11		3 x 2	C	?		C1	
NS 12		10 x 8.5	C	B	IV	C1	
NS 13	8	11 x 8	C	B	FC	C1	
NS 14	8	11.5 x 8	C	B	FC	C1	
NS 15		6 x 3.5	C	T		C1	
NS 16		5.5 x 3	C	T		C1	
NS 17		11 x 3.5	C	B	II	C1	
NS 18		7 x 4	C	?		C1	
NS 19		4 x 3.2	C	?		C1	
NS 20	21	2.5 x 2	C	B?	V	C1	
NS 21		6 x 5	C	?		C1	
NS 22		2.5 x 2.5	C	?		C1	
NS 23		8.5 x 4.5	C	?		C1	Letter W
NS 24		6.5 x 5.5	C	B	II	C1	
NS 25		7 x 4	C	B	II	C1	
NS 26	20	8 x 7.5	C	B	IV	C1	
NS 27	20	16 x 9.5	C	B	IV	C1	
NS 28	13	8.5 x 7	C	B	VI	C1	

Appendix 3—continued

Frag. Number <sup>1</sup>	Grave Number <sup>2</sup>	Dimensions <sup>3</sup>	Material <sup>4</sup>	Frag. Type <sup>5</sup>	Marker Type <sup>6</sup>	Location <sup>7</sup>	General Comments
NS 29		5 x 5	C	?		C1	
NS 25		7 x 4	C	B	II	C1	
NS 26	20	8 x 7.5	C	B	IV	C1	
NS 27	20	16 x 9.5	C	B	IV	C1	
NS 28	13	8.5 x 7	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 29		5 x 5	C	?		C1	
NS 30	20	6.5 x 5.5	C	B	IV	C1	
NS 31		14 x 8.5	C	T		C1	
NS 32		8 x 7.5	C	T		C1	
NS 33		5 x 4	C	T		C1	
NS 34		3 x 2	C	?		C1	
NS 35		3 x 2	C	?		C1	
NS 36		3 x 3	C	?		C1	
NS 37		3 x 3	C	?		C1	
NS 38		3 x 3	C	?		C1	
NS 39	8	13 x 8	C	B	FC	C1	
NS 40		8.5 x 7	C	T		C1	
NS 41		8.5 x 6	C	T		C1	
NS 42	8	7 x 5	C	B	FC	C1	
NS 43		12 x 7	C	T		C1	
NS 44	5	11 x 7	C	O	FC,O	C1	Obelisk fragment to S3
NS 45	13	2.5 x 2	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 46	13	3.5 x 2	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 47	13	4.5 x 3	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 48	13	6 x 5	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 49	20	7.5 x 5.5	C	B	XX	C1	Letter F
NS 50	16	8 x 6	C	B	XVI	C1	
NS 51		7.5 x 6	C	?		C1	
NS 52	13	6.5 x 3	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 53	13	12 x 4	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 54	17	8.5 x 7.5	C	B	XVII	C1	
NS 55	13	7.5 x 5.5	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 56		4.5 x 2.5	C	?		C1	
NS 57	18	12 x 7	C	B	XVIII	C1	
NS 58	18	14 x 11.5	C	B	XVIII	C1	
NS 59		6 x 5	C	B?	XIX	C1	Braid pattern
NS 60		5.5 x 2.5	C	?		C1	Letter T
NS 61	13	5 x 3.5	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 62	13	10 x 9	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 63	13	4 x 2.5	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 64	13	5 x 3.5	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 65	13	6.5 x 6	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 66		7 x 6	C	B?	XIX	C1	Braid pattern
NS 67	18	15 x 5.5	C	B	XVIII	C1	
NS 68	13	15.5 x 13.5	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 69	13	16.5 x 15.5	C	B	VI	C1	
NS 70	8	11 x 7	C	B	FC	C1	

