Geophysical Survey of Wyatt Chapel Cemetery, Prairie View, TX

We used a Nikon Total Station to obtain accurate position data for surface features such as locations of GPR profiles and headstones.

We performed research in the Prairie View A&M and Rice University archives. The data collected in the field were interpreted in ArcGIS.

The GPR data indicated a strong anomaly in the open field NE of the historical marker (red arrow on GPR profile above). This anomaly was excavated (see photo at left) and revealed a boundary interpreted to be Pleistocene sand overlying Tertiary clay. The clay layer is millions of years old and extremely hard, which is why all burials identified so far occur above this layer. Dark wavy layers near the bottom of the sand layer probably represent flooding surfaces related to geologic events thousands of years ago.

The GPR data indicated several anomalies in the main clearing of the cemetery. These anomalies are interpreted to be unmarked burials.

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