

PLAT OF SURVEY

SCALE 1" = 200 FT.

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT WAS SURVEYED FEB. 23, 1970
 AND THE DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE HEREBY CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND
 CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

Jack A. Hearn
 JACK A. HEARN
 REGISTERED PUBLIC SURVEYOR 461

SURVEY	THOMAS PARMER
	A - 782
DESCRIPTION	HENDERSON COUNTY, TEXAS
SURVEY FOR	ALAN D. WHATLEY JACK A. HEARN REGISTERED PUBLIC SURVEYOR 461 ATHENS, TEXAS

described land located in Henderson County, Texas:

Being called Lot 3, Blk. 31, O.T. city of Athens, Henderson County, Texas also being part of Block 5 of the Dilcy Ruffin Partition, recorded in Book K, Page 401, of the District Court Minutes, Henderson County, Texas, and more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the SW corner of land now owned by Mrs. Nannie Carroll;

THENCE south 50 feet to stake for corner;

THENCE east 462 feet running north of the old Palestine highway to stake for corner;

THENCE northwest 330 feet to Black Jack tree for corner on Nannie Carroll tract;

THENCE west 185 feet to place of BEGINNING.

That she lived near the Fisher Robinson cemetery during her life.

Affiant state that some of the people buried in the above described cemetery are:

Old man Rube Richardson and family, Fed Massey and family, Jim Wimbley and wife Rozelle and old man Will Graham.

So ends affiants statement.

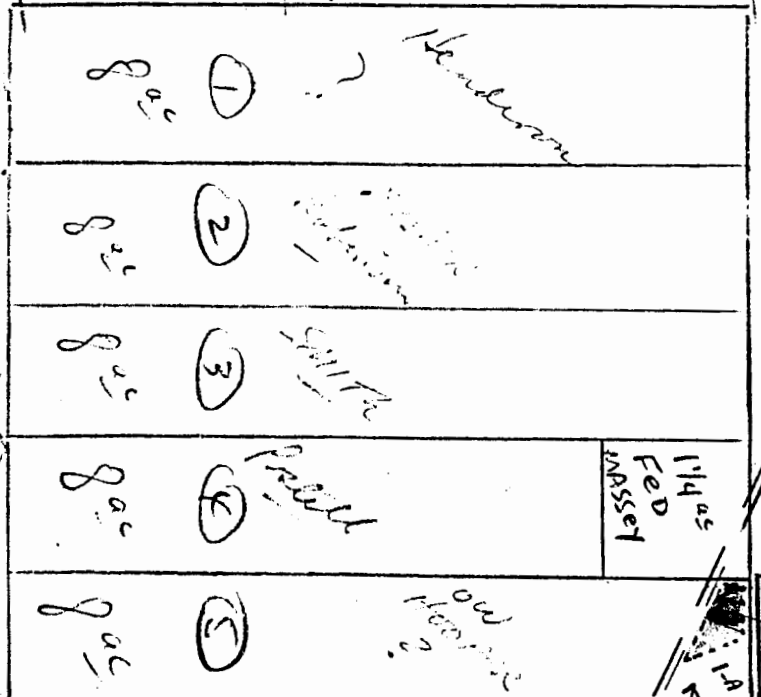
JOB Bass got a deed from John W. Carroll & Lewis E. Collier. This was never part of the Carroll land. This was never part of the Carroll land. The Palestine Highway RUFIN 40 acres - land from the RUFIN 40 acres -

The 40 acres was divided among the 5 heirs of RUFIN (Henderson, D.C.M., K-Page, 401, 16 acres)

Book

W.W. & E.H. got a deed to 16 acres from O.W. Hooper, shown as lot 1-A - probably Hooper owned the East portion of The Dickey Block (5) being

was deed has obviously been re-constructed - into pieces and he-constructed - FREDERICK ACKNOWLEDGED CARROLL'S SIGNATURE AND HE WOULD NOT RE-CONSTRUCT



Fisher ROBINSON DICKY 40 acres BOOK

13107

W.W. Hooper

School Tax
Records show
LOT 3 rendered
in city of Athens
There 1964 —

In 1965 rendered
to Bass + Larkin

In 1970 to ADW
and D Whitley

To Date ADW

Description of land once used as a colored cemetery on old Palestine Highway, Robbins Road, being part of Block 5 of the Dilcy Ruffin Partition that lies north of the old Palestine Highway, city of Athens, Henderson County, Texas

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FROM PAGE ONE

Cemeteries

It does not belong to the property owner anymore, Thompson said.