Appendix 3—continued














Frag. Number <sup>1</sup>	Grave Number <sup>2</sup>	Dimensions <sup>3</sup>	Material <sup>4</sup>	Frag. Type <sup>5</sup>	Marker Type <sup>6</sup>	Location <sup>7</sup>	General Comments
NS 71	5	5 x 3	C	B	FC	C1	Corner fragment to S2
NS 72		4 x 4	C	?		C1	
NS 73		4 x 3	C	?		C1	
NS 74		8 x 4.5	C	T		C1	
NS 75		6 x 4.5	C	T		C1	
NS 76	8	7.5 x 6	C	B	FC	C1	
NS 77		4.5 x 3.5	C	T		C1	
NS 78		12 x 7	C	B	II	C1	
NS 79	8	9 x 7.5	C	B	FC	C1	
NS 80		9 x 8.5	C	T		C1	
NS 81		8 x 3.5	C	B		C1	
NS 82		4 x 3.5	C	B		C1	
NS 83		4 x 3.5	C	B		C1	
NS 84		4 x 4	C	B		C1	
NS 85		6 x 5	C	B		C1	
NS 86	8	6 x 6	C	B	FC	C1	
NS 87	22	7 x 6	C	B	I	C1	
NS 88		9.5 x 9	C	B	II	C1	
NS 89		8.5 x 7	C	B	II	C1	
NS 90		9 x 7	C	B	FC	C1	
NS 91		9.5 x 3	C	?		C1	
NS 92		4 x 4	C	?		C1	
NS 93		5 x 4	C	B	FC	C1	
NS 94		2 x 2	C	?		C1	
NS 95		3 x 2	C	?		C1	
NS 96		3 x 2	C	?		C1	
NS 97		3 x 3	C	?		C1	
NS 98		4 x 2	C	?		C1	
NS 99	20	10 x 10	C	B	IV	C1	
NS100		5.5 x 3.5	C	?		C1	
NS101		5 x 5	C	B	II	C1	
NS102		3 x 2.5	C	?		C1	
NS103		6 x 4	C	B	II	C1	
NS104		4.5 x 4	C	?		C1	
NS105		6.5 x 6	C	B	II	C1	
NS106	14	10 x 9	L	B	XIII	C1	
NS107	14	9 x 7.5	L	B	XIII	C1	
NS108		15 x 12.5	C	B	XIV	C1	
NS109							Renumbered S9
NS110	23	16.5 x 13	C	B	XV	C1	
NS111		10 x 9	C	B	II	C1	
NS112	8	11 x 7.5	C	B	FC,O	C1	
NS113	8	10.5 x 8	C	B	FC	C1	
NS114	6	6.5 x 6.5	C	B	FC,O	C1	Fragment to S3
NS115	6	7.5 x 6	C	B	FC,O	C1	Fragment to S3
NS116		6 x 3	M	T		btwn C1-C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS117	13	8.5 x 6	C	B	VI	btwn C1-C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS118	8	4 x 4	C	T?		btwn C1-C2	Moved downslope from C1

Appendix 3—continued

Frag. Number <sup>1</sup>	Grave Number <sup>2</sup>	Dimensions <sup>3</sup>	Material <sup>4</sup>	Frag. Type <sup>5</sup>	Marker Type <sup>6</sup>	Location <sup>7</sup>	General Comments
NS119	8	4 x 1.5	C	B	FC	btwn C1-C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS120		7.5 x 6	C	B	FC	btwn C1-C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS121							Renumbered S1
NS122		23 x 14	G	B	V	C1	Pair to S1
NS123		14 x 14	C	B	V	C1	
NS124		7 x 4	C	?		C1	
NS125		9.5 x 9	C	?		C1	
NS126	15	15.5 x 9.5	C	B	XIII	C1	Complete base
NS127		3.5 x 2.5	C	T		C1	
NS128		4.5 x 4	C	?		C1	
NS129		3 x 2.5	C	B	FC	C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS130		6 x 3	C	B		C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS131		8.5 x 3.5	C	B	FC	C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS132		7 x 5.5	L	T		C2	
NS133		4 x 2.5	C	?		C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS134		4 x 2.5	C	B	FC	C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS135		7 x 4	C	B	FC	C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS136		10 x 6.5	C	B	FC	C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS137		5 x 3	C	?		C2	
NS138		5 x 3.5	C	B?	VII/LX	C2	
NS139		5 x 4	C	B	FC	C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS140		3 x 3	C	?		C2	
NS141		4 x 4	C	?		C2	
NS142	28	8 x 7	L	rock		C2	
NS143	24	8 x 7.5	C	B	XII	C2	
NS144		4 x 2.5	C	B?		C2	
NS145		5.5 x 5	C	B	II	C2	
NS146		7 x 7	C	B	II	C2	
NS147	25	7.5 x 4.5	L	B	IX	C2	See NS151
NS148		4 x 3.5	C	?		C2	
NS149		7 x 6	C	B	II	C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS150	13	4.5 x 3	C	B	VI	C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS151	25	6.5 x 4	L	B	IX	C2	See NS147
NS152		10 x 6	C	B	II	C2	
NS153		6 x 4	C	?		C2	
NS154		6.5 x 4	C	B	II	C2	
NS155	29	5.5 x 5	L	rock		C2	
NS156	26	6.5 x 5.5	L	B	X,O	C2	
NS157		7.5 x 5.5	C	B?		C2	
NS158		4 x 2.5	C	?		C2	
NS159		5 x 4	C	B?	XI	C2	
NS160		7 x 5.5	C	B	II	C2	
NS161		7.5 x 7	C	?		C2	
NS162		6 x 4	C	B	II	C2	
NS163	27		I	4 metal gate posts		C2	Reverend Taylor; PAT 1-28-96
NS164		9 x 4	C	B?	VIII	C2	

