

Brickyard Cemetery

Planning Committee Information Packet

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Mesquite Brickyard Cemetery

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History

Brickyard Cemetery

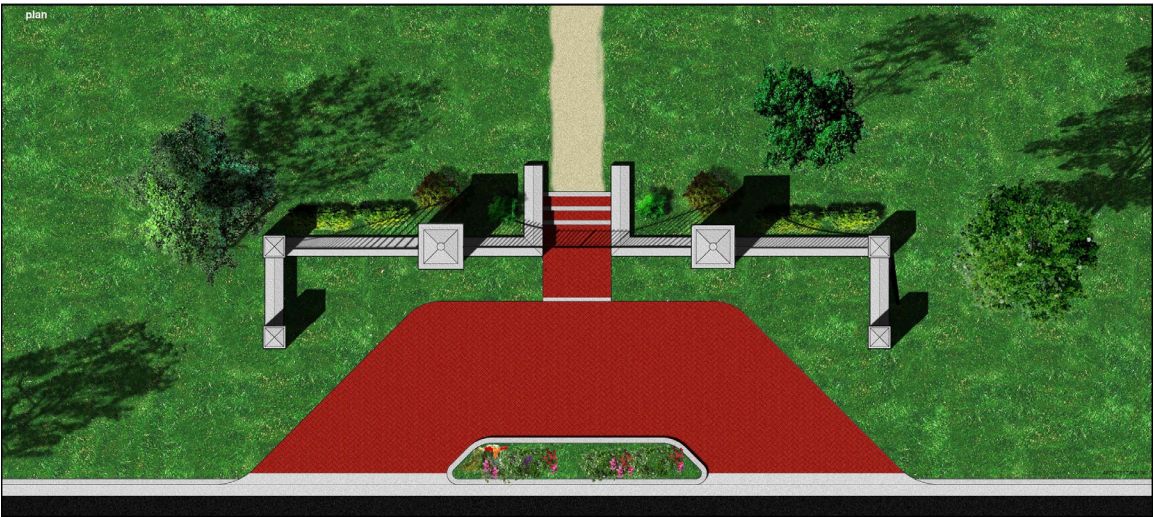
Practically hidden between a busy highway and a major arterial roadway in the city limits of Mesquite is an abandoned cemetery that yields many mysteries and few answers. The cemetery, known as the Brickyard Cemetery, is the final resting place for many African-American workers who helped produce bricks at a local factory beginning almost a century ago.

