



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

GEORGE W. BUSH, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Application for
HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

1. Cemetery/Burial: Old Bayview Cemetery County: Nueces
Also known as: The Grave Yard; The Military Cemetery - in earlier times

2. Location/Size: Metes and bounds, any survey references (e.g., L. Garrett Survey, Section 2, Abstract 5248):
See Exhibit 1

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:
1202 Ramirez Street, Corpus Christi, Texas

Located at the intersection of Ramirez Street and the Access
Road of IH 37 in the downtown area of the City of Corpus Christi, Texas.

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

3. The Cemetery Meets the Following CRITERIA:

50 years of age 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:

See Exhibit 2

5. Trusteeship or Authority Over Cemetery: Public Private Both

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

City of Corpus Christi, Texas

Address: 1201 Leopard Street City Corpus Christi Zip 78401

Phone: (361) 880-3000 Fax: () Unknown E-mail: Unknown

Contact Person, Sexton, or caretaker: Marco Antonio Cisneros

Address: 1201 Leopard Street City Corpus Christi Zip 78401

Phone: (361) 880-3461 Fax: () Unknown E-mail: tonyc@ci.corpus-christi.tx.us

OLD BAYVIEW CEMETERY

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF NUECES**

BEING a Tract of Land containing 3.49 Acres (152,100.0 Sq. Ft.) of land known as the Old Bayview Cemetery, as recorded in Volume 122, Page 249, and Volume 156, Page 193 of the Deed Records of Nueces County, Texas and Abstract 205, A.C. McCaugan Lands. This 3.49 Acre Tract being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

BEGINNING at a Point on the easterly right-of-way line of Waco Street and the northerly right-of-way line of Ramirez Street, being the west corner of this tract;

THENCE N37°00'00"E with the easterly right-of-way line of Waco Street, a distance of 360.00' to a Point on the southerly right-of-way line of West Broadway, being the north corner of this tract;

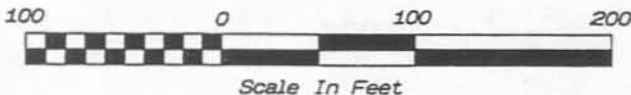
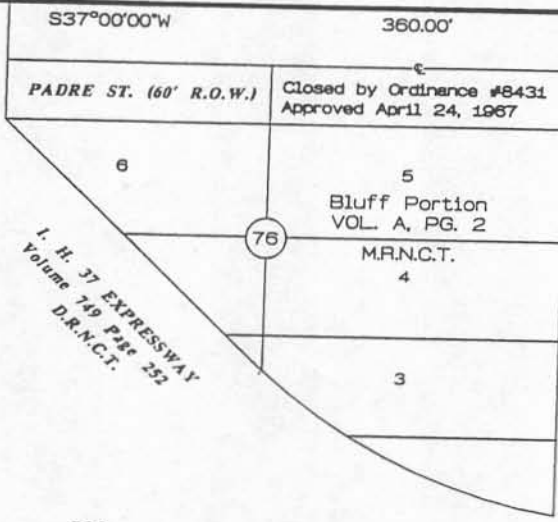
THENCE S53°00'00"E along the southerly right-of-way line of West Broadway, a distance of 422.50' to a Point on the westerly right-of-way line of Padre Street (Closed by City of Corpus Christi Ordinance #8431.), being the east corner of this tract;

THENCE S37°00'00"W along the westerly right-of-way line of Padre Street a distance of 360.00' to a Point on the northerly right-of-way line of said Ramirez Street, being the south corner of this tract;

THENCE N53°00'00"W along the northerly right-of-way line of said Ramirez Street, a distance of 422.50' to the **POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING** and containing 3.49 Acres (152,100.0 Sq. Ft.) of land.



POINT OF BEGINNING



OLD BAYVIEW CEMETERY

OWNER: CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
 BEING A TRACT OF LAND CONTAINING 349 ACRES (152,100.0 SQ. FT.) OF LAND KNOWN AS THE OLD BAYVIEW CEMETERY, AS RECORDED IN VOLUME 122, PAGE 249, AND VOLUME 156, PAGE 193 OF THE DEED RECORDS OF NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS AND ABSTRACT 205, A.C. McCAUGAN LANDS.



CITY of CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

Department of Engineering Services
 Survey Division

Date : 09 / 25 / 2001
 Drawn By : R.D.O.
 Checked By :
 Project: OLD BAYVIEW CEMETERY

home/russell/surveys/bayviewbndrv.g

Application for
HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

Old Bayview Cemetery - Corpus Christi, Texas

4. Origins:

The piece of land known today as the Old Bayview Cemetery was in the beginning part of the Rincon del Oso Land Grant given to Enrique Villarreal by Tamaulipas Governor Francisco Vital Fernandez on November 16, 1831, comprising of approximately 400 square miles and extending from the Oso to the Nueces Rivers. This claim was recognized by the Mexican Government and later by the Republic of Texas.

On July 16, 1842, some acres from this land grant were bought by Henry Lawrence Kinney from Enrique Villarreal.

The tract of land for the cemetery was given to the United States Army by Henry Lawrence Kinney in September 1845 for the purpose of establishing the cemetery. The first burials took place on September 13, 1845.

In 1849, the State of Texas patented land in San Patricio District to Levi Jones, which caused a dispute between Kinney and Jones. The Levi Jones claim to the property was given to the Corpus Christi City and Land Company which in turn gave its claim on March 26, 1884 to the city. (Deed Book Q, page 238)

Henry Lawrence Kinney, in the meantime, sold his claim to J. W. Ward and G. R. Scott; and they in turn sold it to the city for \$2,000 in 1897. (Deed Book 3, page 128)

The cemetery property is presently owned and maintained by the City of Corpus Christi, Texas.

