



**National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation**
Save the past. Enrich the future.

Texas A&M University

3137 TAMU
college station, TX 77843-3137

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O: 8324656829

Form

Project Information

On this application, in some cases you will see pre-populated text in an answer box. That text was carried over from your LOI, but you may edit the text on this application if you wish. If you have any questions about this, or any other grant question, please contact the Grants Office at grants@savingplaces.org, or 202-588-6277

Project Name*

Name of Project

TX Freedom Colonies Project's Plan to Preserve Endangered Historic Black Settlements & Cemeteries

Brief Project Description

This description has been copied over from your LOI. If you would like to clarify your project description, you may change it here. You will complete a detailed project description later in the application. This field is intended to be an abbreviated summary of your project.

Historic Black settlements are co-located w/cemeteries vulnerable to natural disasters, gentrification, & sprawl. An online Atlas & Survey (<https://arcg.is/1zeDbP>) identifies settlements but requires a plan for integrating field cemetery assessments.

Amount Requested

Total amount requested from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. Grants made from the Fund will range from \$50,000 to \$150,000.

\$75,000.00

Applicant Information

Mission Statement*

Please include the organization's mission statement below.

The Texas Freedom Colonies Project is a social justice initiative, which celebrates & documents the communities, heritage, & grassroots activities associated w/the African American Preservation Movement. The Project fulfills its mission by conducting community-based research; leading participatory planning; mapping disappearing settlements & assets; recording oral histories, creating opportunities for the descendant diaspora to reconnect; & facilitating knowledge exchange w/experts & each other.

Personnel Administering Project*

Please upload a resume of the person that will be administering the project.

CV_2019v5.1.work_Final.docx

Board Members

If the organization is a nonprofit, please upload a list of current board members.

Paid Staff*

How many paid staff does your organization employ?

8694

Forum Member Number*

In order to submit a grant application to the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, you are required to become a member of the National Trust's Forum network at the Organizational level. You can join by clicking [here](#). Please submit your membership below. If you have not yet received your membership number, please write "New Member."

New Member

Project Site Description

For the purpose of this section, a historic resource can mean a specific property, or a landscape, historic district, neighborhood, etc. If you have questions about filling out this section, or if your project does not involve a historic resource, please contact grants@savingplaces.org.

Name of Historic Resource/Site(s)*

Shankleville Cemeteries 194 CR 1040 Newton County, Burkeville, 75932

Project/Historic Resource Location*

If the project involves a historic resource, please include the address of the historic resource below. If the project does not include a historic resource, please include the city, state, and county where the project will occur.

Initial sites for the testing mobile survey will require trips to Newton & Jasper County Freedom Colonies for meetings with descendant communities & cemetery keepers. These counties impacted by hurricanes & flooding contain 35 freedom colonies, most of which are co-located w/cemeteries. However, most meetings will be conducted at Texas A&M or Prairie View University with the selected consultant.

City/Town Population*

Population of the city/town in which project will take place

Burkeville 1,883

Ownership*

Does the applicant own the property? If your project does not involve a property, please choose no and note that below.

No

Who owns the property?

If applicant does not own the property, describe the owner's involvement with the project and use the file upload box below to upload letter of consent or other authority from the owner giving your organization permission to pursue this project.

SHANKLEVILLE_Support Letter Andrea 04232019.pdf

The applicant doesn't own property in Shankleville but has researched & planned symposia w/community members since 2014. They have two cemeteries. Jim Shankle Cemetery, named for the community founder, is where he & descendants are interred. Shankleville Community Cemetery is across the street (FM1415) from the Shankle Cemetery. Shankleville's support letter approving this Project is attached.

Is the property historically designated?*

For example, is the property designated as: National Historic Landmark, National Register of Historic Places, state or local designation program, etc. If so, please list it and include the year of designation.

Shankleville descendants founded satellite freedom colonies creating an enduring mutual aid system supporting cemetery preservation for several settlements. During the plan development & survey instrument testing, the Consultant & project lead will work w/Shankleville Community's network in Newton County. Shankleville includes the Addie & A.T. Odom Homestead listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012. Additionally, state historical markers recognize the cemeteries, Stephen McBride who founded McBride College in Shankleville. State historical markers also recognize the following freedom colony sites in Newton and Jasper Counties: Springhill Cemetery - Big Joe Turner Gravesite, Biloxi Settlement, Cedar Grove Community, & Dixie Community. However, several don't have historical markers. The survey of area settlements & cemeteries should provide opportunities to possibly list more sites with Reconstruction Era significance as part of a rural district or as individual sites.

Site Significance

If your project involves a historic property or site, please briefly describe it, list the date of completion, and explain its significance (architectural/cultural/historical).

Cemeteries & freedom colonies to be identified, mapped, & assessed are associated with historic black settlements founded 1865-1920 in Newton County. Several freedom colonies were founded by families originating in Shankleville. The cemeteries are across from the Odom Homestead (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) built by AT Odom in 1922. Odom's great-grandfather was community founder, Jim Shankle. The Odoms made significant contributions to Shankleville during the Jim Crow era.

Current Use

If your project involves a historic resource, please describe its current use, and the target audience the resource serves.

Cemeteries are in use in Newton County, including the historic Shankleville cemetery in which the community founders, formerly enslaved Jim (b. 1811) & Winnie Shankle (b. 1814), are interred (See the story of Shankleville here: <https://youtu.be/xCDjTek8cvo>). Formerly enslaved freedom colony founders are buried in cemeteries throughout

Newton & Jasper counties (see map uploaded with photos). All cemeteries serve descendants & extended family members of founders, educators, & religious leaders.

Historic Features

If your project involves a historic resource, and if it has been altered or changed over time, please briefly describe what historic portions or features are still present, and their current condition.

Cemeteries are still in use & reflect African Diaspora burial traditions spanning the late 1800s to the present. Nearby churches have been modified over time but the AT Odom Homestead remains. In addition to building the homestead, A.T. Odom (b.1893) also kept the cemetery records & was the custodian of the burial tools. Predating churches are landscape features (trees) which once formed the brush arbors near present-day Shankleville's cemeteries, bridging Pre-Emancipation & Reconstruction eras.

Project Description

Estimated Project Start Date*

August 1, 2019

Estimated Project End Date*

June 1, 2021

Detailed Project Description*

Describe in detail how the grant funds will be used. What activity will this grant support and what are the outcomes you plan to achieve? In your detailed project description, please address the following as they relate to your project:

- What is the project's purpose and anticipated outcomes? How will you measure success?
- Describe any products that will result from the project.
- Describe the project's target audience and estimated attendance, if applicable.
- If you are completing a capital project, please describe what preservation planning work has been completed.

Please be succinct. Keep in mind that all preservation planning or capital work must be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties or Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.

