



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

GEORGE W. BUSH, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RECEIVED

MAR 21 2001

WM-005

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Application for HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

1. Cemetery/Burial: GARDEN CEMETERY County: WILLIAMSON
Also known as: GORDON FAMILY CEMETERY

2. Location/Size: Metes and bounds, any survey references (e.g., L. Garrett Survey, Section 2, Abstract 5248):

Street address, town, city, zip code, and/or specific directions from nearest town, distance from nearest intersection or permanent landmark or state or county road:

FROM TAYLOR CITY HALL, DRIVE NORTH ON HIGHWAY 95 4.7 MILES. TURN RIGHT (EAST) ON FM 1331 AND DRIVE 12.4 MILES TO OLD TWO STORY HOUSE ON LEFT. CEMETERY IS BEHIND OUTBUILDINGS IN GROVE OF TREES BEHIND THE OLD HOUSE OF ANDREW & ELIZA GORDON

Optional: UTM: Zone: Northing: Easting:
Optional: Latitude: N Longitude: W

3. The Cemetery Meets the Following CRITERIA:

[X] 50 years of age [X] Historic associations

(Two basic criteria govern the approval for the Historic Texas Cemetery designation: (1) The cemetery must be at least 50 years old, and (2) deemed worthy of preservation for its historic associations. The very nature of a cemetery being a landmark of a family's or community's presence is considered to validate the criteria of historic associations.)

4. Origins: Texas courts hold that no particular instrument or ceremony is required to dedicate land to cemetery purposes. Its actual use as a cemetery is sufficient (Damon v. State, 52 S.W. 2d 368 Tex. 1932). If known, please provide information as to the ownership of the land out of which this cemetery was set aside and when this took place:

THE LAND, AS OF THE FIRST INTERMENT IN 1855, WAS OWNED BY ANDREW GORDON

5. Trusteeship or Authority Over Cemetery: [ ] Public [X] Private [ ] Both

Name of individual trustee, political entity, organization, or religious institution associated with cemetery or whose land surrounds cemetery:

THOMAS M. BULLION

Address: 1819 LEXINGTON City TAYLOR TX Zip 76574
Phone: (512) 365-6049 Fax: ( ) E-mail:

Contact Person, Sexton, or caretaker: FRED D. GORDON

Address: 602 PINTAIL LANE City TAYLOR TX Zip 76574
Phone: (512) 365-8683 Fax: ( ) E-mail: fdg@flash.net

6. Ownership of Land Adjacent to Cemetery:

Owner no. 1: KENNETH RANDIG  
Address: 200 CR 160 City TAYLOR, TX Zip 76574  
Phone no.: (512) 365-6205 Fax no.: ( )  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner no. 2: BARBARA SPAN HELM & ELEANORA LOUISE MARTIN  
Address: P.O. BOX 293 City THRALL, TX Zip 76578-0293  
Phone no.: ( ) Fax no.: ( )  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner no. 3: HERBERT HEINE  
Address: RR 1 BOX 174 City THURSDALE, TX Zip 76577-9611  
Phone no.: (512) 862-3337 Fax no.: ( )  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner no. 4: LINDA RUNYAN - G. THOMAS & D. AND E. THOMAS FAMILY TRUST  
Address: 205 DUNCAN RD City MARSHALL, TX Zip 75670-8421  
Phone no.: (903) 938-0952 Fax no.: ( )  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Historical Designations:

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places?  Yes  No

If Yes, date of listing: \_\_\_\_\_

Does this cemetery already have an Official TX Historical Marker?  Yes  No

If Yes, title and date of Marker: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Person Completing This Form:

Name: FRED D. GORDON Date: 2-12-01  
Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: 602 PINTAIL City TAYLOR TX Zip 76574  
Phone no.: (512) 365-8683 Fax no.: ( )  
E-mail address: fdg@flash.net

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

- Narrative history and local context of the cemetery (one page will suffice)
- CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOS (& historical photos if available); color prints will not be accepted except as supplemental to a core set of black & white photos – see page 4 of instructions.
- Documentation for the *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* (site map)
- Processing fee of \$25.00 (non-refundable)

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### Application for the Historic Texas Cemetery Designation

Approximate No. of burials: 16 Date/name of first known interment:  
JANUARY 11, 1855 ELIZA K CONSORT of C.M. LESBOWR

Do cemetery burial or Association records exist?  Yes  No  
Has the cemetery been inventoried?  Yes  No

Author, title, date, location, availability of above records/inventories or other published material about this cemetery/site\*:  
WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Cemetery Status:  Active  Inactive  
Scheduled cleanings?  Yes  No If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
Association meetings?  Yes  No If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
Accessible to the Public?:  Yes  No Evidence of unmarked graves?  Yes  No  
Evidence of vandalism?  Yes  No Problems with erosion?  Yes  No

#### Monuments and Gravestones

1936 Texas Centennial Markers:  Yes  No: (if Yes, list/briefly describe)\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Does this cemetery contain (an) individual THC grave marker(s)?  Yes  No  
If Yes, give name(s) of individual(s)\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Statuary:  Yes  No (if Yes, list)\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Stone markers?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Concrete markers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Wood markers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Zinc markers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Handmade markers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Obelisks?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Mausoleums?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Grave decorations?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Veterans' Graves in Cemetery\*:

War of 1812	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Texas Revolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Civil War	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	The Indian Wars	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Mexican American War	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Spanish American War	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
World War I	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	World War II	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Korean War	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Vietnam War	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Others (e.g., TX Rangers): \_\_\_\_\_

\*List further description, additional information on separate pages if necessary.

Identifiable Heritage

Identifiable Local Historical Heritage\*:

Graves associated with a specific event: \_\_\_\_\_

Early town or community ties: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifiable Cultural Heritage\*:

(Specifics, if known)

African heritage: \_\_\_\_\_

Asian heritage: \_\_\_\_\_

European heritage: \_\_\_\_\_

Mexican heritage: \_\_\_\_\_

American Indian heritage: \_\_\_\_\_

Other heritage(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Identifiable Religious Heritage\*:

(Specifics, if known)

Catholic: \_\_\_\_\_

Islamic: \_\_\_\_\_

Jewish: \_\_\_\_\_

American Indian: \_\_\_\_\_

Protestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

List Fraternal Organizations represented\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Features\*:

Entry gate(s):  Yes  No      Decorative fencing:  Yes  No

Perimeter fencing:  Yes  No      Grave/family plot curbing:  Yes  No

Grave/family plot fencing:  Yes  No      Gravehouse(s):  Yes  No

Tabernacle(s):  Yes  No      Seating areas, benches:  Yes  No

Segregated burials:  Yes  No      Well(s):  Yes  No

Others (e.g., urns, gazebo): \_\_\_\_\_

Landscaping\*:

Flower beds:  Yes  No      Ground cover:  Yes  No

Shrubbery:  Yes  No      Trees:  Yes  No

Terracing:  Yes  No      Walkway(s):  Yes  No

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

# *Garden Cemetery*

**Also known as**

## *Gordon Family Cemetery*

The origin of the Gordon Family Cemetery started with the death of Eliza Kerr “Gordon” LeSueur , the daughter of Andrew and Eliza “Goff” Gordon. She died January 11, 1855<sup>1</sup> and was the first to be buried back behind the main house. It was originally thought that she had probably died during the delivery of her daughter. But this has been proven to be wrong. Her daughter survived, married<sup>2</sup> and moved to Grand Coteau, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. Her name was Eliza Penelope LeSueur. Her father, Charles Marion LeSueur, represented Milam and Robertson Counties in the Texas Legislature in 1857 and 1858<sup>3</sup>. He was a member of the 1861 Texas Secession Convention and signed the ordinance of Texas Secession, as a representative of Milam and Williamson Counties. He was a Lieutenant Colonel during the War Between the States and is buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Georgetown, Texas.

Around 1854, Andrew and his wife, Eliza, brought their family to Texas by way of Pulaski, Giles Co., Tennessee<sup>4</sup> – Newton County, Mississippi<sup>5</sup>, then here to Williamson County. Andrew bought 453 acres of the Conrad Eigenauer grant February 6, 1854<sup>6</sup>. Then on March 3, 1854 Andrew bought an additional 320 acres of the Pedro Garza grant<sup>7</sup>.

The Gordon family continued to add burials to the cemetery. Some of Andrew and Eliza's children and grandchildren are buried here. The oldest person buried here is John Goff, Eliza's father, who was born in 1776 and died in 1867<sup>8</sup>. The youngest buried here is shared by twin daughters of Thomas and Nancy Lane, who were born and died September 11, 1873<sup>9</sup>.

