

Clark County  
Arkadelphia  
Rose Hill Cemetery

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NR LISTED  
FEB 07 1999  
ARHP

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Rose Hill Cemetery

Other Name/Site Number: CL0587

2. Location

Street & Number: 1200 Block of Main Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Arkadelphia

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Clark

Code: AR019 Zip Code: 71923

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Atkins & Sater \_\_\_\_\_ 4-14-98  
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date Of action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic: Funerary Sub: Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current : Funerary Sub: Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation N/A roof N/A  
walls N/A other N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

**Summary**

Rose Hill Cemetery is located in the 1200 Block on the south side of Main Street in Arkadelphia. The Main Street side is delineated by a black wrought-iron fence, while the eastern border along South 12th Street is defined by a fieldstone and concrete retaining wall. Approximately sixty percent of the 2226 total burials are over fifty years of age. The cemetery includes recent burials to the west of the main grounds. It has been meticulously maintained and contains many high-style tombstones beneath large hardwood and cedar trees in the eastern section. There are fewer trees to the west and the stones here include above ground concrete vaults. Low concrete borders demarcate the burials in this area due to the slope of the land.

**Elaboration**

Rose Hill Cemetery is located in the 1200 Block on the south side of Main Street in Arkadelphia. There are some recent burials to the west of the main grounds which are not considered contributing to this nomination. The Main Street border is delineated by a black wrought-iron fence, while the eastern border along South 12th Street is defined by a curving fieldstone and concrete retaining wall. At the northeast end of the wall is a stone pier containing an engraved marble plaque in memory of Alice McNutt, wife of Samuel Rosston McNutt, local cotton dealer, merchant and president of the Elk Horn bank around 1905. The plaque reads MEMORIAL/ TO/ MRS. ALICE M. MCNUTT/ 1861-1947/ DONOR. The southern and western extremities of the cemetery are defined by numerous stepped sections and plots with poured concrete retaining

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walls necessitated by the sloping hillside.

At the end of 1995, there were 2226 total burials in Rose Hill Cemetery, with the following breakdown of burials by the decade (the earliest burials were probably moved from the Blakely Cemetery on South Third St. which closed in 1869): 1850s - 3; 1860s - 10; 1870s - 57; 1880s - 83; 1890s - 109; 1900s - 134; 1910s - 194; 1920s - 198; 1930s - 236; 1940s - 259. Approximately sixty percent of the total burials took place over fifty years of age.

A main boulevard of dirt leads from the main entrance at the north to the center of the cemetery. Markers consist of stylized monuments to the east of the boulevard. Several hardwood, magnolia and cedar trees shade the tombstones in this section. Harris Flanagin, Governor of Confederate Arkansas from 1852 to 1854, lies under the branches. Flanagin was born in New Jersey but moved to Greenville, Arkansas to practice law. In 1841 he was Deputy Sheriff of Clark County and in 1842 he was elected State Representative. In 1848 he served in the State Senate for two years. Flanagin was selected in 1861 as a representative to the Constitutional Convention in Little Rock and took an active role in forming the new state constitution. He joined the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles as a commissioned Captain and following the battle of Elk Horn he was made a Colonel. The new state Constitution called for the election of new state officers in 1862, so a group of citizens nominated Harris Flanagin as Gubernatorial candidate. In his role as Governor, Flanagin moved the state government to Washington in 1863, following the capture of Little Rock. He received a Presidential pardon after the War but was disfranchised until 1873. In 1874 he became a member of the Constitutional Convention and was selected Chairman of the Judicial Committee. Flanagin came down with a cold in Little Rock while drafting the new constitution and had to return to Arkadelphia to recuperate. He could not recover from his illness and died in 1874. His marker in Rose Hill consists of a simple obelisk and is surrounded by graves of other Flanagin family members.

