

**FORD CEMETERY – N.W.G.P.**  
**GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK**  
**Site Medallion No. 7**  
**602 Fountain Parkway, Tarrant County**  
**Great Southwest Industrial District**

Ford Cemetery takes its name from Pinkney Harold Ford who designated the site as a cemetery for his family and neighbors and owned the land for the three decades in which the majority of the burials took place. The cemetery marks the location where the Ford family settled for two generations, as well as the burial place of members of several of the pioneer families of north Arlington.

The rural community in north Arlington used this cemetery for almost a full century, leaving approximately fifty legible marked graves. Although an abundance of illegible sandstone markers indicate other early graves, the oldest marked grave is that of Maria Trayler, born March 11, 1799 in Kentucky, she came to Texas in 1854 and died on June 7, 1858. The last marked grave is that of Eliza C. Lancaster, born in 1876 and died in 1942.

Buried in the northeast corner of the cemetery are Pinkney Ford, who donated the cemetery property and his wife Elizabeth.

Mr. Ford, although primarily a farmer, used ox-drawn wagons to freight provisions from Galveston to the military outpost at Fort Worth, and served as a mounted volunteer in the Johnson Station Rangers during the Civil War. Following the war, he took an active part in the development of the Watson Community and on August 14, 1879 was ordained as an elder of the Good Hope Cumberland Sabbath School of Watson Community, the only religious congregation in the immediate area.

Pink Ford acquired the property on which Ford Cemetery is located from the estate of Dr. W.A. Jackson. Dr. Jackson had purchased the land in 1873 from John J. Goodwin, who held the original patent. Goodwin, a native of Georgia had patented 320 acres in the area as part of the Peter's Colony in 1850.

The twentieth century development of northeast Tarrant County eventually left Ford Cemetery in the midst of an industrial and manufacturing district, northwest of the intersection of Fountain Parkway and 110<sup>th</sup> Street. The surrounding property is owned by James Hall of Houston, and the cemetery is located at the back of the ARA Manufacturing Company's parking lot. The cemetery has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance, however there is a possibility of restoration through a program sponsored by the Tarrant County Historical Commission.

Dedication of the State Marker was May 23, 1982.

\*Grand Prairie Significant Landmark #7 has been approved but not installed and officially dedicated.

