

March 31, 2025

Danielle Gosselin
Surface Transportation Board, Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20423

Re: *Project Review Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Docket No. FD 36815, Texas Materials Group, Construction and Operation Exemption, Burnet and Lampasas Counties, Texas (STB/106, THC #202507918)*

Ms. Gosselin:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the above-referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

The THC History Programs Division review staff, led by Justin Kockritz, recommends that a qualified architectural historian who meets the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards (35 CFR Part 61) survey the project's area of potential effect (APE) and evaluate the eligibility of any aboveground/non-archeological historic-age properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. We recommend that for portions of the project where new right-of-way is proposed that the APE for aboveground resources include all parcels wholly or partially within 300 feet of the edge of the proposed right-of-way; for portions of the project that are limited to the existing railroad right-of-way, we recommend that the APE for aboveground resources be limited to the existing right-of-way. THC also notes that the proposed northern terminus is located adjacent to the Shade Denson House, which was designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1964.

The THC Archeology Division review staff, led by Rebecca Shelton, recommends a detailed desktop analysis be conducted by a SOI-qualified archeologist to identify previously recorded archeological sites, State Antiquities Landmarks, properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and cemeteries that may be within, or adjacent to, the proposed routes. According to our maps, the majority of the APE has not been surveyed, therefore an intensive archeological survey should be conducted to identify all cultural resources within the preferred route.

Finally, THC notes that the northern section of the applicant's preferred alignment appears to pass near the Thomas Lafayette Thornal Cemetery. For your reference, attached is additional information on this cemetery from THC's files is attached. Although this cemetery currently has no historic designation, state laws protecting cemeteries and burials apply, including Chapters 711–715 of the Texas Health and Safety Code and Title 13, Chapter 22 of the Texas Administrative Code.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this federal review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If you have any questions concerning our review of

aboveground historic resources, please contact Justin Kockritz at justin.kockritz@thc.texas.gov or 512-936-7403; for any questions concerning our review of archeological resources, please contact Rebecca Shelton at rebecca.shelton@thc.texas.gov or 512-463-6043.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JK' with a stylized flourish.

Justin Kockritz, Lead Project Reviewer, Federal Programs
For: Joseph Bell, State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

cc: Alan Tabachnick and Adam Assenza, Surface Transportation Board *via email*
STB E-Filing

THC CEMETERY MANAGEMENT

Home | Create Cemetery | Create Survey | Create Track | Search Notes | Reports |

ID: LM-C041
Name: Thomas Lafayette Thornal
Type: 2
Records: True
Inventory: True
Directions: Take Hwy 190 east from Lampasas to the Snell Ranch (5269). The cemetery is located on the south side of the highway about .2 miles into the ranch.

Atlas Number: 7281004103
Additional Names: Thornal
USGS Map: 3198-111
Source of Records: LCHC
Markers:

Located on the Snell ranch between a deer blind and a large tank. There is a cattle trail that passes right by the graves but the cattle have not bothered the site. Two graves; infant with head and footstones from fieldstone with no inscription and the fenced grave of Thomas Lafayette Thornal (1878-1900). Both graves are in good condition . The Thornal grave has a cast iron fence but the infant grave is not fenced. Ask at the Snell Ranch for permission to enter.

Location

Address: Snell Ranch, 5269 Hwy 190 East
County: Lampasas
Map Feature: False
UTM Easting: 31.02'51.227"N

City: Lampasas
TxDot Map: Lampasas Base Sheet
UTM Zone: 14
UTM Northing: 98.06'15.087"W

Setting

Urban: False
Transition: False
Lake:
Slope: False

Suburban: False
Rural: True
Level: True
Encroachment: private ranch land, cattle pasture

Markers & Designations

HTC:
Grave Medal:
Other:

Subject:
Centennial:

Historical Information

Number of Graves: 1
Unmarked Graves: False
Dated Graves: True
Associated Cult Context: False
Subsequent Community Est: False
No Info Available: False

Dates of Burials: Specific dates avail.
Marked no Dates: True
Original Geo Context Removed: True
Site Relocated: False
Source: observation

Conditions

Maintained: True
Selective Maintenance: False
Overgrown: False
Depressed Graves: False
Vandalized: False
Evidence of Cemetery above Ground: 1
Mounds: False
Erosion:
Endangered: medium; cattle pasture, no fence, no sign, maintained on private property

No Evidence of Maintenance: False
Evidence of Repairs: False
Graves not Visible: False
Fallen Stones: False
Missing or Stolen Features: False
Trash/Dumping: False
Sunken Graves: False
Undetermined: False
Leaning Stones: False

