

Draft Final

**Historic Resource Survey for The City of Delray Beach
Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery**

**City of Delray Beach
Purchase Order 2024-1078**

**LG2 Project Number
312024020**

Prepared for:

City of Delray Beach
Palm Beach County, Florida

Prepared by:



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10475 Fortune Parkway, Suite 201

Jacksonville, Florida 32256

August 2024

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**Martin Healey and Scott Clark
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**Wendy Puckett, Megan Bebee, Elizabeth Zieschang
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Michelle Hoyland, Principal Planner with the Historic Preservation Division, Development Services Department, facilitated completion of the project, including providing access to the Cemetery and to public records for historical research.

Parks and Recreation Department employees at the Cemetery provided the field crew with easy access, amenities, and helpful information about past and present maintenance.

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	ii
1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Laws and Regulations.....	6
Federal Protection Laws	6
State of Florida Statutes	6
City of Delray Beach Ordinances	7
2.0 Field Methods	7
2.1 Cemetery Survey.....	8
2.2 Historical Research	9
3.0 Cemetery History	9
3.1 Location and Boundaries	16
3.2 Flooding Events	18
3.3 Funeral Procession	18
3.4 Significant Persons.....	19
4.0 Condition Assessment Report and Management Plan	28
4.1 Results.....	30
4.2 Management Recommendations	31
Landscaping Maintenance	31
Repairs	32
Resetting	33
Replacement of Military Markers.....	35
Cleaning and Biological Growth Prevention	35
Future Research, Public Outreach, and Heritage Tourism	37
5.0 NRHP Recommendations	40
6.0 References.....	47

Appendix A: Oversized Cemetery Site Map

Appendix B: Individual Grave Forms

Appendix C: FMSF Forms

Appendix D: Field Guide to Marker Types

List of Figures

Figure 1.1 2013 Topographic map showing Pine Ridge Cemetery (Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery).....	3
Figure 1.2 Current aerial photograph showing the Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery.....	4
Figure 1.3 Current aerial photograph showing the Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery Project Survey Area.....	5
Figure 3.1 Historic Cemetery 5-Acre Boundary on 1950 Delray Beach, USGS Topographic Map	12
Figure 3.2 Historic Cemetery 5-Acre Boundary on 1953 Aerial Photograph	13
Figure 3.3 Historic Cemetery 5-Acre Boundary on 1968 Aerial Photograph	14
Figure 3.4 Current aerial photograph with historic cemetery boundary (in red) and modern cemetery boundary (in yellow).....	17
Figure 3.5 Photograph of Catherine Strong	20
Figure 3.6 Aurthur and Dessie D. Barton headstone- note 33-degree symbol under Aurthur’s name.....	21
Figure 3.7 Grave # 1536A showing Masonic (left) and Order of the Eastern Star (right) symbols.....	22
Figure 3.8 Postcard showing the Kentucky House- Delray Beach, FLA, circa. 1900.....	23
Figure 3.9 The Wuepper family home, built in 1903, currently used as a commercial establishment	24
Figure 3.10 Grocery store of the Zill and Wuepper families	24
Figure 3.11 William Robinson’s original home	26
Figure 3.12 Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, former home of Jessie and Solomon Spady.....	27
Figure 4.1 Burial Locations	29
Figure 4.2 Left: lawnmower wheel marks on a ledger (Grave # 299; no inscription); right: scrapes and gouges from a lawnmower on a pillow-style headstone (Grave # 1133).....	31
Figure 4.3 Left: broken concrete grave box (Grave # 7); right: broken headstone, inscription is face down; Grave # 985).....	33
Figure 4.4 Example of a leaning headstone (Grave # 964).....	34
Figure 4.5 Holes forming next to a lawn-style plaque (left; Grave # 1499) and a headstone with base (right; Grave # 1125a).....	34

Figure 4.6 Examples of biological growth on headstones (left: Grave # 1216, right: Grave # 984) 35

Figure 4.7. Atlantic Avenue Crossing Marker City of Delray Beach..... 39

Figure 4.8. Informational sign. Plano Mutual Cemetery 2020, Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation..... 40

Figure 5.1. Segregated Historic Cemetery Boundary 42

Figure 5.2 Map of Identified Significant Persons of Outstanding Importance..... 45

List of Tables

Table 3.1 Symbolism on Historic Markers 27

Table 4.1 Burial dates of historic gravesites surveyed. 28

Table 4.2 Frequency of all historic marker shapes and material. 30

1.0 Introduction

LG2 Environmental Solutions, Inc. (LG2) was contracted by the City of Delray Beach to record and assess the condition of historic graves and establish a written history for the original section of Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery (DBMGMC). This project was funded through a Small Matching Grant by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, grant number 24.h.sm.200.067 for the Project titled “Delray Beach Municipal Cemetery Historic Resource Survey.”

This report presents the results of the field survey and historical research and provides a cemetery management plan. All work was completed in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800; Chapter 267, F.S.; and Rule 1A-46, F.A.C. as detailed in the Florida Standards & Guidelines for Archaeological Surveys: Module Three, and all applicable local and federal laws.

The Cemetery is located in an urban setting, in the central portion of the City of Delray Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida (Figure 1.1 and 1.2). The City’s Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for cemetery management, including the purchasing of plots, internments, and grounds maintenance. Internments are still taking place at the Cemetery, while the earliest known burial is from 1903.

The project area is in the northeast portion of the property (Figure 1.3), which includes the original section known as Pine Ridge Cemetery. It is currently listed in the Florida Master Site File as Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery (PB20293). The site was recorded but not fully documented in 2021.

The Cemetery was established by the Ladies Improvement Association (LIA) in 1903 on property donated in 1902, by Frederick S. Dewey, a local land agent of Henry Flagler’s Florida East Coast Railway Company. The Cemetery was segregated from its inception, with the far northeast section reserved for burials by the Black community. Original grave markers in the historic section were often made of wood and have since deteriorated, and plots were typically arranged in an unorganized manner. Additionally, during the twentieth century, the Cemetery experienced damaging flooding, long periods of inattention, and inevitable decay of gravestone material. The Cemetery grounds are currently well-maintained; conservation and management of this locally significant resource can continue and improve through in-depth field survey, mapping, and additional archival research.

Specific goals of the historic resource survey include: prepare grave markers as needed for proper documentation and assessment; document each historic grave by photographing, plotting location with sub-10 cm Global Positioning System (GPS) devices, recording marker shape, material type, inscriptions, and condition; record other cemetery features, such as boundaries, family enclosures, and vegetation; conduct historical research and interviews, and identify prominent local citizens

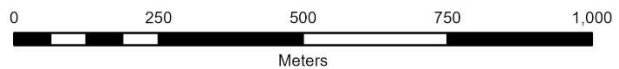
interred, to establish a written history; document the historic funeral route through the nearby neighborhood; update the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) form and establish eligibility for nomination into the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); establish eligibility for nomination into the Delray Beach Local Register of Historic Places; establish heritage tourism opportunities; and to provide reporting to include a condition assessment report and a cemetery management plan.

The cemetery management plan outlines and prioritizes basic maintenance strategies for historic cemeteries, along with conservation methods and repairs recommended by professionals. The report also provides up-to-date information on cemetery laws, and recommendations for public outreach and future research.



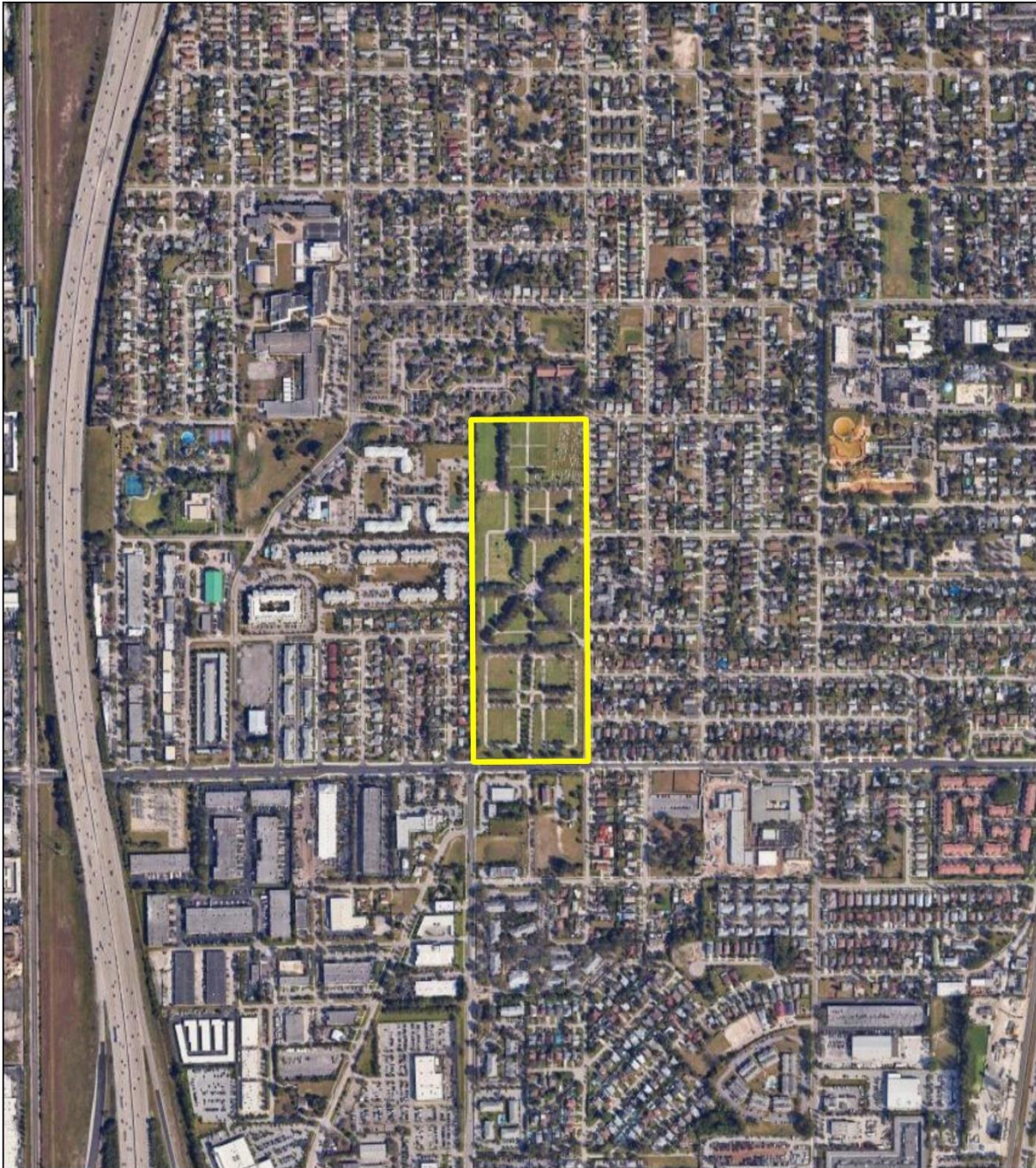
**The City of Delray Beach
Municipal Cemetery**

 Cemetery Boundary



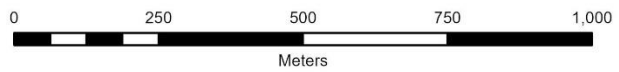
Service Layer Credits: Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, I-cubed

Figure 1.1 2013 Topographic map showing Pine Ridge Cemetery (Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery).