"No one can reasonably say that two days a year is too much to ask."

The new legislation also helps protect cemeteries from destruction.

Of the 11 state agencies that deal with cemeteries, none are responsible for protecting cemeteries from development or harm, Thompson said. Thompson

Events

son further noted the Historical Society does not protect cemeteries.

"Cemeteries are dying from bulldozers and over development. Cemeteries are dying from neglect and old age," Thompson said.

Developers all too often bulldoze cemeteries so they can build on those locations,

Thompson said. Developers often do not tell the people who buy the property that it was

buried in the cemeteries were and the kind of lives they lived.

Thompson went on to say when people understand who these people were, they understand how cemeteries are a vital part of our heritage.

"It's a great important part of Athens and East Texas so much of our heritage is here to make a personal effort to preserve these cemeteries," Thompson said.

The STC works to make people aware of who they are buried in the cemeteries.

Cemeteries find friend in state group

By ROBERT SULLIVAN
Review Staff Writer

State Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos was also instrumental in helping the STC and presented the resolution.

There are approximately 50,000 family cemeteries in Texas. This includes everything from a single gravesite to vast public cemeteries, Thompson said.

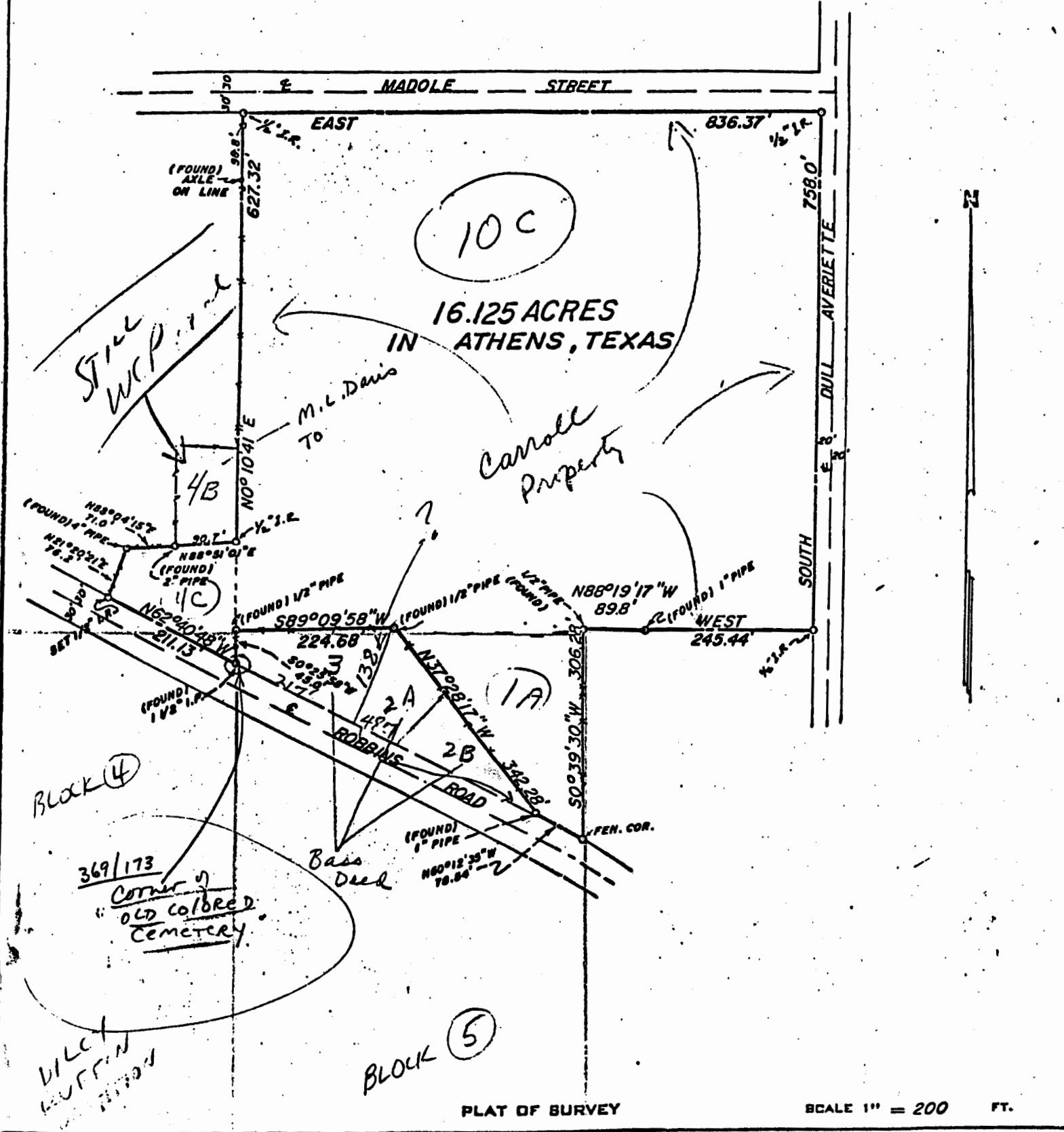
Descendants of those buried in cemeteries, and interested citizens, have the right by law to visit these sites. Unfortunately many locations are inaccessible and sometimes hard to visit. The new legislation has established two days, the first Sunday in October and April, as official visitation days. On these days, people cannot be barred from visiting gravesites even if they are now on private property.

