

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Cleburne Co. - Heber Springs Vic.
Cleburne County Farm Cemetery
SE corner jct. Plantation Dr. E., & Deer Run
NR 9/28/05

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cleburne County Farm Cemetery
other names/site number Site #CE0114

2. Location

street & number Southeast corner of Plantation Drive East and Deer Run not for publication
city or town Heber Springs vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Cleburne code 023 zip code 72543

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Caddie Matthews 7/28/05
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Cleburne County Farm Cemetery
Name of Property

Cleburne County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
1		sites
	1	structures
	1	objects
1	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A

roof N/A
other STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1896-1936

Significant Dates

1896-1936

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
Previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository: Cleburne County Historical Society

Cleburne County Farm Cemetery
Name of Property

Cleburne County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>587355</u>	<u>3923793</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date March 21, 2005
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Cleburne County Farm Cemetery, which contains 17 graves, is located at the southeast corner of Plantation Drive East and Deer Run south of Heber Springs in Cleburne County, Arkansas. The small cemetery is located in a new housing subdivision and is marked by a monument stone and fieldstone grave markers. A wood and wire fence surrounds the cemetery.

ELABORATION

The Cleburne County Farm Cemetery is located approximately 2.5 miles south of downtown Heber Springs in Cleburne County, Arkansas. It is located at the southeast corner of Plantation Drive East and Deer Run in the Mountainair Subdivision. The cemetery contains approximately 10 fieldstone markers and a large granite monument that reads "CLEBURNE COUNTY FARM CEMETERY/1896-1943" followed by a list of the names of the people buried in it.

The entire cemetery is surrounded by a wood and wire fence, which was installed c.1982 by the Cleburne County Historical Society when the granite marker was placed at the site. At the same time, approximately 40 years worth of brush and debris were cleaned up from the cemetery. Both the fence and granite marker are considered to be non-contributing resources.

The cemetery contains a total of 17 graves, and although it is not possible to break the burials down by decade, it is known that the burials occurred between 1896 and 1936 when the Cleburne County Farm was in operation. As a result, they are all considered to be historic for the purposes of the nomination. The people buried in the cemetery, based upon research done by the Cleburne County Historical Society are:

Sarah Bell
Pankey Blankenship
John and Eliza Birdsong
Mr. Beasley and Kathryn
Dave Beleue
Jim Creswell
Mr. Coe
Mr. Hooper

Henry Hess
Elizabeth Miller
Mrs. Meaner
Maudie Tarkington
Mr. White
Mr. Pankey
Mr. Topley

Integrity

Overall, the Cleburne County Farm Cemetery retains good integrity. Today, approximately 10 historic fieldstone markers exist in the cemetery. Although the fence surrounding the cemetery and the granite marker were installed c.1982, they are relatively small in scale and help to protect and preserve the cemetery's legacy.

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The biggest change to the cemetery's integrity is its setting. Originally, the setting of the cemetery, like much of Cleburne County, was rural. A few buildings stood on the farm complex, and after the farm closed in 1936 the farm buildings either burned or deteriorated. Also by 1936 when the farm closed, the land was home to CCC Camp #3782, also known as Camp Heber, which had developed the site with several buildings and other associated features, some of which remain to the northwest of the cemetery. In 1942, Camp Heber closed, and the land was auctioned off by the county in 1943. After remaining vacant for many years, however, the site has been redeveloped in recent years as a housing subdivision. Even so, the homes in the area are on large lots, and the subdivision retains a rural feel. Additionally, trees in the cemetery's immediate vicinity also help to isolate it from the surrounding homes. Even though the cemetery's setting has undergone several significant changes, beginning with the construction of Camp Heber in 1935, the retention of the original fieldstone markers and the current relatively rural setting still allow the cemetery to convey its associations with the Cleburne County Farm and some vestiges of its original setting.

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Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Cleburne County Farm Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the Cleburne County Farm and Cleburne County's efforts to provide aid to the poor and destitute. It is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D: Cemeteries**.