The project goal is to produce a strategic & technical project plan for The Texas Freedom Colonies Project's Atlas & Survey (TXFCP) platform. Freedom colonies, historic African American settlements founded 1865-1920 in Texas, are most recognizable by landscape elements-cemeteries, homesteads, churches, & schools. Today, natural disasters, gentrification, & sprawl threaten freedom colonies' cultural assets. The Project lead's previous work in Newton & Jasper counties revealed that at-risk place & cultural asset location knowledge are embedded in oral histories. An organized approach to crowdsourcing, recording, storing, & analyzing aging

descendants' memories of freedom colonies & cemetery locations & ways to contact constituencies is needed urgently. The TXFCP Atlas & Study has hosted an interactive public map & survey since July 12, 2018. However, the accompanying website & ArcGIS map (<http://www.thetexasfreedomcoloniesproject.com/>) requires an integrated engagement & cultural resource survey system plan. Focusing on cemetery preservation presents the opportunity to identify, map & store data about cemeteries, which are proxies for freedom colonies. However, the scope is large. According to Texas County Historical Commission reports, on average, 1/3 of cemeteries per county have no stewards. Family members/cemetery associations request assistance from county historical commissions (CHC) to locate unmarked graves & secure maintenance. Unfortunately, CHCs often lack the cultural competencies required to work effectively with freedom colony cemetery stewards. To date, The TXFC Project along has located 357 of the 557 known settlements, frequently by their association with annual cemetery fundraisers & storytelling events. However, several peer cemeteries go unrecorded & unmaintained. Similarly, at least 200+ settlements containing cemeteries are going unmapped. In addition, the current web-mapping platform lacks the capacity to assess cemeteries' conditions in the field. The Plan would provide guidance on "retrofitting" the current Atlas's survey & storytelling functions to accommodate integrated identification, mobile assessment, intake, & referral functions. The Consultant will determine if open source/free software such as the Arches Collector Model which uploads survey data from the field (<https://arches.readthedocs.io/en/latest/using-arches-collector/>) should be integrated into the current web mapping platform. Project survey design, assessment materials, & outreach will reflect the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties by recommending that communities: Identify & inventory all features, materials, spaces, & spatial relationships that define a cemetery's historic character & integrity; Recognize the significance of changes over time as evidence of the history & development of the cemetery; Repair, rather than replace, deteriorated cemetery features when feasible using best practices for cleaning surfaces & maintenance (<https://cemeteryconservatorsunitedstandards.org/standards/>); and Protect & preserve unmarked graves. A detailed Plan will allow processing & spatializing of data (oral histories, photos) enabling mapping of previously unknown co-located communities & cemeteries. The Plan's engagement section will lay the foundation for bringing promising practices embedded in existing networks up to scale. Project products include the comprehensive Plan & assessment forms. This Plan will describe the capacity & technological requirements to detect & record cemeteries in the Atlas while in the field. Technologies considered include ground-penetrating radar for mapping & sinkhole & void detection. All Project Plan development involves freedom colony descendant engagement. The Texas A&M Center for Heritage Conservation, Center for Digital Humanities Research, & the Center for Housing & Urban Development faculty, fellows, & Ph.D. students will work closely with the hired consultants.

Overall Scope of Work

If the grant funded project is part of a larger restoration project, please describe the larger project and how the AACHAF grant funded portion will fit into the larger project.

Grant funding will support a consultant's travel, consultation with experts & materials associated with onsite planning with communities & research on mobile survey & assessment applications development. The geographical scope includes known (35) settlements & their cemeteries in Newton & Jasper counties with an initial focus on Shankleville Community. The Consultant will work with a homecoming celebration network, which cooperatively fundraises for local graveyard stewardship. The consultant will coordinate plan development and test some aspects of the Plan's efficacy. Funding isn't requested for the Texas A&M College of Law Clinic, which will address compliance with preservation, real estate, & intellectual property law. Survey and data processing is also supported by a consortium of knowledge management partners, which will include archivists from TAMU Cushing Library's Texana Collection, Prairie View A&M University, and The African American Library at the Gregory School in Houston.

Project Timetable*

Briefly summarize the schedule/timetable for the portion of the project being considered for funding. Please detail whether current plans or specifications have been completed and whether consultant bids have been received (and if not, detail these needs and anticipated timelines and plans for completing these steps).

2019

August –TAMU procurement timeline established

September-October: Write & Post RFP

November- December: Post FAQs, review applications

2020

January: Select consultant

March-May: Consultant begins data collection, field survey/assessment (tool) testing

June-August: Atlas & tool integration research, testing

September: Stakeholders review draft

October-November: Plan written

December: TAMU receives plan

2021

January-February: Present Plan to stakeholders

June: Report released to the public

Future Plans*

Describe future plans for the project beyond the scope of this grant proposal (e.g., how consultant recommendations will be implemented, how education programs will be institutionalized, how buildings/sites will be used, how you will use planning documents).

The Plan is intended to create a foundation for platforms, research, & engagement strategies for use by not only grassroots preservationists & professionals in Texas, but in other states. Notably, The TXFC Project method focuses on African American social networks, which have been proven to sustain descendants' attachment & commitment to place preservation. Stories & social networks associated w/annual homecomings, heritage festivals, & reunions are the vehicles through which cooperative cemetery maintenance & fundraising is conducted. Similarly, the African American Burial Grounds Network Act requires engaged cemetery preservation, which leverages social

capital embedded in such networks. The goals of the Act are consistent with that of the proposed grant project. For example, both the Act & this proposal support working w/ state, local, & non-profit groups, “educating the public and providing technical assistance for community members... to research, survey, identify, record, and preserve burial sites and cemeteries within the Network.” Like the Act, the Project Plan will articulate ways the Atlas can support participation in a voluntary database of burial grounds detected during surveys of freedom colony cultural resources, provision of technical assistance related to assessment, and increase access to educational materials to descendant communities. The Plan will address ways to capture & aggregate data within existing local networks, which will support the Act’s aims.

Financial Sustainability

If the organization is launching something new (e.g., staff position, organization, educational program, historic site) through this grant, how will your organization make it financially sustainable to continue beyond the grant period? Do you have potential funding sources to continue the work?

The project lead will pursue TAMU & external grant funding. Since the project began, the founder has amassed \$45,000 in grant & internal research funds including \$10,000 Program to Enhance Scholarly, & Creative Activities (PESCA) grant that funded the research assistant who built the Atlas & Survey (<http://bit.ly/txfcpatlastwo>). Other grants being pursued include Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (\$100,000), The NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grant (\$100,000) & the Whiting Fellowship (\$50,000).

Project Budget

The grant project budget pertains to the proposed grant activities. Grants will range from \$50,000-\$150,000.

This grant will be paid in two installments, with the first installment of 50% of the grant paid on the execution of a grant contract with the National Trust. The second installment of 50% of the grant will be paid upon the successful completion of the project and a review of the completed work by the National Trust Grants Office.

Total Project Income*

Please list your total project income here.

0

Total Project Expenses*

Please list your total project expenses here.

75,000

Project Budget*

Please upload your completed budget sheet. You can download a blank budget sheet here. PLEASE NOTE: You must use the budget template linked to above.

NTHP-Grants-Budget_FINAL.xlsx

Expenses*

How were the project expenses determined? Do you have proposals with cost estimates for this work or are they your own projections?