6. Ownership of Land Adjacent to Cemetery*: **See Exhibit 3**

Coles Special Emphasis School, 924 Winnebago, Corpus Christi
Owner no. 1: Corpus Christi Independent School District
Address: 801 Leopard Street City Corpus Christi Zip 78401
Phone no.: (361) 886-9200 Fax no.: () Unknown
E-mail address: Unknown

1205 Ramirez Street, Corpus Christi, 78401
Owner no. 2: Max Orshanski Estate, c/o L. B. Walker & Associates
Address: P. O. Box 16290 City Houston Zip 77222
Phone no.: () Unknown Fax no.: () Unknown
E-mail address: Unknown

1223 Waco at Broadway Blvd. West, Corpus Christi
Owner no. 3: U. S. Sprint Communications Co.
Address: P. O. Box 12913 City Shawnee Mission Zip Ks. 66282
Phone no.: () Unknown Fax no.: () Unknown
E-mail address: Unknown

Owner no. 4: City of Corpus Christi
Address: 1201 Leopard St. City Corpus Christi Zip 78401
Phone no.: (361) 880-3000 Fax no.: () Unknown
E-mail address: Unknown

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: See Exhibit 4

8. Person Completing This Form:

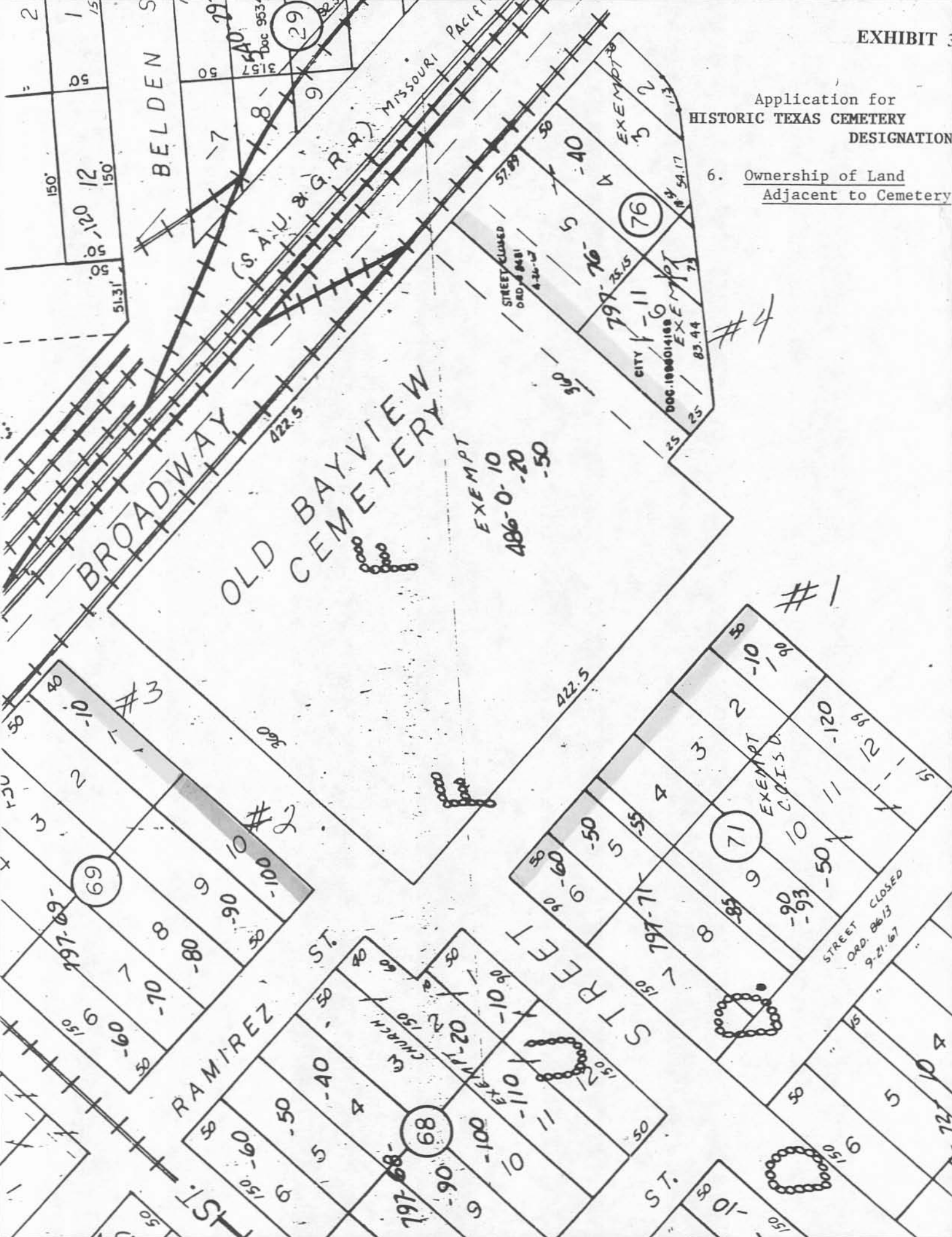
Name: Rosa G. Gonzales Date: October 18, 2001
Affiliation: Nueces County Historical Commission
Address: 520 S. Chaparral #204 City Corpus Christi Zip 78401
Phone no.: (361) 887-7694 Fax no.: () none
E-mail address: rggonzales@hotmail.com

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

- Narrative history and local context of the cemetery (one page will suffice) **See Exhibit 5**
- CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOS (& historical photos if available); **See Exhibit 6** (2 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) **See Exhibit 1**
- Processing fee of \$25.00 (non-refundable) **Considered Exhibit 8** and 7

Application for
HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY
DESIGNATION

6. Ownership of Land
Adjacent to Cemetery



Application for
HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

Old Bayview Cemetery
Corpus Christi, Texas

7. Historical Designations:

Official Texas Historical Markers in cemetery:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Old Bayview Cemetery | - 1967 |
| 2. | Thomas Parker | - 1983 |
| 3. | Explosion of Steamship Dayton | - 1997 |

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

OLD BAYVIEW CEMETERY - CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

Old Bayview Cemetery, atop a small bluff overlooking two bays, was once a beautiful landmark identifying Corpus Christi to mariners. Brought into being by an unfortunate accident, this cemetery is possibly the oldest military cemetery in Texas and is certainly one of the oldest cemeteries in South Texas.

Enrique Villarreal received a tract of land from the Governor of Tamaulipas in 1831. Part of this land was bought by Henry Lawrence Kinney and became the site of Kinney's Ranch, or Trading Post, and later the town of Corpus Christi.

In 1845 General Zachary Taylor's troops were ordered to Corpus Christi to await orders to proceed to Mexico, if necessary, when the annexation of Texas to the United States was accomplished.

On the morning of September 12, 1845, the steamer Dayton left Corpus Christi for St. Joseph's Island transporting troops when the boilers burst. All passengers on the boiler deck were blown high into the air and then thrown into the water some distance from the boat. Eight men were killed and 17 wounded.

Colonel Kinney immediately gave a plot of land on the bluff as a burial place, now Old Bayview Cemetery, and the rites took place on September 13, 1845 with full military honors.

In 1849 certain leagues of land in the San Patricio District, on the Nueces River, were patented by the State of Texas to Levi Jones, under the land title claimed by Miguel Basquez. Part of this land, including the site of Corpus Christi, was contained in the Kinney purchase from Villarreal. Title to this land was thus clouded and a long and bitter lawsuit between Kinney and Jones ensued. (Settlement was not made until 1873.)

Yellow fever came to Corpus Christi in 1854 and 1867 and every family had at least one member laid to rest in the bluff cemetery, which was still a place of beauty.

