

# WHAT HISTORY IN YOUR COMMUNITY IS WORTH SAVING?

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I think the Pflugerville Colored Cemetery is worth saving because it tells us a lot about our history. It can also tell us a lot about the people who used to live Pflugerville, Texas. Another reason we should save it is because it is starting to look gloomy, and looks more like a weed-choked lawn than a historical cemetery.

Way back in the early years of Pflugerville, black workers were not allowed to live in Pflugerville. They were not allowed to live in Pflugerville because, back then people were still segregated. After a little bit of time, a farmer came and gave an acre of land and money to five workers. Those five workers became the first settlers of the Colored Addition. The names of the settlers were Pete McDade, Will Smith, George Caldwell, Ned Tyson, Willie Allen and their families. I think it was very kind of the farmer to give land and money to the workers.

Soon later, a church was built for the burial of Mexican and African Americans. I personally think that it was great that the settlers built the church so that Mexican and African Americans could be buried together, not segregated. Then in 1928, an elementary school was built, then moved to Pflugerville when the school district desegregated. However, soon after the elementary school was built the Travis County Commissioners wanted to change the name from the Colored Addition to the Western Addition because the name reminded them of when Travis County was segregated. The Travis County Commissioners attempt to change the name didn't work because the people who owned the cemetery didn't want the name changed. I understand why the Travis County Commissioners wanted to change the name, but I'm glad that their plan didn't work.

The Colored Addition never had that many people anyway. Then, in the late 1970's more people came just when the settlement was about to have the population of three families! I think it is amazing that more people came, just for the little town of Pflugerville!

So in conclusion, I think the Pflugerville Colored Cemetery is worth saving because, the cemetery can tell us a lot about our history. It can also tell us about the people who used to live in Pflugerville. And one way to save it is by cleaning up the Pflugerville Colored Cemetery. And people are already doing that! Another way people help save the cemetery is by remembering the people who are buried here. They are already helping the cemetery. Others can also help them, like you!