Expenses are based on consultation w/professional archeologists, architectural preservationists, & TAMU digital humanities center staff. The \$75,000 budget funds materials (6,500), equipment (recorders, software, wifi hotspots, cameras, cemetery evaluation tools) (13,625), professional services (40,876), & travel (6,500) needed for onsite tool & instrument testing. Professional services fund the consultant who develops the tools & plan. The balance covers indirect cost requirements.

Cost Estimates

If you have received project proposals with cost estimates, please upload them (as one document) here. If you are unable to upload the document, please email grants@savingplaces.org for assistance.

Additional Funding

Please describe any additional funding that has been secured for this project. While matching funds are not required for this program, projects that are leveraging additional investments (e.g. cash, in-kind, volunteer) are strongly preferred.

I'll leverage unrecovered indirect costs which include equipment, space, & expertise from TAMU & will partner w/ Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP) companies that match every 20 volunteer hours with \$500; & county historical commissions volunteers.

Evidence of any secured funding needed to complete grant project

Evidence of the additional secured funds can be uploaded using the upload box below. This could include grant agreements or MOUs, pledge agreements, copies of checks, etc.

[Unanswered]

Consultants, Contractors, and Partners

Does the project involve any outside partners?*

If yes, please describe the role that partner organizations will play in this project.

Shankleville Historical Society (SHS): The SHS will provide access to their cemeteries and to freedom colony descendants at its annual Purple Hull Pea Festival & Freedom Colony Symposium which will be held at Prairie View University, an HBCU this year. Since 2014, the SHS has hosted the symposium on freedom colony heritage & K-12 history education. They also provide access to their cemeteries.

Texas Historical Commission-Certified Local Government Program will co-host workshops on cemetery preservation allow presentations at meetings with county historical commissions to promote the use of the freedom colony mapping tool.

Council of Texas Archeologists will share access to radar and other equipment & help incorporate cemetery preservation evaluation questions into the Atlas

African American Library at the Gregory School: The Houston library provides meeting space & archival staff

Texas 10 Historical Explorers, will share their experiences engaging in grassroots cemetery preservation.

Has the consultant(s) or contractor(s) been selected?*

If consultants or contractors have not been chosen, please note that, if selected for a grant, you will be required to submit your choice for approval by our grants office before your grant agreement is issued and funds disbursed.

No

Consultant or contractor name/firm (if they have been chosen)

Consultants or Contractors' contact information

Please provide a website address or use the file upload box to attach the chosen consultant's resume/statement of qualification and/or proposal.

Consultants have not yet been selected.

Photographs

Photos*

Please upload at least one, and up to five photos of your project below. JPEG format is preferable. Both historic and high quality contemporary images will be accepted. Photos must include at least one overall view of the property or resource that is the focus of your grant request. Most images should be in a horizontal format.

PLEASE NOTE: WE RECOMMEND YOU SAVE A DRAFT OF YOUR APPLICATION BEFORE YOU UPLOAD PHOTOS. Click the "save as draft" button at the bottom of this page to save.

map_Newton_Jasper_settlements.jpg

Photo 2

Atlas_crowdsource_cemetery.jpg

Photo 3

Shankleville_Homecoming_Cemetery.jpg

Photo 4

Clear Creek Settlement_cemetery.jpg

Photo 5

PinehillCemetery_Jamestown_newton.jpg

Photo Credits

Please upload a document with date, photo credit, and a brief description (one sentence) for each image. Make sure it is clear what information corresponds with what photo.

Photo Credits.docx

Letters of Support

Upload up to three letters of endorsement that express support for the project and/or your organization's ability to carry out the project. Letters of endorsement can be addressed to:

Mr. Brent Leggs
Director, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund
National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave., NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

Letter of Support 1

CLG_Roberts_Support_LW (1).pdf

Letter of Support 2

SHANKLEVILLE_Support Letter Andrea 04232019.pdf

Letter of Support 3

Terracon_CTA_aroberts letter2.pdf

Certification

The undersigned gives to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and its philanthropic partners the absolute and unqualified right to use in whole or in part, in whatever manner they may desire, including (but not limited to) use for publicity, audio-visual presentation, and/or promotion, all photographs and other materials submitted to the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and its philanthropic partners are hereby given permission to make any editorial changes and/or additions to the material referred to in paragraph one above as it may deem necessary or desirable for production purposes. The undersigned hereby guarantees to have on file all individual agreements and signatures from each model (adult, minor with parent or guardian written approval), creator, photographer, and producer needed for this assignment to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Acting as a duly authorized representative of the applicant, I am submitting this request for a African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund grant.

I understand and agree to the terms above*

Yes

Name*

ANDREA R ROBERTS

Title*

Assistant Professor

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- CV_2019v5.1.work_Final.docx
- SHANKLEVILLE_Support Letter Andrea 04232019.pdf
- NTHP-Grants-Budget_FINAL.xlsx
- map_Newton_Jasper_settlements.jpg
- Atlas_crowdsource_cemetery.jpg
- Shankleville_Homecoming_Cemetery.jpg
- Clear Creek Settlement_cemetery.jpg
- PinehillCemetery_Jamestown_newton.jpg
- Photo Credits.docx
- CLG_Roberts_Support_LW (1).pdf
- SHANKLEVILLE_Support Letter Andrea 04232019.pdf
- Terracon_CTA_aroberts letter2.pdf

ANDREA R. ROBERTS, PH.D.

aroberts318@tamu.edu | 3137 TAMU College Station, TX 77843-3137 | 832-465-6829

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Current **Assistant Professor**, Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning,
College of Architecture, Texas A & M University (TAMU)
Associate Director, Center for Housing and Urban Development, TAMU
Fellow, Center for Heritage Conservation, TAMU
Fellow, Institute for Sustainable Communities, TAMU
- 2016-17 **Lecturer**, U.S. Cultural Landscapes and Ethnographic Methods, The University of
Texas at Austin, School of Architecture (UTSOA).
**Emerging Scholar Fellow of Race & Gender in the Built Environment of the
American City**, (UTSOA)
-

EDUCATION

- 2016 **Doctor of Philosophy**, Community & Regional Planning, UTSOA
Specializations: Historic Preservation and Community Development
Doctoral Portfolio, African & African Diaspora Studies, UT
Dissertation: *The Texas Freedom Colony Diaspora: The Role of Foundational Stories in
African American Placemaking & Preservation in Deep East Texas*
- 2006 **Master of Government Administration**
Graduate Certificate, Public Finance
University of Pennsylvania
- 1996 **Bachelor of Arts, Political Science**
Vassar College
-

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2019 Marilyn J. Gittell Activist Scholar Award, Honorable Mention, 49th Urban Affairs
Association Conference, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
Outstanding Instructor Award, TAMU Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban
Planning, College Station
- 2015 Diversity Scholar Award, National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference
Scholarship, Washington, DC
- 2014 Dissertation Workshop Scholarship, ACSP/Harvard University, Boston, MA
- 2008 Leadership Forum Participant, Urban League of Philadelphia
- 2004 U.S. Congressional Unsung Hero Award, Houston, TX
- 2001 U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Best Practice Award,
ACORN Housing Corporation, Houston, TX