Many members of Corpus Christi's pioneer families were laid to rest there, including seven former mayors: B. F. Neal, first mayor in 1852; Dr. George Robertson, Weymon Staples, Col. John M. Moore, J. B. Mitchell, Reuben Holbein, and H. W. Berry. Berry was the county's first sheriff in 1846, served as postmaster and also was a Texas Ranger captain and Indian fighter.

During the Texas Centennial in 1936, the state erected a stone over the grave of George W. Hockley, Inspector General of the Army of the Republic at San Jacinto and Secretary of War of the Republic of Texas in 1838, during the first administration of President Sam Houston. Hockley died in Corpus Christi in 1854. A monument, erected also by the state, honors all Texans who fought in the Civil War and were buried in this and adjoining cemeteries.

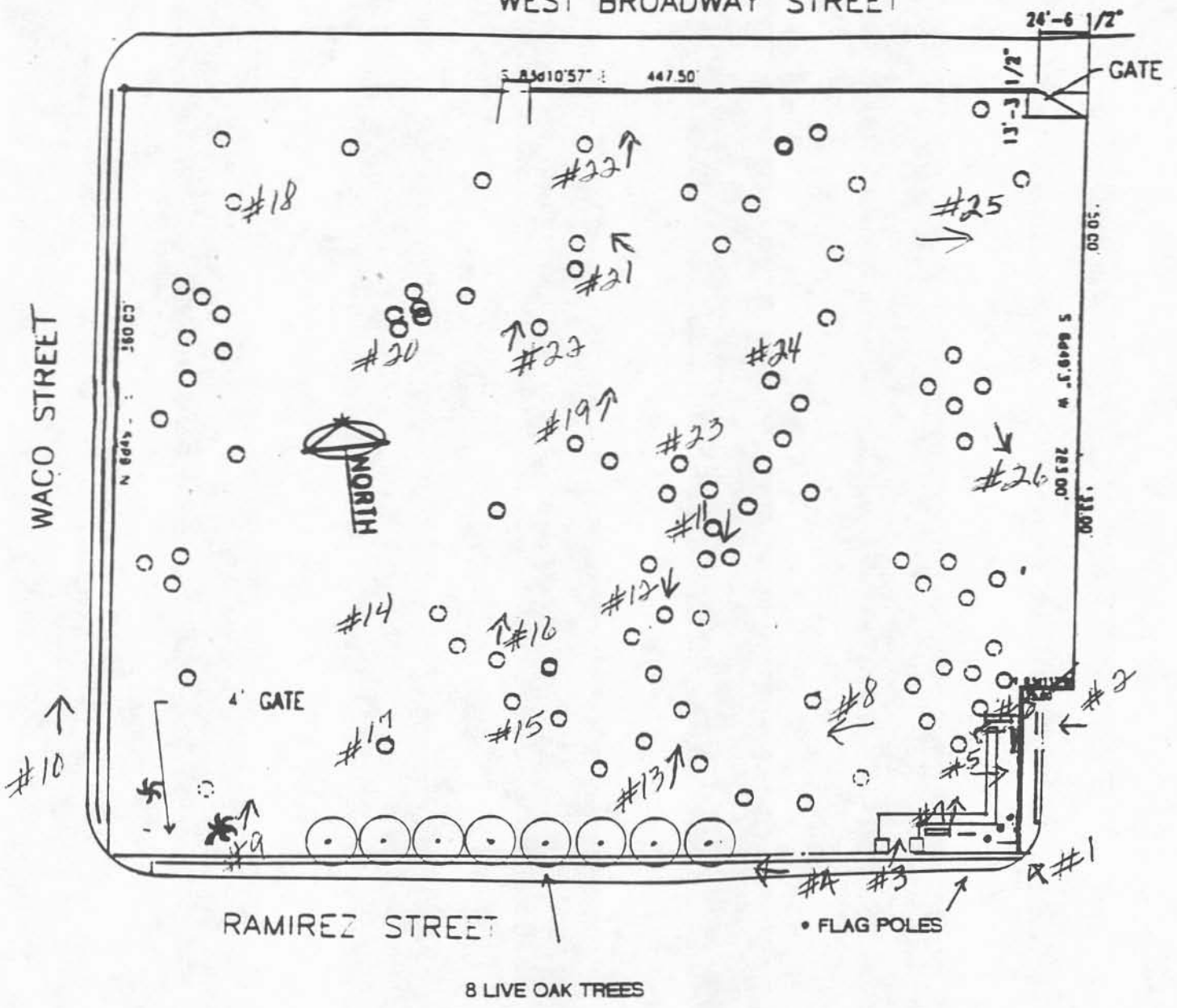
Another marker, dedicated in 1935, denotes the grave of Corpus Christi's first mayor, B. F. Neal. Others who are buried here include: Felix A. von Blucher, member of a pioneer family and major of engineers, C. S. A., who died in 1879; Felix Noessel, Corpus Christi's first fire chief, who died in 1887; and William Gambel, another veteran of Sam Houston's army, who died in 1877.

Several years ago the city closed the cemetery and only persons owning plots may be buried there. Since its becoming city property, the cemetery is maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department.

The cemetery has been adopted as a project by the Nueces County Historical Commission and it is being fully documented with black and white pictures as well as survey forms. The cemetery is also being photographed to have a web page set up with information on each burial known.