Many times the current property owner wishes to run their livestock over the gravesites claiming they need grass to feed their animals, Thompson said.

"I beg to differ — that little bit of grass on the graves can't be enough to make a difference," Thompson said.

"If one spot of ground has a burial, then that spot of land is a

See Cemeteries, Page 16



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DESCRIPTION	
HENDERSON	COUNTY, TEXAS

Fisher Robinson Cemetery to be restored

EDITOR'S NOTE - The following article was written by Marian G. Westbrock of Athens. With February being Black History Month, the article is appropriate in that it concerns plans to restore the Fisher Robinson Cemetery, where many black ancestors of Henderson County have been buried.)

By Marian G. Westbrock
During February, which is Black History month, many blacks take time to visit the final resting places of those whom they consider their heroes. Notable among these are Dr. Martin Luther King, Sojourner Truth, Booker T. Washington, Bishop Richard T. Allen and Carter G. Woodson.

Dr. King's leadership inspired an entire generation of blacks to press for long-denied civil rights. Sojourner Truth is remembered for her early efforts in behalf of abolition and women's rights and other causes, winning for herself a secure place in black history. Booker T. Washington lifted the veil of ignorance from thousands of his students at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Bishop Richard T. Allen, even two centuries ago, refused to bow to racial oppression and became the first national leader of the black community. Bishop Allen was the founder of the African Methodist Church in Philadelphia.

Closer home there are other men and women whose talents were not so great. But they are heroic figures to their families and friends, and their memories are cherished and respected by both the white and black people of the communities. The final resting place of some of these well-known black ancestors of Henderson County has been neglected and forgotten by many of its citizens. Where is this forgotten final resting place of these black ancestors?

This final resting place was known as

Perryman, a historian and member of the Henderson County Historical Commission.

In 1960 Mrs. Perryman with determination and enthusiasm, began the task of saving the lost and forgotten final resting place of some black men and women of Henderson County. From her work, the following information developed:

The cemetery is part of Block 5 of the Dilcy Ruffin partition that lies north of the Old Palestine Highway South. The Old Palestine Highway South (Robbins Road) cut off this sliver of land from the Dilcy Ruffin tract of 40 acres which lies in the Thomas Palmer survey. The 40 acres were divided among the five heirs of Dilcy Ruffin.