In his last Will and Testament, Andrew Gordon decreed the following:

“... I direct and will that out of the aforesaid lands, a lot of the dimensions of 75 feet square, including my family burial ground near my dwelling, be and the same is hereby reserved and set apart especially and perpetually for a family cemetery, and in no event shall the same be sold, transferred or conveyed to any one by any of my Heirs or legatees. Said 75 feet square of land, for the purposes of a family burying ground as aforesaid and for the preservation of the graves already there on is meted and bounded as follows, ....”

Signed on the 13 day of October 1882.<sup>10</sup>

Andrew died June 24, 1889, but as yet his grave has not been found. Presently there are fifteen marked graves in a very small cemetery, hidden from view behind the main house.... trees and heavy brush.

Fact is, that the old house still stands. It is a two-story house with large white pillars in front with a gallery for both floors. The house was built with square nails and these have not been replaced. The floor sills are six inches by ten inches and one is made of solid black walnut. The house had two rooms upstairs and two downstairs. There is a fireplace in each room and a winding stairway between the two floors. The house took one year to build and is approximately 160 years old. The lumber was hauled from Houston by oxen.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Tombstone of Eliza "Gordon" LeSueur

<sup>2</sup> L. O. Phillips, age 29, to E. P. Lesueur, age 26, 02 Jan 1877 Book 4 Lic. # 464 Williamson Co., Tx

<sup>3</sup> "Members of the Texas Legislature; 1846 – 1980"

<sup>4</sup> "Early Marriages in Giles County Tennessee" by Clara M. Parker on p.23

<sup>5</sup> Deed for Newton County, Mississippi, certificate #36.575, acquired from the U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management.

<sup>6</sup> Williamson County Deed Record Book , Vol. 5, page 209 located in Georgetown, Texas

<sup>7</sup> Williamson County Deed Record Book , Vol. 6, page 71 located in Georgetown, Texas

<sup>8</sup> Information taken from the tombstone

<sup>9</sup> Information taken from the tombstone

<sup>10</sup> Probate records filed for Andrew Gordon, Cause: 516 in Georgetown, Williamson Co., Texas

<sup>11</sup> Tradition and visual inspection



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AFFIDAVIT OF DEDICATION FOR CEMETERY PURPOSES FOR THE GARDEN CEMETERY

THE STATE OF TEXAS § KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON §

That the Texas Historical Commission, an agency of the State of Texas, does hereby certify and declare:

That the Garden Cemetery, in the County of Williamson, Texas, more particularly described in Exhibit A attached hereto, has been set aside and dedicated for cemetery purposes through historic use and that such property is now occupied by human graves.

That the current property owner of land out of which said cemetery was set aside and dedicated for cemetery purposes is: Thomas M. Bullion, 1819 Lexington, Taylor, TX 76574.

That the Texas Historical Commission has duly considered the evidence of existence and historic use of said cemetery and has listed said cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery, worthy of preservation.

That this dedication is subject to all the laws, rules, and regulations of the State of Texas regarding cemeteries now in effect and to those adopted after the effective date of this dedication, and is made in accordance with 13 Tex. Admin. Code Section §21.30.

This Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes is signed and executed on this 17th day of May, 2001.

[Handwritten signature of F. Lawrence Oaks]

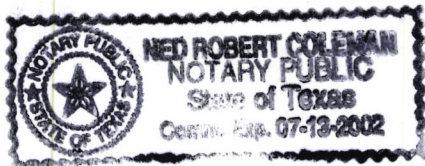
F. Lawrence Oaks Executive Director Texas Historical Commission

THE STATE OF TEXAS § COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared F. Lawrence Oaks, known to me to be a credible person, whose name is above subscribed, and said person swore to me the statements contained herein are true and correct.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on this 17th day of May, 2001.

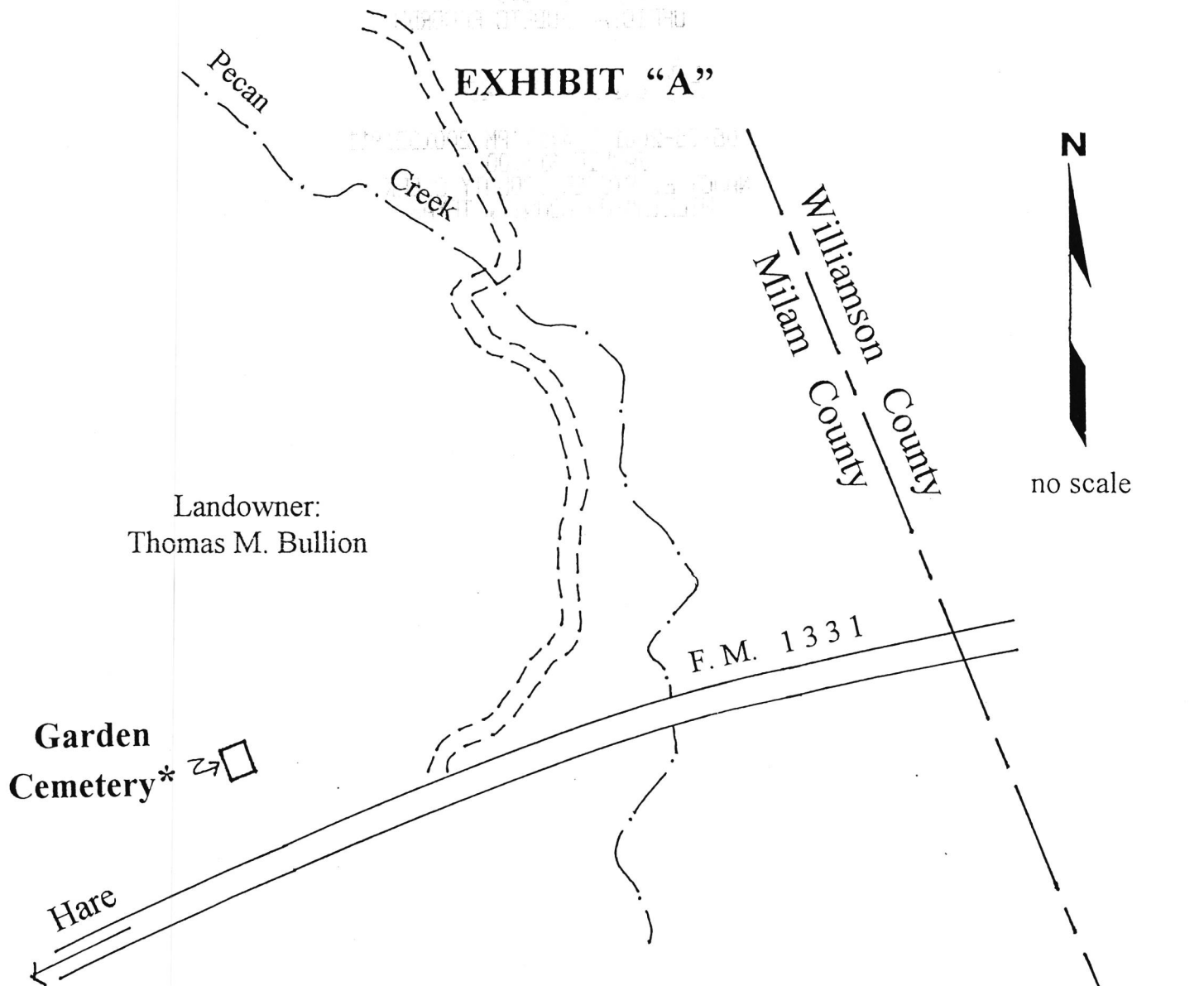
[Handwritten signature of Notary Public] NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the STATE OF TEXAS



RECORDERS MEMORANDUM All or parts of the text on this page was not clearly legible for satisfactory recordation.



EXHIBIT "A"



\* "...I direct and will that out of the aforesaid lands, a lot of the dimensions of 75 feet square, including my family burial ground near my dwelling, be and the same is hereby reserved and set apart especially and perpetually for a family cemetery, and in no event shall the same be sold, transferred or conveyed to any one by any of my Heirs or legatees. Said 75 feet square of land, for the purposes of a family burying ground as aforesaid and for the preservation of the graves already there on in meted and bounded as follows,...." Probate records filed for Andrew Gordon, Cause: 516, Georgetown, Williamson Co., Texas

Map adopted from data provided by the applicant and Williamson County Tax Appraisal District.  
Cemetery located at Latitude 30.6709° N, Longitude: 97.2471° W.

