

AUSTIN, TEXAS • EST. 1851



STORIES FROM THE SKY NO. 1 / LIVING HISTORY

Texas State Cemetery

DRONE DETAIL + MAP CONTEXT

AIVE ATLAS GEO

FROM FLIGHT TO MAP

History lives here. The landscape keeps changing.

A drone captures the detail. AIVE Atlas Geo places it on the map. Explore eight stories, and see how a flight becomes useful geographic context.

909 NAVASOTA ST • AUSTIN, TX 78702

OPEN DAILY 8 A.M.-5 P.M.

CEMETERY.TEXAS.GOV

A new view of living history

I came for the history, then flew the grounds to see how the stories fit together. The aerial map in this guide combines that flight with georeferencing by **AIVE Atlas Geo in QGIS**. The flight supplies the scene; Atlas Geo supplies its geographic placement. That makes the imagery useful alongside basemaps and other GIS layers. A later flight, dated layers and checked alignment can help us investigate what has changed.

THE DRONE CAPTURED THE DETAIL. ATLAS GEO GAVE IT A PLACE ON THE MAP.



A / THE MAIN GATEWAY ON NAVASOTA ST



B / THE ROSE GATE ON E 11TH ST

A Main Entrance & Visitor Center

909 NAVASOTA ST / WEST SIDE

Enter through the limestone gateway. The Visitor Center holds an exhibit gallery. Accessible parking is available here; street meters are another option.

B The Rose Gate

E 11TH ST / NORTH SIDE

State Highway 165 enters under a row of flags. Walk straight in about 500 feet for Chris Kyle's grave, on the right.

C Comal Street Entrance

COMAL ST / EAST SIDE

Highway 165 turns onto Comal here. The widened stretch of road is close to Crescent Pond, its memorials and Confederate Field.

P South Cul-de-sac

INSIDE THE GROUNDS / SOUTH END

The loop at the south end is a short walk from Republic Hill. Park only in designated areas and drive at 10 mph.

PUBLIC BASEMAP

Regional context. Check the imagery date to know when the scene was captured.

A NEW FLIGHT + ATLAS GEO

Local detail from the flight, registered for use with maps and other GIS layers.

HOURS

Daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

ADDRESS

909 Navasota St
Austin, TX 78702

GUIDED TOURS

By appointment
Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

ONLINE

cemetery.texas.gov
Official plot locator

DRONE MAP

The Grounds from Above

*Drone flight + Atlas Geo registration in QGIS.
Explore; revisit.*

GRAVES & MEMORIALS

- 1 Stephen F. Austin
- 2 Barbara Jordan
- 3 Darrell K Royal
- 4 Chris Kyle
- 5 Cernan & Cunningham
- 6 September 11 Monument
- 7 Medal of Honor Memorial
- 8 World War II Monument

ENTRANCES & PARKING

- A Visitor Center (main)
 - B Rose Gate, E 11th St
 - C Comal St entrance
 - P South cul-de-sac parking
- State Hwy 165, 10 mph



ATLAS GEO: FROM FLIGHT TO MAP

Drone detail, registered to geographic coordinates for use with basemaps and other GIS layers.



≈ 50 M / 165 FT

Orthomosaic from my drone photos. Pins approximate.

Page 3

Republic Hill & Statesman's Meadow

Aerial insets connect each landmark to paths, lawn and tree cover.

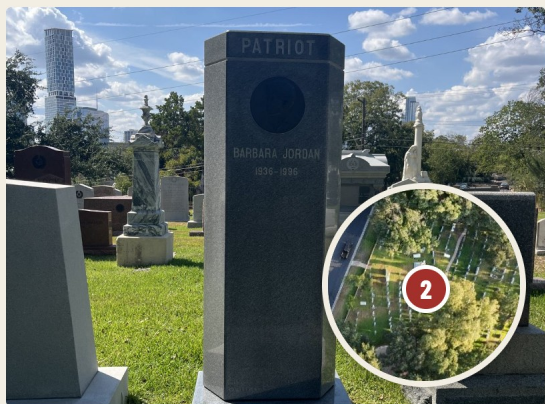


1 • REPUBLIC HILL • SECTION 1, ROW L

Stephen F. Austin 1793-1836

The “Father of Texas” brought the first 300 Anglo-American families to Texas in 1821, then spent fifteen years building the colony that became a republic, serving as its first Secretary of State. He died at 43 in 1836 and was reburied here in 1910 beneath Pompeo Coppini's bronze.