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 Center of Digital Humanities Research (CoDHR) Curriculum Grant, TAMU, \$500
Cultural Enrichment and Campus Diversity Grant. TAMU Glasscock Center for Humanities Research. \$500
TAMU T3 Grant Competition Proposal, “Texas Freedom Colony Project Portal, and Community Heritage Collaborative,” \$34,000
- 2017 TAMU PESCA Grant, “Mapping the Unmapped,” \$10,000
TAMU Diversity Matters Seed Grant, “Aggie Cultural Landscapes,” \$4,000.
- 2015–16 Continuing Fellowship, Community & Regional Planning PhD Program, UTSOA
- 2014 David Bruton, Jr. Graduate School Fellowship, UT
- 2012–14 Sustainable Cities Doctoral Initiative Fellowship, UTSOA.
Fifth Street Project, HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)-funded contract for services (study and engagement) with between UTSOA ’s Center for Sustainable Development and Ft. Bend County, TX, \$95,000
- 2011–12 Minority Mentor Graduate Fellowship, UT

RESEARCH & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- 2018 Leader, Black Digital Humanities Working Group, Center for Digital Humanities Research, Texas A&M University
- 2014–Present Founder, Texas Freedom Colonies Project
- 2016–Present Guest Curator/Consultant, Institute of Texan Cultures (ITC), San Antonio, TX
- 2012–14 Founder and Project Manager, Fifth Street Neighborhood Plan & Market Study, UTSOA
- 2011–12 Research Assistant, Austin Historical Survey Wiki Project, UTSOA

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Courses: Planning History & Theory, Neighborhood Revitalization, Critical Place Studies

Areas of Specialization: African American Studies, Diaspora Studies, Community Development, Critical Heritage Studies, Cultural Landscapes/Geography, Historic Preservation, Ethnography, Equity & Inclusion, Participatory Action Research, Grassroots Movements, Public History, Rural Planning, Womanism/Black Feminism

PUBLICATIONS/SCHOLARSHIP

PEER-REVIEWED

Roberts, A. and Kelly, G. “**Engaging Hidden Publics: Co-Planning with Descendants of Historic Black Communities**” *Anticipated Fall 2019*

Roberts, A. (2019) “**Until the Lord Come Get Me, It Burn Down, Or the Next Storm Blow It Away: Principles of Place Preservation in Deep East Texas’ African American Vernacular Landscapes**” *Anticipated Fall 2019*

Roberts, A. A. (2018). **“Performance as place preservation: The role of storytelling in the formation of Shankleville Community's Black counterpublics”** *Journal of Community Archaeology & Heritage*, 5(3), 146-165

Roberts, A. **“Interpretations & Imaginaries: Toward an Instrumental Black Planning History,”** *Planning Theory & Practice*, (2018) 19:2, 254-288

Minner, J., Roberts, A., Holleran, M., & Conrad, J. (2018). **“A Smart City Remembers Its Past: Citizens as Sensors in Survey and Mapping of Historic Places.”** In *New Approaches, Methods, and Tools in Urban E-Planning* (pp. 95-129). IGI Global.

Roberts, A. R. (2017). **“The Farmers’ Improvement Society and the Women’s Barnyard Auxiliary of Texas: African American Community Building in the Progressive Era.”** *Journal of Planning History*, 16(3), 222-245.

Roberts, A. **“What’s Missing from Black Counternarratives to Donald Trump,”** *African American Intellectual History Society-Black Perspectives*, September 26, 2016

Minner, J., Holleran, M., Roberts, A. & Conrad, J. **“Capturing Volunteered Historical Information: Lessons from Development of a Local Government Crowdsourcing Tool.”** *Geospatial Research: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (2016): 319.

Minner, J., Holleran, M., Roberts, A. & Conrad, J. **“Capturing Volunteered Historical Information: Lessons from Development of a Local Government Crowdsourcing Tool.”** *International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR)* 4, no. 1 (2015): 19-41.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (UNDER REVIEW/REVISION)

Roberts, A. **“The End of Bootstraps and Good Masters: Fostering Social Inclusion through Counternarrative Creation”**

Roberts, A & Biazar, M. J. **“Black Placemaking in Texas: Sonic and Social History of Newton and Jasper County Freedom Colonies”**

Roberts, A & Matos, M. **“Liminality as Resiliency: Knowledge Exchange and Spatial Agency in Texas’ Freedom Colonies and Urban Meccas”**

Roberts, A. **“Black Bodies, Difficult Memories: African American Agency and Forgetting in Sugar Land, Texas.”**

Roberts, A., **Count the Outside Children: Kinkeeping as Place Enumeration among Descendants of Texas’ Freedom Colonies**

BOOK REVIEW

Roberts, A. **“Book Review: Black Georgetown remembered: A history of its black community from the founding of “The Town of George” in 1751 to the present day”** *Journal of Planning Literature*, May-03-2017

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Roberts, A., **Never Sell the Land! African American Historic Preservation as Resistance.** Book Manuscript.

PROJECT- TECHNICAL REPORT

Andrea Roberts (2018). **The Texas Freedom Colonies Project Atlas & Study.**

Roberts, A. and Galindo, A., (2014) "***The Fifth Street Neighborhood Plan & Market Study, Final Report.***" Center for Sustainable Development, UTSOA

ESSAYS, OPINION, FEATURE

Andrea Roberts (2018). "**Sugar Land: Treat the mass grave of black prisoners discovered in Texas with respect**" *Newsweek*

Andrea Roberts (2018). "**A city in Texas discovered a mass grave of prison labourers. So what should it do with the bodies?**" *New Statesman: City Metric*

Andrea Roberts (2018). "**A Texas city discovered a mass grave of prison laborers. What should it do with the bodies?**" *The Conversation*

Andrea Roberts (2018). "**Analysis: Why Texas should brace to hear about more mass graves**" *Austin American Statesman*

Andrea Roberts (2018). "**The Mass Grave beneath a Texas Suburb,**" *City Lab*

Brand, A., Brown, Davis, L, Ford, M., Hood, W., Lopez, S., **Roberts, A.**, Robles Jr., J. "**Conversation 030317,**" (2017) *Platform: Convergent Voices, A Journal of the UT Austin School of Architecture*, Ed. Nichole Wiedemann and Charlton Lewis, November 2017.

Roberts, A. "**When Does It Become Social Justice? Thoughts on Intersectional Preservation Practice**" (2017) *Preservation Leadership Forum Blog*, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Roberts, A. "**Documenting and Preserving Texas Freedom Colonies**" (2017) *Texas Heritage Magazine*. Texas Historical Foundation, Austin, TX. Vol. 2, 2017

Roberts, A. "**Homeplace: Identity, Place, and Planning**" **Reading List.** *Places Journal* <https://placesjournal.org/>, April 2017

Brand, A., & Roberts, A. "**Commentary: Better Communities Require Better-Educated Planners.**" *Austin American-Statesman*. Austin, Texas, October 25, 2016.

