



MEMO

To: Clark County Historic Preservation Commission
From: Jacqui Kamp, Planner III
Date: May 31, 2017
Subject: Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery Fence

In December 2016, Clark County Parks received a \$15,000 grant from the 2017 Clark County Historical Promotion Grant fund for the removal of the existing chain link fence that dissects the cemetery and installing a new split rail fence that fully encloses the cemetery with a ten-foot wide opening for maintenance access. The split rail was proposed after a brief consultation with DAHP (email attached).

After receiving input from interested residents, there has been a proposal request for a different style of fence. Parks would like to request feedback from the Historic Preservation Commission regarding the style of fence and location of the chain link fence at the Clark County Heritage Register site.



Cemetery looking south towards NE 68th Street



Path that leads to cemetery looking north from NE 68th Street



Split Rail Fence Examples

Public input

On May 4, 2017 Clark County Parks held a public meeting to provide local residents with an opportunity to learn more about the plans to remove the chain link fence that currently bi-sects the cemetery and erect a split-rail wood fence around the historic cemetery located within the boundaries of the 78th Street Heritage Farm. The meeting was then opened for public comment. The primary issues discussed included security, access, and fencing design.

According to the notes from the meeting (attached), the majority of the residents who were in attendance preferred a different style of fence than a split rail. The preference was for stone or brick monuments to be placed at the corners of the cemetery.

There was also disagreement over the existing chain link fence and whether it should be relocated to the western boundary of the cemetery (along the property boundary). The alternative would be to relocate the chain link fence to the eastern boundary which would fence the cemetery off from the rest of the historic farm property.

As stated above, Parks staff would like to request feedback on the cemetery fence style and the location of the chain link fence before submitting an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Attachments:

- August 23, 2016 Email correspondence between Jacqui Kamp and DAHP staff regarding cemetery fence
- May 4, 2017 Parks Public Meeting Notes
- Cemetery Survey and aerial image

From: [Houser, Michael \(DAHP\)](#)
To: [Gant, Kim \(DAHP\)](#); [Kamp, Jacqueline](#)
Cc: [Tasa, Guy \(DAHP\)](#)
Subject: RE: Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery
Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 10:07:50 AM

I agree with Kim. If you really need a fence.... how about a zig-zag split rail fence that sits on the ground. If you do any digging you are opening up a can of worms and of course will require a permit.

Michael Houser

State Architectural Historian

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From: Gant, Kim (DAHP)
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 9:54 AM
To: Kamp, Jacqueline; Houser, Michael (DAHP)
Cc: Tasa, Guy (DAHP)
Subject: RE: Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery

Hi Jacqui, Does it need a fence? Is there a problem with people getting in and causing trouble? If a fence is not needed could there be some other interpretation at ground level to indicate the boundaries? Are the boundaries known? I think if there is a fence installed it should be just as simple as possible, but delineating it another way, along with some interpretation about how actually delineating cemeteries is often difficult when there are no markers (and even when there are markers), could be very interesting.

I don't have a lot of experience with cemeteries so I will also ask Guy who may have some suggestions.

Kim

My weekly office hours are Monday – Thursday 7am to 5 pm.

Kim Gant | Certified Local Government & Survey Program Manager
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From: Kamp, Jacqueline [<mailto:Jacqueline.Kamp@clark.wa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 9:42 AM
To: Gant, Kim (DAHP); Houser, Michael (DAHP)
Subject: Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery

Hi Kim and Michael,

I hope your summer is going well! We are doing some research for possible upcoming projects for the Clark County 78th Street Heritage Farm (a.k.a. Poor Farm). I'm happy that the county is looking into fixing the fence issue that currently dissects the old poor farm cemetery, plus hopefully do some restoration and interpretive elements for the cemetery. My question is, if we were to put up a new fence or some kind of boundary to delineate the cemetery, what would be appropriate? It probably never was fenced.

I've attached a couple of photos that shows the cemetery with fence. As you may recall there are no grave markers, however I do have one of the metal name plates from the cemetery that someone picked up years ago.

The first is a view if you were standing in the cemetery looking south towards the access on 68th. The second is from the access on 68th looking north.

Any ideas or resources to look would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you!

Jacqui



Jacqui Kamp, AICP
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www.clark.wa.gov/planning/historic

Public Meeting Summary

May 4, 2017

Clark County Public Works, Parks & Lands Division

On May 4, 2017, the Parks & Lands Division of Clark County Public Works held a public meeting to provide local residents with an opportunity to learn more about the plans to remove the chain link fence that currently bi-sects the cemetery and erect a split-rail wood fence around the historic cemetery located within the boundaries of the 78th Street Heritage Farm. The proposed split rail fence would include two openings for maintenance access.