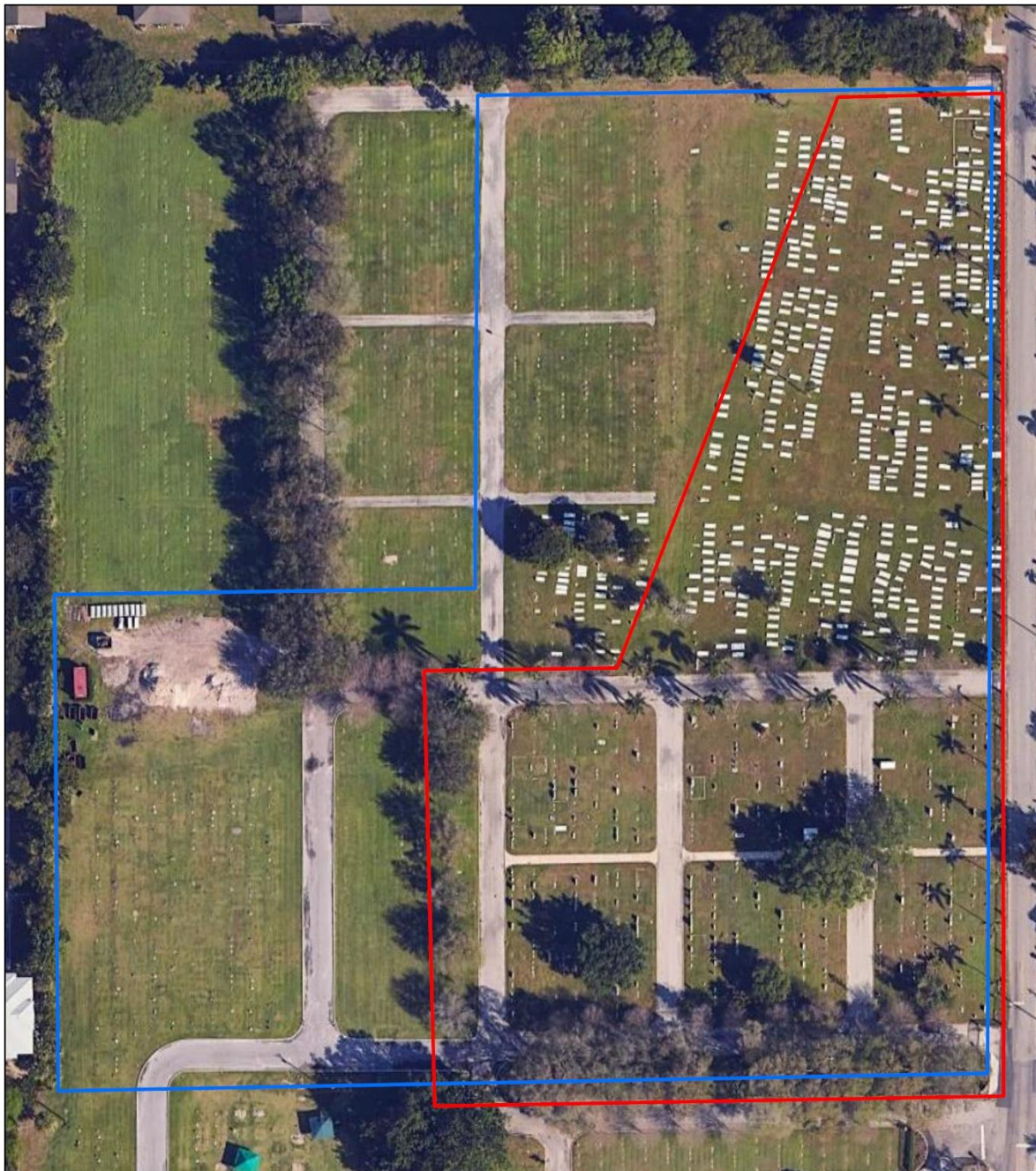
**The City of Delray Beach
Municipal Cemetery**

 Cemetery Boundary





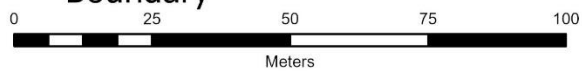
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Figure 1.2 Current aerial photograph showing the Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery.



Historic Cemetery Boundary
The City of Delray Beach
Municipal Cemetery

 Survey Boundary
 Historic Cemetery
Boundary



Service Layer Credits: 1953 Aerial Photograph downloaded from UF Digital Collections©
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Figure 1.3 Current aerial photograph showing the Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery Project Survey Area.

1.1 Laws and Regulations

This section summarizes the laws and regulations for managing municipal cemeteries.

Federal Protection Laws

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA, 16 USC 100101) declares that historic preservation is a national policy and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to expand and maintain a NRHP that includes properties of national, state, and local historical significance. It also establishes the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO). Section 106 of the NHPA requires that federal agencies consider the effects of their actions on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP, that they consult with the SHPO, and that they allow the ACHP to comment on proposed actions. Section 110 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to inventory historic properties under their ownership or control and to nominate them to the NRHP.

The Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (AHPA, 16 USC 469 et seq.) amends the 1960 Reservoir Salvage Act. It provides for preserving significant scientific, prehistoric, historic, and archaeological materials and data that might be lost or destroyed due to federally sponsored projects.

African American Burial Grounds Preservation Act of 2023. The African American Burial Grounds Preservation Act was introduced to Congress in 2022 and signed into law as part of the FY2023. The legislation amends Title 54 of the United States Code to establish the African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program within the National Park Service (NPS). The program aims to provide competitive grants and technical assistance to local partners to research, identify, survey, and preserve African American burial grounds.

In carrying out the program, NPS may make grants to other federal agencies; state, local, and tribal governments; other public entities; educational institutions; historic preservation groups; and private nonprofit organizations for the identification of historic African American burial grounds, the preservation and restoration of African American burial grounds, the interpretation of African American burial grounds, and related research and documentation for historic African American burial grounds.

State of Florida Statutes

Florida has several statutes for the protection of cemeteries and unmarked burials.

- Chapter 497, Florida Statutes, *Florida Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services Act*
- Chapter 872 Florida Statute – *Offenses Concerning Dead Bodies and Graves*. This Legislation intended to ensure that all human burials and skeletal remains are accorded equal treatment and respect based on shared human dignity without reference to ethnic origin, cultural background, or religious affiliation.

- Chapter 267 (21), *Florida Statutes Historic Cemeteries Program*

City of Delray Beach Ordinances

The City of Delray Beach has several ordinances for the protection and operation of the City of Delray Beach Municipal Gardens Cemetery, including:

- Chapter 94 – Municipal Cemetery
- Chapter 91.21 – Damaging Property of Another
- Chapter 131 – Offences against Property,
 - Sec. 131.01. - DAMAGING, DESPOILING PROPERTY,
 - Sec. 59.13. - APPROVED USES OF RECLAIMED WATER; HOURS OF USE FOR IRRIGATION,
 - Sec. 4.4.27. - Open Space and Recreation (OSR) District, Sec. 52.07. - LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION.,
 - Sec. 120.01. - OPERATION AND SALE OF FOOD FROM MOBILE FOOD TRUCKS (B) (4),
- Chapter 4 – Zoning Regulations
- Article 4.5 – Overlay and Environmental Management Sec. 4.5.1. - Historic Preservation: Designated Districts, Sites, and Buildings

The City of Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery, under Chapter 94 of the City of Delray Beach Ordinances, is under the supervision of the City’s Parks and Recreation Department, has established rules and regulations under the authority of the City Commission and Chapter 94 of the City Codes. They produced the *Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery Rules and Regulations* (Rev. December 2017).

2.0 Field Methods

It is not possible to manage what is not known to exist. Successful cemetery management requires documentation. At a minimum documentation consists of a written description of each cemetery including all markers, architectural and landscape features. This written description accompanies photographs of each burial. Each grave is assigned an individual identification (ID) number and recorded on a site map, with details of the type and orientation of the features. Together, the written and pictorial data provides information on conditions which can be used for management in case of severe storms or vandalism (Joseph and Meader 2003).

Proper management also requires goals. In the course of documentation, general management issues become apparent. These range broadly from short-term maintenance issues to large-scale

restoration. Prioritized goals must be set forward in a scope of work which outlines the exact work to be undertaken together with necessary steps.

2.1 Cemetery Survey

An initial assessment of the cemetery's overall condition was made including the grounds, surrounding fences, gate, trees, and roads. This assessment provided key information specific to the cemetery and created the framework for the cemetery management recommendations (Van Voorhies 2003).

Following the accepted best practices for cemetery management, observable information about burials and tombstones were recorded for each grave, including quality of current condition (Van Voorhies 2003). Trimble TDC600 (Android 10) GPS units were used to record the location of each grave, cemetery historic project area corners, the approximate central cemetery location, roads, and trees. While a sub-centimeter Trimble Catalyst DA2 Receiver was utilized during this survey, position data may have been affected due to atmospheric conditions and/or human error. The GPS data was cleaned and compiled into a File Geodatabase (FGDB) using ArcGIS Pro. This FGDB contains all grave locations and associated grave form information, survey boundary, cemetery boundaries (historic and modern), and additional features. Along with the File Geodatabase, an excel spreadsheet of all the historic grave data was produced and submitted to the City of Delray.

The year 1974 was used as the cutoff date to determine whether a grave is considered historic based on the NRHP requirements. A total of 1,202 historic graves indicating a burial date of 1974 or older were recorded, and approximately 680 modern burials indicating a burial of 1975 or more recent were noted. The cemetery survey forms recorded marker shape, material type, marker top, base type, orientation of grave, condition, artwork or symbolism, and inscription. A guide list of the marker types used during the survey can be found in Appendix D (adapted from: Chicora Foundation 2005). LG2 used printed out copies of the cemetery marker types during the survey.

A photographic record provides information for both the overall cemetery and for individual graves, preserving detail in case of sudden damage. According to Van Voorhies, a photographic record should be made of all graves, markers, coping around graves, fencing, monuments, and other landscape features (Van Voorhies 2003:29). Photographs were taken of not only graves but additional features including markers, monuments, family plots, grave offerings "and other architectural features and landscape features" (Joseph and Meader 2003:21).

All graves (headstones, footstones, and enclosures) were photographed following cleaning where necessary and additional photographs taken of any unusual decoration or features. Photographs were taken with digital Spectra Precision MobileMapper 60 Data Collector cameras (13 megapixels) and uploaded into a digital GIS archive. Photograph numbers in each file were cross-referenced to grave forms which provide a description of each photograph. Photographs are time-stamped with the time and date. A hard drive, or similar, containing all digital photographs will be submitted to the City of Delray Beach for storage.

Like photographs, site plans are important to document the site in case of sudden damage. It is recommended that features should be further differentiated by symbols; for example “a line for a headstone, a diamond for a monument, a rectangle for a slab, and a box for family plots” (Joseph and Meader 2003:11). These features may be added to maps generated from GPS data and linked to fields within the database (such as tombstone shape). Where graves are unmarked, we recommend that additional work should be undertaken to locate and map these graves.