**GARDEN CEMETERY**  
Also known as Gordon Family Cemetery  
Cemetery No. WM-CO5  
Williamson County

FILED AND RECORDED  
OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS

*Nancy E. Rister*

05-25-2001 04:17 PM 2001036811

JACKIE \$13.00

NANCY E. RISTER, COUNTY CLERK  
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

① FRED D. GORDON  
602 PINTAIL  
TAYLOR, TEXAS 76574



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWERENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CORRECTED AFFIDAVIT OF DEDICATION FOR CEMETERY PURPOSES FOR THE GORDON CEMETERY

THE STATE OF TEXAS

§ § §

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

That this document is to correct the Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes for the Garden Cemetery filed in Document No. 2001036811, ~~Travis~~ <sup>WILLIAMSON</sup> County Records.

That the Texas Historical Commission, an agency of the State of Texas, does hereby certify and declare:

That the Gordon Cemetery, also known as the Garden Cemetery, in the County of Williamson, Texas, more particularly described in Exhibit A attached hereto, has been set aside and dedicated for cemetery purposes through historic use and that such property is now occupied by human graves.

That the current property owner of land out of which said cemetery was set aside and dedicated for cemetery purposes is: Thomas M. Bullion, 1819 Lexington, Taylor, TX 76574.

That the Texas Historical Commission has duly considered the evidence of existence and historic use of said cemetery and has listed said cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery, worthy of preservation.

That this dedication is subject to all the laws, rules, and regulations of the State of Texas regarding cemeteries now in effect and to those adopted after the effective date of this dedication, and is made in accordance with 13 Tex. Admin. Code Section §21.30.

This Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes is signed and executed on this

10TH day of July, 2001.

[Signature of F. Lawrence Oaks]

F. Lawrence Oaks
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission

THE STATE OF TEXAS

§ § §

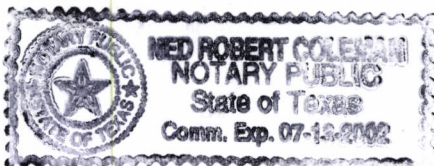
COUNTY OF TRAVIS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared F. Lawrence Oaks, known to me to be a credible person, whose name is above subscribed, and said person swore to me the statements contained herein are true and correct.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on this 10TH day of July, 2001.

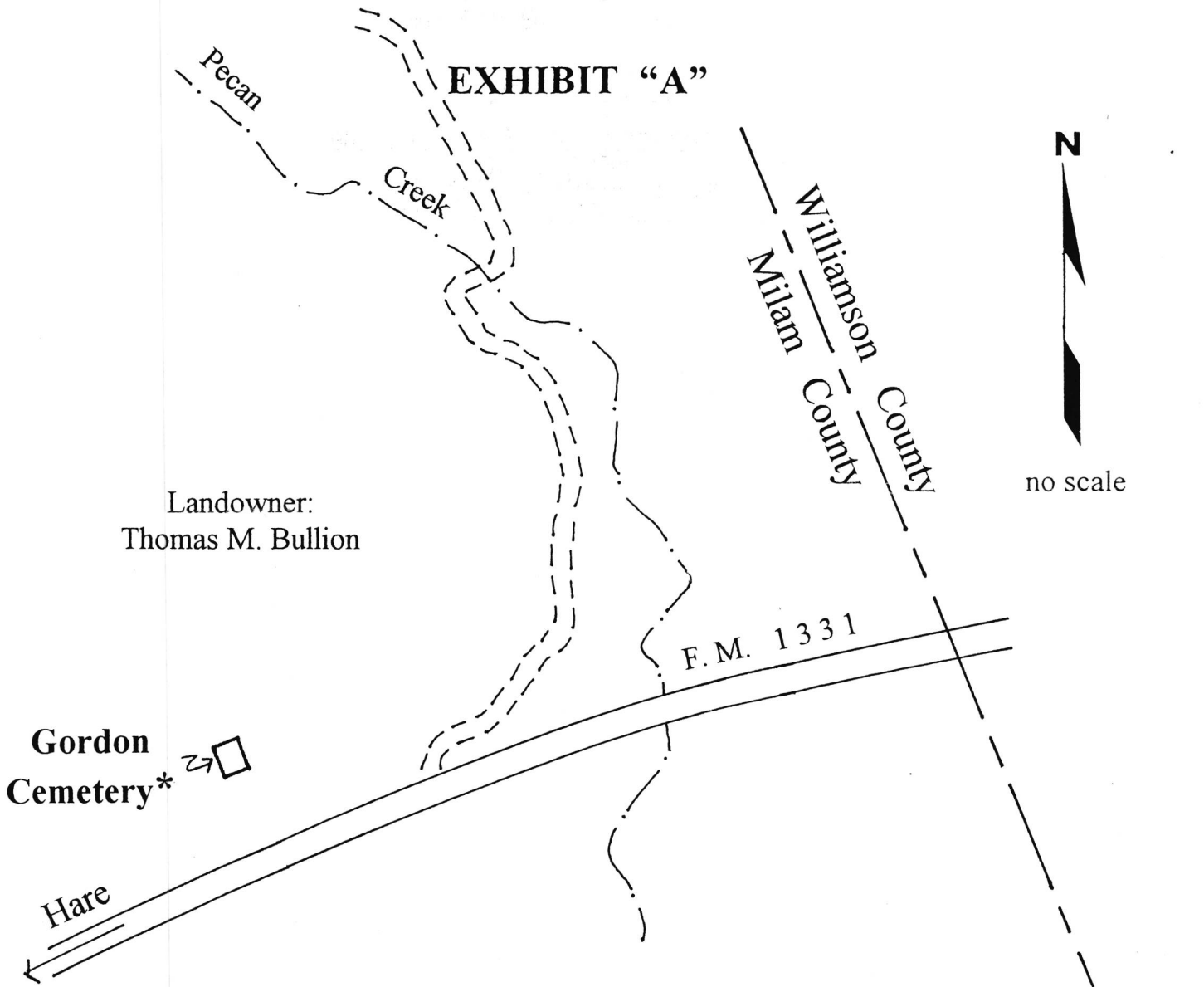
[Signature of Notary Public]

NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the STATE OF TEXAS



RECORDERS MEMORANDUM
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**EXHIBIT "A"**



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Map adopted from data provided by the applicant and Williamson County Tax Appraisal District.  
Cemetery located at Latitude 30.6709° N, Longitude: 97.2471° W.