The city of Arkadelphia was home to many influential citizens, now interred at Rose Hill Cemetery. One such citizen is Flave Carpenter who was born in Arkadelphia. He was the son of M.S. Carpenter who owned and operated a steamboat on the Ouachita River. In 1873, Flave took a job as United States Marshall. In the course of his job, arresting moonshiners and locating stills, he did extensive traveling through the Arkansas wilderness. During his travels he crossed a gap through which coursed the Ouachita River. The scene inspired him and he was struck with the idea of a power dam for Arkansas. Flave could not accumulate the finances needed to begin construction on the dam but he did hire an engineer to start on the plans. It was not until the turn of the century, however that he was able to act on his idea. At that time he contacted Harvey Couch from Magnolia who had opened electricity enterprises in Arkadelphia and Malvern under the name of the Arkansas Light and Power Company. Mr. Carpenter persuaded Harvey Couch to view the river and prospective power sites. Next, to start the ball rolling toward obtaining the millions of dollars needed for construction of the dam, Flave called on a powerful friend in Washington, H.L. Rammel. Mr. Rammel obtained Federal permission to develop the river and Harvey Couch printed some stock shares which allowed the team to come up with the financing needed for Rammel Dam.

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William Lee Gerig who is buried at Rose Hill, came to Smithon in Clark County from Missouri to oversee the building of a railroad in the late 19th century. He was soon employed with the U.S. Corps of Engineers and worked on a navigation survey of the Mississippi River. By 1905 he was appointed a division engineer on the construction of the Panama Canal. Later he was made Vice-President and Chief Engineer of the Pacific and Eastern Railroad. Next he was appointed consulting engineer for the government railroad between Seward and Fairbanks, Alaska. After 1923 he was made consulting engineer on the government board for all dams constructed by the Corps of Engineers. These citizens are just a few of the people who were influential in the development of Clark county, Arkansas and the United States.

To the west of the road a few feet from the entrance is a wooden, arcaded structure with a pyramid roof covered in composition shingles. The arches are supported by simple square wooden posts. Under the shadow of the roof rest two members of the Greene family. Ivy tendrils cover the burials and spread to the surrounding ground holding other Greene family members within the perimeter of a wrought iron pen. The road leads to the center of the cemetery and ends at the remains of a gazebo. The only part that remains of the structure are the four corners and a short section of the cinderblock walls that have been painted white. Decorative concrete benches are placed within the walls. The gazebo's roof was wooden but by about 1996 it had deteriorated so that the city had it removed. Tentative plans to reconstruct the structure have been discussed. Some stones with death dates from the 1850s are placed to the west of the gazebo. These are believed to be from the Blakely Graveyard as are a few unmarked graves in this area that were discovered when attempts were made to open new plots.

The ground begins to slope from the southern border to the western border of the cemetery. There is no fence or wall along these perimeters. The ground to the south and west is open with a few plantings consisting of cedar bushes. The neatly laid rows of markers lie within plots outlined with concrete borders.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): D

Areas of Significance: Exploration/Settlement  
Politics/Government

Period(s) of Significance: c.1850s-c.1880s

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and period of significance noted above:

Summary

Rose Hill Cemetery covers twelve acres of land on Main Street in Arkadelphia and contains 2226 burials. In 1876 this large cemetery was known as Maddox Cemetery, the second oldest burial ground in Arkadelphia. An earlier city burial ground on South Third Street known as Blakely Graveyard was closed in 1869 and some of the graves within its grounds were relocated to Maddox Cemetery. In 1880 the name of the cemetery was officially changed to Rose Hill. Rose Hill Cemetery is being nominated under Criterion A with local significance for its association with early Arkadelphia history and its prominent leaders buried within. The cemetery contains graves dating from the 1850s that were moved from the first city burial ground after its closure in 1869. Rose Hill is also the resting place of such prominent Arkadelphians as, Confederate Governor, Harris Flanagin, first president of Arkadelphia Methodist College(now Henderson State University), Flave Carpenter moving force behind the construction of Rammel Dam, and U.S. Corps of Engineers consultant, William Lee Gerig. As the primary resting place for Arkadelphians, Rose Hill Cemetery is an important interpretive site from which to learn the history of the community.