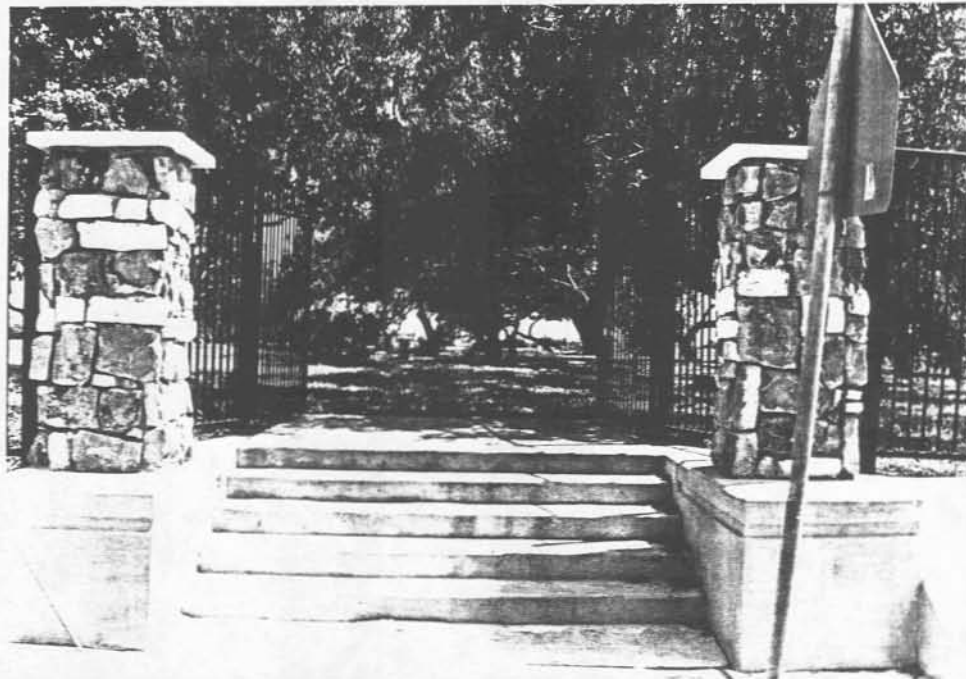
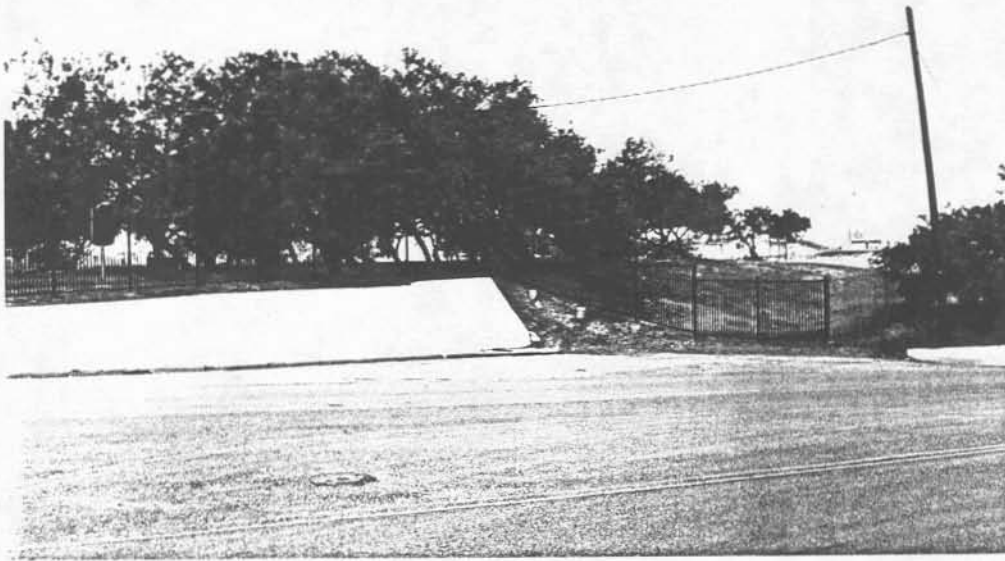
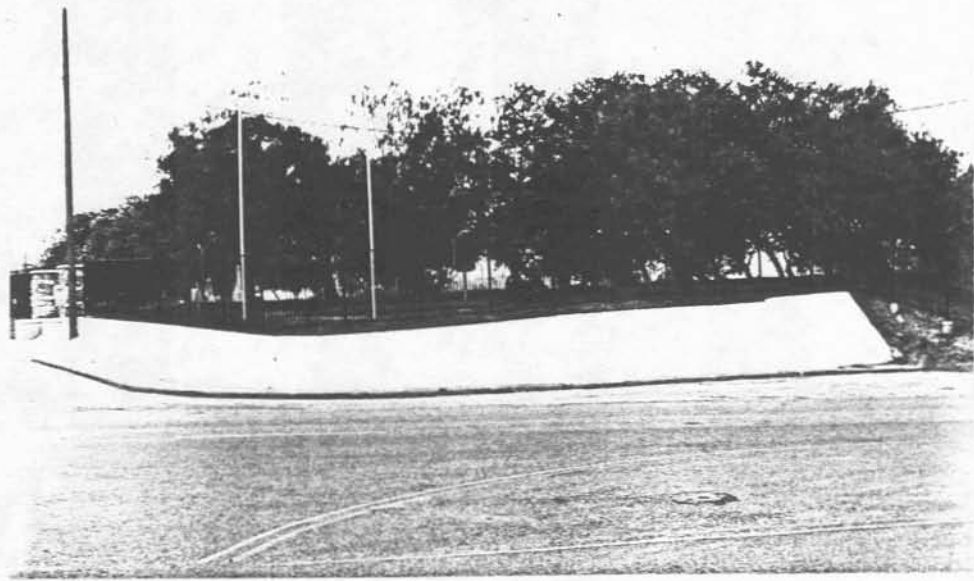
The graves in Old Bayview Cemetery reflect the history of Corpus Christi from trading post to fishing village to metropolis. In the midst of a busy city, still overlooking two bays, is a place of rest and peace — a site to be visited with respect for those who rest there.