CREATIVE NON-FICTION

Andrea Roberts (2018). "**Arrivals: 1930, 1964**" from *What's the New News*, Issue 1, NotThatButThis.com

Andrea Roberts (2018). "**The Poetics of Black Imagination**" from *What's the New News*, Issue 2, NotThatButThis.com

Roberts, A. "**Portals to Freedom, or Researching in Limbo Time,**" *Platform: Convergent Voices, A Journal of the UT Austin School of Architecture*, Ed. Nichole Wiedemann and Charlton Lewis, November 2017.

Andrea Roberts (2017). "**Old Developments: Sovereign Spaces Reclaimed,**" NotThatButThis.com

Andrea Roberts (2015). "**Sacred Forest, Piney Veil: Black Landscapes of Deep Texas,**" NotThatButThis.com

Andrea Roberts (2015). "**Critical Sankofa Planning-Mobilizing Texas Freedom Colony Memories,**" NotThatButThis.com

Andrea Roberts. (2009) **“An Epistle to the Revolutionary Bible,”** from Medina, T., & Rivera, L. R. (Eds.). *Bum rush the page: A def poetry jam*. Broadway Books.

PRESS

“School district found remains of 95 black forced-labor prisoners on a construction site and want them moved,” *The Washington Post*, Quoted. October 25, 2018

“Texas A&M University Project Will Document Freedom Colonies throughout Texas,” *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, October 24, 2018

“Texas A&M Professor Documenting Historic Black Settlements in Texas,” *Texas A&M University Today*, October 8, 2018

“Gonzales moving forward on Freedom Colonies Project,” *Gonzales Inquirer*, August 9, 2018

Collins, Courtney. **“How Natural Disasters Challenge Communities Of Color (KERA-Dallas).”** *One Crisis Away: After the Flood*. December 21, 2017.

Feldman, Nina. **“Confronting Urban Design’s Diversity Crisis with a Return to Black Places.”** *Next City*. April 17, 2017.

Joseph, Cheryl and Mankad, Raj, Rice Design Alliance. **“When 'historic' doesn't mean 'white 'In Houston and elsewhere, a movement grows to preserve a wider range of places.”** *Houston Chronicle*. December 16, 2016

Mattioli, Guglielmo. **“UT Austin Urban Planning Initiative Explores Race and Gender.”** *Metropolis Magazine*. October 3, 2016

EDITORIAL & JOURNAL POSITIONS

2018	Peer Reviewer, <i>Planning Theory and Practice</i>
	Peer Reviewer, <i>Landscape and Urban Planning</i>
	Peer Reviewer, <i>eJournal of Public Affairs</i>
2016	Peer Reviewer, <i>Journal of Critical Race Inquiry</i>
2014	Editor, <i>Journal of Black Business History</i> , UT Department of History

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, & LECTURES

2019	“Curating Freedom Colonies: Making Texas’ Unmapped Black Settlements Visible to Planners & Preservationists” Council of Texas Archeologists Spring Meeting, Austin, Texas
	“Curating Freedom Colonies: Making Texas’ Unmapped Black Settlements Visible to Planners & Preservationists” Mapping Black Towns Symposium, UNC-Chapel Hill
	“Critical Places: Increasing Visibility & Voice through Research,” Panel, 2019 Race, Identity & Social Equity Conference, Texas A&M University
	“Curating Freedom: Making Hidden Black Publics Visible with Descendant Communities” Sara Shallenberger Brown lecture, Center for Cultural Landscapes, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

2018

“Bootstraps, Old Wives Tales, and Good Masters: Implications of Disremembered Black Agency in Texas’ Public History” Preservation + Social Inclusion Symposium- Columbia University, World Monument Fund Offices, NY, NY

“More Than an Institution: HBCUs & Placemaking in Black Settlements”

HBCU/HBTSA Summit, Zora Neale Hurston Festival, Eatonville, FL

People of Color Interest Group Roundtable: 50 years Later - Reflecting on 1968,

Panelist, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Annual Conference, Buffalo, NY

“Everyone Has a Story: The Role of Oral Tradition among Grassroots Preservationists in Texas’ Historic African American Settlements,” Panelist. Oral History Association Conference, Montreal, CA

“Outreach Methods to Build an Effective, More Diverse Organization, Texas Historical Commission - CLG Workshop, Gonzales, TX.

“Until the Lord Come Get Me, It Burn Down, or the Next Storm Blow it Away:” Principles of Place Preservation in Deep East Texas’ African American Vernacular Landscapes” Panelist, Rural Women’s Studies Association, Panelist

“Harvey Recovery Oral History Workshop,” Jones Futures Academy, TAMU Texas Target Communities, Lead Trainer

Looking for the ‘Black Fantastic’ in Diasporic Geographies and the Literary Imagination” 2018 Black Communities Conference Roundtable, Durham, NC

“The Power of Stories: Leveraging Heritage to Preserve Historic Black Settlements,” Panelist, 2018 Black Communities Conference Session, Durham, NC

“Black Places Matter! Grassroots Solutions to Preserving Our Communities.” Lecture, University of Houston, Center for Public History Lecture Series, The African American Library at the Gregory School

“Black Places Matter! Grassroots Solutions to Preserving Our Communities.” Houston African American Genealogy Group, Clayton Genealogy Center, Houston Public Library, Guest Lecture

Andrea Roberts and Brent Fortenberry, **“The Brazos Valley Manifesto: What’s Next for Preservation of African-American Places in Texas?”** Co-Presenters, Center for Heritage Conservation’s (CHC) 19th Annual Historic Preservation Symposium, Texas A&M University

Andrea Roberts and Donna Carter **“A Conversation: Seeking Praxis when Preserving African-American Places,”** Co-Presenters, Center for Heritage Conservation’s 19th Annual Historic Preservation Symposium, Texas A&M University

“The Homeplace Aesthetic: Finding Black Pasts and Seeking Black Futures in Bottom Land,” Lecture, Art League Houston, Co-presenter with Nathaniel Donnett’s exhibition ‘In One Form or Another; Verse One,’

“Hacking Heritage: Lessons Learned from Grassroots Preservationists,” Real Places Conference, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, TX