The erected boundary around the cemetery, which was based on the best available information when erected, may or may not reflect the historic cemetery’s entire extent. Burials that were marked with impermanent materials or which lost their markers are highly subject to displacement and rot (Van Voorhies 2003:14). During the historic cemetery survey, LG2 personnel conducted surface surveys within the cemetery boundary in an effort to identify possible unmarked burials. When conditions prevented a confident appraisal, this was noted on the cemetery inspection form.

2.2 Historical Research

Historical research of the DBMGMC was greatly aided by the staff at the Delray Beach Historical Society. Many of the resources cited about the history of the Cemetery and Delray Beach were provided by archivist Kayleigh Howald. Published sources on the histories of the people who populate the cemetery are rare and much of the information about these families was found in local newspapers, websites, and blogs. The City of Delray Beach provided archival records.

Oral history was provided by Michael Lorne, of Lorne and Sons Funeral Home; Sue Morrisson, former Assistant City Clerk for the City from 1973-1993; Lake Worth Monument Co.; and Davis Monument. Inquiries to Straghn & Son Tri-City Funeral Home returned no information regarding the history of DBMGMC. Inquiries to the archivist at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum (SCHM) returned no documents regarding the history of DBMGMC, but Charlene Farrington, executive director, provided names of locally significant persons and is open to a more thorough search of their archives for future research (see Future Research and Public Outreach section for recommendations). Due to time and budget constraints, genealogical research and recorded formal oral history interviews were not conducted.

3.0 Cemetery History

Unless otherwise noted, information in the following sections was compiled from summaries and archival documents provided by Kayleigh Howald (Delray Beach Historical Society archivist), public records provided by the City of Delray Beach, Lauther (1963), and Palm Beach County Genealogical Society (PBCGS).

The property in the town of Delray which eventually became the DBMGMC was gifted to the LIA in 1902, by Frederick S. Dewey, a local land agent of Henry Flagler’s Florida East Coast Railway Company. The LIA probably reached out to the company, along with Henry Flagler’s Model Land

Company, since it was not uncommon for Henry Flagler to donate land and money to Florida residents for the creation of schools, hospitals, churches, and cemeteries.

Previously, Delray (known as Linton until 1898) residents buried their dead at Bay Ridge Cemetery on the beach, the town's first cemetery, probably located on lots between present-day Seaspray Avenue and Laing Street. For inland residents, Bay Ridge Cemetery required a challenging transport across a canal and another mile-long trek with the coffin (a photo of a barge carrying a coffin across the canal exists but could not be located during this project). Along with reports of black bears disturbing graves and a growing population, these difficulties likely led to the LIA seeking a better solution for town residents needing a proper cemetery.

The five acres of donated land, and an additional 2.5 acres of land purchased soon after, was incorporated as the Pine Ridge Cemetery in 1903. The land's drainage issues had been improved but it still needed to be cleared of vegetation. The LIA agreed to deed two acres to the Black community if they cleared all five original acres of vegetation and created a road at a location chosen by the LIA. A committee from the LIA decided that the southern portion of the cemetery was better suited for the white residents. The Black community accepted the northern two acres and created a road dividing the sections, segregating the cemetery before anyone was buried. Studies of historic aerials and topographic maps did not provide definitive results on the location of the additional 2.5 acres that were purchased later, but it is presumed to be south, outside of the current project area (Figures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3).

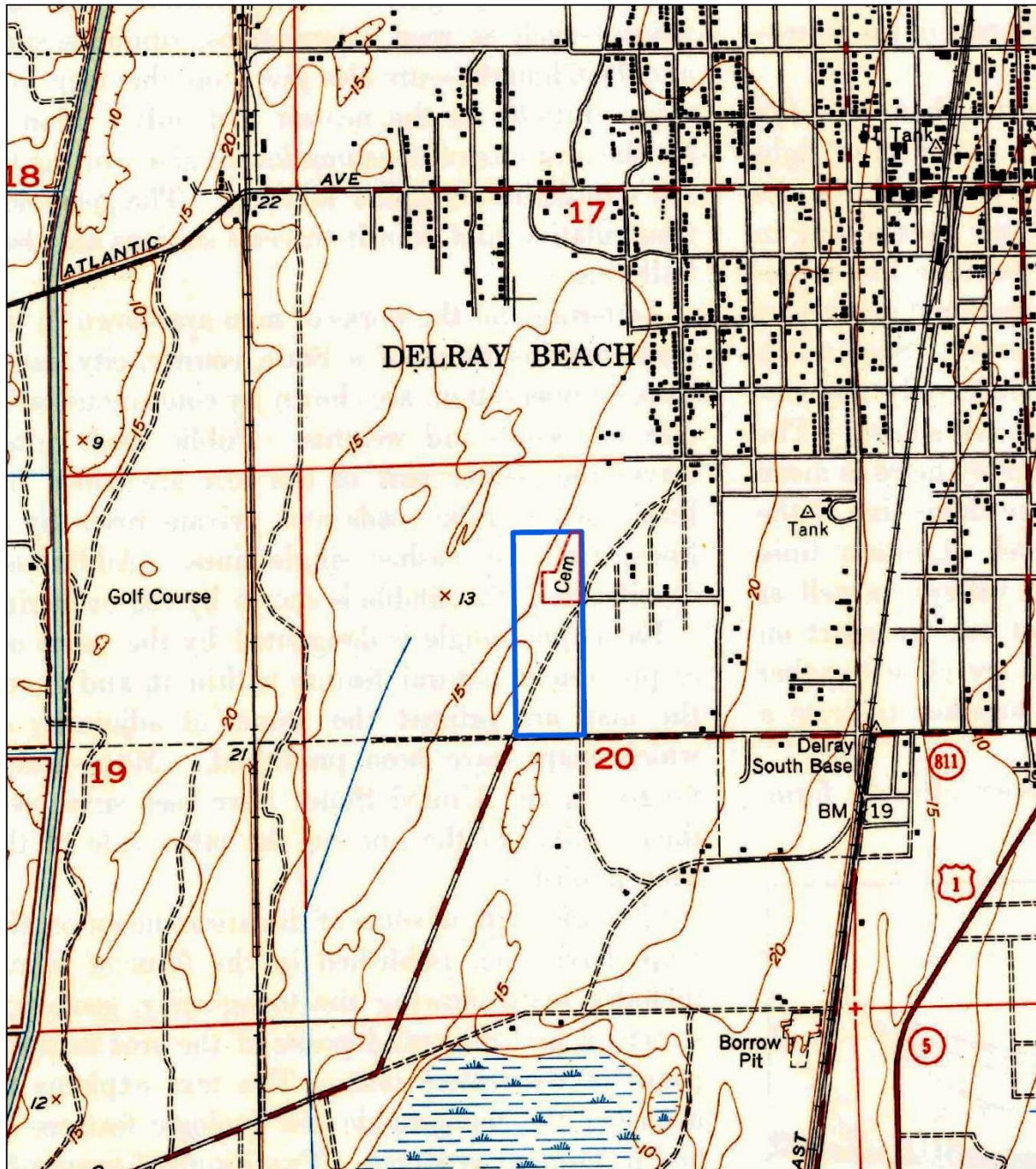
The LIA sold single plots for \$1.00 and family plots for \$5.00, in an effort to maintain the cemetery. The earliest known burial at Pine Ridge Cemetery is Charlie Myers, a local 12-year-old, born on June 16, 1891, and died on June 27, 1903 (Grave # 1118).

In 1914, the LIA transferred ownership to the town of Delray, which made attempts to improve the conditions of the grounds and relocate graves that were lost after deterioration of wooden markers and general neglect.

A review of City Clerk records dating from 1914 to 1997 show that the City struggled to maintain the property since its acquisition, but Council members (the City Council became the Commission in 1988) and community residents acknowledged the issues and made efforts to support the Cemetery:

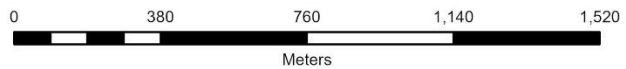
- **1918:** LIA committee urged the Council for “needed repairs and attention” and a new road leading to the “somewhat neglected” Cemetery.
- **1923:** the Council agreed unanimously to pay the American Legion \$42.15 from the “Cemetery Fund” for cleaning up the cemetery.
- **1926:** the Council agreed to have a new road and curbing installed and to clean up the “debris resulting from the storm”; \$2000 is listed for the Cemetery on the City's budget.
- c. **1926,** a City of Delray memo:

The beautification of the cemetery being carried out by the city of Delray under the personal supervision of Mr. J. L. Troup is rapidly progressing, and Delray will soon have a cemetery which will be a beauty spot. The ground has been thoroughly cleaned of brush and rubbish, and Mr. Troup now has a force of laborers cutting the pine trees and grabbing out the stumps. It is considered advisable to take out the trees now, since the native pine soon dies when the ground is cultivated.



**Historic Cemetery on
 1950 Delray Beach Map
 The City of Delray Beach
 Municipal Cemetery**

Modern Cemetery Boundary
 Historic Cemetery Boundary

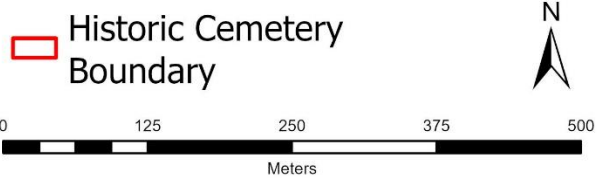


Service Layer Credits: 1950 Delray Beach USGS 7.5' Topographic Map

Figure 3.1 Historic Cemetery 5-Acre Boundary on 1950 Delray Beach, USGS Topographic Map



**Historic Cemetery Boundary
on 1953 Historic Aerial
The City of Delray Beach
Municipal Cemetery**



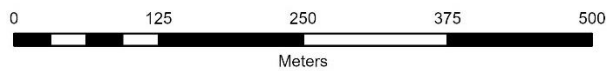
Service Layer Credits: 1953 Aerial Photograph downloaded from UF Digital Collections

**Figure 3.2 Historic Cemetery 5-Acre Boundary on 1953 Aerial Photograph
(UF Digital Collections 1953)**



**Historic Cemetery Boundary
on 1968 Historic Aerial
The City of Delray Beach
Municipal Cemetery**

 Historic Cemetery
Boundary



Service Layer Credits: 1968 Historic Aerial retrieved from FDOT A+Plus service

**Figure 3.3 Historic Cemetery 5-Acre Boundary on 1968 Aerial Photograph
(UF Digital Collections 1968)**

The City Engineers are now putting in the lot stakes according to the original plat, and although they are finding much difficulty due to the incompleteness of the records, and the removal of grave markers, it is expected that all the graves and lots may be relocated without undue difficulty.

The work already done was viewed by Mayor L.W. Smith as a committee from the council this week, and Mayor Smith expressed himself as being very highly gratified with the work being done.