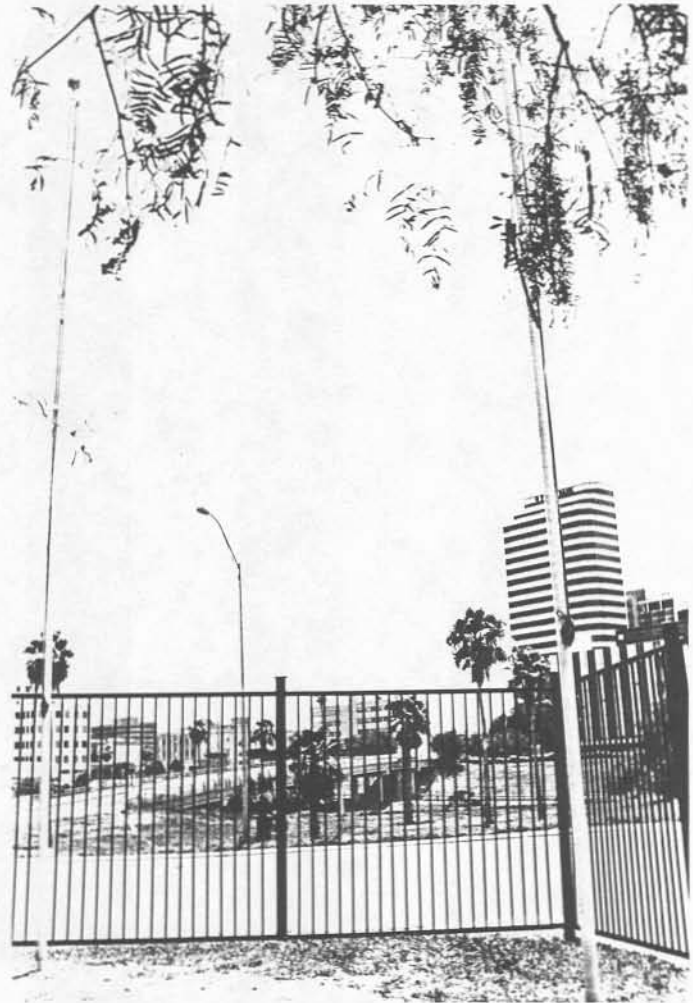
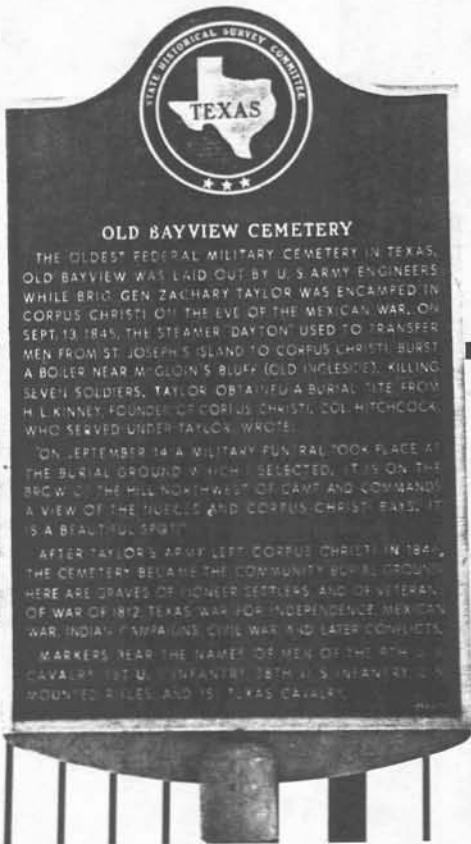
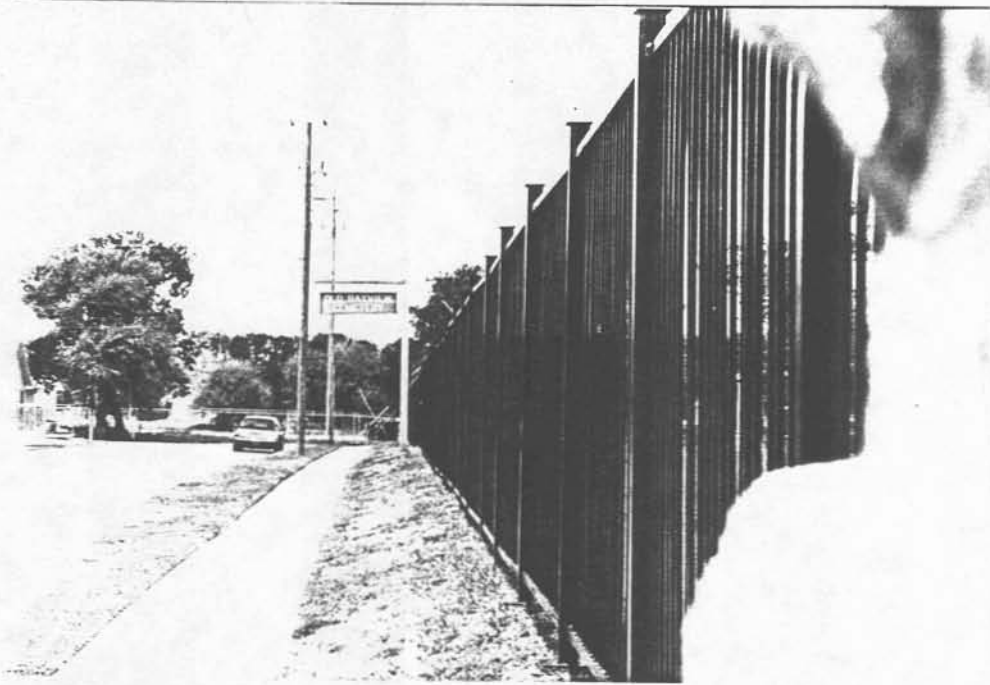
WEST BROADWAY STREET