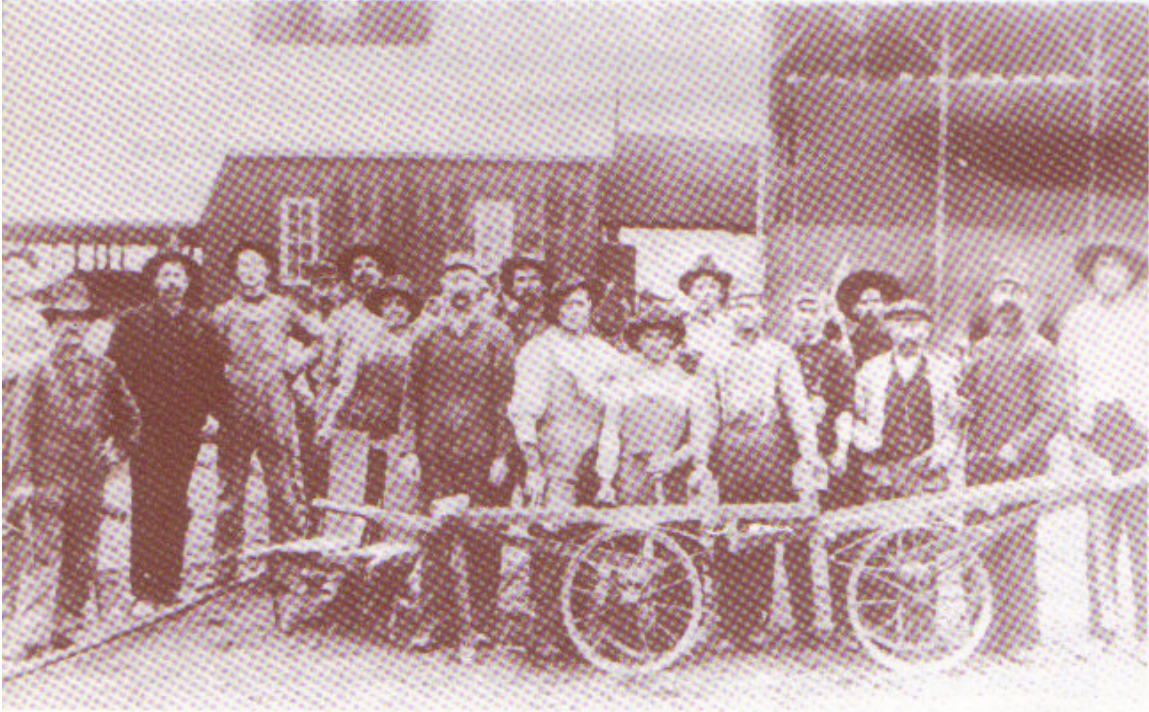
Schuyler Marshall, Sr. started the Dallas Pressed Brick Company in 1904, just to the west of the township of Mesquite. The factory was the first industrial business in Mesquite and was built upon a naturally occurring yellow clay formation. According to a newspaper article written by historian Michael Hayslip, the company's workers earned about \$7.50 for each day of work. In addition to their pay, Mr. Marshall donated several acres of the original company property to the African-American workers for homes, a school called Carver Elementary (which also doubled as a church) and an area for burials. Of this land, approximately three acres served for burial purposes. Very little is known about the people who inhabited this property or the ones they left behind. Mr. Marshall did not formally dedicate the burial portion of the land as a cemetery and, when the brick company closed in the 1950s, the cemetery was abandoned.

The Brickyard cemetery has no headstones or markers to identify it as a cemetery thus the need for the memorial.

Because the townspeople were not open to the idea of allowing the workers to move into the town, the African-American workers moved away from the property and the homes and school were torn down. Historic Mesquite, Inc. staff and volunteers began looking into the history of the cemetery in 1996, which is located just east of Peachtree Road and west of Interstate 635. From this research, several items supporting the presence of the cemetery were found. The Texas Historical Commission arranged for an archeological steward to investigate the area and approximately 80 burial sites were found. The City of Mesquite purchased the three-acre tract of land in question in January 2002 and is currently working with Historic Mesquite and the Mesquite chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to preserve the property. The City is maintaining the cemetery area in its natural state and will fence portions of the property once a memorial identifying the cemetery is finalized. The Mesquite NAACP is overseeing the erection of the memorial and is currently raising funds for its construction. The memorial will be made of brick, iron and stone and will list the names of those believed to have received burials in the cemetery, as recovered from historical records. A Texas historical marker will also be incorporated into the memorial.