It was noted that a great many of the wooden stakes which have been used in the past to mark the graves have rotted away, and in many instances there is no record either as to the owner or occupant of the grave. A request has been made that all people who own lots, or who have friends or relatives buried in the local cemetery communicate with Mr. Troup and if possible report the exact location of the lot or graves in case the same are not already provided with legible markers. It is also noted that many of the graves are not located on the lots which they are supposed to be, there are many in the streets and out of bound. The city is using every reasonable effort to relocate all graves, and as soon as this is done will re-plate the cemetery, and place the streets in the most convenient and accessible place.

- **1926:** a letter addressed to Mrs. J.R. Cason, Jr. of the Women's Club (successors to the LIA), written by a Delray city clerk, states that the deed transferring ownership of the Cemetery to the City does not exist. However, the records above show that the City paid for maintenance before 1926, whether or not it was their legal responsibility.
- **1927:** Mr. Troup states that the Cemetery still needs cleanup and he will donate hundreds of hibiscus bushes.
- **1928:** the Council agreed to purchase one ton of fertilizer for the Cemetery.
- **1929:** Mr. Troup was asked to get cleanup cost estimates after stating that the "colored section" is in bad condition; the Council agreed to send a thank you to Mike L. Blank for donating 27 palm trees on the property.
- **1929:** a resolution passed to offer a \$25 reward for the arrest of anyone "removing shrubs, trees, flowers... from the Municipal Cemetery or other public parks...or otherwise destroying, stealing, defacing... public property belonging to said City."
- **1931:** the Delray Civic League asked for cooperation in "handling the colored section"; Chas A. Miller appointed "superintendent of the colored section," without pay.
- **1940:** the Council was in favor of building a new road from Swinton Av. into the Cemetery, beautifying the area on SW 10th St., and acquiring two new lots for expansion.
- **1942:** the Council discussed a need for more space and had already purchased a lot south of the Cemetery.
- **1944:** the Council discussed ongoing efforts to clear land at the Cemetery and considered "plating and beautifying the colored cemetery" but first needing to identify the owner of that section; they also discussed the possibility of finding available land elsewhere for another Black cemetery since space is so low.

- **1945:** the Council again discussed the lack of space and an addition on the north side.
- **1949:** Council members discussed Cemetery improvements, with one member stating it should be “made into a park” and the possible need of irrigation, soil, and fertilizer.
- **1951:** Lora Britt, of the Zonta Club, asked the Council to pay more attention to the Cemetery, consider expansion, and appoint a committee of citizens to look after it.
- **1953:** new Cemetery Rules and Regulations are adopted (the Cemetery Rules and Regulations currently found on the City of Delray Beach website are an updated version of these)
- **1954:** Mayor Strong states that “colored cemetery records” are not at City Hall and the plat is not up to date.
- **1964:** the Council agrees to set aside a trust fund from the sale of burial plots to maintain the Cemetery.

The above records suggest that although the City made sporadic efforts to maintain and expand Cemetery property, responsibility for the upkeep of grave sites often fell upon interested citizens and family and friends of the deceased. After 1927, when Delray was renamed Delray Beach and Pine Ridge Cemetery was renamed Delray Beach Cemetery, maintenance seems to have declined. During the following decades, local families likely did more to maintain their own lots (PBCGS 2024).

City Clerk records from the 1970s – 1990s show that the Cemetery remained somewhat neglected (a Councilman called it a “disgrace” at a 1982 meeting), but the sale of burial plots continued, and several discussions of funding, landscaping, or professional restoration took place. In 1993, the City Manager initiated a more serious discussion of improvements and expansion, along with requests to obtain input from local funeral directors.

In 1996, after the cemetery was long considered to be an eyesore, the City’s Parks and Recreation Department completed a successful expansion project, adding 10 more acres, a mausoleum, landscaping, and a new entrance on SW 10th Street.

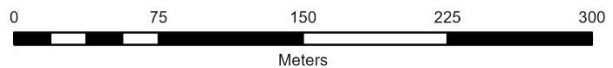
3.1 Location and Boundaries

The City of DBMGMC is located on the corner of SW 10th Street and SW 8th Avenue, totaling 29.86 acres. However, the 1950 USGS 7.5-minute Delray Beach Quadrangle map shows the historic boundary for the cemetery as west of the modern-day SW 8th Avenue between SW 6th and 7th Streets, totaling approximately 5-acres (see Figure 3.1). In the 1960’s the cemetery boundary was extended to the south, and by the 1970’s, the cemetery started to take on the rectangular shape it has now (Figure 3.4). During the field survey, crews identified historic burials, to the south, and outside of the project boundary. This boundary was established on the request for proposal for this project.



**Historic Cemetery
The City of Delray Beach
Municipal Cemetery**

-  Modern Cemetery Boundary
-  Historic Cemetery Boundary



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Figure 3.4 Current aerial photograph with historic cemetery boundary (in red) and modern cemetery boundary (in yellow).

3.2 Flooding Events

Multiple flooding events throughout the twentieth century likely affected the historic portion of the cemetery. In addition to numerous rain events and tropical storms, Delray Beach experienced hurricane conditions 21 times during the twentieth century, including major hurricanes in 1903, 1926, 1928, 1947, and 1949 (Hurricane City 2024).

Two hurricanes in 1947 were especially damaging to Palm Beach County and led to significant flooding in the area. The slow-moving storm that made landfall at Fort Lauderdale on September 17 brought over 100 mph winds, an approximate 11 feet (ft.) storm surge, and substantial amounts of rain to an already saturated Delray Beach (Howald 2023b, Hurricane City 2024, National Hurricane Center 2024). The storm caused widespread flooding in residential neighborhoods and submerged the entire DBMGMC under several feet of water (Michael Lorne, personal communication). The second hurricane in October of 1947 brought weaker winds and made landfall further south in Cape Sable (Howald 2023b, National Hurricane Center 2024), but produced heavy rains, worsening the flood damage.

The pressure created by the high flood waters in 1947 dislodged most of the wooden caskets (many were partially buried or not buried at all) and knocked down an unknown number of stone markers. After the flooding, locals associated with funeral homes and employees of Lake Worth Monument Co., a company supplying memorials from their Lake Worth location since 1947, helped to clean up, rebury the caskets and human remains, and reconstruct the layout of the markers (Michael Lorne and Lake Worth Monument Co., personal communications). These flooding events in 1947 are likely the main reason that a significant portion of historic markers do not mark the exact locations of graves and many graves remain unmarked.

According to an anonymous local who visited the Cemetery during the current survey, a photograph was taken after one or both 1947 storms and possibly published in a newspaper, which shows the Cemetery underwater and numerous caskets floating. Searches online, including on Newspapers.com, and inquires to the Delray Beach Public Library, Delray Beach Historical Society, Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, Lorne and Sons Funeral Home, Straghn and Son Funeral Home, Lake Worth Monument Co., and Davis Monument, did not locate or corroborate a photograph.

3.3 Funeral Procession

A funeral procession route was traditionally used by Delray Beach's Black Community who buried their loved ones at the Cemetery. The route typically began at churches on or very near W. Atlantic Ave., turned south on SW 8th St., then into the Cemetery. The procession was on foot, other than a horse-drawn wagon carrying the coffin, and sometimes included a marching band and birds to be released at the funeral (Michael Lorne, personal communication). The tradition likely continued into recent years but in a different form and less frequently. For the current

investigation, crew members contacted Spady Cultural Heritage Museum and Straghn and Son Funeral Home to inquire about the funeral procession route but could not find any additional information. Future research regarding the funeral procession could include interviews with Ms. Patricia Wright and residents of Frog Alley, a historically Bahamian neighborhood just northeast of DBMGMC.

3.4 Significant Persons

Several notable people are buried in the area surveyed, including previous Delray Beach mayors, pioneers, authors, Master Masons, and a US Ambassador, discussed in the sections below. Future research should pursue information on Jane and Fagan Henry and the Green family, some of the first Black settlers of Delray Beach, and the Tasker and Priest families, some of Delray's first white settlers. Members of these families are buried in the area surveyed, but limited time and resources prevented inclusion on the list below.

Additional significant people buried at the DBMGMC but outside of the current project area include Theodore Pratt, author of the *Barefoot Mailman*; Ozie Youngblood, civil rights leader and first Black city commissioner; John L. Thieme, pioneering builder; and C. Spencer Pompey, educator, coach, and civil rights leader.

John S. Sundy and Family

John Sundy (1864-1947) was the first mayor of Delray Beach. He was elected as the City's first mayor when the town of Delray was incorporated in 1911 and won re-election eight times (Kleinberg 2020). His wife, Elizabeth Sundy, is also buried at the DBMGMC. She was chairman of the town's first board of education and taught the pioneer's children in the Sundy home as well as Latin to high school students (Sundy House 2024).

The Sundy family moved from Fayetteville, North Carolina to Florida in 1894. The Sundy House, built in approximately 1902, is one of the oldest homes in Delray Beach. The Victorian and Queen-Anne style structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and on the Delray Beach Local Register of Historic Places and lies within the Old School Square Historic District. The family was highly involved in Delray politics and business life. The children of John and Eliabeth Sundy were pioneers in their own right. Their daughter Addie managed the Sundy Feed Store from 1915-1975 and was involved with local business organizations. Their son Benjamin worked at the Bank of Delray Beach and was a city councilman, director of the Chamber of Commerce, and a Palm Beach County Commissioner (Sundy House 2024).

Catherine Strong

Catherine Strong (Figure 3.5) was the first female mayor of Delray Beach. She was born February 16, 1911, and died December 23, 1963. She was born in New York and moved to Delray Beach in 1922. After marrying her second husband Jack Strong, she became involved in real estate, the Chamber of Commerce, American Legion Auxiliary, the Lion's Auxiliary, and the Evening

Garden Club. In 1936, she joined the Palm Beach County's Democratic Club and was elected secretary. She then went on to serve as Delray Beach City Clerk, Tax Collector, and Clerk of the Court. In 1950 she became the first woman to have her name drawn for jury duty in Palm Beach County. In 1953, she was voted into the City Council, receiving the most votes ever by a single candidate in Delray's municipal elections. After a strong showing in the election, the Council selected her as mayor of Delray Beach. After serving as mayor, she continued to be a member of the City Council until 1957. In 1957 she co-founded the city landscaping committee and helped raise funds to build a fountain in the DBMGMC.



Figure 3.5 Photograph of Catherine Strong (Howald 2024)

In 1956, Strong participated in a major civil rights movement in Delray Beach, the de-segregation of Delray's municipal beach. She was named in the federal lawsuit filed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) against Mayor W.J. Snow and the Delray Beach City Council. She testified in a hearing for this case that there were no ordinances banning people of color from the municipal beach and pool, causing the case to be dismissed and winning a legal victory for the Black community of Delray Beach. But continued violence and racism caused civil leadership to pass emergency ordinances to curb the racial violence, often negatively effecting black communities. Strong was the only one to vote against these policies and fought the City Council's attempt to exclude the Black communities from Delray Beach. In 1961, she was appointed to the Inter-Racial Committee, also known as the Community Relations Committee.

Catherine Strong also supported the wider South Florida region by joining the Gulfstream Hospital Association, the founding board of Bethesda Memorial Hospital. When it opened in 1959, it became the first hospital in southern Palm Beach County and the first healthcare facility opened to all patients.

Catherine Strong died December 23, 1963, at 52 years old. She was honored with a wing at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, a community center, the fountain at DBMGMC, and the Catherine Strong Splash Park (Howald 2024).