**GORDON CEMETERY**

Also known as Garden Cemetery

Cemetery No. WM-CO5

Williamson County

FILED AND RECORDED  
OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS

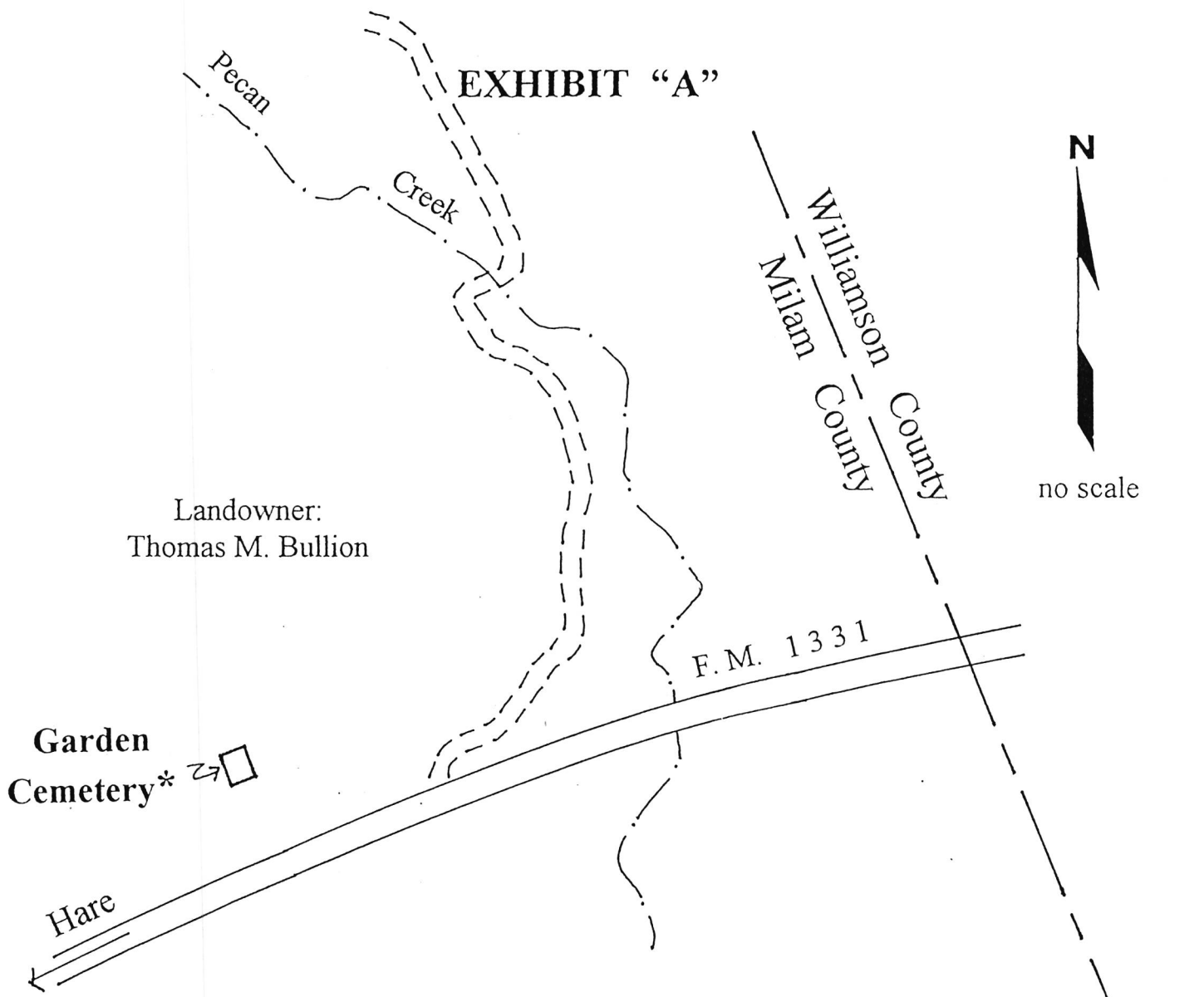
*Nancy E. Rister*

08-31-2001 01:28 PM 2001064508  
JACKIE \$13.00

NANCY E. RISTER, COUNTY CLERK  
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

① FRED GORDON  
602 PINTAIL  
TAYLOR, TX 76574

# EXHIBIT "A"



Landowner:  
Thomas M. Bullion

**Garden Cemetery\*** → □

Hare ←←

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Cemetery located at Latitude 30.6709° N, Longitude: 97.2471° W.

**GARDEN CEMETERY**  
Also known as Gordon Family Cemetery  
Cemetery No. WM-CO5  
Williamson County



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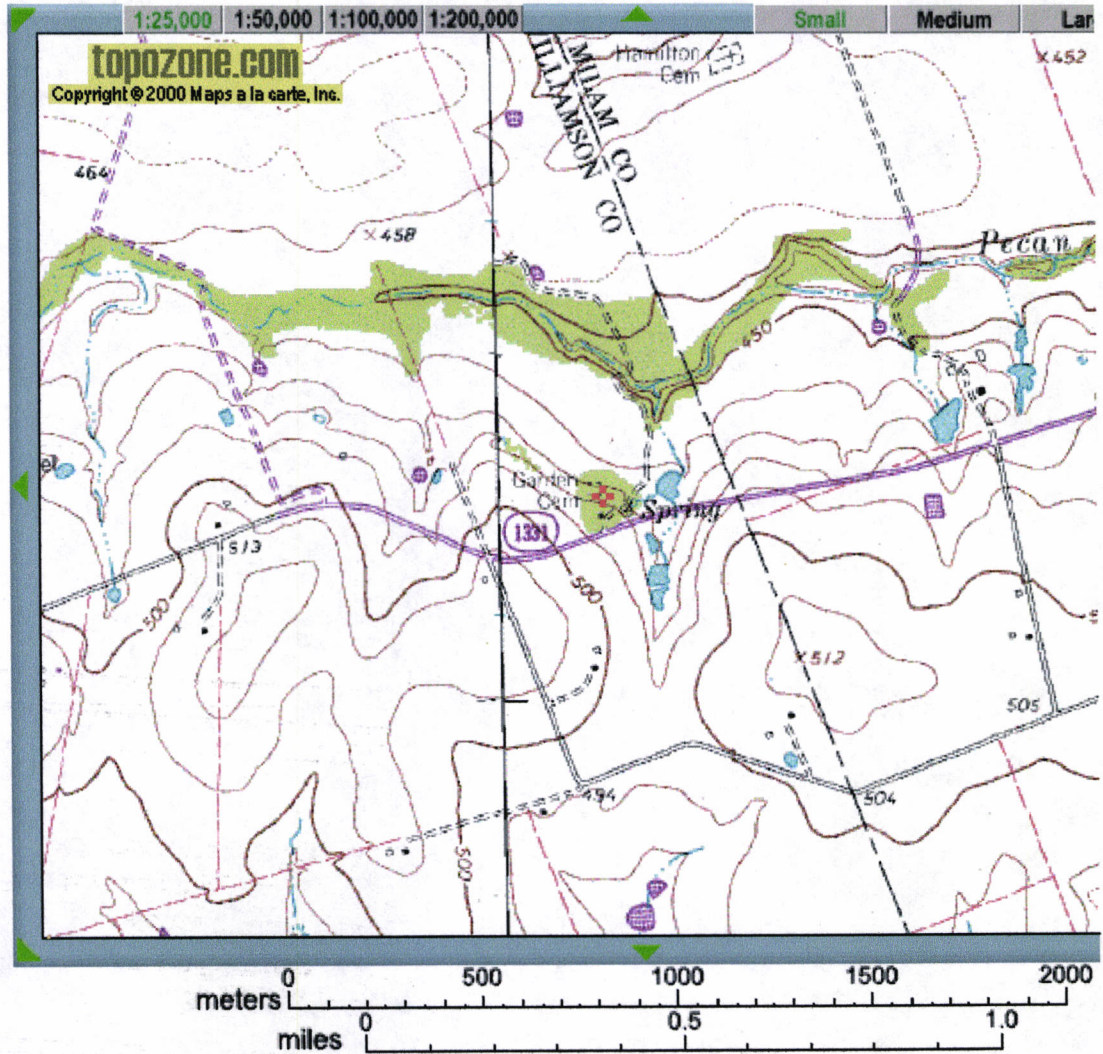


Cloudy  
70 F



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30.6709° N 97.2471° W

R005971  
H. YAEGER, et al  
48.0 AC

(61.00 AC)

HENRY YEAGER  
490/416  
(603.5 AC)

R006281  
HENRY YAEGER, et al  
16.0 AC

Pecan Creek

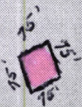
783.53'

308.35'

1616.66'

R096169 R097845  
THOMAS M. BULLION  
487/446  
161.581 AC, 1.00 AC

APPROX. LOC.  
of GORDEN FAMILY CEM.