Mesquite Brickyard Cemetery

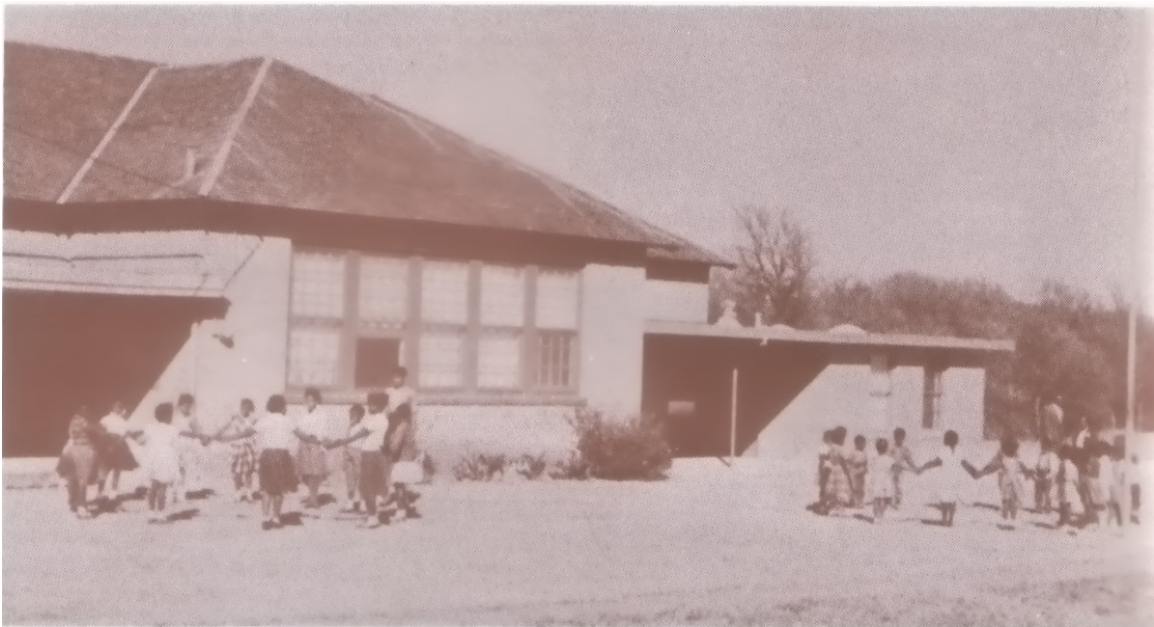




Brickyard workers earned about \$7.50 a day according to Waco Crane, who began his career with the company the year it opened.



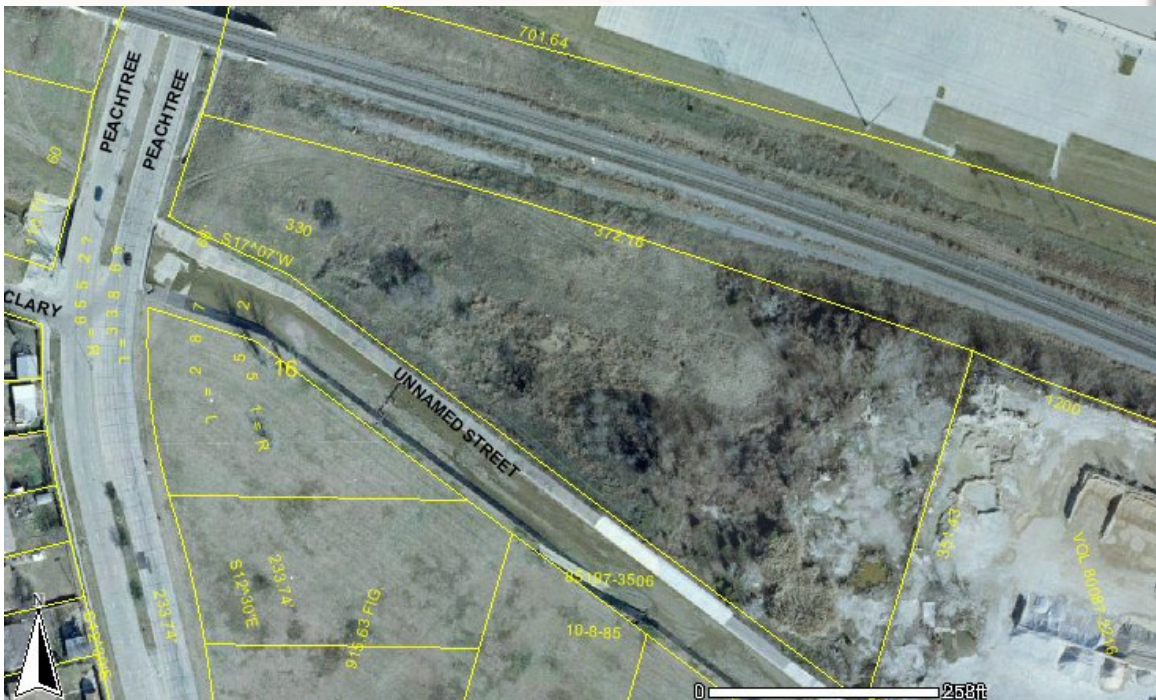
The Dallas Pressed Brick Company opened one mile west of Mesquite in 1904.