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**Elaboration**

Clark County was founded December 15, 1818, as a part of Missouri Territory. The county was named for William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, who was then serving as the governor of Missouri Territory. One of the five counties comprising Arkansas Territory when it was created in 1819, Clark County included all or part of at least fifteen counties in present-day Arkansas and sections of six counties in what is now Oklahoma.

Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, the Caddo and Quapaw Indians inhabited the land of heavy forests, abundant game, rich soil, clear flowing water and salt which made it ideal for farming and hunting. Many relics and artifacts attest to the lengthy presence of these people. Hernando DeSoto was the first European of record to explore the region. He was followed over a century later by the French who named many of the county's topological features.

Permanent settlements, primarily by United States citizens, were in existence by the early 1800s. Early county annals list the names of Abner Hignight, Isaac Cates, Sam Parker, and others. In 1809, Adam Blakely established a blacksmith shop on the Ouachita River at a site named Blakelytown; there also, in 1811, John Hemphill began operation of a salt factory, the earliest manufacturing establishment in Arkansas. By 1812, Jacob Barkman, often referred to as the "Father of Clark County," opened up traffic on the Ouachita River to New Orleans, first by pirogue and keel boat, and in 1830 by a sidewheel steamboat. Barkman's plantation home on the Caddo River was the site of the first county court, the first post office, a stagecoach stop, a racetrack, and an ill-fated textile mill. In the 1830s, the Military Road was constructed, a portion passing by Barkman's home to the Little Missouri River. This road became the main land transportation artery of the county and played an instrumental role in the acquisition of Texas. Since that time major U. S. Highways have been constructed through the county. U.S. 67 and Interstate 30 both cross the Caddo River within a few hundred yards of the former site of Barkman's home, and U.S. 7 crosses the county in a north-south direction.

After several earlier moves, the county seat was finally moved to Blakelytown in 1842. The name of the town became Arkadelphia and a courthouse was constructed. The present courthouse was erected in 1899 (NR listed 12/01/78).

Construction of churches and schools headed the priority lists of the early settlers. By 1859, there were three churches, a school for the blind, and several academies operating in Arkadelphia. Ouachita Baptist College (Ouachita Baptist University) was founded in 1886, followed by Arkansas Methodist College (now Henderson State University) in 1890. According to one historian, there were 130 public schools and four high schools in the county by 1905. Today these schools have been consolidated into three major school districts.

Newspapers began publication in Arkadelphia as early as 1850 with *The Sentinel*. In circulation until 1987 was *The Southern Standard*, founded in 1868. Still published today is *The Daily Siftings Herald*, founded in 1881.

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Clark County had become a thriving community of agriculture, commerce, and education by 1860. With the onset of the Civil War, Clark County provided many eager volunteers to the Confederate cause. Arkadelphia became a major depot for the Trans-Mississippi Confederate States Army, manufacturing vital war materials such as salt, munitions, artillery, clothing, leather goods, medicines, and related products. Although there were no major battles in the county, Arkadelphia was briefly occupied by the Union Army as citizens witnessed General Frederick Steele's army march through the county on its way to Camden in March of 1864. Many accounts tell of skirmishes and harassment of the federals, and hardships suffered by the citizens as soldiers foraged for food, animals, fodder, or whatever caught their fancy. Harris Flanagan, a highly respected attorney and legislator who came to Clark County in 1837, served as Arkansas's Confederate governor during this troubled period. His services throughout the War and Reconstruction merit his recognition as one of Clark County's most illustrious citizens.

Impoverished, disfranchised citizens finally saw a slow emergence from Reconstruction when the Cairo & Fulton Railroad was completed in 1874. This provided the impetus for a new industry - lumber. New mill towns, some short-lived, sprang up along almost every spur. By 1890, lumber ranked next to agriculture as a financial resource in the county. Modern technological developments in the forest products industry have continued its importance in the economy today.

Clark County has progressed through wars and the Depression. Mechanization of farms since World War II has changed the population distribution. From 1930 to 1970, the county lost 13.6 percent of its population while Arkadelphia's portion grew from 13.6 to 45.7 percent of the total. To accommodate the change, new industries emerged: aluminum production and garment manufacturing, among others. The completion of DeGray Dam and State Park has added tourism and recreation as major assets for the Clark County economy.