- 2017
- “Roberts, A., Cook, W., and Conti, K. **“When The Archive is ‘Woke!’ Ethnographic Methodologies That Bring Collections and Cultural Landscapes to Life,”** Real Places Conference, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, TX, January 10
- “Preservation Practice and Possibilities in Texas’ Freedom Colonies,”** David Dillon Symposium: Equity + Freedom's Footprint in Dallas Freedman's Towns, Keynote Speaker, University of Texas-Arlington, Event at Paul Quinn College, Dallas, TX.
- “The Homeplace Aesthetic: Principles of Place Preservation in Deep East Texas’ Vernacular African American Landscapes,”** Natural, Built, Virtual Research Symposium, College of Architecture, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.
- “Planning the Twentieth Century American City: A Cross-Generational Conversation on Next Directions”** Panelist, 17th Annual Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH) Conference, Cleveland, OH.
- “The Homeplace Aesthetic: Principles of Place Preservation in Deep East Texas's Vernacular African American Landscape”** Panelist, ACSP Annual Conference, Denver, CO.
- “The Homeplace Aesthetic: Principles of Place Preservation in Deep East Texas's Vernacular African American Landscape”** Cornell University Colloquium Lecture. Cornell University, NY.
- “Texas Freedom Colony Day.”** Lecture and Panel Organizer. Institute of Texan Cultures, UTSA, San Antonio, TX.
- “Exploring Texas Freedom Colonies: Training for Texas History Educators”** Texas Freedom Colony Symposium, Newton, TX.
- “The Homeplace Aesthetic: The Homeplace Aesthetic: African American Principles of Place Preservation in Deep East Texas’ Vernacular Landscapes.”** Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference, Salt Lake City, UT..
- 2016
- “Power Session: Exploring Texas Freedom Colonies.”** Presenter, PastForward, National Trust of Historic Preservation Conference, Houston, TX
- “Preservation Leadership Training: Issues in Preservation Law.”** Presenter, PastForward, National Trust of Historic Preservation Conference, Houston, TX
- “Kinkeepers, Cultural Workers, and Asset Builders: Identifying and Translating Insurgent Planning Practice.”** Panelist, ACSP Annual Conference, Portland, OR
- “Goldsmith Talks: Toward an Inclusive City.”** Panelist, Roundtable on Race, Gender, and LGBTQI Issues in the Built Environment, UTSOA
- “Texas Freedom Colonies: Research, Preservation, & Innovation.”** Discussant & Panelist, Preservation Texas State Summit, Austin, TX
- 2015
- “The Texas Freedom Colony Diaspora: The Role of Foundational Stories in African American Placemaking & Preservation in Deep East Texas.”** Panelist, ACSP Annual Conference, Houston, TX
- “Texas Freedom Colonies.”** Discussant & Panelist, American Planning Association Conference (Texas Chapter), Galveston, TX
- “Planning for Diverse Communities.”** Panelist, American Planning Association Conference (Texas Chapter), Galveston, TX

- 2014 **“Freedom Colonies: Action, Research, and Memory.”** Guest Lecturer, Community Engagement and Public Interest Design Course, UTSOA
- 2014 **“Houston Freedom Colony Diaspora: Grassroots African American Planning & Preservation,”** Panelist, Houston History Alliance Conference, Houston, TX
- 2014 **“Equity, Heritage, & Planning in Unincorporated Communities.”** Presenter, Institute for Urban Policy & Research Analysis, UT African and African Diaspora Studies Department
- 2014 **“Knowledge Production, Identity, and Planning in Texas’ Freedom Colonies.”** Discussant and Panelist, ACSP Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- 2013 **“Diaspora, Dispossession, and New Collectivities in Texas’ Freedom Colonies.”** Panelist, UT African Diasporas: Old & New Conference, Austin, TX
- 2013 **“Memory to Movement: Mobilizing Memory to Spur Community Development.”** Panelist, Biennial Collegium for African American Research, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA
- 2012 **“Black Bodies, Difficult Memories: An Exploration of African American Human & Spatial Agency in Ft. Bend County, Texas.”** Panelist, Association of Critical Heritage Studies Conference, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

ADVISING & MENTORING (Texas A&M University)

- 2018 **Faculty Mentor**, Academy for Future Faculty, Joy Semien, Urban & Regional Science Doctoral Student
- Faculty Mentor**, Academy for Future Faculty Melina Matos, Urban & Regional Science Doctoral Student
- Co-Chair**, MJ Biazar, Masters, Urban Planning Professional Report
- Chair**, Felicity Owens, Masters, Urban Planning Professional Report
- Chair**, Michael Gerke, Masters, Urban Planning Professional Report
- Committee Member**, Chandler Wilkins, Masters, Urban Planning Professional Report
- Committee Member**, Shelby Dittrich, Masters, Architecture Portfolio
- Committee Member**, Clare Losey, Doctoral Student, Urban & Regional Sciences
- Committee Member**, Joy Semien, Doctoral Student, Urban & Regional Sciences
- 2017-18 **Chair**, Karan Patel, Masters, Urban Planning Professional Report
- Chair**, Madeline Hunter, Masters, Urban Planning Professional Report
- 2016-17 **Advisee/Reader**, Kelsey Riddle, Historic Preservation Master’s Thesis, UTSOA

ASSISTANT TEACHING- THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

- 2015 Department of Geography, Urban Studies Research Methods, Undergraduate.
The Modern American City, Department of Geography, Undergraduate.
- 2014 Planning History & Theory, Community & Regional Planning Program, Graduate.
- 2012 Principles of Physical Planning, Architecture, Undergraduate

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE- COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

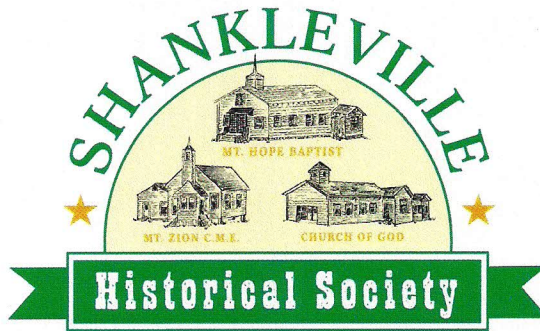
- 2008-11 **Planning Division Coordinator/Administrative Coordinator**, City of Houston, Housing & Community Development Department.
Senior Staff Analyst, City of Houston Economic Development Division, Finance Department.
- 2006-08 **Deputy Budget Director, Program Evaluation**, City of Philadelphia, Finance Department.
Program Analyst, City of Philadelphia Program Evaluation, Finance Department.
- 2006 **Strategic Consultant**, Public Financial Management Group, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2004-06 **Operations Analyst**, Philadelphia Workforce Development Corp., Philadelphia, PA.
- 2002-04 **Director**, Outreach & Volunteer Services, Houston READ Commission, TX.

ACADEMIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2017- present **TAMU LAUP Departmental Committee Member**: Guest Lecture Series, Department Planning & Masters Applicant Review
Founder/Administrator, “Is a PhD or Me?” Online resource & support group for nontraditional PhD applicants, students, and scholars
Member, Preservation Texas
- 2017-19 **Secretary**, Faculty Women’s Interest Group (FWIG), Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)
- 2014 **Board of Editors**, Journal of Black Business History, Department of History (UT)
- 2012-15 **Commissioner**, City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission
- 2012-13 **Community & Regional Planning PhD Program Curriculum Committee**, UTSOA
Co-Coordinator, Annual Austin Jane Jacobs Walk Preservation Tour
- 2006 -08 **Board Member**, Calvary Center for Culture and Community, Philadelphia, PA
- 1994-96 **Women's Studies Major Committee**, Vassar College
- 1994 **Ford Foundation Global Feminisms Curriculum Committee**, Vassar College

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- Current Secretary, Faculty Women’s Interest Group, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning
American Planning Association
Society for American City & Regional Planning History
Vernacular Architecture Forum
Association of Black Women Historians
Memory Studies Association
Vassar College Alumnae Association



April 23, 2019

Mr. Brent Leggs
Director, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund
National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Leggs:


It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the proposal "**The Freedom Colony Descendant Virtual Resource Center Planning Project**" being submitted to the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund National Trust for Historic Preservation by Dr. Andrea Roberts, leader of the Texas Freedom Colonies Project at Texas A&M University.