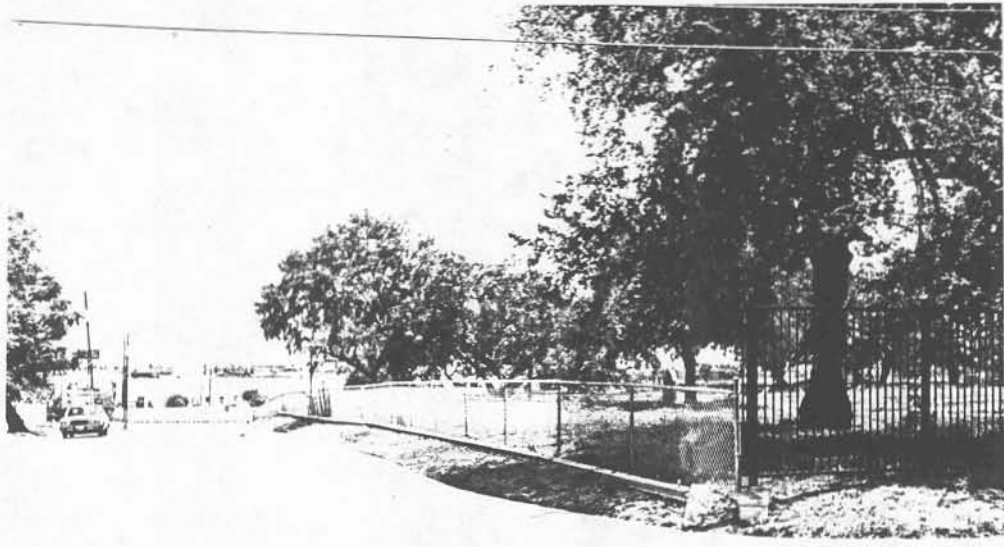
OLD BAYVIEW CEMETERY - SITE PLAN

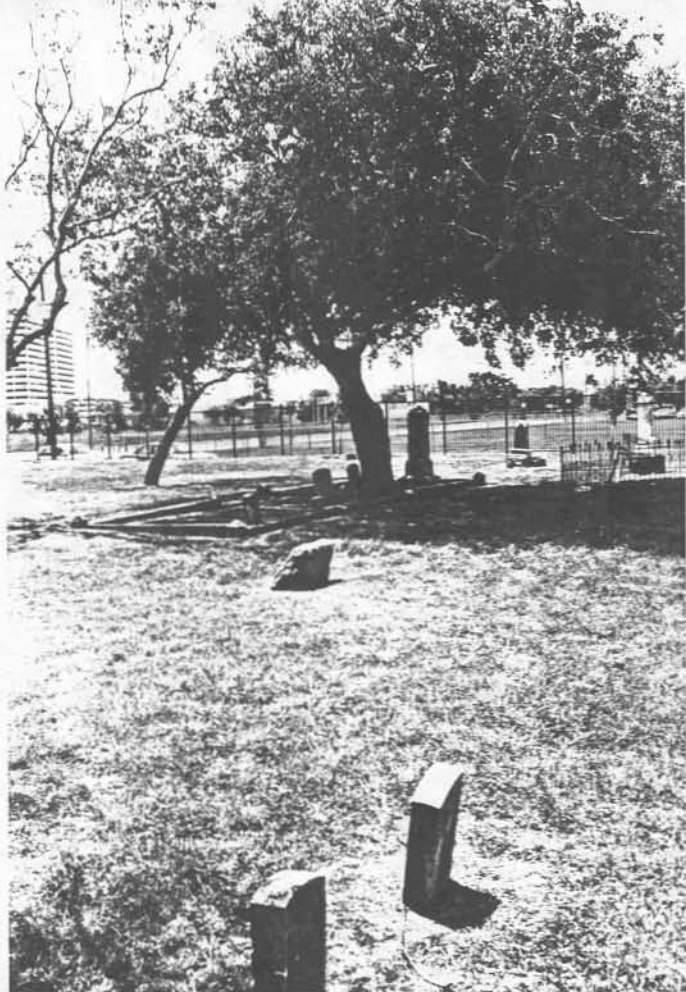
SCALE NOT TO SCALE



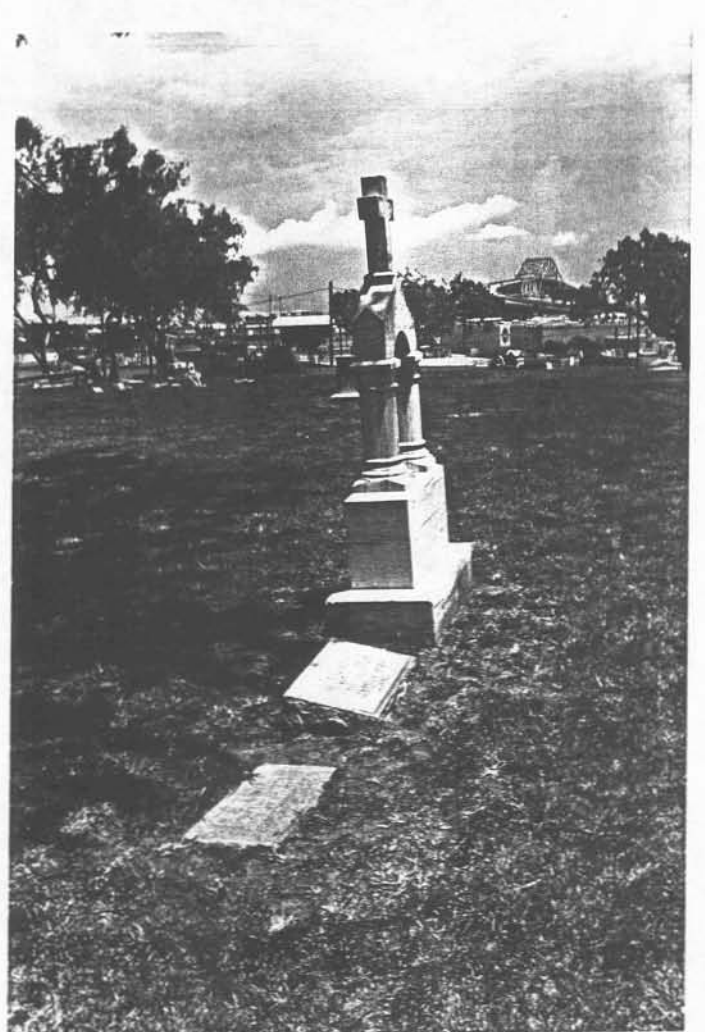
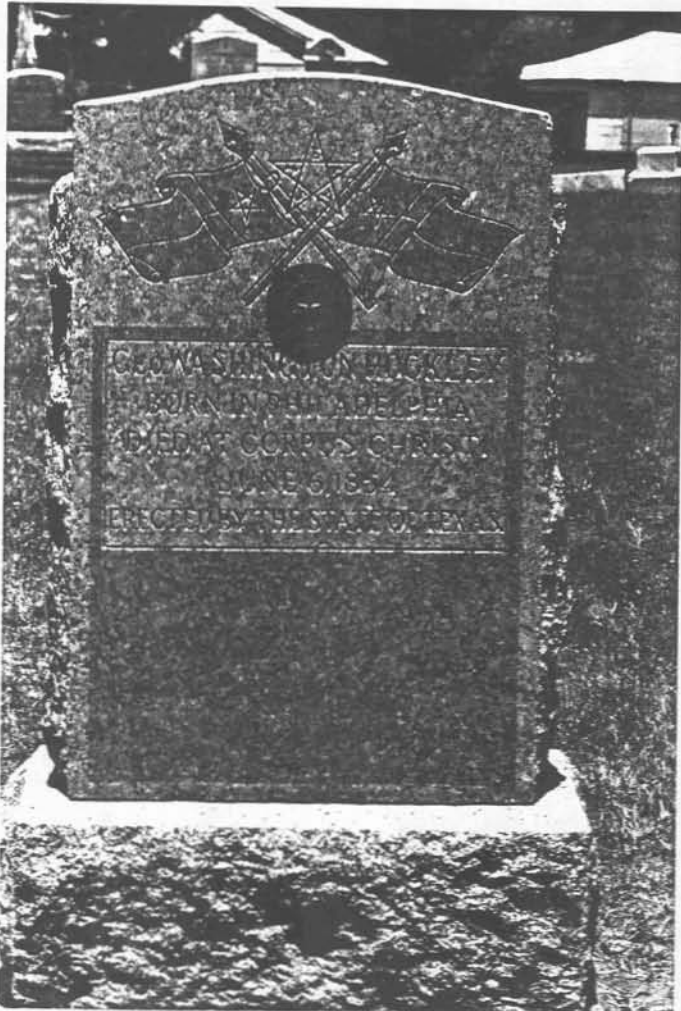
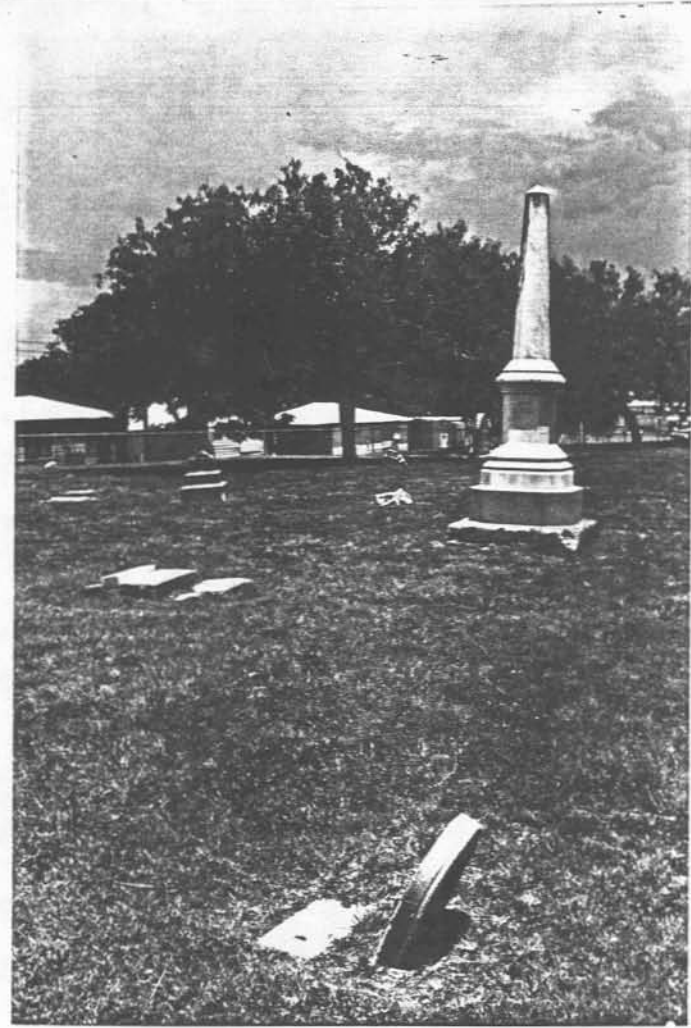