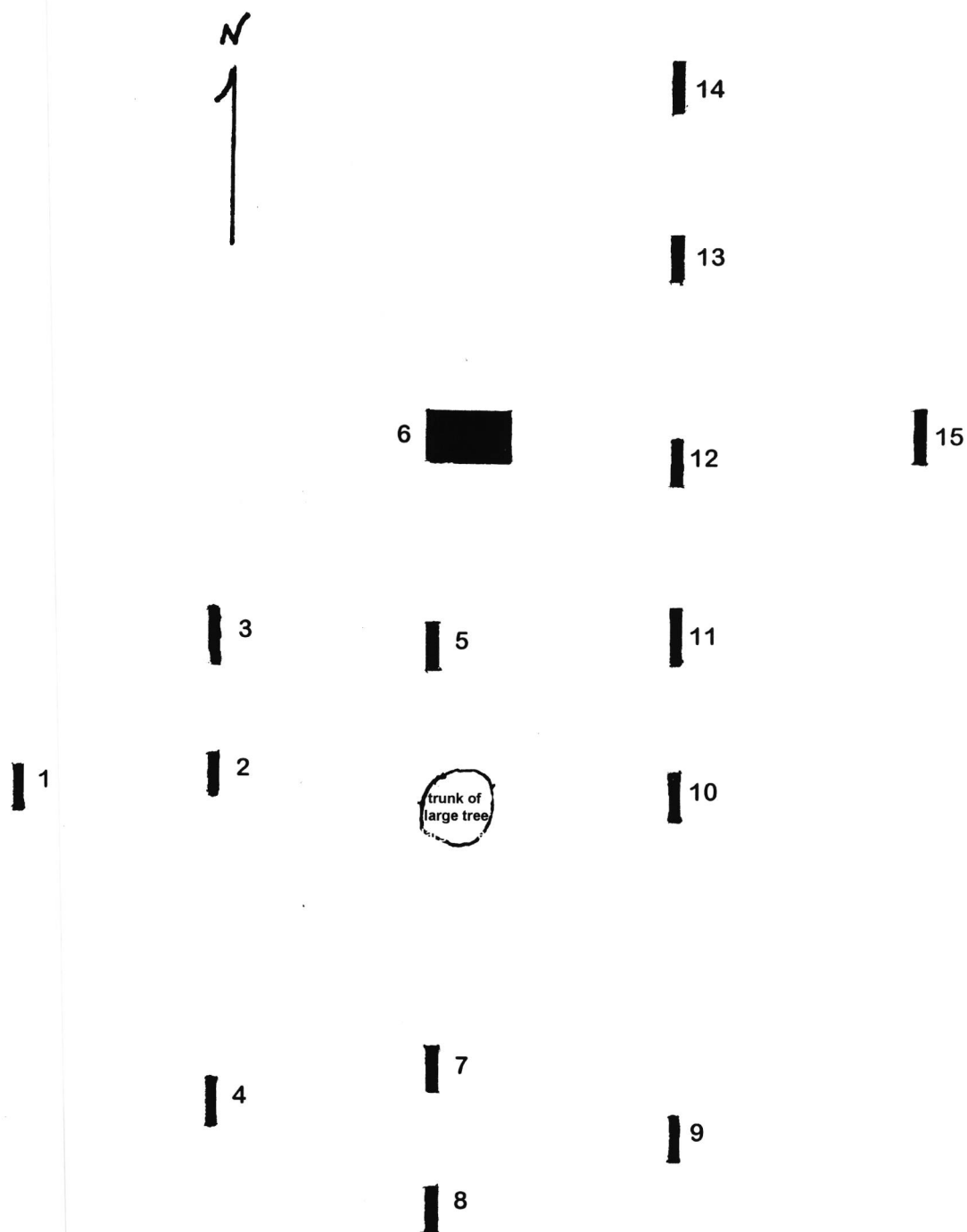
F.M. 1351

R006171 R095058  
BARBARA KELM  
1320/921  
71.180 AC 1.0 AC

R030929  
A.F. & E.H. SCHWARZ  
305/186  
13.7 AC



# Graves in the Gordon Family Cemetery



- 1) Harry McDonald \*\* son of John Goff & Louise "Thomson" Gordon \*\*  
December 16, 1862 - October 30, 1870
- 2) Twin daughters of Thomas & Nancy Margaret "Gordon" Lane  
September 11, 1873 - September 11, 1873
- 3) Ella Lee \*\* daughter of Thomas & Nancy Margaret "Gordon" Lane  
July 06, 1861 - January 23, 1863
- 4) Thomas F. Lane \*\* son of Thomas & Nancy Margaret "Gordon" Lane  
January 12, 1863 - January 25, 1874
- 5) M. McNairy \*\* daughter of William & Jane "Gordon" Daniel \*\*  
April 08, 1856 - November 22, 1860
- 6) Sinica Carter, M.D. \*\* friend of the Gordon family \*\*  
Utica, N.Y. August 17, 1804 - Milam Co., Texas August 16, 1858
- 7) Jane McEwen "Gordon" Daniel \*\* daughter of Andrew & Eliza "Goff" Gordon \*\*  
October 27, 1825 - October 09, 1887
- 8) Albion Daniel \*\* son of William & Jane "Gordon" Daniel \*\*  
April 25, 1855 - June 23, 1890
- 9) Andrew F. Gordon \*\* son of Andrew & Eliza "Goff" Gordon \*\*  
March 02, 1832 - October 31, 1873
- 10) Eliza K. Gordon \*\* consort of Andrew Gordon \*\*  
April 17, 1801 - January 18, 1872
- 11) Sarah E. Gordon \*\* daughter of Andrew & Eliza "Goff" Gordon \*\*  
September 14, 1838 - February 28, 1859
- 12) Mary I. \*\* consort of R.S. Wiley & daughter of Andrew & Eliza "Goff" Gordon \*\*  
August 25, 1828 - January 21, 1855
- 13) Eliza \*\* consort of C.M. LeSueur & daughter of Andrew & Eliza "Goff" Gordon \*\*  
November 08, 1830 - January 11, 1855
- 14) John Goff \*\* father of Eliza Kerr "Goff" Gordon  
March 09, 1776 - February 19, 1867
- 15) Oscar Robinson \*\* son of Charles K. & Eugenia "Daniel" Robinson \*\*  
May 30, 1872 - August 03, 1875



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
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*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 18, 2001

Mr. Fred D. Gordon  
602 Pintail  
Taylor, TX 76574

RE: WM-C05: Historic Texas Cemetery Designation, Garden Cemetery, Williamson County

Dear Mr. Gordon:

This letter is in reference to our receipt and review of the application for a Historic Texas Cemetery Designation for the Garden Cemetery in Williamson County. We have reviewed the submitted material and find that the Garden Cemetery meets our criteria for designation as a historic cemetery and thereby approve the application. I am enclosing the *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* along with *Exhibit A* to be recorded in the Williamson County Deed Records indexed to the Garden Cemetery and to the owner of land that shares common borders with the cemetery: Thomas M. Bullion.

Please secure a photocopy of the applicable filed for record documents indicating the volume and page number or other reference number of each recordation and send it/them to the Texas Historical Commission. We will send you a Historic Texas Cemetery designation certificate upon receipt of the copy or copies.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the preservation of this historic cemetery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerron S. Hite".

Gerron S. Hite, RA  
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator  
Texas Historical Commission

GSH/nrc  
Enclosures



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

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March 18, 2001

RECEIVED

JUN 07 2001

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mr. Fred D. Gordon  
602 Pintail  
Taylor, TX 76574

RE: WM-C05: Historic Texas Cemetery Designation, Garden Cemetery, Williamson County

Dear Mr. Gordon:

This letter is in reference to our receipt and review of the application for a Historic Texas Cemetery Designation for the Garden Cemetery in Williamson County. We have reviewed the submitted material and find that the Garden Cemetery meets our criteria for designation as a historic cemetery and thereby approve the application. I am enclosing the *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* along with *Exhibit A* to be recorded in the Williamson County Deed Records indexed to the Garden Cemetery and to the owner of land that shares common borders with the cemetery: Thomas M. Bullion.

Please secure a photocopy of the applicable filed for record documents indicating the volume and page number or other reference number of each recordation and send it/them to the Texas Historical Commission. We will send you a Historic Texas Cemetery designation certificate upon receipt of the copy or copies.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the preservation of this historic cemetery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerron S. Hite".

Gerron S. Hite, RA  
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator  
Texas Historical Commission

GSH/nrc  
Enclosures

To: fdg@flash.net  
From: "Gerron S. Hite, R. A." <gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us>  
Subject: Garden Cemetery  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Attached:

Fred Gordon:

We are in the process of reviewing your Historic Texas Cemetery application for the Garden Cemetery.

I have two comments concerning this applications.

The \$25 processing fee was not included with the application. Please send a check made out to the Texas Historical Commission for \$25. and sent it to the Texas Historical Commission, Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711-2276.

Please indicate who owns the land immediately around the cemetery. I assume this individual owns a part parcel of land extending from the cemetery to the FM 1331? You indicated in the application that four individuals owned land around the cemetery but the map did not indicate where their land is located.

We very much appreciate your interest in the Historic Texas Cemetery designation program. I am impressed with some of the older gravestones in the cemetery. If you plan to repair these gravestones, please let me know so we can give you some technical advice on the proper way to repair them.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the designation process.

Gerron Hite



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 11, 2001

Mr. Thomas M. Bullion  
1819 Lexington  
Taylor, TX 76574

Re: Garden Cemetery, Williamson County

Dear Mr. Bullion:

This letter is to inform you that the Texas Historical Commission has received an application for a Historic Texas Cemetery designation for the Garden Cemetery from Fred D. Gordon, Gordon family member. The deed records reflect that you are the owner of property that shares common borders with the cemetery. Cemeteries that are deemed worthy of recognition and preservation for their age and historical significance are eligible for this designation. The four-page Historic Texas Cemetery application form has provided us with a narrative history and photographs of the cemetery, and documentation defining its boundaries. Upon review and approval of the application, the Texas Historical Commission will supply the applicant with an *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* to be recorded in the deed records in the Williamson County Clerk's office. A copy of the *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* will be sent to you for your information.

This designation does not restrict in any way your use of the land adjacent to or surrounding this historic cemetery. Any cemetery or burial site in Texas, whether designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery or not, may not be disturbed, desecrated, or have gravestones removed under existing state laws. A brief description of some of the Texas laws regarding cemeteries is included in the enclosed THC booklet titled *Texas Preservation Guidelines - Preserving Historic Cemeteries*.

It is our hope that this designation will encourage long-term preservation of this unique resource through its recordation in the deed records. Please feel free to contact me at the letterhead address, by telephone at 512/475-4167, or by E-mail at [gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us) if you should have any questions or input concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerron S. Hite".