ELABORATION

Cleburne County was formed from land annexed from Van Buren, White and Independence counties, and was created by an act of the General Assembly on February 20, 1883. The county was named for General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne, a Confederate hero often referred to as "the Stonewall Jackson of the Southwest." What was initially thought to be a temporary county seat was established at the town of Sugar Loaf, although the name of the town was changed to Heber Springs in 1910, and the county seat remains there today.¹

From the time of its founding in 1883, Cleburne County had methods of aiding its poor citizens, although the methods used were likely those employed previously in Van Buren, White and Independence counties. In July 1883, for example, during the first term of the Cleburne County Court, Dan Sparkman presented an account for spending \$110 to aid a pauper. Although the account was initially disallowed by the court, Sparkman's attorney, G. W. Bruce, appealed the case, and the court allowed \$100 for the claim the next day at the rehearing.²

The aiding of a pauper by another person in the community was not unheard of prior to the establishment of poorhouses. Many areas provided "outdoor relief" to paupers that was normally administered by an Overseer of the Poor, who was often a local elected official. Usually a budget of tax money was set aside to help the poor by providing food, clothing, or even medical treatment, when family members, friends, or church congregations could not provide enough aid. However, other methods of supporting the poor were sometimes employed, including contracting with a person in the community to care for a group of paupers or auctioning off the poor, which allowed the lowest bidder to use the pauper's labor for free for a specified period of time in exchange for food, clothing, housing and healthcare.³

By the second half of the nineteenth century, the poorhouse system came to the United States from England, and poorhouses were built with great optimism. It was hoped that they would be cheaper and more efficient, and also aid in the reformation of paupers to eliminate the bad habits and character defects that many people

¹ Evalena Berry. *Time and the River: A History of Cleburne County*. Little Rock: Rose Publishing Co., 1982, pp. 1-3, 5.

² *Ibid.*, p. 210.

³ "History of 19th Century American Poorhouses." Found at: www.poorhousestory.com/history.htm

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assumed were the causes of their poverty. Although this was not always the case, the poorhouse system was an improvement over previous methods used to aid the poor.⁴

Even though many places saw poorhouses as the answer to the problems of aiding the poor, apparently not all counties in Arkansas had poorhouses by the early twentieth century. A special report on paupers in almshouses done by the Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, gave an outline of the laws governing poor relief in each state, and said about Arkansas that:

Every county must relieve its own poor. Sheriffs, coroners, constables, and justices of the peace shall give information to their respective county courts of the poor and the county court has the duty of providing for such persons. If satisfied that the applicants are paupers the county court shall order their commitment to the poorhouse, there to remain until discharged by an order of the court. County courts have the power to establish poorhouses, and when completed the court shall let them out annually to the lowest responsible bidder under bond for the faithful care of the inmates. In counties without poorhouses, the court may let the care of the poor to the lowest responsible bidder. The county is not liable for the support of any pauper who refuses to accept county aid in the manner provided above. The county court may cause the employment of each able-bodied pauper on work for the county.⁵

By the early 1890s, Cleburne County was still taking care of its poor through outdoor relief rather than establishing a poor house. In 1891, county records indicate that the county spent \$887.66 on the care of paupers, while in 1893 the cost to the county was \$643.46. The 1893 records also show that a blind family had been added to the list and two of the children attended the Arkansas School for the Blind in Little Rock. The pauper fund paid for their clothes and transportation costs. The amount paid out of the fund continued to fluctuate in the following years, paying out \$1,011.63 in 1894 and \$905.19 in 1895.⁶

Although Cleburne County was still providing outdoor relief as late as 1895, the county was apparently also beginning to look at establishing a poorhouse. On January 9, 1896, County Judge J. S. Wilson entered in the county court books that:

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census. *Special Reports: Paupers in Almshouse, 1904*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1906. (Excerpts found at: www.poorhousestory.com)

⁶ Information on the Cleburne County Farm and Cleburne County Farm Cemetery provided by Charles Stuart from the files of the Cleburne County Historical Society.