Appendix 3—continued

Frag. Number <sup>1</sup>	Grave Number <sup>2</sup>	Dimensions <sup>3</sup>	Material <sup>4</sup>	Frag. Type <sup>5</sup>	Marker Type <sup>6</sup>	Location <sup>7</sup>	General Comments
NS165		11 x 4	C	B?	VIII	C2	
NS166		6 x 4.5	C	B	II	C2	
NS167		6 x 5	C	?		C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS168		6.5 x 5.5	C	B	FC	C2	Moved downslope from C1
NS169							Recent concrete; not a marker
NS170							Recent concrete; not a marker
NS171		7 x 5	C	?		C2	
NS172		5 x 4	C	?		C2	
NS173	30	18 x 14 x 8	L	rock		C2	
NS174		4 x 2.5	C	?		C2	
NS175	8	7 x 6	C	B	FC	C2	Moved downslope from C1

- 1 Marker designation (S= in situ, NS= not in situ)
- 2 Minimum number of graves based on markers was calculated using base fragments only
- 3 Length and width dimensions are recorded in inches
- 4 Material (G= granite, C= concrete, L= limestone, M= marble, I= iron, W= wood)
- 5 Fragment type (B= base, T= tablet, ?= too fragmentary to identify)
- 6 Marker type (FC= false crypt, I= , II= , III= false crypt with obelisk, IV= , V= , VI= , VII= tablet with no base evident, VIII= natural limestone/unsculptured, IX= sculptured rectangular base, X= sculptured limestone obelisk, XI= , XII= , XIII= , XIV= obelisk, XV= , XVI= , XVII= , XVIII= , XIX= braid pattern, XX= , XXI= wooden marker)
- 7 Location (C1= Cluster 1 located on crest of hill, C2= Cluster 2 at base of hill; see cemetery map)

## Ferris Family Cemetery - 1847-1906

Located in the 1700 block of St. Francis Street at San Leandro on the high ground, 100 yards northwest of Alex Sanger Elementary School, is one of Dallas' pioneer cemeteries.

Warren Angus Ferris, surveyor of Dallas County, donated the land in 1852 for burial of his friends and neighbors as well as his family. It was located in the eastern portion of Ferris' 640 acre homestead, the C.A. Lovejoy Survey #4. Ferris' home in the 8300 block of Forest Hills Blvd. was destroyed by fire around 1903. Descendants of Ferris left Dallas for Arizona and Oklahoma Territories, but the cemetery was well known to picnickers on nearby Ash Creek.

There were approximately 100 graves in the Ferris Cemetery which was originally four acres in size. The graves were marked by rose bushes planted by the Ferris children. There was a Negro burial ground near the creek. The area was well fenced and maintained until the 1960's. According to Robert Cole, unofficial historian of the Ferris Cemetery, there was a log house about 100 yards from the cemetery where the James Boys lived in the winter of 1872-73. Mr. Cole, who lived at 7522 E. Grand, grew up in the area and cleaned and maintained the cemetery until his death in 1959.

Names of early persons buried in the cemetery were listed in Warren Ferris' memoranda book. Mr. Cole made a list of remaining graves in 1948 and the list was placed in the Dallas Hall of State. Mrs. George Carlisle listed the cemetery and known graves in her book, Old Cemeteries of Dallas County, pp. 38-39.

In a letter to his sister Sarah of Buffalo, New York, Aug. 24, 1855, Warren Ferris wrote, "I am quietly settled here on White Rock Creek in this county on a place where I have buried two of my children ....". This is a reference to the first two known burials in Ferris Cemetery, Warren Ferris Jr. (died 1847) and Emily Ferris (died 1853). Altogether there are six Ferris graves. Two more children, William (died 1866) and Price (died 1867). Frances Moore Ferris, Warren's wife who died in childbirth on April 21, 1869 at age 34, was joined by Warren her husband, who died Feb. 7, 1873, age 62.