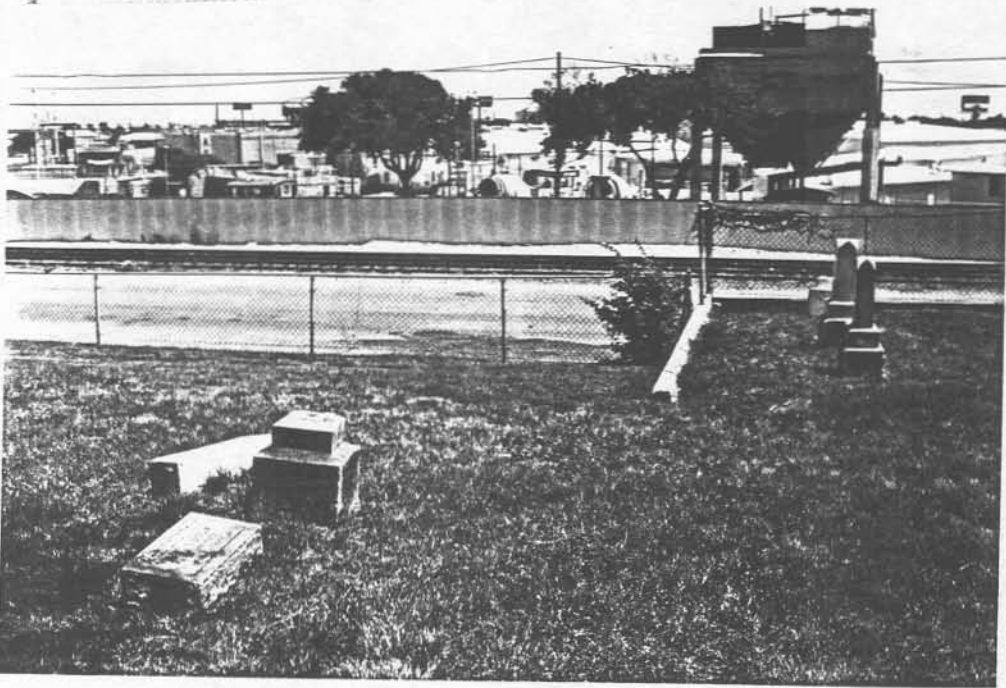
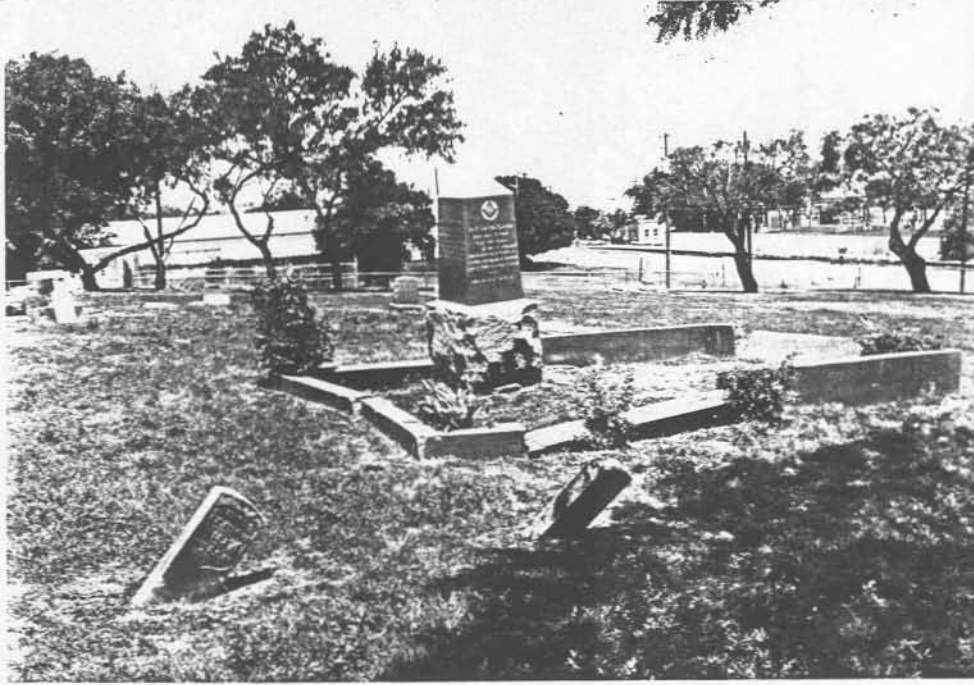