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Section number 8 Page 3

On this day is presented to the Court the report of T. J. Andrews, J. M. Clayton, and A. Reidel, Commissioners heretofore appointed by the Court to select and purchase a "Poor Farm" for Cleburne County, which shows that from several bids and propositions, that had selected and accepted that of J. R. Baker on the Thirty-two and One Half (32 ½) Rods of S ½ of NW ¼, and the W ½ of SW ¼ and the W ½ of NE ¼, containing one hundred thirty-two and one half (132 ½) acres, for the consideration of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) in Cleburne County Warrants payable in January 1896 and the sum of Two Hundred and Twenty-five dollars (\$225.00) payable in currency in July 1897 which said report is duly examined by the Court and in all things approved.⁷

The county court books went on to say that Baker gave the county the deed to land in:

Section Thirty-five (35), Township Ten (10) North, Range Ten (10) West, for which said lands were selected by the Commissioners appointed by the Court for that purpose for a "Poor Farm," and said deed is accepted by the Court for and in behalf of Cleburne County, and said Commissioners are hereby ordered to cause to be erected as required by law, such buildings on said "Poor Farm" as in their judgement [sic] shall be necessary for the comfort and proper maintenance of paupers of Cleburne County, and make due report of their proceedings to this Court.

And it is further ordered by the Court that the Clerk draw his warrant on the Treasury of Cleburne County Warrants, January 1896 out of appropriations for "Poor Farm," and it is further ordered by the Court that J. R. Baker be allowed the said sum of \$225.00 in currency to be paid in July 1897.⁸

By early 1898, the county was ready to select a custodian for the poorhouse. The court met in January 1898 and again on February 1 for:

...the letting of the Cleburne County Poor Farm and the keeping of the paupers of said County due notice for the reception of bids having been published according to law and the Court being fully advised doth accept the bid of W. H. Bickle...he agreeing to keep the paupers of said County at the sum and price of \$7.50 per month for each person duly declared by the County to be paupers. Said W. H. Bickle to furnish said paupers with good and sufficient and

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

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comfortable maintenance including, board, clothing, washing and all proper medical attention and said County to furnish W. H. Bickle free of charge the use of the County Farm with all buildings thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging; to begin April 1, 1898 and end March 30, 1899.⁹

The court set Bickle's bond at \$600.00 and he promised to care for the paupers as well as keep the County Farm in good repair. Each subsequent January the court would meet to accept bids from applicants to run the farm, and select a new custodian of the farm. Although the bond was originally set at \$600.00, it was subsequently raised to \$1,000.00.¹⁰

Even though Cleburne County had the Poor Farm by the late 1890s, it appears that not all of the paupers were required to move to the farm. Even as late as 1903, some people who were responsible for caring for paupers were presenting claims to the court and being paid for them. This suggests that paupers did not move to the County Farm unless they wanted to.¹¹

Although the first custodian of the Poor Farm was male, the job was not necessarily limited to men. In the early 1920s, Viola Clark, the widowed mother of W. T. Clark, was custodian of the farm, and W. T. Clark took over in 1925.¹²

When the Cleburne County Farm was first developed, it appears that it just contained the main house. However, by 1930 the farm had been expanded to include a new building for the "patients," which is what the residents were called, a smokehouse, barn, chicken house, cellar, and outhouses. The main house is where the custodian's family lived while the house for the patients consisted of two large rooms with a double fireplace separating them. One of the rooms was for the men while the other was for the women, and each room had a large closet next to the fireplace. In addition, each room had a table where the patients ate their meals, which they carried on trays from the kitchen in the main house. Although meals were prepared for the patients, they were responsible for washing their own dishes.¹³

Although the quality of life at the farm varied depending on the custodian, the Cleburne County Farm enjoyed a higher quality of life than many other county poor farms. The farm had cows, hogs, horses, chickens, guinea fowl, and other stock and a large garden also provided food for the custodian's family and the patients. All of the necessary farm work was done by the custodian and the able-bodied patients.¹⁴

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Berry, p. 211.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