I have been familiar with Dr. Roberts' work, since 2014, when we met as she was conducting her doctoral research on grassroots preservation and social networks in Jasper and Newton Counties. Our association with Dr. Roberts has continued, and our work with her has enabled us to collaborate with descendants in other freedom colonies on fundraisers and youth enrichment programming, draw additional media attention to our community's unique origin story, and enhanced our overall programming as a historical society. Further, she has helped co-plan an annual symposium and participated in several of our Homecomings and our annual Texas Purple Hull Pea Festival in our home community of Shankleville in Newton County.

Having additional support for locating and preserving freedom colony locations and cemeteries is vital to our mission of honoring our founders – Winnie and Jim Shankle. The cemetery where they are interred is in need of an assessment and preservation plan. Having a mobile survey tool to record stories and assess the state of our historic cemeteries is needed, as is a centralized data and an information clearinghouse to provide technical support for our ongoing efforts to preserve our freedom colony heritage and sacred sites.

In conclusion, I fully support Dr. Roberts' efforts as she seeks external funding to support building the capacity of freedom colonies to record, evaluate, and implement preservation strategies in our communities.

Sincerely,


Lareatha H. Clay,
Business Manager

National Trust Grant Request Budget Sheet

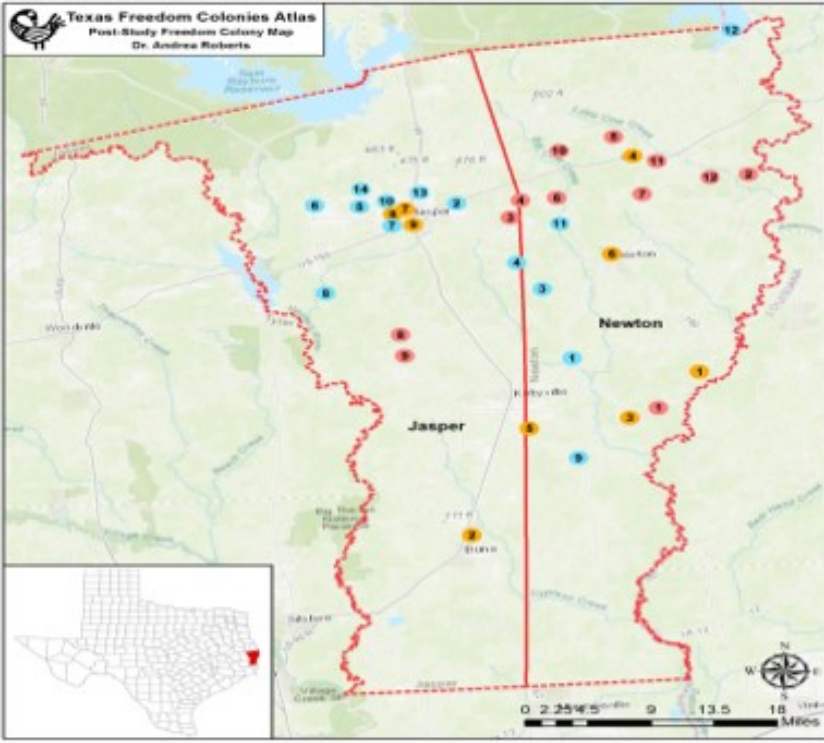
ORGANIZATION NAME: Texas A&M University

PROJECT NAME: TX Freedom Colonies Project: A Plan to Preserve Endangered Historic Black Settlements & Cemeteries

DATE: 1-May-19

Instructions: Enter descriptions and amounts in the appropriate columns. For "Help," click on a cell with a red triangle in the corner.

INCOME			EXPENSES		
Source of Income	Please Specify if the funds are Secured or Anticipated	Amount	Grant Amount Requested from NTHP	Detailed Expenses	Amount
Grant amount requested from NTHP			\$ 75,000.00	Materials and Supplies (printing, meeting materials)	\$ 6,500.00
Income from other sources				Equipment (recorders, software, digital cameras, cemetery evaluation tool)	\$ 13,625.00
		\$ -		Professional Services (Consultant)	\$ 40,876.00
		\$ -		Travel - Domestic	\$ 6,500.00
		\$ -		Indirect Costs	\$ 7,499.00
		\$ -			\$ -
		\$ -			\$ -
		\$ -			\$ -
		\$ -			\$ -
		\$ -			\$ -
		\$ -			\$ -
		\$ -			\$ -
Amount requested from National Trust for Historic Preservation			\$ 75,000.00		
Total Income from Other Sources			\$ -		
Total Project Income (must equal your project expenses)			\$ 75,000.00	Total Project Expenses (must equal project income)	\$ 75,000.00



Pre-Study

- 1 Biloxi Settlement
- 2 Cedar Grove
- 3 Holly Springs
- 4 Huff Creek
- 5 Indian Hill
- 6 Jamestown
- 7 Liberty
- 8 Magnolia Springs
- 9 Mount Union
- 10 Pleasant Hill
- 11 Shankleville
- 12 St John Community
- 13 Galloway *
- 14 Prairie View *

New

- 1 Alfred Settlement (Beakwood)
- 2 Blackland Community
- 3 Bull Run
- 4 Clear Creek Community
- 5 Curtis Community
- 6 Dixie Community
- 7 Gilgai Settlement
- 8 Oakhill Settlement
- 9 Old Field
- 10 Rock Hill Settlement
- 11 Sharpeville
- 12 Toledo Bend (Scott Settlement)
- 13 Traylor Settlement
- 14 Westlake

Black Pockets

- 1 Belgrade
- 2 Bessmay
- 3 Bon Wier
- 4 Brookville
- 5 Call
- 6 Kerr Settlement
- 7 North Quarter
- 8 Prospect Community
- 9 South Quarter

--- County Boundary

ABC County Name

* These Freedom Colonies were in the pre-study list but they could not be located.

Map by M.J. Biazar, February 2018
 Based on map originally designed by Andrea Christina Wirsching
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Texas Statewide Mapping System



Welcome to the Texas Freedom Colonies Project Atlas (2.0)

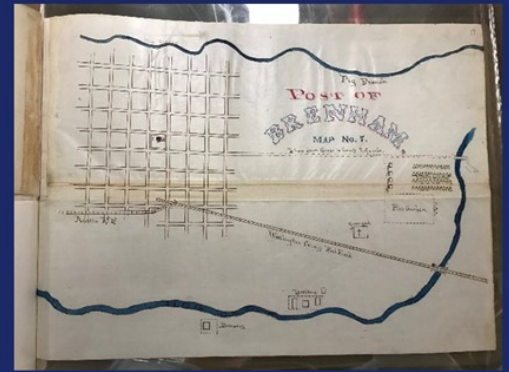
Scroll down to learn how to use the Atlas.

My great great great grandfather Charles Stevenson born in 1825 and great great great grandmother Harriet Glasco Stevenson founded Stevenson Colony.

