

Introduction to San Antonio's Eastside City Cemeteries by Frank Faulkner

Early Catholic burials in San Antonio took place around San Fernando church. Once that area was filled to capacity, the Campo Santo (currently the north side of the intersection of Houston and Santa Rosa) was created, and burials took place there at least by 1808. In 1848 the Catholic Church petitioned the City Council for more land to extend the Campo Santo. This was approved and an area of about eight acres was set aside and surveyed by Francois Giraud, approximately half for Catholics (the current location of Santa Rosa Hospital) and half as a city cemetery (now Milam Park). Between 1848 and 1852 Houston Street was cut through separating the two cemeteries. With this and the expansion of Santa Rosa Hospital, the Catholic graves were moved to San Fernando Cemetery (No. 2). No information is known about the removal of non-Catholic burials.

In 1853, the City set aside twenty acres near the old powder house on the east side of town for use as cemeteries. On 30 May 1853 cemetery lots were put up for sale in the East Side cemetery complex. This became known as City Cemetery # 1. Later that year portions were sold to fraternal organizations. Other city cemeteries were created as needed: # 2 - in 1884; # 3 - 1889; # 4 - 1892; # 5 - 1877, as a northern extension of Cemetery # 1; # 6 - 1903. City Cemetery # 7, the pauper's cemetery, was located at Nevada Street and No. New Braunfels. This property was sold so St. Gerard High School could be built there. The graves were exhumed and reburied at San Jose Cemetery in 1944.

The information included in these files is a transcription of the cemetery cards maintained by the City Sexton and later the Cemetery Office of the Parks and Recreation Department, which closed at the end of 2010. Transcription began in 1997 as a project of the Junior League of San Antonio. It was completed and checked by volunteers in the Texana/Genealogy Department.

Things to remember when searching these transcriptions:

1. They are copied from the original with no editing.
2. They are in alphabetical order by last name.
3. When searching, try various name spellings.
4. You will have to search each cemetery individually.

If you find information that is incorrect, you may send the correction with documentation to Texana/Genealogy, San Antonio Public Library, 600 Soledad, San Antonio, Texas 78205.