There were 360 notices sent directly to residents located within neighborhoods to the west and south sides of the farm where the cemetery is located. Of those notified, 25 individuals attended the public meeting. Handouts included a map of the cemetery dated 4/11/1913, an overhead view of the cemetery area, a recent survey dated 3/29/17 and a sample picture of a split rail fence that was proposed for the project. Copies of the 2010 Master Plan were also available.

Parks & Lands Division Manager, Bill Bjerke opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. welcoming everyone in attendance. Legacy Lands Coordinator, Patrick Lee provided some brief remarks regarding some of the rich history of the farm and the master plan for Heritage Farm that was completed in 2010. He also described the cemetery project by sharing what was defined within the public notice:

The cemetery is a 150-by-300-foot area in the southwest portion of the farm. Its northern limit is roughly the top of the hill. The cemetery extends down slope 300 feet toward Northeast 68th Street.

The county proposes to remove the chain link fence, which currently bisects the cemetery, and replace it with a split rail fence that fully encloses the cemetery. A split rail fence is more in keeping with the historic period of the farm.

The planned improvement is funded, in part, by the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission. The 78th Street Heritage Farm was placed on the Washington Historic Register in 2012 and the National Register of Historic Places and Clark County Historic Register in 2013.

Clark County operated a poor farm at this site from at least 1873 until 1943. Records indicate burials at the cemetery took place between 1913 and 1937.

The cemetery contains the remains of 312 men, women and children. Not all of those interned in the cemetery were residents of the poor farm. Clark County provided funeral and burial there for those who had no family or whose relatives could not afford to pay for burial.

The Historic Preservation Commission is designing a sign to interpret the cultural and historical significance of the cemetery. The sign is envisioned as one station in an interpretive trail that will provide visitors a place to examine the experiences of local pioneer

settlers and poor farm residents in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as the cultural, social and political history of the property

The meeting was then opened for public comment. The primary issues discussed included security, access, and fencing design.

There was consensus that security for the farm and adjacent residences was paramount. The majority of attendees agreed that they did not want the chain link fence that bi-sects the cemetery removed, unless it was replaced or relocated elsewhere. In addition, they felt it was important to clearly demarcate the cemetery. Thus, the focus of discussion was whether to move the existing fence to the eastern edge of the cemetery, or whether to move it to the western edge, along the farm property boundary. When asked for a show of hands for which direction to move the fence the room was equally divided with 50% of those still in attendance agreeing that the fence should be moved to the east of the cemetery and the remaining 50% agreeing that the fence should be moved to west of the cemetery.

Arguments in favor of moving it to the east included:

- Security for residents whose homes are located on the western boundary would be improved from casual, and potentially malicious, visitors to the farm.
- These residents have enjoyed ready access to the cemetery and farm since they moved into their homes and an eastern alignment would continue the amenity.
- These residents have historically assisted the County in maintaining the cemetery

Arguments in favor of the western alignment of the fence included:

- The cemetery is an integral part of the history of the farm and one of the key interpretive spots called out in the interpretive trail plan. Access to it should not be visually or physically limited by a security fence.
- From property management and farm security standpoints, a western alignment at the property boundary is superior without sacrificing security for adjacent residents.
- The cemetery is a public space and should be equally accessible to all.

The majority of attendees hoped the county would be able to move forward with developing the farm trail as soon as possible. They also supported including the cemetery as one of the interpretive spots. How best to accomplish this is interrelated with the security fence discussion.