Culture

African American: False
Asian: False
Jewish: False
Jewish: False

Native American: False
European: True
European: False
Language on Stones: English

Cultural Info Source:

Religion

Native: False

Islamic: False

Protestant: True

Source: LCHC, observation

Catholic: False

Jewish: False

Other: False

Access

Sign: no

Direct Access to Public Road: False

Public Property: True

Driving Access: True

Gates: Gate Locked

Contact: Marion Snell; 512-556-6953

Miscellaneous Info:

Access Problem: private property

Private Property: False

Walking Access: False

Distance from Road: 0

Land Owner Located: False

Contact Phone:

Perimeters

Fence: False

Trimmed Grass: False

Stream or Lake: False

Buildings: False

Dimensions 1: 12

Acres: 0

Description: cattle pasture, private land

Dimensions 1: 12

Cultivated Fields: False

Roads: False

Vacant Land: False

Description: cattle pasture, private land

Dimensions 2: 12

Irregular: False

Dimensions 2: 12

Perimeter Fence

Barbed Wire: False

Brick: False

Iron: False

Chain Link: False

Fully Fenced: False

Resin\Synthetic: False

Partly Fenced: False

Stone: False

Trees: False

Hedge Row: False

Wood: False

None: True

Landscaping

Natural Trees:

Natural Shrubs:

Natural Ground-Cover: cedar sapplings

Terracing: False

Free Growth: -1

Cultural Trees:

Cultural Shrubs:

Cultural Ground-Cover:

Original Plantings: False

Comments:

Walkways & Paths

Dirt Path: True

Gravel Path: True

Stone Path: False

Brick Path: False

Paved Path: False

Grass Path: True

Grave Decoration

Shells: False

Scraped Earth: False

Other: False

Gravel: False

Floral: False

Gravestone Materials

Cast Iron: False

Ceramic: False

Concrete: False

Fieldstone: False

Limestone: True

Marble: False

Metal Funeral Marker: False

Resin\Plastic: False

Sandstone: False

Steel: False

Structural Glass: False

Wood: False

Zinc: False

Other: False

Segregated

Family: False

Race: False

Religion: False
Nationality: False
Econmomic: False

Fraternal: False
Baby: False
Institution: False

Veterans

1812: False
Mexican: False
Indian: False
WWI: False
Korea: False
Gulf: False

Texas Rev: False
Civil: False
Spanish: False
WWII: False
Vietnam: False
Other: False

Feature Overview

Comments: Combination
Entry Gate: False
Family Fences: False
Individual Fences: True

Manufacturer:
Number: 0
Number: 1

Features

Benches: False
Folk Stones: True
Shrine(s): False
Local Casting: False
Vault(s): False

Flagpole: False
Fountains: False
Slab(s): False
Masonry Cairns: False
Obelisk(s): False

Fences

Barbed Wire: False
Brick: False
Cast Iron: True
Chain Link: False

Combination: False
Woven Wire: False
Stone: False
Wood: False

Curbing

Curbstone: False
Brick: False

Concrete: False
Other: False

Interior Roads

Dirt: True
Gravel: True
Cobble Stone: False

Brick: False
Paved: False
Grass: True

Other

Original Statuary: False
Outhouse: False
Stone Carving: False
Well: False

Structures: False
Tabernacle: False
Urns: False
Other: False

↑ Hwy 190
.2 miles

↑ large tank
100'

Gravel Road

Cattle trail

31°02'51.4"N

31°02'51.2"N

31°02'51.0"N

98°06'15.6"W

98°06'15.4"W

98°06'15.2"W

98°06'15.0"W

LM-C041; Thomas Lafayette Thornal;
.015km; 3198-111

Lat/Long
NAD 1927 (Conus)

