

SAPPINGTON CEMETERY STATE HISTORIC SITE

CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

May 2025

Location: Saline County

Established: 1970

Size: 2 acres

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Sappington Cemetery State Historic Site is to preserve the gravesites of Dr. John Sappington, Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson, and Governor Meredith Miles Marmaduke, and their spouses and extended families, and to interpret their roles in Missouri history. This site also preserves architectural features and a landscape characteristic of a mid-19th century cemetery.

INTRODUCTION

Dr. John Sappington (1776-1856) a prominent pioneer physician of Saline County, Missouri, established this family cemetery in 1831. The two-acre cemetery contains 110 marked graves and is enclosed by a stone wall topped with an iron picket fence constructed in 1859. The cemetery contains the graves of two Missouri governors.

Dr. Sappington studied medicine in Kentucky and in 1804 he married Jane Breathitt, the sister of Kentucky Governor John Breathitt. The Sappingtons immigrated to central Missouri's "Boonslick Country" in 1817, settling near present-day Glasgow, Missouri. By 1819, they had moved 5 miles southwest of Arrow Rock, where Dr. Sappington established a farm named "Pilot Hickory".

Malarial fever, known as "shaking ague" was a major disease along the Missouri River. A nonconformist, Dr. Sappington attacked the common medical practice of bloodletting to treat patients. By 1832, he perfected and began mass marketing quinine in pill form to treat malaria. The St. Louis Medical Society denounced him as a quack, but his "anti-fever pills" quickly became a popular and widely available frontier prescription. In 1844, Sappington wrote *The Theory and Treatment of Fevers*, the first medical treatise published west of the Mississippi River.

Dr. Sappington was also a business entrepreneur, agriculturalist, and land speculator. He never ran for political office but he was a powerful political broker in the Democratic Party. He was close friends with Missouri's senior US Senator Thomas Hart Benton and with President Andrew Jackson. Dr. Sappington was a part of a political dynasty that expanded substantially when two sons-in-law – Meredith Miles Marmaduke and Claiborne Fox Jackson and one grandson, John Sappington Marmaduke – each became Missouri governors. An educational trust fund established by Dr. Sappington still provides scholarships to local students. A tribute to his life's work, the sarcophagus on his grave bears this inscription: "A truly honest man is the noblest work of God. He lay like a warrior taking his rest."

Meredith Miles Marmaduke (1791-1864) was elected Lt. Governor in 1840. A Benton Democrat and strong unionist, he became Missouri's eighth governor for nine months in 1844 upon Governor Reynolds death in office. Marmaduke marries Dr. Sappington's daughter Lavinia in 1826. A Santa Fe trader from 1824 to 1830, Marmaduke quit the trade to become a partner in his father-in-law's enterprises. He also served as Saline County Judge and surveyor. His son, John Sappington Marmaduke, became Missouri's twenty-fifth governor in 1885 and is buried in Jefferson City.

Claiborne Fox Jackson (1806-1862) was beginning his term as Missouri's fifteenth governor when the Civil War began. Jackson supported slavery and advocated the secession of Missouri from the Union. Federal troops occupied the capital of Jefferson City in June of 1861, forcing Jackson and pro-secession officials to flee and join Confederate forces in the south. Jackson died while in Little Rock, Arkansas and his remains were re-interred in the Sappington Cemetery after the war. Jackson married three of Dr. Sappington's daughters. Jane and Louisa died early in their marriages and are buried near their parents. Eliza survived Jackson by two years and is buried next to him.

Management of this cemetery was shifted in 1970 when the state legislature assigned cemeteries that contained the grave of former governors not within a perpetual-care cemetery to the Department of Natural Resources.

SITE GOALS

- Preserve the natural and cultural resources located within the Historic Site's boundaries;
- Provide adequate orientation and interpretive facilities to enhance visitor experience;

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

- Dr. Sappington's life and cultural impact.
- Governors Marmaduke and Jackson.
- Other important historical site features.

SITE STRUCUTRES

<u>Structure</u>	<u>Sqft</u>	<u>Const. Year</u>	<u>Historic</u>
-	-	-	-

*National Register of Historic Places

** National Historic Landmark

USE AREAS & DEVELOPMENT

Sappington Cemetery State Historic Site's development should accentuate the preservation and interpretation of the historic site's significance in Missouri's Civil War-Era politics and society, providing visitors access to the area of the Sappington Cemetery, which preserves the gravesites of the Dr. Sappington and two Missouri Governors.

1. Stone Wall and Fence Improvements

Improvements to the stone wall which surrounds the cemetery are to be made to address missing and/or deteriorating sections of the bordering wall and fence.

2. Increased Interpretation

Interpretation Panels are to be constructed and established near the cemetery entrance to allow for additional information about Dr. Sappington and other persons of historical significance buried in the site.

Special Considerations

- There is limited space for parking or project development surrounding the cemetery.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH GOALS

- Increase Interpretation Research for Cemetery.

PROJECT PHASING

- Phase 1
Stone Wall and Fence Improvement
 -
- Phase 2
Increased Interpretation

Cultural and natural resource clearances will be required before on-site modifications and development occur.

