

YAHOO! MAIL

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Subject: Central Prison Farm Tract Cemeteries and Burials
Date: Wed, 30 Aug 2006 10:13:25 -0500
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Hi All,

Sorry if this letter seems hurried, but it is.

I've talked to Nicole Minnichbach the Corps of Engineers reviewer, and Mr. Reginald Moore, of the Texas Slave Descendants Society, both late yesterday and early today. I am also the point of contact, by default, for the forthcoming CE and THC meetings on Prison Farms. I've come up with some questions for our meeting with the CE in Glaveston the 2nd week of September. The CE would like this meeting to be "agencies only" and at their office, and not in the field.

The CE apparently will not mind meeting with us to discuss their development of wetlands permits for development of the "Central Prison Farm Tract" and the established prison cemetery there. After speaking with Mr. Moore on the phone, I've developed some questions we may want to ask the CE.

- A. Can we confirm that the established (fenced portion) ex-prison cemetery with a hundred foot buffer has been deeded to the City of Sugar Land and have they accepted the donation and recorded it in their deed records? I have a phone call in to the assistant city manager to confirm. They are looking into it.
- B. New information indicates that there could be isolated graves scattered throughout the ex-Central Prison Farm Tract, now known as the Newland Development. Even though construction has begun on the Newland Tract, we would like to know if there is any way possible to survey and/or assess the remains of the tract for interments.
- C. Finally, the one extant building, the Central Prison Farm Tract, may have important archeological deposits around it. Is there any way to have these deposits, near the prison building, the first Texas Corrections building built outside of Huntsville, assessed by an experienced archeologist before that archeological context around the building is lost.

I think all three of these questions would be found relevant by interested members of the public. It seems worthwhile, to me at the bottom of the totem pole, to ask if the CE will reconsider there decision to allow construction to proceed in light of this new information contributed mostly by members of the public.

Thanks.

Ed