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By the 1930s, however, the days of the Cleburne County Farm were numbered. The county began receiving funding from federal welfare and aid programs, and a welfare committee screened applicants for the federal aid. As a result, the county farm was not really needed, especially since there were only two patients at the facility. W. O. Dunlap was the final custodian at the facility when the main house was destroyed in 1936 by a fire that was believed to have started in the fireplace. The farm closed and one patient went to live with a sister while the other patient was relocated to the State Hospital.¹⁵

When the County Farm closed in 1936, changes had already begun to occur on the land. In the first part of June 1935, CCC Camp #3782, also known as Camp Heber, was under construction on some of the land to the northwest of the cemetery, and the camp's first enrollees arrived in early July. The camp had several facilities, including barracks, a park facility across the road, a large fish pond, recreation grounds, roads, and an educational building that was "without question [one] of the best of its kind in the state of Arkansas, and probably one of the best in the entire South."¹⁶ Camp Heber remained on the site until it was closed in 1942.

In May 1943 the county court decided to sell the County Farm land, since the buildings were deteriorating and it was no longer serving the county's needs. Bids were solicited, and Leroy Heigle submitted the winning bid, buying the land for \$2,125.00. The sale of the land was finalized with the signing of the deed by county clerk, Cecil Patchell, on May 10, 1943.¹⁷

After the County Farm buildings and most of the buildings and features of Camp Heber were removed, the County Farm land mainly remained vacant for the next fifty years. (A few remnant features from Camp Heber remain to the northwest of the cemetery.) However, c.1990 a new housing development was begun on the land, and today a few roads and scattered homes exist in the vicinity of the cemetery.

Today, the Cleburne County Farm Cemetery is the last surviving element from the Cleburne County Farm, and a rare reminder of the county's efforts to provide assistance to the poor during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The preserved cemetery, with its simple fieldstone markers, is a testament to the efforts of the Cleburne County Historical Society to restore, preserve, and maintain this important, but often overlooked, aspect of Arkansas' past.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Official Annual, Arkansas District Civilian Conservation Corps, Seventh Corps Area*. Unknown Publisher, 1937, pp. 99-101, 169.

¹⁷ Information on the Cleburne County Farm and Cleburne County Farm Cemetery provided by Charles Stuart from the files of the Cleburne County Historical Society.

Cleburne County Farm Cemetery

Name of Property

Cleburne County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cleburne County Farm Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the Cleburne County Farm and Cleburne County's efforts to provide aid to the poor and destitute. It is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D: Cemeteries**.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Berry, Evalena. *Time and the River: A History of Cleburne County*. Little Rock: Rose Publishing Co., 1982.

Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census. *Special Reports: Paupers in Almshouse, 1904*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1906. (Excerpts found at: www.poorhousestory.com)

“History of 19th Century American Poorhouses.” Found at: www.poorhousestory.com/history.htm.

Information on the Cleburne County Farm and Cleburne County Farm Cemetery provided by Charles Stuart from the files of the Cleburne County Historical Society.

Official Annual, Arkansas District Civilian Conservation Corps, Seventh Corps Area. Unknown Publisher, 1937.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the southeast corner of Plantation Drive East and Deer Run, proceed easterly along the south side of Deer Run for 105 feet, thence proceed southerly parallel to Plantation Drive East for 145 feet, thence proceed westerly parallel to Deer Run for 105 feet, thence proceed northerly along the east side of Plantation Drive East for 145 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

