

Bear Lithia Springs Baptist Church Cemetery Description

This memorandum is written to explain how the Cemetery Grid is constructed and how the Interment Database will be used and maintained. The typical person will not need the level of information contained in this memorandum. However, those charged with managing any aspect of the cemetery will need this information and those who are interested in locating a specific grave site and/or find a specific interment need to read this memo while viewing the Grid and/or Interment Database.

The Grid “picture” alone is not worth the paper it is written on if the picture cannot be accurately related to the terrain that makes up the Cemetery. A worthwhile test for a Cemetery manager would be: 1. If a marker were randomly placed anywhere in the Cemetery a manager should be able to take a 100’ tape measure and 15 minutes and find the exact grave site address at the marker; 2. If at some future time a manager knows (from the database) the address of an interred person who has no headstone, that manager should be able to, with tape measure and 15 minutes, accurately locate that physical grave site.

We will describe and discuss the Grid by going from the general to the specific. One should start by looking at the Surveyor Plat and note the cemetery diagram within that Surveyor Plat. Visually translating that diagram over to the Grid display, you will see this area represented within the Survey Markers (see legend).

The Grid, which represents the entire Cemetery, is divided into East and West sections. These sections are divided into A, B, and C blocks. These Blocks are eight rows deep (East to West) and thirteen sites across (North to South). Therefore, each of these Blocks is divided into 104 Sites. These Sites are grave sites and performing the math will show that there are 624 grave sites in the Cemetery.

For the Grid “picture” to be functionally meaningful one must be able to match the picture to the physical piece of terrain within the Survey Markers. The Survey Markers out on the ground are clearly visible surveyor rebar encased in concrete collars at each corner of the Cemetery. Each Block is delineated by clearly visible 1” by 18” metal bolts driven into the ground that measure off 58.5 ft. by 80 ft. Blocks. The distances are accurate measurements off the Survey Markers. As stated above, each of these blocks contain 104 grave sites. The measurement of each grave site is 4.5 ft. by 10 ft. A grave typically consumes a space of 3.5 ft. by 9 ft. The 4.5 ft. by 10 ft. allowance allows for a space collar around the casket area.

Each grave site in the Cemetery has an “address”. If you look at the Grid and note the first grave site at the Northeast corner of the Cemetery you will see that site annotated as “E1A1”. That address tells us that this grave is in the East Section, Row one, Block A, and is grave number 1 in that Block. The grave site at the Southeast corner of the Cemetery is E1C13. That grave site is located in the East Section, Row one, Block C, and is grave number 13 of that Block. All graves in the East section are measured off the

Survey Marker at the North East Corner with lines to the Survey Markers at the Southeast and Northwest corners.

Grave site addresses in the West Section are calculated in the same manner that the addresses are determined in the East Section. However, the addressing system in the West Section is measured off the Survey Marker at the North West corner of the Cemetery with lines to the Survey Markers at the Northeast and Southwest corners. Note that the grave site at the Northwest corner is “W1A1”. This grave site is located in the West Section, Row one, Block A, and is grave number 1 in this Block. The grave site at the Southwest corner is “W1C13”. This grave is located in the West Section, Row 1, Block A, and is grave number 13 in this Block.

One may ask why the seemly complex method of measuring and laying out the Grid. The reason is that we have constructed two accurately measured rectangles (Sections) within the confines of a larger irregular Cemetery space. One will note the “overage” space on the South end of the Cemetery area and the roadway consumes “overage” space in the center of the Cemetery area. In summary, all grave sites are accurately measured off official survey marks and can be accurately located with or without headstones. This will be especially important as the years go by.

Grave sites annotated on the Cemetery Grid can be found in the Interment Database. Each used grave site will reflect the name, date of birth, date of death, and home of record for the interred person.

Again, the average person does not need to know the level of detail in this memorandum but all Church leaders and Cemetery managers must understand this detail.

End