**Stevenson Colony,
Wilson County**

"Starting with the cemetery for names and working with digital newspaper archives, a working history of the community is beginning to emerge."

**Camptown,
Washington County**







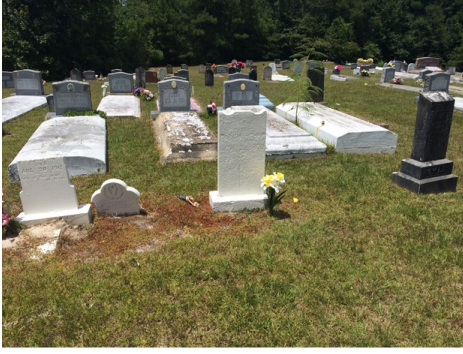


Photo Credits

File: Clear Creek Settlement _cemetery. July 2015, Clear Creek Settlement, photographed by Andrea Roberts. Freedom colony descendant Herman Wright leads walking tour and points to gravesites in unpopulated freedom colony in Jasper County.

File: Shankleville_Homecoming_Cemetery. August 2014, photographed by Andrea Roberts. Shankleville Community founded by runaway slave Jim Shankle and his wife Winnie Shankle, holds annual homecoming to commemorate founders and fundraise for cemetery preservation along with homecoming presidents from 5 other freedom colonies who attend.

File: PinehillCemetery_Jamestown_newton. July 2015. photographed by Andrea Roberts. Jamestown Cemetery commemorates founding of Jamestown through song and collects donations for maintenance from attendees living around the country, but who call Jamestown “home.”

File:Map_Newton_Jasper_settlements. By Andrea Roberts and Christina Wirsching in April 2016, revised February 2018 by MJ Biazar. The map reflects the number of settlements identified through oral history interviews, archival research, and geotagging of collected data during field research the project lead conduted 2014-2016 in Newton and Jasper County, Texas.

File: Atlas_Crowdsource_Cemetery. By Andrea Roberts. The Texas Freedom Colonies Atlas contains data from publically available sources, ethnographic and archival research, as well as that crowdsourced from visitors to the website, including descendants from Camptown and Stevenson Colonies.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

April 24, 2019

Mr. Brent Leggs
Director, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund National
Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave., NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Leggs:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of Dr. Andrea Roberts and her work as leader of the Texas Freedom Colonies Project at Texas A&M University as she submits a proposal for “**The Freedom Colony Descendant Virtual Resource Center Planning Project**” to the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Since first hearing Dr. Roberts speak about the Texas Freedom Colonies Project in 2017 and subsequently working with her, we have been continually impressed by her dedication to projects such as her research on grassroots preservation and social networks in Jasper and Newton Counties. Our Certified Local Government (CLG) program has also called upon her expertise to support our training program for local city and county officials and historical commissions. Her trainings expose attendees to her Texas Freedom Colonies Atlas, ways they can integrate freedom colonies into their surveying efforts, and strategies for addressing implicit bias. Our association with Dr. Roberts has continued through planned trainings for the current year as her professionalism, knowledge and message about Texas freedom colonies has inspired our CLG communities to expand their preservation efforts.

The Texas Historical Commission has identified the survey and preservation of cultural landscapes, such as cemeteries, as a goal in our Texas Statewide Preservation Plan. This goal is supported by Dr. Roberts’ existing work and her proposal for creating a tool for communities to locate and preserve freedom colony locations and cemeteries.

In conclusion, we fully support Dr. Roberts’ efforts as she seeks external funding to support building the capacity of freedom colonies to record, evaluate, and implement preservation strategies in our communities.

Sincerely,



Lorelei K. Willett
Certified Local Government Coordinator





April 23, 2019

Mr. Brent Leggs
Director, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund
National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

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In conclusion, I fully support Dr. Roberts' efforts as she seeks external funding to support building the capacity of freedom colonies to record, evaluate, and implement preservation strategies in our communities.

Sincerely,


Lareatha H. Clay,
Business Manager

April 23, 2019

Mr. Brent Leggs
Director, African American Cultural Heritage Action
Fund National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave., NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Leggs:

It is my deepest pleasure write a letter in support of the proposal "**The Freedom Colony Descendant Virtual Resource Center Planning Project**" being submitted to the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, National Trust for Historic Preservation by Dr. Andrea Roberts, leader of the Texas Freedom Colonies Project at Texas A&M University.

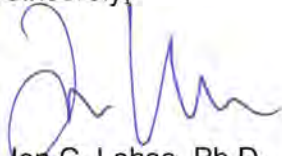
Dr. Roberts' work intersects my professional life in two ways. I am the Group Manager for Natural and Cultural Resources for Terracon's Houston, TX office. I also serve as the President of the statewide association of professional archeologists, an organization called the Council of Texas Archeologists. In our office, we have adopted Dr. Roberts' Atlas as an additional layer of information that we make use of when evaluating (on a client's behalf) parcels of land within the state of Texas that may be developed. These so-called Desktop Assessments are a valuable consulting tool that can help project owners and sponsors understand the known or probable Cultural Resource issues or risks associated with any given project. The Freedom Colony Atlas is a vital tool, in our opinion, for helping raise awareness of, and thereby afford protection to, "at-risk" sites that are commonly unrecorded, poorly understood, and/or under-appreciated in our industry. As President of the CTA, over the last year I have worked to bring awareness to our members of Dr. Roberts work. Her ongoing research into Freedom Colonies is probably the best current example of the potential for positive impact that multi-disciplinary work can have on archeological sites and our professional practices. Because our shared goal is to recognize vulnerable resources before they are encountered and forever impacted by development, her Atlas could conceivably help dozens or hundreds of vulnerable sites before they are impacted by development. At our Spring meeting in Austin on April 6, we invited Dr. Roberts to talk to our members about her work. Her talk was very well received, and one of our members who has developed a "Lost Cemeteries Task Force" to find and record previously unrecorded cemeteries, has included Dr. Roberts as a member of this working group. I am confident that this newly forged working relationship will return significant benefits for years into the future.

Regarding to my role as CTA President, our organization is based in Austin, Texas. Having additional support for locating and preserving freedom colony locations and cemeteries is vital to our mission as professionals. However, over the years we have found that reaching *all* grassroots groups in need across the state is a challenge. Having a mobile survey tool to record stories and assess the state of our historic cemeteries, a centralized data repository, and an information

clearinghouse will provide much needed technical support for our ongoing efforts to preserve historic sites through responsible surveying and reporting in partnership with descendant communities.

In my professional capacity, her Atlas tool is among the most important resources we make use of in our Desktop Assessments. As President of the CTA, I am even more pleased to see her work bring so much benefit to these important resources. In conclusion, I fully and enthusiastically support Dr. Roberts' efforts as she seeks external funding to support building the capacity of freedom colonies and their supporters to record, evaluate, and implement preservation strategies in their communities. Texas needs more projects like this, and we all should do everything we can to support and encourage this research.

Sincerely,



Jon C. Lohse, Ph.D.
Group Manager, Natural/Cultural Resources
Houston