'Being called Lot 3, Blk. 31 O. T. City of Athens, Henderson County, Texas; also being part of Block 5 of the Dilcy Ruffin partition, recorded in Book K, page 401, of the District Court minutes, Henderson County, Texas, and more particularly described as follows: 'Beginning at the S.W. corner of land now owned by Nannie Carroll, thence south 50 feet to stake for corner; thence east 462 feet running north of the Old Palestine Highway South. Thence northwest 300 feet to black jack tree for corner on Nannie Carroll tract; thence west 185 feet to place of beginning.'

Mrs. Perryman visited and conversed with old timers who lived in that area to inquire if they knew where this black cemetery was located and if they knew of some of the people buried in the Fisher Robinson Cemetery.

Mrs. Perryman visited and conversed with the late Laura Snaferson Robinson who stated she was familiar with the described land, located in Athens, when it was used as a cemetery. During her life, she had lived near the Fisher Robinson Cemetery. She married Robert Robinson, son of

Massy and the late Charlie White and Emma White.

The day of research was spent in and with a visit to Mrs. Beulah Smith, who had part of the land which it was used as a black cemetery. Mrs. Smith stated that some of the people buried in the cemetery were Old Man Hank Richardson, a family friend of Massy and wife Matt, and members of the Massy family, William and wife Rozelle and Old Man Will Graham. This confirmed information was provided by

Years ago, in the cemetery in the area of the law, so it is still inviolate and not to be disturbed. In some instances, and cities, under law, are allowed to provide funds for the upkeep of cemeteries. However, this cemetery is required to do this.

In the year of 1960, Mrs. Robinson neglected-possibly some of the area. It is hoped that during the past few years, in particular, the black ancestors whose final resting places have been neglected and forgotten, will have the courage to come forward and save this

black cemetery. The Henderson County Historical Commission is sponsoring the effort to restore the cemetery and install an appropriate marker.

The father of black history, Carter Godwin Woodson, made black Americans aware of their history and charged them with its preservation. Woodson stated, 'If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated.'

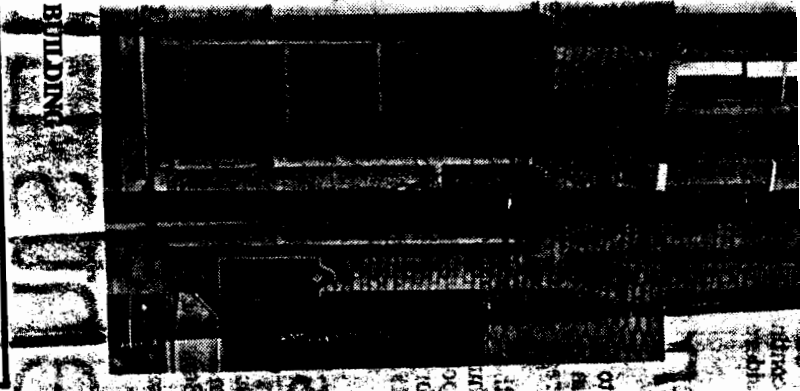
Mrs. Marian Westbrock, vice chairman of the Henderson County Historical Commission, is chairman of the project to restore and properly identify the Fisher Robinson Cemetery for posterity. Volunteers to assist in the work and persons wishing to make donations for an appropriate marker may contact Mrs. Westbrock at 675-5073 or P. O. Box 1003, Athens. Contributions may also be forwarded to Mrs. Perryman, 111 LaRue Street, Athens. It was Mrs. Perryman, her husband, Bill Perryman and their staff who ensured the legal identity of the cemetery, in recent years.

Donations may be designated for the Fisher Robinson Cemetery.

OUNT BUILDING

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ounty m



BUILDING

needed

ity museum

ing is completed and opens as needed. but repairs to the floors, paint are yet to be done. have paid for the purchase of the mortar work, window restoration and painting. support by renewing membership needed.