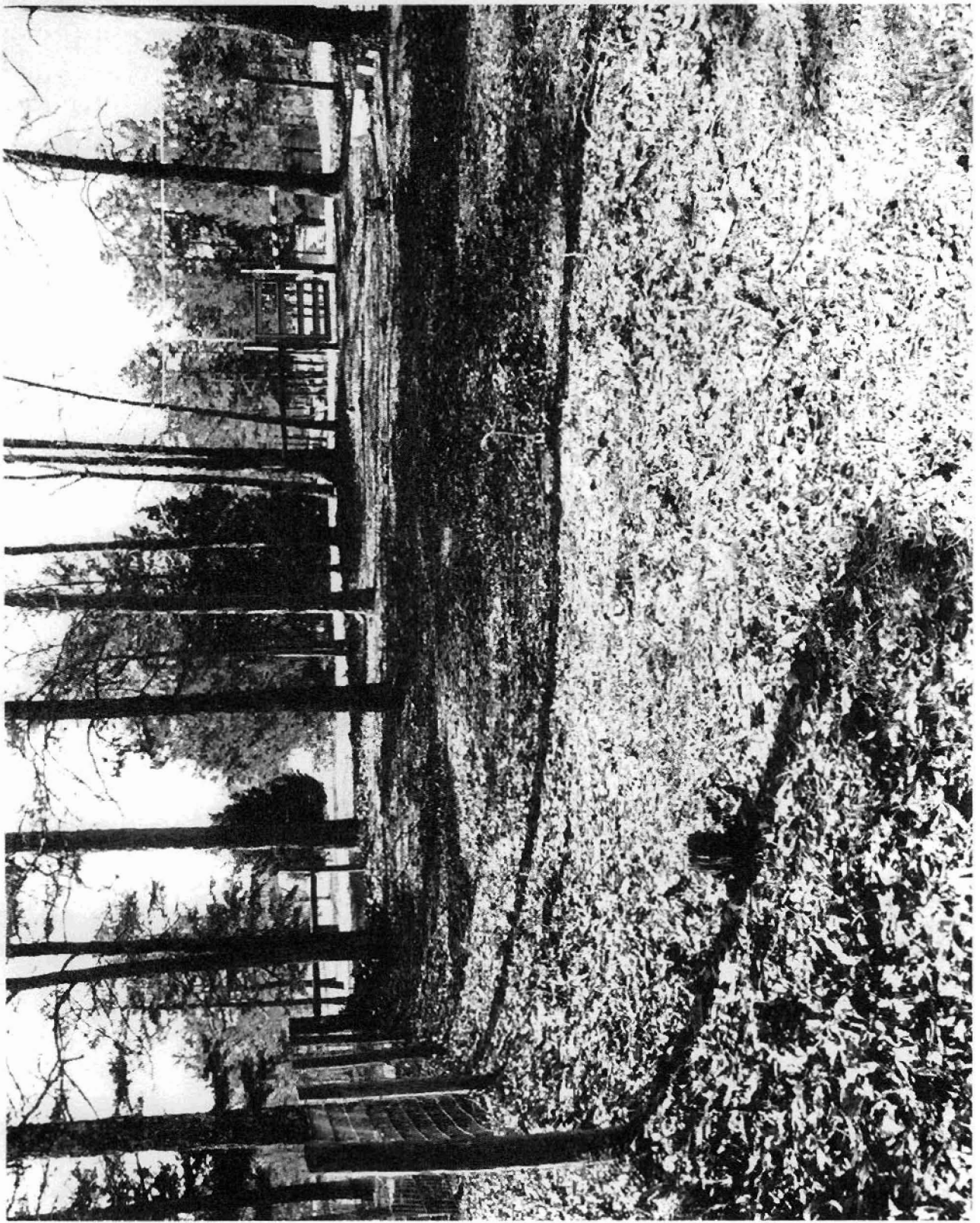
The boundary contains the land of the Cleburne County Farm Cemetery and its immediate surroundings that retains integrity.