FIND IT • The bronze statue under the big oak. Barbara Jordan's column stands a few steps behind it.



2 • REPUBLIC HILL • SECTION 1, ROW N

Barbara Jordan 1936-1996

The first Black woman in the Texas Senate and the first Black woman from the South elected to Congress, Jordan became a national voice during the 1974 Watergate hearings and keynoted the 1976 Democratic National Convention. She later taught at the University of Texas.

FIND IT • The dark granite column crowned “Patriot,” just northeast of Austin's statue.



3 • STATESMAN'S MEADOW • SECTION 2, ROW B

Darrell K Royal 1924-2012

Head football coach at the University of Texas from 1957 to 1976, Royal won three national championships and eleven Southwest Conference titles and never had a losing season. The Longhorns' stadium has carried his name since 1996. He shares a red granite marker with his wife, Edith.

FIND IT • East of the white caretaker's cottage, near Hall of Famer Willie Wells.



4 • STATESMAN'S MEADOW • SECTION 2, ROW A

Chris Kyle 1974-2013

A Navy SEAL who served four combat tours in Iraq, Kyle earned two Silver Stars and five Bronze Stars with Valor and wrote the bestselling memoir *American Sniper*. He was killed in 2013, at 38. The black granite family stone bears his portrait in bronze and the words “God, Country, Family.”

FIND IT • About 500 feet in from the Rose Gate on E 11th St, on the right.

Monument Hill & the Memorials

Aerial insets put each monument in context: paths, pond edges and open ground.



5 • MONUMENT HILL • SECTION 3

Cernan & Cunningham 1934-2017 • 1932-2023

Two Apollo astronauts rest side by side. Eugene Cernan flew Gemini 9 and Apollo 10, then commanded Apollo 17 in 1972 — the last person to walk on the Moon. Walter Cunningham, a Marine fighter pilot, flew Apollo 7, the first crewed Apollo flight, in 1968.

FIND IT • The ring of stone around an old oak at the top of Monument Hill, facing downtown.



6 • MEMORIAL • FOOT OF MONUMENT HILL

September 11 Monument 2003

Dedicated on September 11, 2003, the monument sets steel from the World Trade Center inside a curved granite wall carrying a timeline of the day. Its inscription honors the Texans who died in the attacks and the Texans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom.

FIND IT • Just north of Crescent Pond, under the oaks at the foot of Monument Hill.



7 • MEMORIAL • BESIDE CRESCENT POND

Medal of Honor Memorial 1999

Dedicated May 31, 1999, this 13-foot obelisk of red granite from Fredericksburg honors Medal of Honor recipients who were born in Texas, entered service here, or earned the medal in action in Texas. Plots at the site are reserved for recipients and their spouses.

FIND IT • The red obelisk on a flagstone circle, by the footbridge over the pond.



8 • MEMORIAL • SOUTH END OF CRESCENT POND

World War II Monument 2005

Dedicated on Veterans Day 2005, this Ebony Mist granite monument honors every Texan who served in the war. A timeline of U.S. events runs between bronze plaques for Victory in Europe and Victory over Japan. The Purple Heart, Vietnam and Gold Star Mothers memorials stand close by.

FIND IT • Under a magnolia near the south end of Crescent Pond.

The drone sees the scene.

Atlas Geo puts it on the map.

A photograph tells you what is there. Registration gives the imagery geographic placement, so that same view can be used with basemaps and other GIS layers. **Atlas Geo automates that placement in QGIS.**

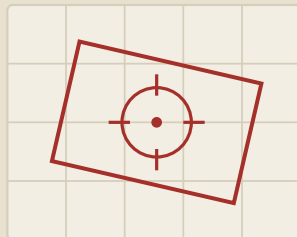
1 / CAPTURE



AERIAL IMAGERY

Choose when to fly. Aerial images record the scene and the detail visible on that date.

2 / REGISTER



MATCH TO A REFERENCE

Atlas Geo aligns aerial imagery to a reference map, reducing manual control point placement.

3 / USE IN QGIS



USE WITH GIS LAYERS

Bring the registered result into QGIS to use with basemaps, existing records and other GIS layers.

Illustrated workflow. The map crop is from page 3; the diagrams are schematic.