Monthly Membership \$10.00
 Amount above membership is to be kept in the Museum)

Memorial and the name of person of the

where they are considered their heroes. Notable among these are Dr. Martin Luther King, Sojourner Truth, Booker T. Washington, Bishop Richard T. Allen and Carter G. Woodson.

Dr. King's leadership inspired an entire generation of blacks to press for long-denied civil rights. Sojourner Truth is remembered for her early efforts in behalf of abolition and women's rights and others causes, winning for her a secure place in black history. Bishop T. Washington, black historian, Booker T. Washington, thousands of his students at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, Bishop Richard T. Allen, open to centuries ago, refused to bow to racial oppression and became the first national leader of the black community. Bishop Allen was the founder of the African Methodist Church in Philadelphia.

Close bonds there are other men and women whose talents were not so great. But they are here figures to their families and friends, and their memories are cherished and respected by both the white and black people of the community. The final resting place of some of these well-known black ancestors in Henderson County has been neglected and forgotten by many of its citizens. Where is this forgotten final resting place of these black ancestors?

This final resting place was known as the Fisher Robinson Cemetery. The land that was once used as a black cemetery is located on the Old Palestine Highway South, now known as Robbina Road. This cemetery, though forgotten by many, is well identified in legal records of the county. Efforts are under way, sponsored by the Henderson County Historical Commission, to improve the site by markers and placement of a monument to honor the black people who are buried there.

Stories vary as to what happened to identifying headstones and markers which had been at the graves. One story states that the headstones all disappeared in the dark of night many years ago. Another story is that the grave markers and headstones were trampled down by livestock when the fence was broken down. Nevertheless, in county legal records, the burial ground is identified.

This final resting place became a concern of Mary Ann LaRue, OIA Palestine highway developer. Road) cut off this sliver of land from the Dilcy Ruffin tract of 40 acres which lies in the Thomas Palmer survey. The 40 acres were divided among the heirs of Dilcy Ruffin.

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Mrs. Perryman visited and conversed with old timers who lived in that area to inquire if they knew where this black cemetery was located and if they knew of some of the people buried in the Fisher Robinson Cemetery.

Mrs. Perryman visited and conversed with the late Laura Shafter-Robinson who stated she was familiar with the described land, located in Athens, when it was used as a cemetery. During her life, she had lived near the Fisher Robinson Cemetery. She married Robert Robinson, son of Fisher Robinson who had set aside the above described property to be used as a black cemetery.

Mrs. Robinson stated that some of the people buried in the cemetery are Lazze Winfield and husband, Aunt Susan Postell and Old Man Rube Richardson. All of these people were buried near each other in the above described cemetery. Also buried there were Pearlle and Rube Richardson, son of Della Richardson. Della was the daughter of Old Man Rube Richardson. Along with these were Henry Massey, his wife, daughter, son and Jim Winbley.

Mrs. Perryman visited and conversed with the late LeAnna Richardson-Carter who knew of the use of the land as a cemetery in Athens. Mrs. Carter stated that she remembered the Oshmans family being buried under a tree and that folk were scared to pass the cemetery. She also stated that some of the people who are buried in the above described cemetery are Jeff Cramer and wife Temple Cramer; Fed

foregoing sources.

Years of neglect do not cause a cemetery to be non-existent in the eyes of the law; so it is still inviolate and not to be disturbed. Both counties and cities, under law, are allowed to provide funds for the upkeep of cemeteries; however, they are not required to do this.

In the case of Fisher Robinson Cemetery, there have been years of neglect—possibly abuse of the area. It is hoped that during Black History Month in particular, volunteers, black descendants of the black ancestors whose final resting place has been neglected and forgotten, will have the courage to come forward and save this

chairman of the Henderson Historical Commission, is the project to restore and identify the Fisher Robinson Cemetery. Volunteers to assist work and persons wishing donations for an appropriate contact Mrs. Westbrook at P. O. Box 1003, Athens, Ga. may also be forwarded Perryman, 111 LaRue Street, was Mrs. Perryman, her husband Perryman and their staff who the legal identity of the cemetery recent years.

Donations may be designated Fisher Robinson Cemetery.