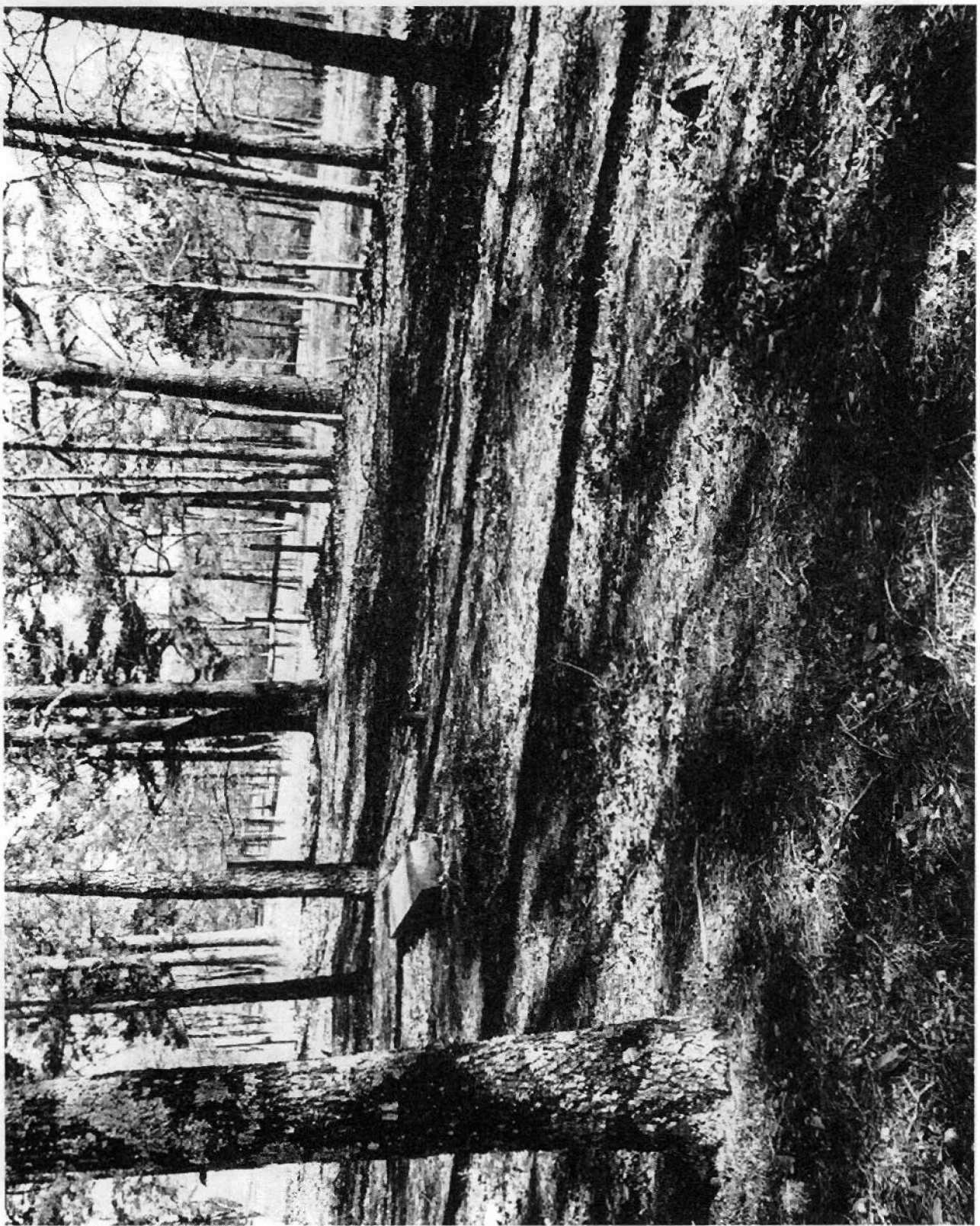
CLEBURNE COUNTY - ARKANSAS MILLERS

PANKEY BLANKENSHIP	1913
MR. BEASLEY & KATZBERG	1913
MARSHALL PARKING LOT	1913
SARAH BELL	1913
MR. WHITE	1913
MR. PINKY	1913
MR. BIRDSONG	1913
MR. MILLER	1913
MR. SWELL	1913
MR. COE	1913
MR. HOOPER	1913
MR. TOPEL	1913











(WEST PANGBURN)
7654 IV NW

PANGBURN 11 MI.
SEARCY 26 MI.

UTM:
15/587355/322377

T. 10 N.
T. 9 N.

CLEBURNE COUNTY FARM
CEMETERY

HEBER SPRINGS, ILL.
CLEBURNE COUNTY, GA.

3924

27°30'

3920

3921

25'