Gerron S. Hite, RA  
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator  
History Programs Division

GSH/nrc  
Enclosures  
cc: Mr. Fred D. Gordon  
Ms. Irene Varan, Chair, Williamson Co. Historical Commission



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*Memorandum*

Date: June 7, 2001

To: Mr. Fred Gordon

From: Ned Coleman  
History Programs Division  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711-2276  
(512) 463-6427  
ned.coleman@thc.state.tx.us

Re: Garden Cemetery, Williamson County

**Please note that if the 12 X 16 inch interpretive plaque is not sufficient to display the desired text for your cemetery we do currently offer the somewhat awkward addition of a second plaque of the same size to allow for more text. The two would be mounted one over the other. This limitation in our offering is due to contract constraints with the foundry that are in effect through August of this year. We will be renewing our contract with the foundry in September and hope to change this situation. Therefore, please note that as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001, we expect to be able to offer the option of purchasing a 16 X 24 inch interpretive plaque. Also available will be the purchase of a post from the foundry to go with the medallions and plaques. The cost of this new size plaque has not been finalized but we expect it to be in the range of roughly double the cost of the 12 X 16 inch plaque that is now set at \$225.00. The additional charge for a post will likely be around \$50.00.**

**You may want to consider the above options as you are planning your order. If you prefer that more information be displayed than can be accommodated on the current size plaque (15 lines, 39 spaces per line) and you do not want the look of two plaques that is now available, we suggest that you wait to place your order until September. The availability of posts from the foundry may also be a consideration for your order. If you do prefer to wait until September to place an order, we can still begin working with you on the text of the plaque so that it is ready to go once the new contract goes into effect. Please let us know if you have any questions about this information.**



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 7, 2001

Mr. Fred Gordon  
602 Pintail  
Taylor, TX 76574

Re: Garden Cemetery, Williamson County

Dear Mr. Gordon:

The Texas Historical Commission is honored to designate the Garden Cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery. The enclosed Certificate is a testimony to your commitment to the preservation of this important historic resource.

A cemetery or burial site that has received the Historic Texas Cemetery designation is also eligible to display the Historic Texas Cemetery medallion at the site so we have enclosed an application for this distinctive medallion. Also available are a "name and date" plaque or an interpretive plaque that provides the visitor with a brief history of the cemetery.

Please find enclosed a sample press release and a fact sheet with background information on preserving historic cemeteries should you choose to publicize the fact that the Garden Cemetery has received this honor. This is an optional choice that we leave to the discretion of those affiliated with the cemetery as there are situations where drawing attention to an isolated burial ground may not be prudent whereas highlighting this additional level of recognition for an already highly visible cemetery can be a positive way to re-assert the fact that this sacred ground is treasured by the community. If you are interested in purchasing a medallion with or without a plaque and would rather publicize the designation and the placing of the marker(s) at the same time we can provide you with a Press Release that is tailored to such an event. Note that the purchase or display of the medallion or the medallion and either plaque is not required in conjunction with this designation.

Thank you for participating in this process. It is our hope that the documentation that you have provided for this historical designation will help to ensure that this cemetery will continue to be honored, respected, enjoyed, and preserved by present and future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerron S. Hite".

Gerron S. Hite, RA  
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator  
History Programs Division

GSH/nrc  
Enclosures

cc: Ms. Irene Varan, Chair, Williamson Co. Historical Commission





TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 7, 2001

Williamson County Appraisal District  
P.O. Box 1120  
Georgetown, TX 78627-1120

Re: Garden Cemetery, Williamson County

Dear Sir or Madame:

We are enclosing "Exhibit A" from an Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes for the Garden Cemetery that was recently filed for record in Williamson County. You may be aware of this designation program as applicants for these designations commonly secure a parcel map covering the general area around the cemetery from the tax appraisal offices to meet one of the requirements for submitting an application. The enclosed map was generated as part of the recording phase of the designation process and we ask that the cemetery be incorporated into your map and data system if it has not been previously recorded therein.

The Historic Texas Cemetery designation is one of many preservation tools available to protect cemeteries. The more of these cemeteries that are located on maps the better the chance there will be that they will be preserved. Enclosed is a data sheet on the Historic Texas Cemetery designation program. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning the enclosed cemetery maps or about the Historic Texas Cemetery Designation program. I can be reached at 512/475-4167 or [gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerron S. Hite".

Gerron S. Hite, RA  
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator

GSH/nrc  
Enclosures



**TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

Rick Perry • Governor  
John L. Nau, III • Chairman  
F. Lawrence Oaks • Executive Director

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

**TO:**

MR THOMAS M BULLION 1819 LEXINGTON TAYLOR TX 76574	Date: June 7, 2001 Re: Garden Cemetery Williamson County
--	--

COPIES	DESCRIPTION
1	<i>Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes</i> for the Garden Cemetery, Williamson County

**REMARKS:**

Remarks: Enclosed is a copy of the *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* for the Garden Cemetery for your information as an owner of land that shares a common border with the cemetery. This cemetery has been bestowed with the Historic Texas Cemetery designation and has been duly recorded in the Williamson County deed records as a site dedicated for cemetery purposes and worthy of preservation for its historic associations.

**FROM:**

Copy: files	Gerron S. Hite Cemetery Preservation Coordinator History Programs Division (512) 475-4167 FAX (512) 475-3122 gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us
-------------	---

For information on CEMETERY PRESERVATION look under "Projects" at:  
<[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)>

To: ned.coleman@thc.state.tx.us  
Subject: Gordon Cemetery

Ned: I responded to Mr. Gordon email and ask that you produce a revised affidavit similar to the one for the Old Travis Cemetery. Use Gordon Cemetery as the main name but also mention Garden Cemetery in the document.

thanks

Gerron

I

To: "Fred \(\Ric\) Gordon" <fdg@flash.net>  
From: "Gerron S. Hite, R. A." <gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us>  
Subject: Gordon Family Cemetery  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Attached:

Fred Gordon:

I appreciate you responding to my email. I am going to ask Ned Coleman to assemble a corrected Affidavit with the Gordon Family name instead of the Garden Cemetery to be recorded in the Williamson County Courthouse. I should have ask you more about the name when I was reviewing your application.

I will be writing to Mr. Bullion and will address his concerns about access to the cemetery. I will provide Mr. Bullion with the state law concerning access. We agree with you that the primary purpose of this program is not to construct a road to every cemetery but to preserve the cemetery. However, access must be provided by state law. I find each case is unique when dealing with cemeteries. As you have observed, cattle are very hard on a cemetery and need to be fenced out of the area. We want to work with you on the issues of fencing and repairs to the gravestones.

Have a great weekend!

Gerron

From: "Fred \ (Ric) Gordon" <fdg@flash.net>  
To: "Gerron S. Hite, R. A." <gerron.hite@thc.state.tx.us>  
Cc: "Ned Coleman" <ned.coleman@thc.state.tx.us>  
Subject: Re: Gordon Family Cemetery  
Date: Thu, 14 Jun 2001 18:29:59 -0700  
Organization: Prodigy Internet  
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.50.4522.1200

Early on when I first found the cemetery I found that it was called GARDEN cemetery. I tried at that time to get the name of it changed to GORDON cemetery. Often when someone asks me my name they mistake me saying Garden, but it's obvious to me that just didn't hear me correctly. Someone, way back when, mistook the name the same as they do now in modern days. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to get it to what it should be named, GORDON Cemetery. I simply didn't know what to do.

As for Mr. Bullion, I called him last night shortly after he had arrived from work. He's very upset and thinks that the cemetery will now be opened to the public. I tried to explain to him that it isn't, wasn't and never will be a public cemetery. I also tried to explain to him that he doesn't have to do anything to make it easier for me or other family members to visit the cemetery. He was afraid that the Historical Commission or I was going to force him into making a road to get in and out by. Not only was that never my intention but I tried also to explain that it's not yours either. At the same time I was explaining all of this to Mr. Bullion, I told him that he doesn't even have to allow me to visit the cemetery but twice a year if he so chooses. I may have shot myself in the foot with that but I wanted to try to put him at ease with all of this. Right now I still have a great deal of work to do out there before the cemetery can be called "saved". Cattle have been known to roam into the cemetery so I wanted to put up some sort of fence that I could afford. Most fences are quite expensive. Specially ones befitting an old cemetery like this one. I want to be able to straighten the tombstones that are either leaning or have fallen over. I don't have the first idea where to start with that. Some of the stones need to be repaired. Again, I have no idea how to do this without ruining something that has with stood so many years so far. And if Mr. Bullion gets a thorn..... well, nothing will ever be done and it'll only deteriorate further. He already has the two story 160 year plus house being rented and gradually deteriorating beyond repair along with many out buildings.

The last thing he asked me last night was, "just how are you related to Andrew Gordon?" I told him that he was my cousin, but I'm not sure Mr. Bullion could comprehend me having a cousin that was born in 1802. I had told him this before and even asked to buy the house and land around it including the run down out buildings. He gave me a definite "NO".