Sophia Frey

Born Friederika Sophia Stein, Sophia Frey (1857-1938) was a German-born pioneer and farmer. She emigrated to the United States in 1882, landing in New York City, where she met her future husband, Charles Frey. They married in 1889 and had six children. Sophia left New York City for Delray Beach in 1901 where she rented farmland from Adolf Hofman, eventually purchasing 22.5 acres of land for cultivating lima beans, tomatoes, strong beans, peppers, cabbage, and pineapples (Davies 2024).

H. Murray Jacoby

Col. H. Murray Jacoby was a US Ambassador to Ethiopia. Born in 1892, he had made Delray Beach his home since 1943. He was a notable person for several reasons. He served in the United States military, achieving the rank of Colonel, was an economic advisor to other nations, formed an investment firm, and was considered a specialist in Latin-American affairs. He was also considered an explorer, writing several books about his travels, including “Among the Troglodytes of Northern Africa” and “Travels Above the Arctic Circle.” He died January 26, 1955 (Associated Press 1955).

Arthur Barton

Arthur Barton was a 33rd degree Mason (Figure 3.6) who died in 1942. The 33rd degree is a supreme honor bestowed only upon those who have demonstrated outstanding service to the Brotherhood as well as personal and professional accomplishments. It is from the Scottish Rite, an offshoot of Freemasonry that provides a place for both men and women of any religious or cultural background and focuses on the deeper philosophical theories of Freemasonry (Freemasons Community 2024).



Figure 3.6 Aurthur and Dessie D. Barton headstone-note 33-degree symbol under Aurthur’s name.

Master Masons

To be considered a Master Mason, males must advance through three stages, also known as degrees, modeled after the craft guilds of the Middle Ages. The first degree is traditionally considered an apprenticeship, when members are introduced to Masonic rituals, symbolism, and beliefs. The second degree is known as the Fellowcraft, when members achieve manhood and pursue more advanced philosophy and wisdom. Completion of the third degree, which typically takes years, symbolizes proficiency, maturity, and advanced knowledge, allowing a member to enjoy all the rights and privileges available to Master Masons. The third degree is the highest rank of membership attainable to Masons. Females can be admitted if they are a daughter, widow, wife, sister, or mother of a Master Mason. Master Masons were identified during this survey by the symbol of the Order of the Eastern Star on their grave markers (Figure 3.7). Four graves were recorded with this symbol, those of Irwin J. Sinks, Mabel Van Winkle-Sinks, John A. Frazee, and Page.



Figure 3.7 Grave # 1536A showing Masonic (left) and Order of the Eastern Star (right) symbols.

Blank Family

The Blanks were Delray Beach pioneers and contributed to the development of the neighborhood around SE 7th Avenue (Barber 2011). They moved from Michigan in 1902 and opened Delray's first tropical plant nursery in what is now the Marina Historic District (Delray Beach Preservation 2021). John M. Blank (1844-1923) was one of the founders of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. The family's vernacular style home, built in 1907, is one of the oldest structures in Delray Beach (85 S.E. 6th Avenue, Marina Historic District).

Bradshaw Family

Originally from Kentucky, the family owned and operated the Kentucky House (Figure 3.8), a hotel which no longer exists, formerly near the Florida East Coast Canal along Atlantic Avenue. Dwight Bradshaw served as the Mayor of Delray Beach in 1935 (Palm Beach Post 1935).



Figure 3.8 Postcard showing the Kentucky House- Delray Beach, FLA, circa. 1900 (Florida Memory)

Hofman Family

Adolf and Anna Hofman were early pioneers to this area, setting up a homestead east of NE Seventh Avenue near NE 6th Street. Adolf was of German descent and one of the founding fathers of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, the first bank in Delray Beach, and assisted in the development of several communities. For an authentic account of pioneer life in the Delray area, told through photographs and letters written by Adolf and Anna, see *Letters from Linton*, written by South Florida native and grandson of Adolf and Anna (Charles Hofman 2004).

Wuepper Family

The Wueppers were a pioneering family originating from Germany and Michigan. They, in conjunction with the Zill and Blank families moved to Delray Beach from Bay City, Michigan in 1902. John Wuepper helped to establish the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church with Adolf Hofman and John Zill (Sun Sentinel 2021). Their family home, built in 1903, is still standing at 10 N.E. 5th Avenue (Figure 3.9) and members of the Wuepper family continue to reside in Delray Beach.



Figure 3.9 The Wuepper family home, built in 1903, currently used as a commercial establishment (photo: Historic Delray 2023).

Zill Family

Pioneers and farmers, they created the Zill mango variety, which is still grown locally. John Zill helped establish the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church with Adolf Hofman and John Wuepper (Sun Sentinel 2021). The Zills also had a grocery store with the Wueppers (Figure 3.10). Laurence Zill took a great interest in mangos at a young age and became one of the best-known authorities on the fruit. He named several varieties of mangos for his family: Julie for his grandmother, Carrie for his mother, and the Zill for the whole family (Delray Beach Historical Society 2022). The Zill is still a popular variety of mango today.



Figure 3.10 Grocery store of the Zill and Wuepper families (Delray Beach Historical Society 2022)

Hanna Family

Aldin Hanna, buried in the northwest section of the Cemetery, was the son of Henry Hanna (Ancestry 2024a), an early settler of Delray Beach. According to the 1910 U.S. Census, Henry was one of many Black Bahamians who lived at the “Fisherman’s Camp,” a settlement of mostly young men who arrived from the Bahamas between 1883 and 1909 (Howald 2023a). The camp was near the east end of Atlantic Avenue, where settlers utilized their traditional boating and fishing skills (Howald 2023a).

Jane Jackson

Jane Henry Jackson (1872-1945) was a Black pioneer and businesswoman who arrived in Delray Beach sometime during the 1890s and operated an agricultural packinghouse. Jane’s husband, John, also buried in the northeast section of the Cemetery, is listed on the 1910 U.S. Census for Delray as a farmer in the “pine and truck” industry (Ancestry 2024b).

William Robinson

William Robinson (1879-1958) moved from Yemassee, South Carolina to Delray in 1901 to work as a sharecropper (Heisenbottle 2008; Designation Report 1996). He soon bought property at the northeast corner of N.W. 1st Street and 4th Avenue, built his own home in 1904, and began farming. William built houses for his neighbors and expanded his own, including an addition in the 1920s which became a grocery store run by he and his wife, Essie. The Robinson house was the first in Delray to have running water and electricity, and became a central spot for social life (Heisenbottle 2008; Designation Report 1996). The house was later used as hurricane shelter by Red Cross. William’s original house at 317 NW 1st Street (Figure 3.11) and a packing house built in 1916 still stand today as contributing structures to the West Settlers Historic District.



Figure 3.11 William Robinson's original home (photo: Heisenbottle 2008)

Jessie Spady

Jessie Spady (1895-1967) was married to Solomon David Spady, a prominent educator in Delray Beach, recommended for the teaching assignment by Booker T. Washington (Heisenbottle 2008). Solomon became principal of Delray County Training School, the first school in the community (originally named the Delray Colored School Number 4) and implemented effective teaching plans and extracurricular activities, bringing the community together through events at the school (Heisenbottle 2008). The Spady's original home is currently occupied by the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum (Figure 3.12).



Figure 3.12 Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, former home of Jessie and Solomon Spady (photo: Spadymuseum 2024)

Several grave markers display artwork or inscriptions indicating association with a group (Table 3.1). The most frequent symbols are those from the Christian faith, including crosses, Bibles, lambs, and praying hands. There were also several Masons buried in this Cemetery (N=26) as well as military servicemen and veterans (N=63). Eleven reverends and three members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows were buried at DBMGMC.

Table 3.1 Symbolism on Historic Markers

Association	Occurrence
American Legion	2
Captain	1
Christian	221
Christian, military	54
Daughters of the American Revolution	2
Independent Order of Odd Fellows	3
Marine Corps	1
Masonic	22
Masonic – Order of the Eastern Star	4

Association	Occurrence
Military, WWI	19
Military, WWII	22
Military, Korean War	3
Military, Spanish American War	2
Military, Vietnam War	2
Reverend	11
US Army	10
Veteran	1

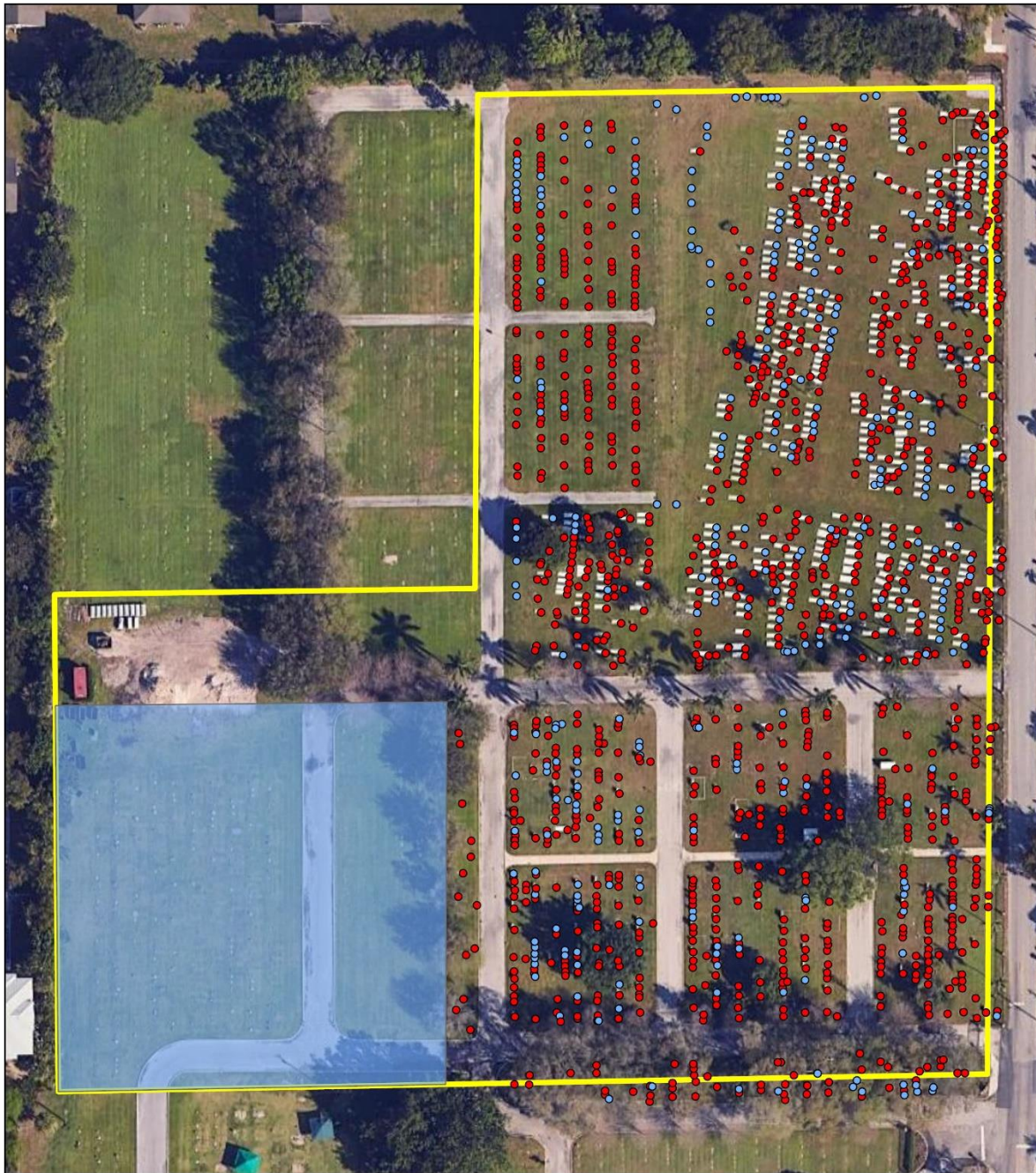
4.0 Condition Assessment Report and Management Plan

During the current survey, the field crew recorded the location, type, and condition of 1,154 historic grave markers including headstones, unidentified markers, and shared family gravestones (Figure 4.1). An additional 52 markers are considered secondary markers (typically footstones and ledgers) to primary gravestones. A total of 1,202 locations are considered individual historic burials. Approximately 680 grave markers in the current project area indicate a death date of 1975 or more recent; those burials are considered modern and the majority were not recorded during fieldwork. For the age ranges of historic burial dates, see Table 4.1. Additional resources recorded include depressions (potential burials), concrete enclosures, and vegetation.

