

Texas Historic Cemeteries ~ Cedar Hill, TX

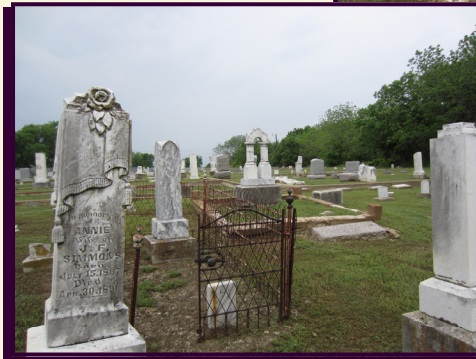
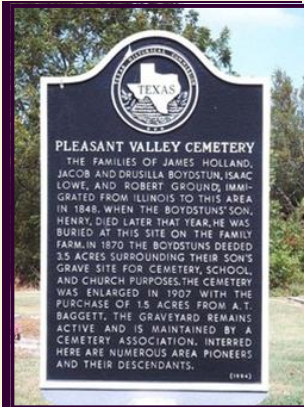


The Texas Historic Cemetery designation is awarded to a cemetery deemed worthy of recognition and preservation for its historical associations. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) developed the Historic Texas Cemetery designation to address the problems of destruction, neglect and illegal removal of historic cemeteries. Cemeteries so designated are afforded a measure of legal protection and become part of the recorded history of the state's built environment. Official recognition of these family and community landmarks highlight their importance and promote respect and reverence that encourages preservation of these unique resources.

For more information visit the Texas Historical Commission's website at:
www.thc.state.tx.us



Cedar Hill Historic Cemeteries ~ Pleasant Valley Cemetery



5000 Texas Plume Rd.

The families of James Holland, Jacob and Drusilla Boydston, Isaac Lowe and Robert Ground immigrated from Illinois to the Cedar Hill area in 1848. When the Boydston's son, Henry, died later that year, he was buried near the North Hollings Branch of Mountain Creek which ran through the family farm. In 1879 the Boydstuns deeded 3.5 acres of land surrounding their son's grave site for the purpose of establishing a cemetery, school and church. The cemetery was enlarged in 1907 with the purchase of an additional 1.5 acres from A. T. Baggett. Designation as an Historic Texas Cemetery was granted by the Texas Historical Commission in 1994. The graveyard remains active and is maintained by a cemetery association. Many Cedar Hill area pioneers and their descendants are interred here.



Cedar Hill Historic Cemeteries ~ Crawford's Tornado Graveyard



700 North Cedar Hill Road

On Tuesday, April 29, 1856, the burgeoning settlement of Cedar Hill was struck by a violent tornado that claimed at least nine lives, damaged property, killed livestock and reportedly left only two structures standing. With a resolute pioneer spirit still evident today, survivors went about the daunting task of restoring order to their shattered community.

Among the survivors was Robert Crawford, teacher and pastor of Cedar Mountain Church, believed to be the first congregation in the area. Mr. Crawford owned land adjacent to the church site which was destroyed by the tornado and donated 4 acres to church trustees to be designated a free and indiscriminate public graveyard.

Nine victims of the tornado were buried on Robert Crawford's land northeast of where the church had stood. They included John C. Hart, his wife and child, John Berry, his wife and child, John Dickson, Martha Lamar Allen and an unnamed Negro woman.

As the land was deeded a free and public graveyard in 1856, it is possible that others were buried here although no evidence or record of burials after the tornado exists. Application for designation as an Historic Texas Cemetery, prepared by Cedar Hill resident Wanda Stanton Pitt, was granted by the Texas Historical Commission in 2006.