— Original Message —

**From:** [Gerron S. Hite, R. A.](mailto:Gerron.S.Hite@thc.state.tx.us)  
**To:** [Fred \(Ric\) Gordon](mailto:Fred.Ric.Gordon@flash.net)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2001 9:07 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Gordon Family Cemetery

Fred Gordon:

I am sure you have received your copy of the letter from Mr. Bullion concerning the historic designation. I will address the state laws concerning access to a cemetery. I look in the files and found that Topozone used the tern Garden Cemetery but could not find a discuss of the Garden name in the narrative you submitted with the application. All I could find was the discuss of the Gordon Family Cemetery.

Thanks  
Gerron

At 04:58 PM 6/4/2001 -0700, you wrote:

I have gotten the affidavit papers back from Williamson County Recording Office and sent them off to you today. Is there anyone else I need to contact with the papers (the land owner, Mr. Bullion)?

Fred Gordon

MELASKY AND BULLION  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
114 WEST FOURTH STREET P. O. BOX 1068  
TAYLOR, TEXAS  
76574

HARRIS A. MELASKY (1892-1973)

AC 512 352-5502

THOMAS M. BULLION

June 11, 2001

Texas Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2001

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

RE: Garden Cemetery.

Gentlemen:

I have received copy of your Affidavit of Dedication in connection with the above captioned cemetery and wish to advise you that the name is incorrect. The cemetery was established by Mr. Andrew Gordon, who at one time owned the place which I now own and on which the cemetery is located. I feel sure that Maj. Gordon would probably turn over in his grave, if he knew the name under which the cemetery was dedicated. I inquire as to whether there is any way the name can be corrected.

The cemetery is located North of and in close proximity to the original residence of Maj. Gordon and which still stands and is in fairly good condition. I do not believe that any easement was reserved to furnish a means of ingress to and egress from such cemetery.

While I have no particular objection to members of the family coming onto my land to get to the cemetery, I have great concern for a roadway to be opened to the general public. The roadway would, of necessity, have to run either upon the East side or West side of the residence, and there are people living in the house. This could become quite a problem. Of course, this could also lead to a considerable amount of vandalism.

I assume that you are going to reply that notwithstanding the fact that no easement was reserved, that by some law the public would have the right to use my adjoining land as a means of ingress to and egress from said cemetery. If this is true, please furnish me with the applicable law on the matter.

In my opinion, having the cemetery designated as a historical cemetery and having the general public desiring to visit such cemetery greatly detracts from the value of my land, and naturally no one desires to have this happen.

Yours Very Truly,

  
THOMAS M. BULLION

TMB/kw

cc: Mr. Fred D. Gordon  
602 Pintail  
Taylor, Texas 76574

cc: Williamson Co. Historical Commission  
716 S. Austin  
Georgetown, Texas 78626





TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

OIC, w/ Joe Thrush  
with change

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 22, 2001

Mr. Thomas M. Bullion  
Post Office Box 1068  
Taylor, Texas 76574

Dear Ms. Bullion:

This letter is in reference to your letter concerning the *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* for the Garden/Gordon Cemetery. We appreciate you bringing up the question of the historic name for this cemetery and have contacted ~~Mr. Fred Gordon~~ about this matter.

land one processing a revised affidavit.  
corrected

As requested, I am quoting the state cemetery law pertaining to access to cemeteries under the Health and Safety Code 711.041:

- (a) Any person who wishes to visit a cemetery or private burial grounds for which no public ingress or egress is available shall have the right to reasonable ingress and egress for the purpose of visiting the cemetery or private burial grounds. This right of access extends only to visitation during reasonable hours and only for purposes usually associated with cemetery visits.
- (b) The owner or owners of the land surrounding the cemetery or private burial grounds may designate the routes of reasonable ingress and egress.

As you can see from the wording of the law, there is no mention of providing a road to the cemetery nor does the Historic Texas Cemetery designation program require that a road be built to the cemetery.

You expressed concern about making the existence of this cemetery more available to the public. I certainly understand your concerns and we do not want to jeopardize any historic cemetery. You may be aware that this cemetery already appears on the USGS maps as well as being included on lists on the Internet so the public already has access to information about the existence and location of the cemetery. We feel in most cases, people are more interested in obtaining information from the gravestones, available through the Internet, rather than traveling off the pavement.

It is my understanding that an old historic house is also located on the property. As you know, Williamson County is rapidly developing and if we are not careful more of the history of the county will be lost to progress. We appreciate your interest in

preserving the house and certainly a part of the history of the property should include the cemetery. As the population of this area increases, the demand for ownership of historic property increases due partly to the limited number of historic sites. We feel the persons interested in your historic house would also be interested in the preservation of the cemetery, therefore we that feel designating the cemetery as historic will not reduce the value of the property.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions or concerns about the Historic Texas Cemetery designation program.

Sincerely,

Gerron S. Hite, RA  
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator

GSH/nrc

cc: Mr. Fred D. Gordon



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 22, 2001

Mr. Thomas M. Bullion  
P.O. Box 1068  
Taylor, Texas 76574

Dear Mr. Bullion:

This letter is in reference to your letter concerning the *Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes* for the Garden/Gordon Cemetery. We appreciate you bringing up the question of the historic name for this cemetery and are processing a corrected affidavit and map.

As requested, I am quoting the state cemetery law pertaining to access to cemeteries under the Health and Safety Code 711.041:

- (a) Any person who wishes to visit a cemetery or private burial grounds for which no public ingress or egress is available shall have the right to reasonable ingress and egress for the purpose of visiting the cemetery or private burial grounds. This right of access extends only to visitation during reasonable hours and only for purposes usually associated with cemetery visits.
- (b) The owner or owners of the land surrounding the cemetery or private burial grounds may designate the routes of reasonable ingress and egress.

As you can see from the wording of the law, there is no mention of providing a road to the cemetery nor does the Historic Texas Cemetery designation program require that a road be built to the cemetery.

You expressed concern about making the existence of this cemetery more available to the public. I certainly understand your concerns and we do not want to jeopardize any historic cemetery. You may be aware that this cemetery already appears on the USGS maps as well as being included on lists on the Internet so the public already has access to information about the existence and location of the cemetery. We feel that in most cases people are more interested in obtaining information from the gravestones, which is now widely available through the Internet, rather than traveling off the pavement.

It is my understanding that an old historic house is also located on the property. As you know, Williamson County is rapidly developing and if we are not careful more of

the history of the county will be lost to progress. We appreciate your interest in preserving the house and certainly a part of the history of the property should include the cemetery. As the population of this area increases, the demand for ownership of historic property increases due partly to the limited number of historic sites. We feel the persons interested in your historic house would also be interested in the preservation of the cemetery, therefore we feel designating the cemetery will not reduce the value of the property.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions or concerns about the Historic Texas Cemetery Designation program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerron S. Hite". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "S".

Gerron S. Hite, RA  
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator

GSH/nrc

cc: Mr. Fred D. Gordon



**TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

Rick Perry • *Governor*  
John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*  
F. Lawrence Oaks • *Executive Director*

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

**TO:**

MR FRED GORDON 602 PINTAIL TAYLOR TX 76574	Date: July 16, 2001 Re: Gordon Cemetery Williamson County
--	---

COPIES	DESCRIPTION
1	<i>Corrected Affidavit of Dedication for Cemetery Purposes for the Gordon Cemetery</i>

**REMARKS:**

**Here is the corrected Affidavit. This can be filed at the County Clerk's office and will be on record as correcting the earlier version. Please send us a copy of the documents upon completion of the filing. Thank you, and if you have any questions please contact us.**

**FROM:**

Copy:	files	Ned Coleman Cemetery Preservation Office History Programs Division (512) 463-6427 FAX (512) 475-3122 ned.coleman@thc.state.tx.us
-------	-------	---

For information on CEMETERY PRESERVATION look under "Projects" at:

**[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)**

To: "Fred \(\Ric\) Gordon" <fdg@flash.net>  
From: Ned Coleman <ned.coleman@thc.state.tx.us>  
Subject: Re: affidavit  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Attached:

At 09:50 AM 9/4/2001 -0700, you wrote:

The amount was \$13.00, but they filed it. I assumed it really wasn't that big a deal because I scratched out TRAVIS and wrote in WILLIAMSON under it. It was one of the ladies there that first caught it.

Mr. Gordon,

OK, that is different. If she caught it, changed it on the spot, and therefore it was filed correctly, then I think it is OK. I was concerned that it had been filed with the error. Thanks for clarifying that, and sorry for the error.

Ned

To: "Fred \(\Ric\) Gordon" <fdg@flash.net>  
From: Ned Coleman <ned.coleman@thc.state.tx.us>  
Subject: Re: affidavit  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Attached:

At 09:25 AM 9/4/2001 -0700, you wrote:

Ned,

The paper ya'll sent me to be filed in Georgetown has been done. But there was one small error. Take a look at the beginning of the paper where it tells of what we are doing with the affidavit (something about the previous filing location as Travis County?)