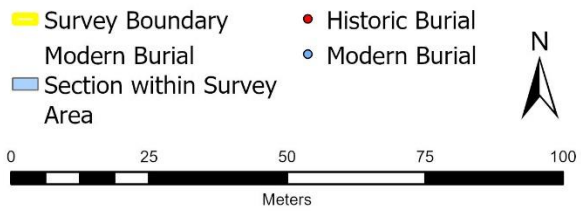
Overall, the historic section of the Cemetery is in good condition. Though some markers are certainly lost from complete deterioration and twentieth century flooding, and some visible gravestones are illegible or partially buried, markers are generally accessible and legible, and it appears that the grass, shrubs, and trees are regularly maintained. A summary of survey results, conservation issues needing immediate attention, and recommendations for long-term improvement and management are discussed below.

Table 4.1 Burial dates of historic gravesites surveyed.

Burial Dates	Count
1903-1909	6
1910-1919	31
1920-1929	63
1930-1939	80
1940-1949	136
1950-1959	189
1960-1969	315
1970-1979	202
Unknown (illegible or missing)	180
Total	1202



**Burial Locations
 within Survey Area
 The City of Delray Beach
 Municipal Cemetery**



Service Layer Credits: © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA

Figure 4.1 Burial Locations

4.1 Results

The most common types of grave markers in the project area are concrete grave boxes, upright headstones, and lawn-style plaques (Table 4.2). The majority of markers in the far northeast section, historically reserved for the Black community, are concrete grave boxes with rounded lids, painted or plastered white. Most markers in the northwest section are granite or bronze lawn-style plaques. The majority of markers in the original Pine Ridge Cemetery section are upright headstones, pillow or slant-style and made of granite, though there is more variation in shape, condition, and associated markers such as footstones and enclosures.

Six percent (n=65) of historic markers surveyed are in good condition and do not need immediate attention. Sixty-seven percent (n=773) are considered to be in fair condition and suffer from common issues associated with historic cemeteries: staining, erosion, minor leaning or sinking, biological growth, and especially damage from landscaping equipment. Twenty-seven percent (n=317) are in poor condition and suffer from the same issues but with higher severity, and/or more serious issues such as cracking, breakage, or fallen gravestones.

Table 4.2 Frequency of all historic marker shapes and material.

Marker Shape	Count
Bench, granite	1
Grave box, painted concrete	277
Grave box, painted concrete, with brick	1
Grave box, granite	1
Headstone/upright, granite	94
Headstone/upright, marble	40
Headstone/upright, concrete	151
Headstone/upright, sandstone/other	5
Lawn-style/flat, bronze	72
Lawn-style/flat, painted concrete	48
Lawn-style/flat, granite	197
Lawn-style/flat, marble	6
Lawn-style/flat, raised block, granite	9
Ledger/horizontal, painted concrete	66
Ledger/horizontal, granite	3
Pillow, painted concrete	10
Pillow, granite	74
Slant/Trapezoid, painted concrete	1
Slant/Trapezoid, granite	95
Slant/Trapezoid, marble	5
Footstones, concrete or granite	33
Unidentified/other	7
Total	1,196

4.2 Management Recommendations

Landscaping Maintenance

The leading cause of damage to historic markers at DBMGMC is impact from lawnmowers. Practically every marker which is not flush with ground level shows evidence of impact just above the ground surface, such as minor scrapes or small chips on a corner or an edge, gouges, breakage from direct impact, and wheel marks (Figure 4.2).

To avoid damage, historic cemeteries are often recommended to be mowed at a lesser height and lesser frequency, but given the size, location, modern graves, and visitor traffic at DBMGMC, it is reasonable to mow more frequently. However, if impacts continue, markers will be weakened, erosion will be hastened, and more gravestones will crack and fall, risking the loss of irreplaceable information, cultural heritage, and the markers themselves.



Figure 4.2 Left: lawnmower wheel marks on a ledger (Grave # 299; no inscription); right: scrapes and gouges from a lawnmower on a pillow-style headstone (Grave # 1133).

It is highly recommended that lawn crews are briefed on the sensitivities of historic grave markers and implement a new strategy. Methods used to cut grass in everyday residential or commercial properties cannot be used at historic cemeteries.

The current survey also recorded many lawn-style plaques which are partially buried by loose soil or obscured by overgrown grass/weeds, preventing visitors from reading an inscription. This can be avoided by more thorough weed trimming, by using the safe (but impractical) method of hand-trimming the weeds and grass closest to markers, or by the delicate use of string trimmers (“weed whackers”) with light nylon within 12 inches of every marker.

Recommendations for mowing historic cemeteries include (2014 Cemetery Resource Protection and Training Conference (FPAN):

- 1) cut no more than a third of the grass height in any one mowing
- 2) use only walk-behind mowers (riding mowers offer too little control and operators are inclined to take chances to speed up the job)
- 3) all mowers should have bumper guards attached to the sides, front, and rear of the mower
- 4) no power mowers within 12 inches of markers; string trimmers with a light gauge nylon string (no heavier than 0.09 inch) may be used to finish the job up to the stone

One of the best protections against damage from landscaping maintenance is active involvement of a manager who can regularly inspect the work. It is also recommended that contracts between historic cemeteries and landscapers should specify that landscaping companies are responsible for marker damage inflicted by their crews and insured (Chicora 2024).

Tree roots and shrubs also may be damaging to markers and excessive vegetation should be noted and considered for removal. Care must be taken in the maintenance or removal of flora to avoid damaging cemetery markers or the inadvertent removal of foliage that was purposefully planted as a grave offering (Van Voorhies 2003). Some plants have underlying symbolic importance and should not be destroyed or removed, as this might in itself be an act against the integrity of the site.

Repairs

Seventy-four percent (n=859) of historic markers surveyed have visibly lost material due to some type of damage, though the vast majority of these characteristics should not be considered major damage and do not need immediate repair. Most have lost a small amount of material as a result of being chipped or gouged on edges or corners by lawnmowers, and a smaller number, mainly the concrete markers, have erosion which comes with age. Six percent (n=74) of markers have some level of structural damage (cracks or breaks; Figure 4.3) from impact with lawnmowers, natural forces, or vandalism.

Eight markers showed evidence of repair in the form of stucco/cement patchwork, and in one case (Grave # 131), support braces and concrete screws. Parks and Recreation Department staff at the Cemetery informed our field crew that the number of repaired concrete grave boxes in the northeast section is likely higher, as one of their colleagues used his own time in recent years to repair many damaged grave boxes using bagged stucco.



Figure 4.3 Left: broken concrete grave box (Grave # 7); right: broken headstone, inscription is face down; Grave # 985).

It is recommended that minor and major repairs of cracked or broken gravestones be performed by a qualified professional. Methods for gravestone repair depend on many factors, including marker shape, material type, age and location. Repairs of concrete gravestones in the northeast section should use a traditional lime-based stucco, since lime-based stucco is more durable, flexible, and breathable. Modern, cement-based stuccos are more brittle, dense, and impermeable, trapping water underneath and leading to more serious deterioration.

A specialized conservator with documented experience should be selected for the more serious gravestone breaks at DBMGMC. For more information about how to select a conservator and specifics about gravestone repair, see Striegel, et al. (2016), Anson-Cartwright (2003), Chicora (2024b), and Bratton, et al. (2007). Each grave marker should be fully documented before undergoing any repair.

Resetting

Three percent (n=36) of historic grave markers surveyed are upright headstones that are leaning (Figure 4.4). Most are leaning only slightly and do not need to be fully reset but should be levelled, while those leaning severely should be reset. Two percent (n=24) of upright headstones have shifted but remain upright on top of a relatively level base and can be reset without excavation.

Four percent (n=48) of all marker types are noticeably sinking. Sunken graves may occur at any time after burial and are typically formed when the weight of the dirt on top of a casket causes the casket to collapse. Some graves within the historic Pine Ridge section of the cemetery used a burial vault or burial liner to prevent the grave from collapsing, but this practice was not universal. Holes have formed next to two graves (Figure 4.5); Grave # 1125a is an upright headstone in danger of collapse and should be reset as soon as possible.



Figure 4.4 Example of a leaning headstone (Grave # 964).



Figure 4.5 Holes forming next to a lawn-style plaque (left; Grave # 1499) and a headstone with base (right; Grave # 1125a).

Resetting an upright grave marker is an often-complex task that should only be undertaken by qualified professionals to avoid injury and further damage to the markers and should only be attempted when a gravestone is severely tilted. The risks of serious injury and significant damage to historic resources are high. Releveling an upright headstone with a slight lean is a less-risky

repair which does not require complete removal and resetting of a marker, but still carries serious risk and should only be attempted by experienced professionals. Markers left fallen on the ground surface are more prone to deterioration and staining and should be prioritized for resetting.

For more information about selecting a conservator and specific guidelines for resetting and releveling grave markers, see Striegel, et al. (2016), Anson-Cartwright (2003), Chicora (2024c), and Bratton, et al. (2007). Each grave marker should be fully documented before undergoing a reset or relevel.

Replacement of Military Markers

Seventeen historic military markers are considered to be in poor condition and may be eligible for free replacement. Under certain circumstances, the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) will replace markers that are 50 years old or older and/or badly deteriorated. Family members of deceased veterans who were given a government-issued marker are encouraged to contact the VA for more information about requirements (see Dept. of Veterans Affairs 2024).

Cleaning and Biological Growth Prevention

The current survey reveals that 28% (n=318) of graves recorded need some sort of cleaning, whether it be removal of biological growth (fungi, mildew, moss, algae or lichens; Figure 4.6), staining, weeds, or uncovering parts of a marker that have been partially buried by loose soil.