ACQUISITION UNITS

If offered, acquisition of adjacent property may be pursued only through willing sellers or donors. To be considered, units should enhance the mission of Missouri State Parks through one of the following categories:

- Resource preservation and protection
- Recreational access and opportunity
- Management facilitation

CONTEXTUAL PLANNING INFORMATION

Public Input

Public input is an integral part of the CDP process. Throughout the CDP process, MSP staff utilized online surveys to gauge public opinions on various proposed developments. The following includes input opportunities throughout the planning process:

1. **Public Survey #1, September 17, 2024 – October 17, 2024**
 - a. n = 6
2. **Public Survey #2, December 16th, 2024 – January 16th, 2025**
 - a. N=56

Communication methodologies: News release, legislative letters, social media posts, mostateparks.com/CDP, email bulletin, and QR business cards/flyer.

CDP Team Members:

- Laura Hendrickson – Division Director
- Melanie Smith – Deputy Division Director
- Dustin Webb – Northern Region Director
- Matt Carletti – Northern Region Deputy Director
- Cynthia Imhoff – Superintendent
- Allison Vaughn – Natural Resource Program Ecologist
- Dr. Mike Ohnorsorgen – Cultural Resource Management Program Director
- Kim Dillon – Cultural Resource Management Section Chief
- Terry Bruns – Planning and Development Program Director
- Don Stier – Design Section Manager
- Ryan Dunwoody – Grants, Recreation & Interpretation Program Director
- Daniel Engler – Planning Section Manager
- Rylee Lorts - Planner
- Rebecca Young – Outdoor Recreation Management Section Chief
- Logan Nuernberger – Trail Coordinator
- Zane Price – Real Estate Manager
- Tisha Holden – Information Officer

APPENDIX

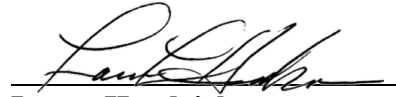
- CDP Map
- Public Survey #1 Results

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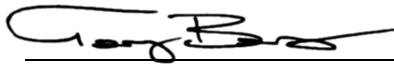
May 2025

APPROVED BY:



Laura Hendrickson
Director, Missouri State Parks

5/19/25
Date



Terry Bruns
Program Director, Planning and Development

05/09/2025
Date



Dustin Webb
Regional Director, Northern Region

5/09/2025
Date



Matt Carletti
Deputy Regional Director, Northern Region

5/7/2025
Date



Cynthia Imhoff
Superintendent

05/12/2025
Date

SAPPINGTON CEMETERY STATE HISTORIC SITE

PREAMBLE & MISSION STATEMENT

May 2025

PREAMBLE

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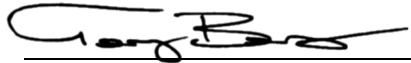
APPROVED BY:



Laura Hendrickson
Director, Missouri State Parks

5/19/25

Date



Terry Bruns
Program Director, Planning and Development

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Dustin Webb

Dustin Webb
Regional Director, Northern Region

5/09/2025

Date

Matt Carletti

Matt Carletti
Deputy Regional Director, Northern Region

5/7/2025

Date

Cindy Imhoff

Cynthia Imhoff
Park Superintendent

05/08/2025

Date



1. Informational Kiosks
• To house additional interpretation panels and historic site information.

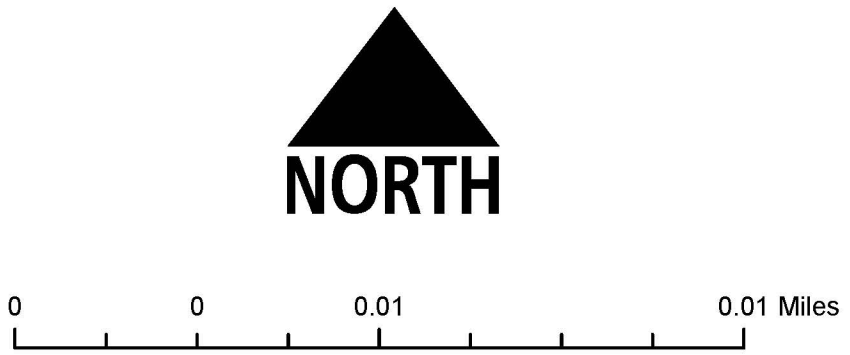
2. Stone Wall and Fence Improvements
• Address and repair deteriorating segments of the stone wall.
• Finish gaps in the fence line.

3. Increased Interpretation
• Located near the entrance of the cemetery.



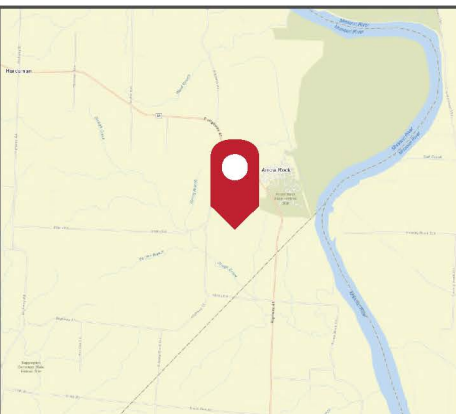
Sappington Cemetery State Historic Site

Projected Coordinate System:
NAD 1983, UTM Zone 15N
Absolute Scale: 1:339



5/20/2025

Legend



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