N

Scale 1:125

0 0.005

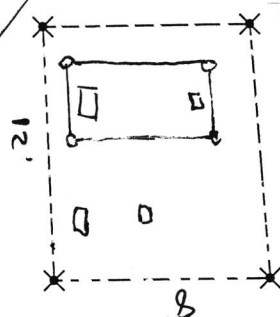
Kilometers

7-24-03.cor
7/25/2003

GPS Pathfinder® Office

 **Trimble™**

↓ Dean Stand



30 ft











From: [Justin Kockritz](#)
To: [Tabachnick, Alan](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Shelton](#); [Assenza, Adam](#)
Subject: Docket No. FD 36815, Texas Materials Group, Burnet and Lampasas County, TX
Date: Monday, March 31, 2025 12:47:45 PM
Attachments: [thc_email_logo_65px_e6b590e5-b608-48df-a46f-bbaf70308c09.png](#)
[thc_email_signature_url_2_9467b7d4-3cf0-4ad6-a56a-a173b9a5102c.png](#)
[thc_email_signature_fb_18px_f52434f2-a1bc-4678-9a22-33dd4606f18b.png](#)
[thc_email_signature_twitter_18px_a0320705-84ac-453d-b948-ce7b9ec24d9b.png](#)
[thc_email_signature_iq_18px_b246144c-2e4c-4e72-a377-d3dbb77f8934.png](#)
[thc_email_signature_yt_18px_87f9dc8d-8149-47b9-988d-88c487090614.png](#)
[thc_email_signature_li_18px_5bdd2c5b-c609-480e-a872-4fe1572cd908.png](#)
[thc_email_signature_email_18px_61592cdc-f8f6-43c2-83c5-648830375491.png](#)
[106_STB_Texas_Materials_2025-03-31.pdf](#)

Hi Alan,

Attached is THC's response to the preliminary consultation request for Docket No. FD 36815 for the proposed Texas Materials Group railroad in Burnet and Lampasas County, Texas. Also attached is additional information on the Thomas Lafayette Thornal Cemetery in Lampasas County from the THC Cemetery Program files. Please note, the information given in the database fields was often collected during very brief site visits. Typically, the full survey card was not completed. Therefore, when you see "false" data, it could simply mean that the data was not collected for that field, not that the feature does not exist. In other words, the surveyor left the field blank.

If you have any questions at all, or if we can be of further assistance, please let Rebecca and I know.

Thank you

Justin Kockritz

From: Tabachnick, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 11:05 AM
To: Justin Kockritz
Cc: Rebecca Shelton
Subject: Re: Question

CAUTION: External Email – This email originated from outside the THC email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Yes, this is for that project. It is just at its starting point as we haven't developed an APE yet and the alternatives are still being worked on. Thanks for checking on it.

Alan Tabachnick

Federal Preservation Officer
Surface Transportation Board

Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E St SW
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202-245-0367 (o)
202-934-8469 (c)
alan.tabachnick@stb.gov

From: Justin Kockritz <Justin.Kockritz@thc.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 11:47 AM
To: Tabachnick, Alan <alan.tabachnick@stb.gov>
Cc: Rebecca Shelton <Rebecca.Shelton@thc.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: Question

Actually, at least as far as I can tell, that [Thomas Lafayette Thornal Cemetery](#) is not a Historic Texas Cemetery. On our Historic Sites Atlas, an HTC is indicated by having a date listed in the "HTC Designation Date" field; a blank field there indicates that the cemetery is not an HTC. That could be much clearer though!

Unfortunately, in this case, I am not sure that we would have much, if anything, on this particular cemetery. I can check with our Cemetery Preservation Program staff to confirm that though.

I am adding Rebecca Shelton with our Archeology Division here. She is our Archeology reviewer for Lampasas County and she and I are currently reviewing the proposed Texas Materials Group project (Docket No. FD 36815) that I suspect you are working on.

Thanks

Justin Kockritz

From: Tabachnick, Alan
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 9:53 AM
To: Justin Kockritz; Mary Galindo, PhD, RPA
Subject: Re: Question

CAUTION: External Email – This email originated from outside the THC email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for this info. The Thomas Lafayette Thornal cemetery came up on a map for a potential project near Lampasas. If you have any info on it I would appreciate it. Thanks.

Alan Tabachnick

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alan.tabachnick@stb.gov

From: Justin Kockritz

Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 10:48 AM

To: Tabachnick, Alan; Mary Galindo, PhD, RPA

Subject: Re: Question

Hi Alan,

In general, the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation means that THC will have some sort of documentation about the cemetery's history, but they typically have not been formally evaluated under the National Register criteria. An HTC within a project's APE would usually be treated as sort of a red flag that the cemetery is of historic age and that its National Register significance and integrity should be evaluated further. However, it is not automatic that an HTC would be National Register eligible.

If you have questions about a particular HTC, just let us know. We should be able to provide what materials we have on the cemetery and we can confirm if it may have previously been surveyed or evaluated.

I know that is not exactly a clear answer, but hopefully it helps! If you have any questions, just let us know.

Thanks



Justin Kockritz

Lead Project Reviewer, Federal Programs

History Programs Division

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From: Tabachnick, Alan

Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 9:30 AM

To: Mary Galindo, PhD, RPA; Justin Kockritz

Subject: Question

CAUTION: External Email – This email originated from outside the THC email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi. Hope you are both doing well. I was wondering how you all consider cemeteries that have been given the Historic Texas Cemetery designation. Does that designation imply, or mean, that it the cemetery is eligible for the NRHP? Or is it more like a recognition type designation for planning and preservation purposes? Thanks very much.

Alan Tabachnick

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