THREE PARTS OF A USEFUL MAP

A basemap

Regional context, reference geography and a scene with its own imagery date.

A drone flight

A local view captured when you choose to fly, with the detail available in those images.

Atlas Geo

Automatic geographic placement, making that imagery useful alongside other map layers.

A fresh scene, connected to geographic context.

Explore AIVE Atlas Geo at aivesystems.com

The same grounds. Read at a different scale.

We compared the drone mosaic on page 3 with an archived WorldView-2 satellite scene captured on **January 21, 2022**. These are visible differences. A newer public aerial view appears on page 9.

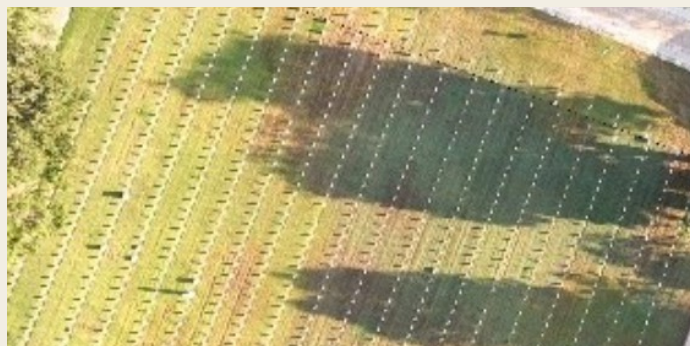
MEMORIAL MARKERS / CONFEDERATE FIELD

Individual stones become distinguishable.

SATELLITE / JAN 21, 2022



DRONE MOSAIC / PAGE 3

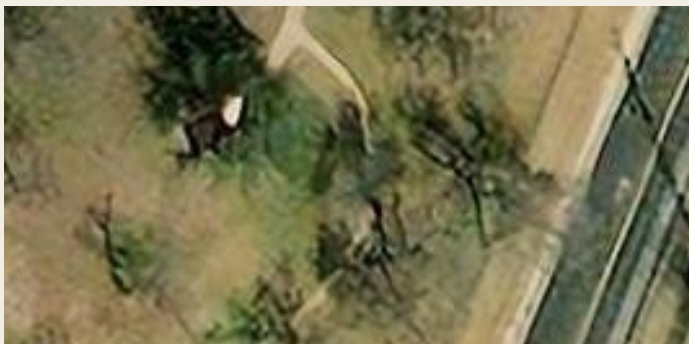


In the satellite scene, marker rows blend into pale stripes. In the drone view, many individual headstones and their shadows separate from the grass. That makes the field easier to inspect and inventory. These crops do not identify which stones are new; page 9 adds a documented burial as a real time reference.

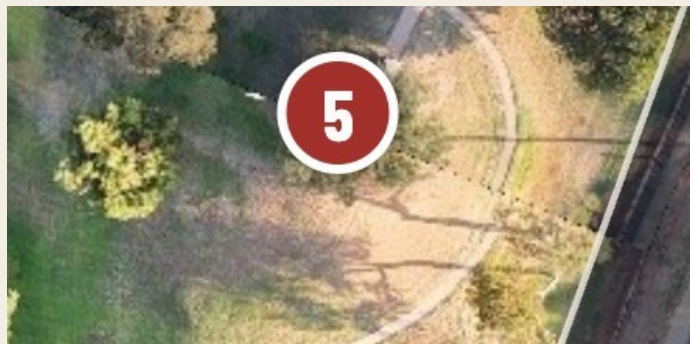
TURF & GROUNDS / MONUMENT HILL, NEAR STOP 5

Grass color and shadow patterns differ.

SATELLITE / JAN 21, 2022



DRONE MOSAIC / PAGE 3



The 2022 scene has broad, muted tan areas beside the curved path. The drone view shows stronger green and yellow-brown patches, crossed by long tree shadows. This locates areas for a closer grounds check. Season, light and watering can change this appearance; the pair does not establish reseeding or an irrigation leak.

Tree cover and paths: what the views reveal.

Some differences affect how much ground we can see. Other features remain recognizable in both images. **Registration in GIS gives those observations a shared geographic context.**

CANOPY & CLEARANCES / REPUBLIC HILL

Fuller foliage changes ground visibility.