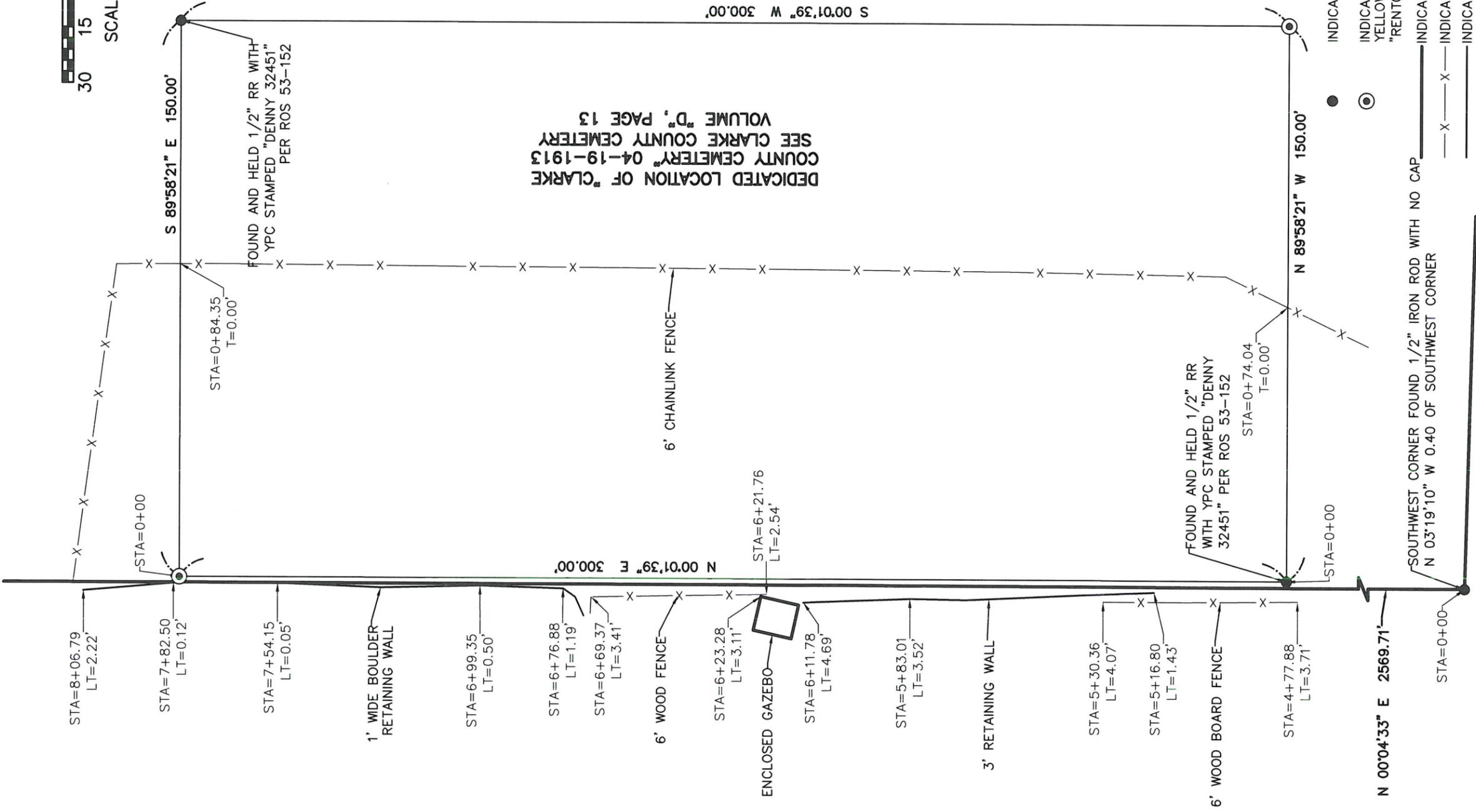
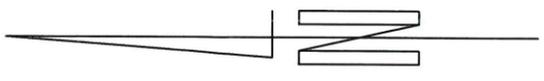
The majority of attendees preferred a different fence design than the proposal. Instead of a split rail fence demarcating the perimeter of the cemetery, it was suggested that stone or brick monuments be placed at the corners of the cemetery.

Clark County Public Works staff will Contact the *Clark County Historic Preservation Commission* to determine if the recommended change in design is acceptable from a grant perspective.

At the close of the meeting Bill Bjerke reminded attendees to share their email address on the sign-in pages if they would like to be notified of the next steps and decisions regarding the cemetery and fencing. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

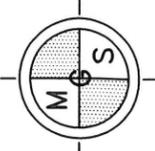


SCALE 1 INCH = 30 FEET



DEDICATED LOCATION OF "CLARKE COUNTRY CEMETERY" 04-19-1913 SEE CLARKE COUNTY CEMETERY VOLUME "D", PAGE 13

- INDICATES MONUMENT FOUND AS NOTED
- ⊙ INDICATES 1/2" x 24" REBAR ROD WITH YELLOW PLASTIC CAP INSCRIBED "RENTON 37535", SET
- X — X — INDICATES BOUNDARY
- X — X — INDICATES FENCE LINE
- X — X — INDICATES WALL
- STA INDICATES STATION
- LT INDICATES OFFSET LEFT OF PROPERTY LINE
- YPC INDICATES YELLOW PLASTIC CAP
- RR INDICATES REBAR ROD



PREPARED BY:
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EXHIBIT
CLARK COUNTY
POOR FARM CEMETERY

SCALE: 1" = 30'
 JOB NO. 17-040
 DATE: 3-29-2017
 DWG FILE: 17040EX
 DRAWN BY: PWR