Figure 4.6 Examples of biological growth on headstones (left: Grave # 1216, right: Grave # 984)

In order to preserve the integrity of the Cemetery, markers may need to undergo conservation procedures based on the marker's material. The first step in this is to assess if the marker truly needs cleaning. Cemetery managers should have an idea of high-priority markers that warrant

cleaning. Dense concentrations of biological growth can deteriorate the stone surface over time, obliterating inscriptions (FPAN 2018). Staining and light soiling does little to damage the stone itself, but may obscure markings, tempting visitors to rub, use damaging substances, or otherwise disturb the stone (Anson-Cartwright 2003). Weeds growing in gravestones, especially the crevasses and joints, pose a risk of cracking or displacing the stone as the plant and its root system grows.

A “do no harm” approach is recommended for cleaning. The primary focus should be to clean markers enough to be legible. Biological growths on markers can obscure inscriptions, and some can promote an acidic surface which will degrade the stone (Joseph and Meader 2003). However, historic markers do not need to and should not be expected to look brand new (Appell 2010).

Considering the early dates of the cemeteries, many headstones are fragile or in fair to poor conditions. Areas of the gravestone that are crumbling, look fragile or show heavy erosion, should be avoided. Frequent cleaning of the markers should also be avoided, as each cleaning removes a small amount of the material’s surface, which will increase the deterioration rate of the stone. Cleaning is not recommended if freezing temperatures are expected within 24 hours.

Harsh cleaners should never be used as they can have a detrimental effect on grave markers and surrounding vegetation. Acidic cleaners (e.g., muriatic acid) can dissolve minerals and can attack metals. Alkaline cleaning agents (e.g., bleach) can leave salts on the surface (a process called efflorescence). Both of these cleaning methods can cause staining, especially if not rinsed adequately. Using high-pressure water can also needlessly damage materials, increasing their vulnerability to weathering and erosion. This can also be said for sandblasters, power tools, and abrasive or wire brushes (Striegel, et al. 2016).

The following cleaning procedures are recommended for stones with excess biological growth:

- carefully trim grass and weeds at ground level around the stone, using hand clippers or a string trimmer with light gauge nylon string (.09 in. or less)
- brush stone VERY gently with a soft bristle brush (do not use wire brushes or stiff nylon brushes) while it is dry to remove loose dirt
- presoak and rinse the stone with water
- gently scrub the stone in circular motions with a soft bristle brush or a rag, starting from the bottom of the stone and paying extra attention around the inscription (avoid inscriptions if they appear fragile)
- rinse stone thoroughly

Marble

Marble markers should be cleaned with water and a rag or soft brush, using as little force as is necessary. It is important to remember that the marker should be cleaned primarily for legibility. Marble markers can be routinely cleaned based on a three-year cycle; however, consideration

should be taken prior to cleaning so as not to cause unintentional damage since marble is softer, more porous, and more vulnerable to weathering than granite. Some experts recommend not cleaning if temperatures are expected to drop below freezing within 72 hours of cleaning (IDNR 2014).

Granite

Granite markers should be cleaned with water and a rag or soft brush as per the above mentioned techniques. Granite markers can withstand greater pressure than marble or concrete, but care should still be used, especially around the edges of inscriptions.

Concrete

Concrete markers should be cleaned with water and a rag or soft brush as per the above mentioned techniques. Extra care should be taken; concrete markers are softer and are more likely to be damaged during the cleaning process than marble or granite stones.

D2 is a biological solution tested and approved by the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training and recommended for cleaning gravestones by FPAN, Chicora.org, and the Dept. Veterans Affairs. D2 is a biodegradable cleaner that is pH neutral and contains no salts, bleach or acids. It is reported to be highly effective for removal of stains caused by mold, mildew, algae, lichens and air pollutants and can be purchased at hardware stores.

For more information on D2 and detailed guidelines for gravestone cleaning, see Striegel, et al. (2016), Appell (2010), Anson-Cartwright (2003), Chicora (2024d), and Bratton, et al. (2007). Gravestone cleaning is a task well-suited for volunteers, if the project is supervised by an experienced professional. All markers should be fully documented, including photographed, before cleaning.

Future Research, Public Outreach, and Heritage Tourism

Fieldwork

The survey area should be expanded to the south of the current project area, as field crews noted there are historic markers (over 50 years old) outside of the project boundaries. It is recommended that the City set the cutoff date to 45 years. This will allow for an appropriate interval between surveys.

It is recommended that a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) non-invasive survey be conducted in the historic section of the cemetery. This type of survey would allow a more accurate count on the burials in this area of the cemetery, would indicate locations of unmarked graves, and could reveal markers that do not mark the location of graves (a result of damage/relocation after nineteenth century flooding).

Historical Research

Further research should be undertaken to involve churches, community fraternal groups, other historians, and the descendants of those interred in the historic section of the cemetery. Additional repositories or historical documents may be in both public and private collections. Some areas for additional historical research could include but are not limited to the following:

- Genealogical societies
- Search for the original deeds for the Pine Ridge Cemetery
- Church records of deaths or burials
- Death certificates may be found in Dade County's records under the town of Linton, which became the City of Delray Beach. The town was once part of Dade County.
- Palm Beach County records.
- Community Groups Records
- Masons
- General Federation of Women's Clubs - Woman's Club of Delray Beach
- Friends of Delray
- Moose Lodge
- Elks Lodge
- Fraternal Order of Eagles
- Historical Societies and Museums
- Historical Society of Palm Beach County
- African Diaspora Cultural & Historical Society, Inc.
- Veterans Groups such as the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Also recommended are professional organizations such as local/regional archaeological or historical groups and the Florida Public Archaeological Network (FPAN), who provides public outreach, assistance to local governments, and Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT). Volunteers might provide additional help with annual maintenance, restoration activities, and take an active role in other preservation goals.

Though unsuccessful inquiries to Straghn and Son Funeral Home and Spady Cultural Heritage Museum (SCHM) were made during the current project, future research should include additional attempts to gather information or contacts from current or past employees of both establishments, considering their close connection with the history of Delray Beach's Black community. Charlene Farrington, current executive director at SCHM, offered future assistance with finding useful information about families interred at DBMGMC. Future research regarding the funeral procession should include interviews with Ms. Patricia Wright and residents of Frog Alley, a historically Bahamian neighborhood just northeast of DBMGMC. Linda Oxford, member of the Wuepper family, could provide additional oral history. An addendum may be added to this report by the City of Delray Beach to expand on these findings.

Future research could also include investigation of a separate Delray Beach cemetery with burials of Black pioneers, to better understand the relationship between cemeteries in the area and the history of the Black community. The specific location of the burial site is unknown, but a Delray Beach resident wrote in 2003 that the graves were located north of Lake Ida Road, possibly in a community currently known as Chevy Chase, and that several citizens could recall its existence (Task Force 2021).

Signage

An effective way to interpret or commemorate cemeteries is erecting state historical markers (Figure 4.7) which will be maintained by the State of Florida after purchase, or signage paid for and maintained by the City (Figure 4.8). The Florida Historical Marker program, managed by the Division of Historical Resources, recognizes historical sites across the state. It is designed to raise public awareness of Florida's rich cultural history and to enhance the enjoyment of our historic sites by citizens and tourists (Division of Historical Resources 2024). A cemetery map should be erected. This map would assist visitors with locating known grave makers. The interpretation of these signs provide visitors with a history of the cemetery and often the surrounding community.

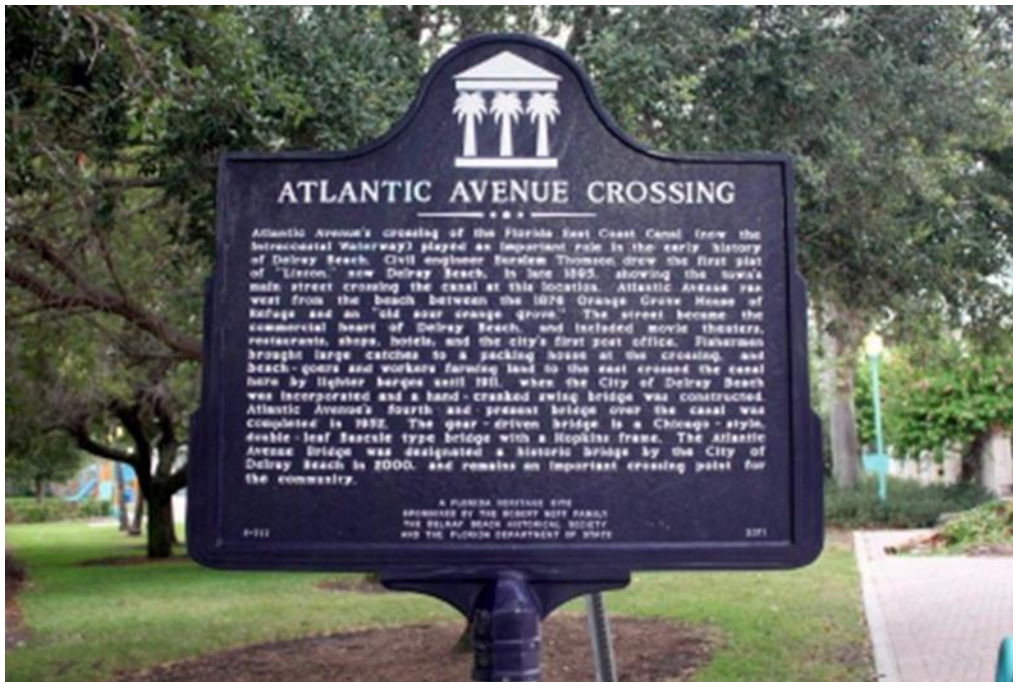


Figure 4.7. Atlantic Avenue Crossing Marker City of Delray Beach (Photographed by Tim Fillmon August 2, 2016)



Figure 4.8. Informational sign. Plano Mutual Cemetery 2020, Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation (Waymaking.com accessed 2024)

Security

Cemetery security involves the consideration of two opposites: the advantages of keeping people away because they can potentially negatively impact the cemetery and the importance of providing access to descendants. Typically, cemeteries will use a combination of fences, walls, lighting, police surveillance and opening/closing hours to control access (Healey et. al. 2014). While fencing is in place at the cemetery, there were areas where the fence was cut, and persons from the surrounding neighborhoods were using them as a short cut rather than going around it. These holes in the fences should be repaired, and if this continues to be an ongoing issue, maybe gates should be installed so persons can use them during daylight hours, when the cemetery is open to the public. This may deter destruction of the fencing. As in any metropolitan area, security of visitors is paramount and regular patrols by staff and police should be routine.

Other cemeteries have used methods including 24-hour surveillance cameras (San Jose Cemetery, Albuquerque, New Mexico (Melzer 2007)), locks, and perimeter fencing (Wheeler 2008). Additional monitoring could possibly be accomplished by electronic and remote surveillance techniques.

5.0 NRHP Recommendations

The National Register of Historic Places is a federal program created in 1966 which recognizes the importance of our historic heritage and the need to preserve it (Van Voorhies 2003). Cemeteries must meet certain criteria to be included in the NRHP. These criteria and guidelines can be found in the National Register Bulletin 41, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places*, 1992.