SATELLITE / JAN 21, 2022



DRONE MOSAIC / PAGE 3

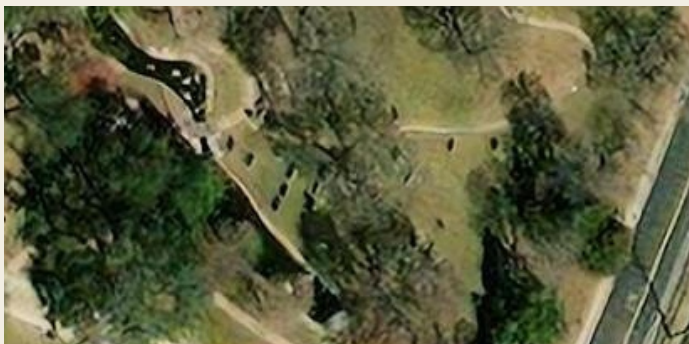


Around the small white-roofed structure, the January satellite scene exposes bare branches and ground beneath several trees. The drone view shows fuller green and yellow foliage. More canopy hides more of the ground. This is a difference in visible cover; these views alone do not establish tree removal, pruning or storm damage.

PATHS & POND EDGES / THE SOUTHERN CROSSING

The pond and crossing persist in both views.

SATELLITE / JAN 21, 2022



DRONE MOSAIC / PAGE 3



Both views show the pond bend, its crossing and the path along the water. The drone excerpt separates water, paving and grass more clearly, making the edges easier to inspect. No new crossing or paving repair is established here. Atlas Geo makes a registered flight useful alongside route and maintenance layers; surface condition still needs a ground check.

Satellite: Esri / Maxar, WorldView-2; source resolution 50 cm. Drone: page-3 brochure image.

Crops show corresponding landmarks, at approximate scales. Guide pins are annotations. Sources: page 9.

DRONE: THE SCENE / ATLAS GEO: GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

Living history has a timestamp.

Walter Cunningham is one of the stories on this walk. His cemetery record provides a concrete example of why an image date matters.

SATELLITE CAPTURE

January 21, 2022

The archived WorldView-2 scene used in the comparisons on pages 7 and 8.

VERIFIED EVENT / CEMETERY RECORD

January 25, 2023

Walter Cunningham was buried on Monument Hill, Section 3, row MH3, plot 2.

The satellite capture predates that burial by more than a year. The event is confirmed by the official record; the brochure crops alone cannot identify a newly installed stone. **A dated flight and cemetery records answer different parts of the same question.**

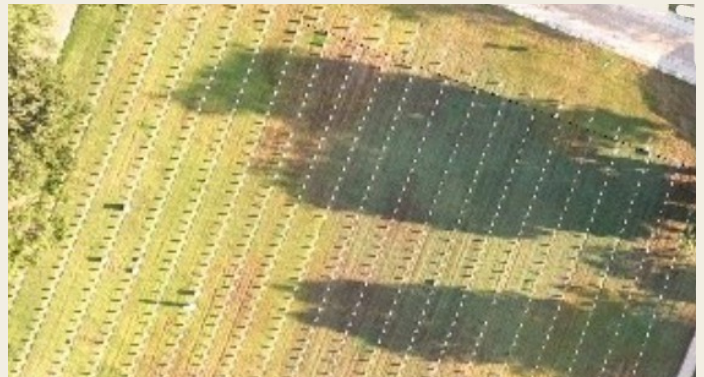
NEWER PUBLIC IMAGERY / ANOTHER USEFUL LAYER

Public aerial imagery can resolve the stones, too.

PUBLIC AERIAL / OCT 8, 2023



DRONE MOSAIC / PAGE 3



At this site, the Wayback release published August 5, 2026 contains **Nearmap aerial imagery captured October 8, 2023**, with a reported source resolution of 7.5 cm. It also shows individual markers. Detail varies by source; the most useful layer is the one that answers your question at the right time.

