

Davis Cemetery District – History

- 1850 Land purchased by Col. Joseph B. Chiles
- 1855 First known burial, J. H. Martin (D-264, died 1/20/1855)
- 1861 “Graveyard fence” referenced in description of property boundaries
- 1874 1 acre given to Catholic Church by Mrs. I. S. Chiles
- 1876 Burial of Nancy Dew, b 4/17/1796 (G-112, earliest birth date here)
- 1880 Deed shows 1 acre of land, S. & Davisville Cemetery
- 1900 Cemetery Association formed – owner W. D. Chiles deeded unspecified amount of land to cemetery
- 1901 80 palm and cypress trees planted, water tank repaired, new windmill donated by William H. Marden
- 1922 Davis Cemetery District formed; trustees: J. A. Harby, Virginia Sanders (Dixon), Hattie Weber
- Prior to 1930 There were 363 marked graves which read as a historical “Who’s Who” of Davis. Most wooden grave markers were destroyed by the ravages of vandals and grassfires, leaving 72 graves, thought to include many Chinese settlers, now recorded as “unknown.”
- 1958 Catholic Diocese deeds 3 acres to District, swale filled in during early 1960’s, 20 acres purchased from George Chiles
- 1966 Office building and corporation yard constructed
- 1967 Contract maintenance terminated; first superintendent Vincent C. Forcella hired
- 1968-1970 Old cemetery restored, pump house removed, new cemetery laid out, irrigation system, trees and turf added.
- 1970 Closed middle gate (Pole Line Rd.)
- mid 70’s New south entrance (East 8th St.), retaining wall constructed, closed old south entrance
- 1984 Open new burial area south of office building
- 1985 Davis Cemetery name “Historical Site” by Davis City Council
- 1992 Wind storm/tornado causes downs numerous trees and fence
- 2000 ADA compliant restroom and remodeling of office
- 2006 Certified as a Wildlife Habitat
- 2006 First green burial performed (Jalal Toofan, ND-252, 1/20/2006)
- 2007 Solar panels installed
- 2009 Natural Swale restored with native 40,000 plants and grasses
- 2010 Gallery 1855 Fine art gallery opened
- 2012 Arboretum Level II Designation
- 2013 West Sacramento and Clarksburg Joined the Davis Cemetery District
- 2015 Grand Opening of the Historical Hill area and launch of Arboretum