Fred Gordon

Mr. Gordon,

I am sorry that we made that error, and it is not a small error. The affidavit will have to be filed again with the correct information and should not have been filed with the wrong county as part of the affidavit. As soon as I can get a new affidavit signed I will send it to you for filing. Please let us know the amount of the fee and we will send you the amount to cover the filing as this was our error. Again, I apologize for this error and for the extra trouble it will be to correct it.

Ned Coleman  
History Programs Division  
Texas Historical Commission



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 12, 2001

Mr. Fred Gordon  
602 Pintail  
Taylor, TX 76574

Re: Gordon Cemetery, Williamson County

Dear Mr. Gordon:

The Texas Historical Commission is honored to designate the Gordon Cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery. The enclosed Certificate is a testimony to your commitment to the preservation of this important historic resource.

A cemetery or burial site that has received the Historic Texas Cemetery designation is eligible to display the Historic Texas Cemetery medallion at the site; also available are a "name and date" plaque or an interpretive plaque that provides the visitor with a brief history of the cemetery. If you have not already received the application for these distinctive markers please let us know and we will send you this information.

Please find enclosed a sample press release and a fact sheet with background information on preserving historic cemeteries should you choose to publicize the fact that the Gordon Cemetery has received this honor. This is an optional choice that we leave to the discretion of those affiliated with the cemetery as there are situations where drawing attention to an isolated burial ground may not be prudent whereas highlighting this additional level of recognition for an already highly visible cemetery can be a positive way to re-assert the fact that this sacred ground is treasured by the community. If you are interested in purchasing a medallion with or without a plaque and would rather publicize the designation and the placing of the marker(s) at the same time we can provide you with a Press Release that is tailored to such an event. Note that the purchase or display of the medallion or the medallion and either plaque is not required in conjunction with this designation.

Thank you for participating in this process. It is our hope that the documentation that you have provided for this historical designation will help to ensure that this cemetery will continue to be honored, respected, enjoyed, and preserved by present and future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerron S. Hite".

Gerron S. Hite, RA  
Cemetery Preservation Coordinator  
History Programs Division

GSH/nrc  
Enclosures

cc: Ms. Irene Varan, Chair, Williamson Co. Historical Commission





TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 14, 2007

Fre D Gordon  
602 Pintail  
Taylor TX 76574

RE: WM-C005: Historic Texas Cemetery Designation, Gordon Cemetery, Williamson County

Dear Mr. Gordon:

The Texas Historical Commission's Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) Program is growing and we need to reduce the size of our HTC application files to help make room for more. Therefore, we have found it necessary to return some of the photos you provided with the HTC application for the Gordon Cemetery in Williamson County. We have retained those photos you provided with the Gordon Cemetery HTC application that will be most helpful in the designation file.

Also enclosed please find a fact sheet with information to help you develop a master preservation plan for the cemetery. A master plan is a tool to help establish goals, priorities and maintenance schedules and estimate costs. It also contains a detailed record of the cemetery through photos and surveys of the gravestones and cemetery features. The photos returned to you with this letter should be included in your master preservation plan.

The Texas Historical Commission supports your efforts to preserve this historic cemetery; please feel free to contact us by email at [history@thc.statetx.us](mailto:history@thc.statetx.us) or by phone at 512/463-5853 with any questions you may have regarding cemetery preservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annette Bethke".

Annette Bethke  
Program Specialist  
History Programs Division

Enclosures

Is your RETURN ADDRESS completed on the reverse side?

**SENDER:**

- Complete items 1 and/or 2 for additional services.
- Complete items 3, 4a, and 4b.
- Print your name and address on the reverse of this form so that we can return this card to you.
- Attach this form to the front of the mailpiece, or on the back if space does not permit.
- Write "Return Receipt Requested" on the mailpiece below the article number.
- The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.

I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee):

- 1.  Addressee's Address
  - 2.  Restricted Delivery
- Consult postmaster for fee.

3. Article Addressed to:

**MR THOMAS M BULLION**  
**1819 LEXINGTON**  
**TAYLOR TX 76574**

4a. Article Number

**Z137237347**

4b. Service Type

- Registered
- Express Mail
- Return Receipt for Merchandise
- Certified
- Insured
- COD

7. Date of Delivery

**4/1/91**

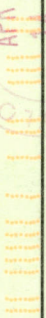
5. Received By: (Print Name)

*Thomas M Bullion*

6. Signature: (Addressee or Agent)

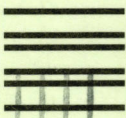
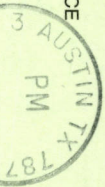
**X** *Pamela L. Bullion*

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)



Thank you for using Return Receipt Service.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE



First-Class Mail  
Postage & Fees Paid  
USPS  
Permit No. G-10

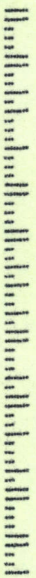
● Print your name, address, and ZIP Code in this box ●

MR GERRON S HITE RA  
HISTORY PROGRAMS DIV  
TX HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
P O BOX 12276  
AUSTIN TX 78711-2276

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

APR 18 2001

RECEIVED



Williamson Co. Garden

## Graves in the GORDON Cemetery

Located 12 miles east of Taylor, Williamson Co., Texas  
Personally verified by 1<sup>st</sup> Cousin 4 times removed, Fred D. Gordon of Taylor, Williamson Co., Texas  
The oldest grave is 1855, 146 years old. The youngest grave is 1890, 111 years old

**Ella Lee Lane** (daughter of T. and N.M. Lane)  
Born July 6, 1861 Died January 23, 1863

**Seneca Carter, M.D.**  
Born Utica, N.Y. August 17, 1804 Died Milam Co., Texas August 16, 1858

**M. McNairy**, daughter of Wm. A. and J.M. Daniel  
Born April 8, 1856 Died November 22, 1860

**Oscar H.**, son of C.K. & E.J. Robinson  
Born May 30, 1872 Died August 3, 1875

**Andrew F. Gordon** son of Andrew & Eliza "Goff" Gordon  
Born March 2, 1832 Died October 31, 1873

**Albion Daniel**  
Born April 25, 1855 Died June 23, 1890

**Jane M. Daniel**, daughter of Andrew & Eliza "Goff" Gordon  
Born October 27, 1825 Died October 9, 1887

**Thomas F. Lane**  
Born January 12, 1863 Died January 25, 1874

**Twin daughters of T. Lane**  
Born and Died September 11, 1873

**Harry McDonald**, son of G.L. & L.R. Gordon  
Born December 16, 1862 Died October 30, 1870

**Eliza K.**, consort of Andrew Gordon  
Born April 17, 1801 Died January 18, 1872

**Sarah E. Gordon**, daughter of Andrew & Eliza "Goff" Gordon  
Born September 14, 1838 Died February 28, 1859

**Mary J.**, consort of R.S. Wiley  
Born August 25, 1828 Died January 21, 1855

**Eliza K.**, consort of C.M. Lesuour  
Born September 8, 1830 Died January 11, 1855

**John Goff**, father of Eliza "Goff" Gordon  
Born March 9, 1776 Died February 19, 1867

"From Taylor City Hall, drive north on Highway 95 4.7 miles. Turn right (east) on FM 1331 and drive 12.4 miles to old house on left. Cemetery is behind outbuildings in grove of trees behind the old house of Andrew and Eliza (Goff) Gordon".

CHECK LIST FOR GARDEN CEMETERY,  
CEMETERY NO. WM-005  
APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY  
DESIGNATION

- APPLICATION RECEIVED ON 3/21/2001
- COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM \_\_\_\_\_
- COMPLETED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FORM \_\_\_\_\_
- PHOTOGRAPHS ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_
- \$25.00 CHECK ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_
- NARRATIVE HISTORY ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_
- MAP OF PROPERTY ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_
- DEED RECORD DATA IF AVAILABLE \_\_\_\_\_
- REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_
- APPROVED APPLICATION BY CHTR DATE 4/10/2001
- CONTACTED ADJACENT LANDOWNER(S) 4/11/01
- RECEIVED RETURNED RECEIPT 4/18/01
- SENT AFFIDAVIT TO APPLICANT 5/18/01
- REC'D CERTIFIED COPY OF THE RECORDED AFFIDAVIT 6/7/01
- SENT COPY OF AFFIDAVIT TO LAND OWNER(S) 6/7/01
- SENT CERTIFICATE TO APPLICANT 6/7/01
- COPY OF "EXHIBIT A" TO COUNTY APPRAISAL OFFICE 6/7/01