This was a scene in the early 1960s at recess time at the Carver School in Mesquite.



This is a group of faculty members and patrons at the Carver School in Mesquite in the 1960s. From left are: 1. unidentified; 2. Dorothy Black; 3. a Mrs. Robinson; 4. Mrs. Vinters; 5. unidentified; 6. unidentified; 7. Mrs. Ocie Gray; and 8. Professor W.O. Gray.





Brickyard Cemetery Facts

- Historic Mesquite first heard of the cemetery in 1996 and began looking into the history of the cemetery. In 1976 the Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society listed approximately 47 names (not all graves that were found could be identified).
- Historic Mesquite submitted the paperwork to have the Brickyard cemetery officially recorded with the state of Texas Historical Commission in 2001.
- Because of the history of the brick factory and the first African-Americans to move into the area, the Mesquite NAACP feels the cemetery needs to be memorialized.

Who: The Brickyard cemetery is owned by the city of Mesquite and Union Pacific has some rights to the land.

What: The Brickyard cemetery is an abandoned cemetery in which eighty graves have been identified. It is the final resting place for African-American workers who helped produce bricks at the local factory.

When: The Brickyard cemetery dates back to the early 1900's. Dallas Pressed Brick Company opened in 1904. Last known burial year was 1945.

Where: Located in the city limits of Mesquite on Peachtree Road, between Military Parkway and Gross Road next to the railroad bridge.

Timeline

October 2005

Finalize Scaled down version of all plans

November 2005

Meet with City Officials and Fundraising contractor to develop strategic plan

December 2005

Begin contacting possible corporate sponsors

January 2006

Begin Fundraising Efforts

February 2006

March 2006

April 2006

May 2006

June 2006

Goal has been reached
Construction

Contacts

	Dallas Morning News	chbell@dallasnews.com	
Johnny Booth	Architect	214 824 3800 X253 972 523 4659 (cell) jbooth.aiaagte.net	
Walter Kilroy 609 West 15 th Street, Suite 140 Plano, TX 75075	Architect	972 509 0088 972 509 0022 (fax) kilroy@architettura-inc.com	
Clyde Porter	Architect/DCCCD	972 860 7760 972 860 7765 cxl1161@dccd.edu	
Cliff Keheley	City Manager's Office	chbell@dallasnews.com ckeheley@ci.mesquite.tx.us	
Charlene Orr	Historic Mesquite	972 216 6468 corr@ci.mesquite.tx.us	
Adelfa	Eastfield	972 860 7603	
Gary Bingham (Ins)		972 329 5200	
Reggie Hopkins		214 476 2190 (cell)	
Macband (McCampbell)		214 382 4842	
		dbarber@dallasnews.com	
Freddie James	Musician	214 629 6852 (cell)	
Mesquite NAACP	Denise Upchurch		
Mary Alsbrook (Sec.)		alswes@yahoo.com	
	Santa Fe Cast Stone & Apple Core	214 818 4095 (office) 972 342 7795	
Thurman Jones	MON Gazette, reporter Belinda Alexander	972 516 4191 trj@swbell.net	Copy MON, hypenedit@swbell.net
Dan Barber Cherie Bell	Dallas Morning News	972 686 8386 X2002x2001	

Renee Mc Millian			
Michelle Harrison-Dahl			
Denise Upchurch			
Brooks Fitch			

Notes: Mr. Holman will donate ½ of funds for insurance on event 100-/done 972 222
5776

Budget

1. Site Clearing and excavation/Concrete	\$21, 132
2. Storm Drain – Existing to remain	\$ 0
3. Landscaping	\$ 3,526
4. Fencing	\$ 1,395
5. Site Paving (Turnkey) – By the City of Mesquite	\$ 0
6. Masonry	\$36,027
7. Waterproofing/sealants	\$ 2,318
8. Plaques & Medallions Allowance	\$ 1,600
9. Lighting Not in scope	\$ 0
10. General Conditions	\$20,000

Budget Total \$92,470

Brickyard Cemetery Committee Members

The committee members consist of individuals from the Mesquite Chapter NAACP, Historic Mesquite, The city of Mesquite, Community leaders, volunteers, etc.