Another early grave is that of Elizabeth Chenault who died in a 1858 typhoid epidemic. Members of the Chenault, Sage, Dye, Boyett, Herndon, Pemberton and Tabor families were also buried in the Ferris Cemetery. When Robert Cole was about ten years old around 1890, Robert Ferris (W.A.'s son) and Wes Chenault came to see his father, saying that they'd just cleared brush and vines from the family graves and built a fence around the old lots, as they were together.

## Ferris Cemetery -2

The last burial was Rev. R.T. Taylor, a black preacher (Aug. 22, 1867 to Apr. 11, 1906). After these last burials, the oldtimers moved off and the cemetery was abandoned except for the care given it by Robert Cole and a few descendants of the Dallas County pioneers.

In 1924, Leon L. Fechenbach began his Forest Hills development which basically covered Ferris' old farm and the cemetery site. According to neighbors and family members, Fechenbach desecrated the pioneer cemetery by having a road (St. Francis) bulldozed through it and allowing new homeowners to carry off gravestones for their patios and garden.

*Memo  
Sanger*

Robert Cole tried to draw attention to the plight of the cemetery in a June 22, 1956 newspaper story carried by the Dallas Time Herald. Piles of refuse filled the shallow graves; small boys attracted to the wooded hillside, knocked over gravestones; construction threatened what remained of the site.

Lucy Pounds Smith, great granddaughter of Warren Ferris and Oak Cliff resident, appealed to city officials to save the cemetery and Walter McCausland, Buffalo New York student of Ferris' achievements, wrote letters to the editor of both Dallas newspapers. In 1962, following an exhibit at the Dallas Public Library honoring Warren A. Ferris and attended by over one hundred of his descendants, there was a final campaign to preserve Ferris Cemetery. Mrs. Smith wrote to McCausland on May 1, 1962 of the organization of Ferris descendants and creation of a fund: "We would like to clean up the cemetery, put a nice fence around it, a suitable memorial marker to W.A.F. - Then later maybe we can plant trees, grass, flowers. Maybe add a set of white iron chairs to sit under the trees."

On July 14, 1962, Carl Ferris of Raton (a grandson of Warren's) hired a Fort Worth lawyer to sue the City of Dallas for damages to the cemetery. Dallas attorney Rosenbloom represented Fechenbach. Lucy Smith reported in disappointment to McCausland that the result of the suit was - "no park, no cemetery - For Sale signs up" on all the lots of the nearby development.

Vandalism continued. By 1970, only one gravestone was left standing, that of Rev. Taylor.



Ferris Cemetery -3

On Feb. 2, 1970, without consulting Ferris descendants or descendants of other prominent early Dallas pioneers buried there, the City Council of Dallas passed a resolution to do away with Ferris Cemetery. The graves were to be dug up and the bones reinterred elsewhere. Appeals to turn the area into a park dedicated to Ferris were ignored and, according to family members and neighbors, the remains were never reinterred.

*never done*

revised, 1985  
Susanne Starling

Sources on the Ferris Cemetery

- Warren A. Ferris memoranda book, Dallas County records.
- W. A. Ferris letter of Aug. 24, 1855, original in Ferris-Lovejoy Collection, Brigham Young University Library, Provo, Utah.
- Scrapbook with clippings, letters, sketches of Mrs. Lucy Pounds Smith in the possession of Leland Smith of Mesquite, Tx.
- Letters of Lucy P. Smith, May 1, 1962 and June 20, 1962. Copies in Ferris-Lovejoy Collection, BYU, Provo.
- List of gravestones and commentary by Robert F. Cole in Hall of State, Fair Park (#A-5841).
- Sketch of the cemetery in 1970, W.R. Conger.
- Ruth Cooper letter of 1979.
- Mrs. George Carlisle, Old Cemeteries, Dallas Co., Dallas Public Library; pp. 38-39.
- Dallas Morning News, May 11, 1956, Feb. 23, 1959, and June 20, 1976.
- Dallas Times Herald, June 22, 1956 and Feb. 23, 1959.

Other persons interested in the cemetery (some deceased <sup>\*</sup> now):

- \*Mrs. Lucy Pounds Smith
- \*Ruth Cooper
- Mrs. Charles L. Hart, 8531 Arturo, 321-2776
- \*W.R. Conger
- \*Mrs. Francis Thomas
- Betty (Mrs. Mike) McKool, a Ferris descendant
- Mrs. C.C. Fuller on Duxbury, 348-2843
- Ron Shipman and his wife, local realtor, 324-4570
- Rita Barnes, 2828 Ripplewood, 328-6932
- Suzanne Starling, 827-9419
- Francis James, Historical Commission, 381-0445
- Robert Damron, Attorney, 324-2178 office  
327-1338 home

*Shipman*

*Heckler*