According to the National Park Service (NPS) eligibility is determined by several characteristics. First, the property must have historic integrity defined by seven considerations: “The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association . . .” To be eligible, a property must also be associated to an important historic context by meeting at least one of four criteria:

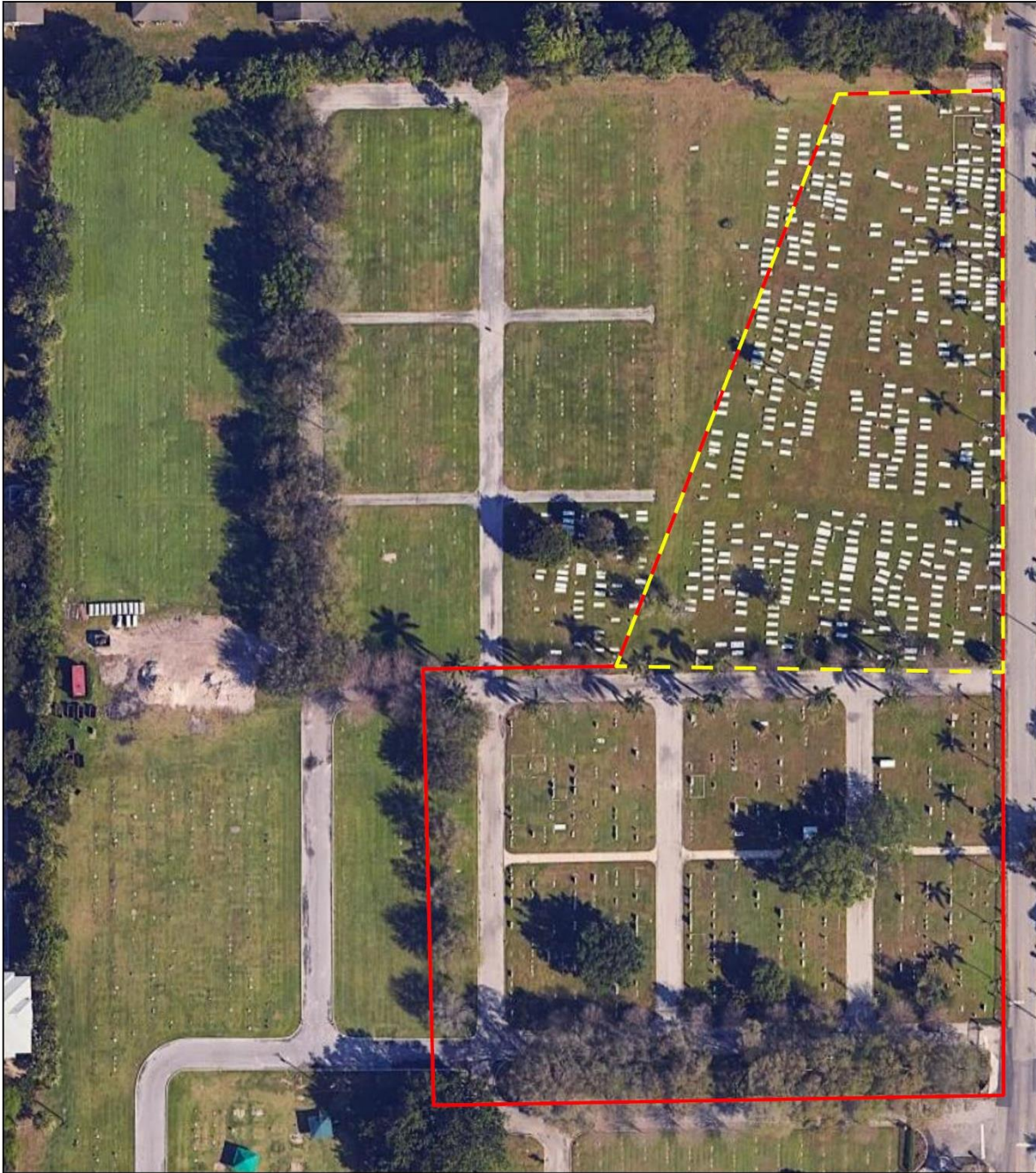
- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

NPS also has determined that “certain kinds of properties are not usually considered for listing in the National Register: religious properties, moved properties, birthplaces and graves, cemeteries, reconstructed properties, commemorative properties, and properties achieving significance within the past fifty years. These properties *can* be eligible for listing, however, if they meet special requirements, called Criteria Considerations, in addition to meeting the regular requirements (that is, being eligible under one or more of the four Criteria and possessing integrity).”



The DBMGMC is recommended potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and B, and Criteria Consideration D, at local level. The period of significance is ca. 1902 through 1974, coinciding with the Progressive Era to the New Era, the Great Depression and World War II, and the Post War United States. This is based on its association as an example of a segregated burial place for the black community of the City of Delray Beach, Florida and surrounding area (Criterion A). The Cemetery is also significant based on its affiliation with numerous locally and regionally important members of the community interred there (Criterion B). The Cemetery also meets the National Park Service’s threshold for integrity including location, setting, feeling, and association. It should also be considered potentially eligible for listing on the Delray Beach Local Register of Historic Places under Section 4.5.1(B)(4) of the City of Delray Beach’s Historic Preservation Ordinance.

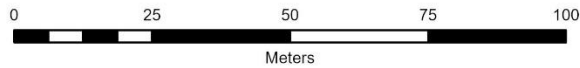
Under Criterion A, the DBMGMC was established in 1903 by the benevolent movement, a distinct aspect of our social history, led by the Ladies Improvement Association with a donation of five acres from Henry Flagler's East Coast Railway Company. The northern two acres of this land were established within this community-planned “rural” cemetery as the segregated burial areas for the “colored” people of the City of Delray Beach, which is an example of its kind (Figure 5.1). The Cemetery's original layout, with a road separating the two populations, remains intact. The black

community prominently settled in Delray in the late 1800s, coinciding with the early period of formal settlement of this area.



**Historic Black Section of
The City of Delray Beach
Municipal Cemetery**

-  Historic Cemetery Boundary
-  Historic Black Section



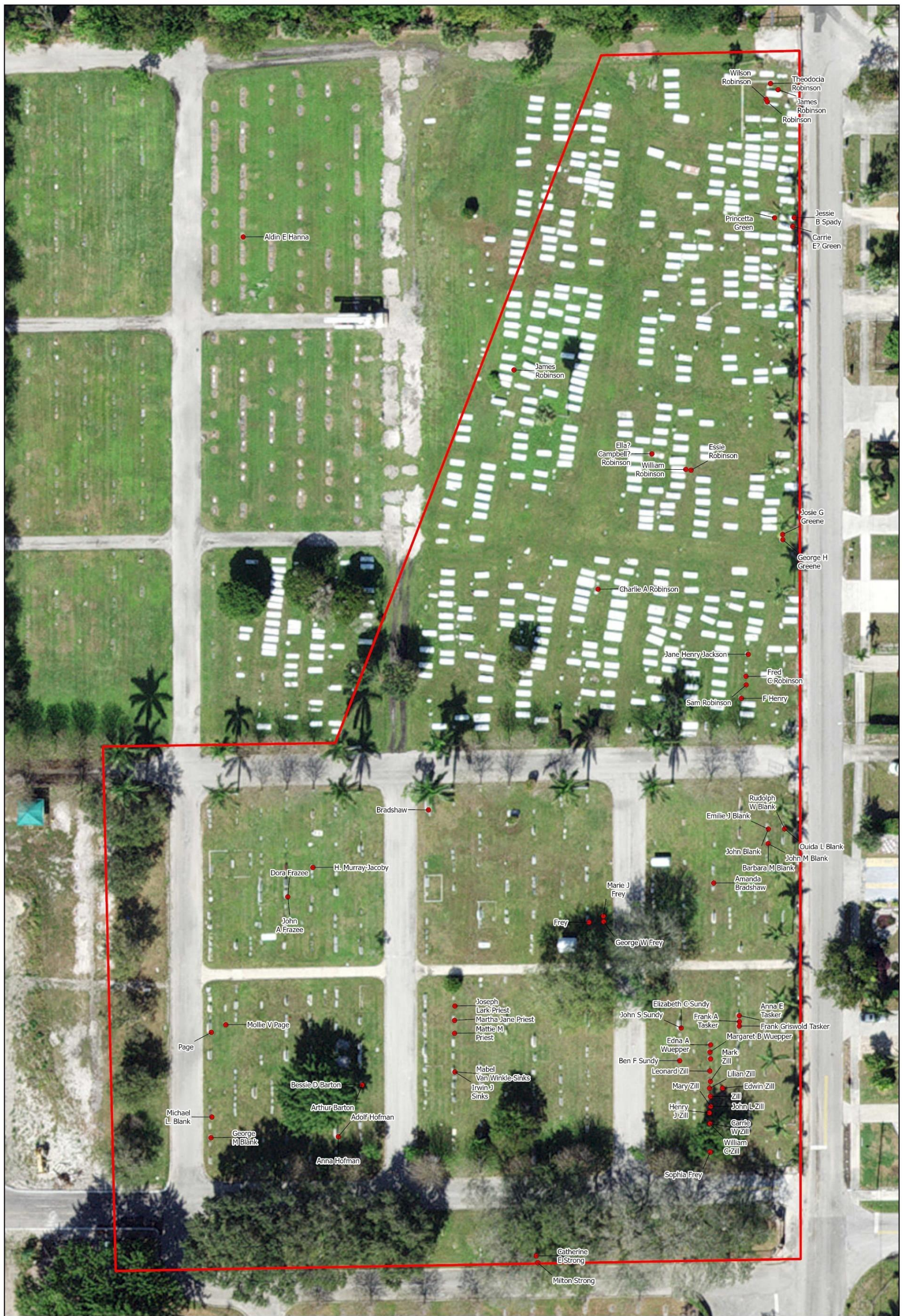
Service Layer Credits: 1953 Aerial Photograph downloaded from UF Digital Collections©
OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA

Figure 5.1. Segregated Historic Cemetery Boundary

Under Criterion B, the collection of graves dating from 1903 to 1974 are representative of local significant community leaders buried at the Cemetery range from political figures, founders of churches, businessmen and businesswomen, entrepreneurs and volunteers of all races who helped lay the foundation for the City of Delray Beach (Figure 5.2). Their contributions, both in business and community development, are of outstanding importance and a source of pride and inspiration for the current and future generations (see Section 3.4, Significant Persons).

Despite facing challenges such as hurricanes, flooding, and more modern additions, the Cemetery still retains its original location, setting, feeling, and association, preserving its integrity and conveying its historical significance as an example of community planning under Criterion A, and as being associated with the outstanding important individuals who shaped the City of Delray Beach reflecting significant cultural currents of the time under Criterion B and Criteria Consideration D.

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Location of the graves of Significant People in The City of Delray Beach Municipal Cemetery

Service Layer Credits: State of Florida, Maxar, Microsoft

Historic Cemetery Boundary

• Significant Person

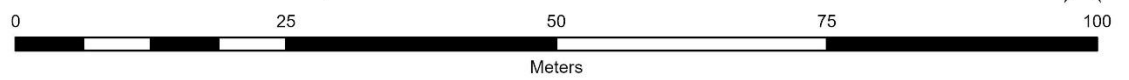


Figure 5.2 Map of Identified Significant Persons of Outstanding Importance

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