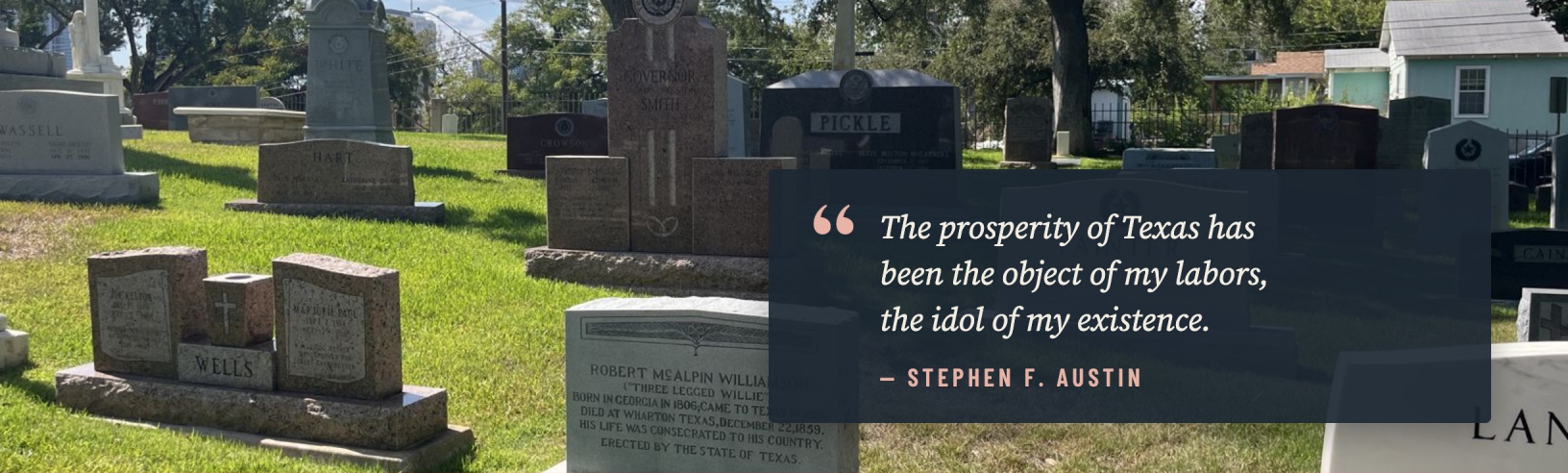
Fly when it matters. Put that flight on the map.

Atlas Geo automates registration to a reference map in QGIS, connecting your chosen observation with basemaps, site records and later flights.

SOURCES & COMPARISON NOTES

Imagery: Esri World Imagery Wayback / Maxar (satellite) and Nearmap (aerial). [Satellite archive](#) / [capture metadata](#); [aerial archive](#) / [capture metadata](#). Record: [Texas State Cemetery: Cunningham](#).

Method: visual crops around corresponding landmarks, with original guide annotations retained. Views are not pixel-aligned and do not validate registration accuracy. The supplied PDF does not give the drone capture date or a source GeoTIFF.



“ The prosperity of Texas has been the object of my labors, the idol of my existence.

– STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

PLAN YOUR WALK

A Loop Through the Grounds

About half a mile on foot. Allow an hour, more if you stop to read the stones.

- A Start at the Visitor Center**
Enter from Navasota St and head south into Statesman's Meadow.
- 4 Chris Kyle, then Darrell K Royal (3)**
Both stand on the lawn east of the white caretaker's cottage.
- 2 Barbara Jordan and Stephen F. Austin (1)**
Continue south onto Republic Hill, the oldest ground, and look for the bronze statue.
- 8 World War II Monument**
Head northeast past the white headstones of Confederate Field to Crescent Pond.
- 7 Medal of Honor Memorial**
Follow the pond north to the red obelisk.
- 6 September 11 Monument**
Cross the footbridge and walk north under the oaks.
- 5 Cernan & Cunningham**
Climb Monument Hill for the view of downtown, then return to the Visitor Center or leave by the Rose Gate.

THE MAP'S SECOND LIFE

Today, it helps you find the stories. Atlas Geo also connects flight imagery with maps in QGIS. Review that scene alongside cemetery records, plan a site check and compare a later flight.

GOOD TO KNOW

This is an active cemetery. Burials and ceremonies still take place, so give services room.

Drive at 10 mph and park only in the Visitor Center lot, at street meters, at the Comal St widening or in the south cul-de-sac.

Map pins are approximate. For an exact section, row and plot, use Locate-a-Plot at cemetery.texas.gov.

Drone flight, aerial map and photographs: Alex Nguyen. Historical and visitor information: Texas State Cemetery, Texas State Preservation Board and the source guide. Atlas Geo workflow: AIVE AI Systems and its QGIS plugin documentation.

cemetery.texas.gov / [AIVE Atlas Geo QGIS listing](#) / aivesystems.com