1. Denise Upchurch, President, Mesquite Chapter NAACP, Board of Directors
Historic Mesquite (denise_upchurch@yahoo.com)
2. Michelle Dahl, Board Member, Mesquite Chapter NAACP
(michelleharrison2@comcast.net)
3. Renee McMillion Clark, Community Affairs Manager KDAF-TV
(rmcmillion@tribune.com)
4. Charlene Orr, Historic Mesquite
5. City of Mesquite
6. Parks and Recreation
7. Reginald Hopkins, Treasurer Mesquite Chapter NAACP
8. Brooks Fitch Fundraising Chairperson
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.

Brickyard Cemetery Committees

1. Fundraising, Solicitation & Underwriting (All Committee Members)
2. Grant Writer (Denise will pursue)
3. Project Logistics Team Coordinator, Michelle Dahl
4. Finance, Reginald Hopkins (Treasurer Mesquite Chapter NAACP)
5. Public Relations Coordinator, Renee McMillion Clark
6. Keeper of Properties (Temporary) Denise Upchurch
7. Engineering Team (Contractors, builders, etc.)
8. Parks and Recreation

Committee Coordinators Descriptions

Development Coordinator (fundraising, solicitation and underwriting committee)

- Everyone is on this committee
- Set goals for fund raising programs
- Establish committee goals, a plan of action to achieve the goals and timelines to work by
- Construct a budget to support the goals of the project
- Serve as a liaison between the NAACP and the Brickyard Cemetery committee
- This person will be responsible for major, smaller corporate and business gifts
- This person will work closely with the grant writer coordinator

Grant writer Coordinator

- Must have solid grant writing skills for writing governmental, foundation and corporate grants
- Prepare, submit, and manage grant proposals to foundation, corporate, and governmental sources
- Identify new contacts and untapped sources to support the Brickyard Cemetery
- Develop cultivation and solicitation strategies
- Build relationships with foundation, government and corporate prospect and current donors
- Develop and maintain information regarding potential donors

Project Logistics Team, Coordinator, Michelle Dahl

- Maintain all documentation to Branch President
- Maintain all contact information and Updates
- Provide coordination for Architect, Engineers, and Project Team as needed.
- Develop any Media necessary for presentation
- All documentation Proofing and Generation of any PR related docs.

Finance, Reginald Hopkins

- Implement 501c3 status with Executive Director as foundation
- Ensure any State/National Auditing requirements are met.
- Maintain Budget Accounts Payable and Receivables.
- Implement any necessary functions for the Brickyard Foundation
- Provide Monthly Balance Sheet delivered to Project Executive Committee
- Detailed Expenditures Report Provided Monthly.

Public Relations, Coordinator, Renee McMillion Clark

- Develop a complete list of media and related contacts
- Ensure all contacts and media are available electronically.
- Develop Press Releases and Public Service Announcements to be disseminated to various media entities
- Arrange and conduct programs to keep up contact between representatives from the Brickyard Cemetery and the public
- Arrange public press conferences
- Promote the project in a positive and visible image
- Provide progress sheets to media and community

Data Vault (Temporary) Denise Upchurch

- Maintains all data

Engineering Team (Contractors, builders, etc.)

- Provide Detailed step by step project plan.

Parks and Recreation

- Develop Maintenance Plan
- Develop Budget Plan

Executive Director of Brickyard Project- To be Determined

- Develop structure to support any necessary 501c3, 990 or audited financial statement,
- Develop a foundation
- Oversee/Assist/Provide Grant Applications and processes.
- Develop detailed Project plan with Architect, Engineers, Construction Teams, and implementation.
- Develop budget for entire project.
- Ensure that all Committee Chairpersons established requirements are being met in accordance with the overall project timeline.
- Develop Fund raising
- Ensure that proper Publicity is presented on an ongoing basis.
- Develop maintenance process for post construction with City Parks department for long term care.
-

Brickyard Cemetery
Projected Completion Date
July 1st 2006