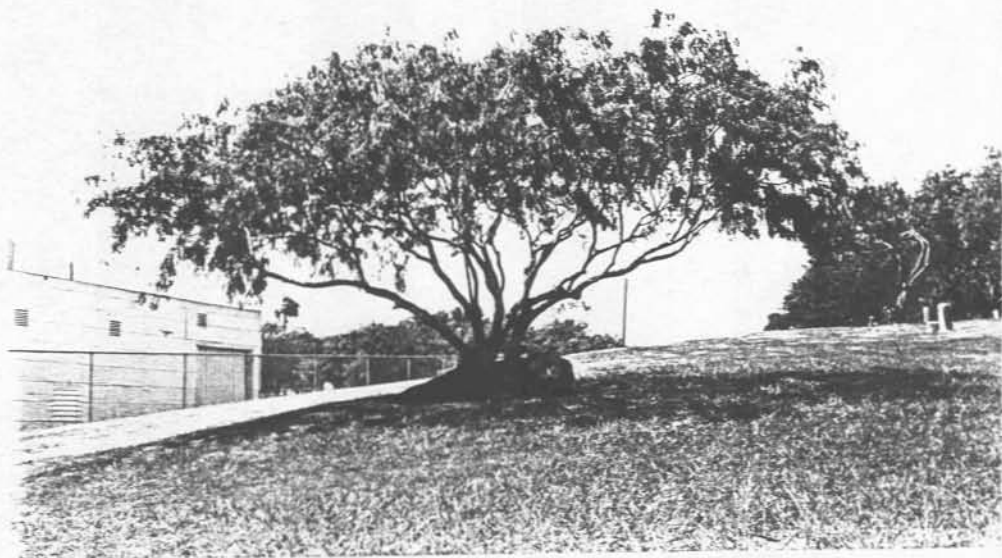
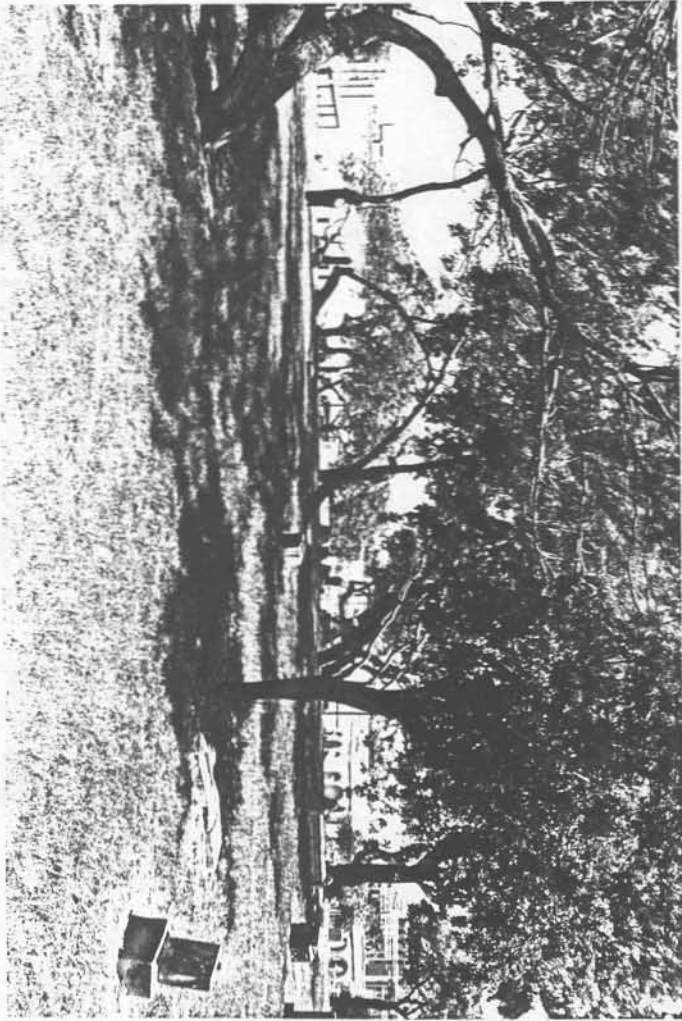












ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Application for the Historic Texas Cemetery Designation

Approximate No. of burials: 540 Date/name of first known interment:
See Exhibit 9

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*: See Exhibit 10

Cemetery Status: Active Inactive
Scheduled cleanings? Yes No If yes, when? As needed
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)*:
See Exhibit 11

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

Statuary: Yes No (if Yes, list)*: Disappeared

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

Veterans' Graves in Cemetery*:

War of 1812	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Texas Revolution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Civil War	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	The Indian Wars	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Mexican American War	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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):	<u>Texas Rangers</u>		

Application for
HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

Old Bayview Cemetery
Corpus Christi, Texas

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Date/name of first known interment:

September 13, 1845

1.	2nd Lieut. Thaddeus Higgins	4th U.S. Inf. Co. G
2.	2nd Lieut. Benjamin A. Berry	4th U.S. Inf. Co. C
3.	1st Sgt. Richard Edwards	3rd U.S. Inf. Co. F
4.	Pvt. John Hughes	3rd U.S. Inf. Co. G
5.	Sgt. Daniel McKerns	3rd U.S. Inf. Co. H
6.	Pvt. James Marshall	4th U.S. Inf. Co. F
7.	Pvt. James Johnson	3rd U.S. Inf. Co. I
8.	Pvt. Alexander Iwanowski	2nd U.S. Inf. Co. H

Application for
HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

Old Bayview Cemetery
Corpus Christi, Texas

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Burial or Association Records:

Old Bayview Cemetery Records of Interment from 1897 through 1913, kept by the Bay View Cemetery Association, are located at the Local History Room of the Corpus Christi Public Library.

Dr. Charles Ward and Mr. Brooks Noel, Cemetery Data of Nueces County, Texas, 1990. Copy of this book is also found at the Local History Room of the Corpus Christi Public Library.

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HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Monuments and Gravestones:

1. In 1906, a monument, erected by the State of Texas, honors all of the Confederate dead.
2. The City of Corpus Christi erected a historical gravestone in 1935 for Benjamin Neal, the first Mayor of the City of Corpus Christi.
3. In 1936, the State of Texas erected a historical gravestone for George Washington Hockley, Inspector General of the Texas Army of the Republic at San Jacinto, and Secretary of War of the Republic of Texas in 1838.
4. A gravestone was erected to Rev. Jesse Perham by the Perham Chapter No. 91, RAM.
5. Marker erected in 1967 to Rev. William Mitchell, first Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi.
6. Monument erected in 1971 to honor the Rev. Alejo Hernandez, first native Mexican Methodist Preacher in Corpus Christi.

Identifiable Heritage

Identifiable Local Historical Heritage*:

Graves associated with a specific event: See Exhibit 12

Early town or community ties: See Exhibit 12

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*: Woodmen of the World

Order of Pythias

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:

Application for
HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

Old Bayview Cemetery
Corpus Christi, Texas

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Identifiable Local Historical Heritage:

- o Graves associated with specific event.
 - 1. The burial of the Zachary Taylor soldiers who died during their stay in Corpus Christi and were the first to be buried at this cemetery.
 - 2. The burial of almost all the yellow fever victims of the epidemic of 1867 in Corpus Christi.

- oo Early town or community ties.
 - 1. First cemetery to be established in Corpus Christi.
 - 2. The oldest cemetery with military burials in Texas.