Prominent Arkadelphians found at Rose Hill Cemetery include William A. Callaway, credited with being the first school teacher in the Arkadelphia area. Flave Carpenter, steamboat operator on the Ouachita River. When the railroad displaced steamboats he became U.S. Marshal. Carpenter also envisioned the construction of a power dam which resulted in Carpenter Dam. Prominent local businessman, banker and landowner, James Garrison Clark. Mr. Clark was also one of the organizers of the Bankers Trust Co. of Little Rock. Farrar C. Newberry was the national president of the Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society. Upon his retirement Newberry became very active in Arkadelphia civic organizations and historical research as president of the Arkansas Historical Association and author of books and newspaper articles of regional interest.

### **Historical Significance**

Rose Hill Cemetery is the second oldest burial ground in the city of Arkadelphia. When the cemetery was created on land donated by the Maddox family of Arkadelphia in 1876, it was named Maddox Cemetery. The oldest cemetery in town, Blakely Graveyard on South Third Street, was closed in 1869 and some of its graves dating from the 1850s were relocated to Maddox. By 1880 the name of Maddox Cemetery was changed to Rose Hill. Rose Hill is also



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being nominated under Criterion A with Criteria Consideration D for the role of the Arkadelphians buried within its walls in exploration, settlement, politics and local government.

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**Major Bibliographical References**

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Arnold, Norma Sims. "A Brief History of Clark County." Undated manuscript in Clark County Historical Association Archives, Special Collections, Riley-Hickingbotham Library, Ouachita Baptist University.

Newberry, W.L., ed. *Census of Rose Hill Cemetery: Arkadelphia, Arkansas*. Clark County Historical Association, 1986.

Richter, Wendy, ed. *Clark County, Arkansas: Past and Present*. Clark County Historical Association, 1992.

Rose Hill Cemetery Association Minutes, 1876-1921. Clark County Historical Association Archives, Special Collections, Riley-Hickingbotham Library, Ouachita Baptist University.

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:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Twelve acres.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing  
A 15 494220 3775220    B 15 494420 3775220  
C 15 494280 3775010    D 15 434400 3775010

Verbal Boundary Description:

All of Block 20 and the W. 1/2 of Block 19, Maddox Addition to the City of Arkadelphia, according to the recorded plat thereof, and more certainly described as follows; to-wit; Fronting 598 feet on the South side of Johnston Street (now Main Street) in said city at or near the Western terminus of said Johnston Street; the said land extends Southward, the width of its frontage, 468 feet.

Commencing at the Southwest corner of Block 20 of said Maddox Addition, and run thence South 115 feet; thence East to the West line of Indiana Street as the same is projected North from Orchard Hill Addition; thence in a Northeasterly direction along the West side of said street to a point directly East of the point of beginning; thence West to the point of beginning.

Part of Blocks 20 and 21, Maddox Addition, and part of the alley between said Block 20 and Block 21, which has never been opened, and also part of Block 54 and 55 of Trigg's Addition to the City of Arkadelphia, described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of Block 20, Maddox Addition, and run thence South 2 degrees and 47 minutes East 267 feet; thence West 190 feet; thence North 193 1/2 feet; thence East 153 feet; thence North 73 1/2 feet; thence East 24 feet to the point of beginning.

Part of Blocks 23 and 24 of Maddox Addition, and part of Crittenden Street and part of Twelfth Street which have never been opened, and described as follows: Starting at the Northwest corner of Block 20, Maddox Addition, and run thence South 267 feet; thence South 18 degrees East 337 feet to THE POINT OF BEGINNING: run thence South 15 degrees 13 minutes East 60 feet; thence East 380 feet; thence North 16 degrees East 61 feet; thence West 401 feet to the point of beginning.

All of Lots 52, 53, and 54 South of Main Street in Trigg's Addition to the City of Arkadelphia.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with Rose Hill Cemetery.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Holly Hope/Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 03/11/98

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

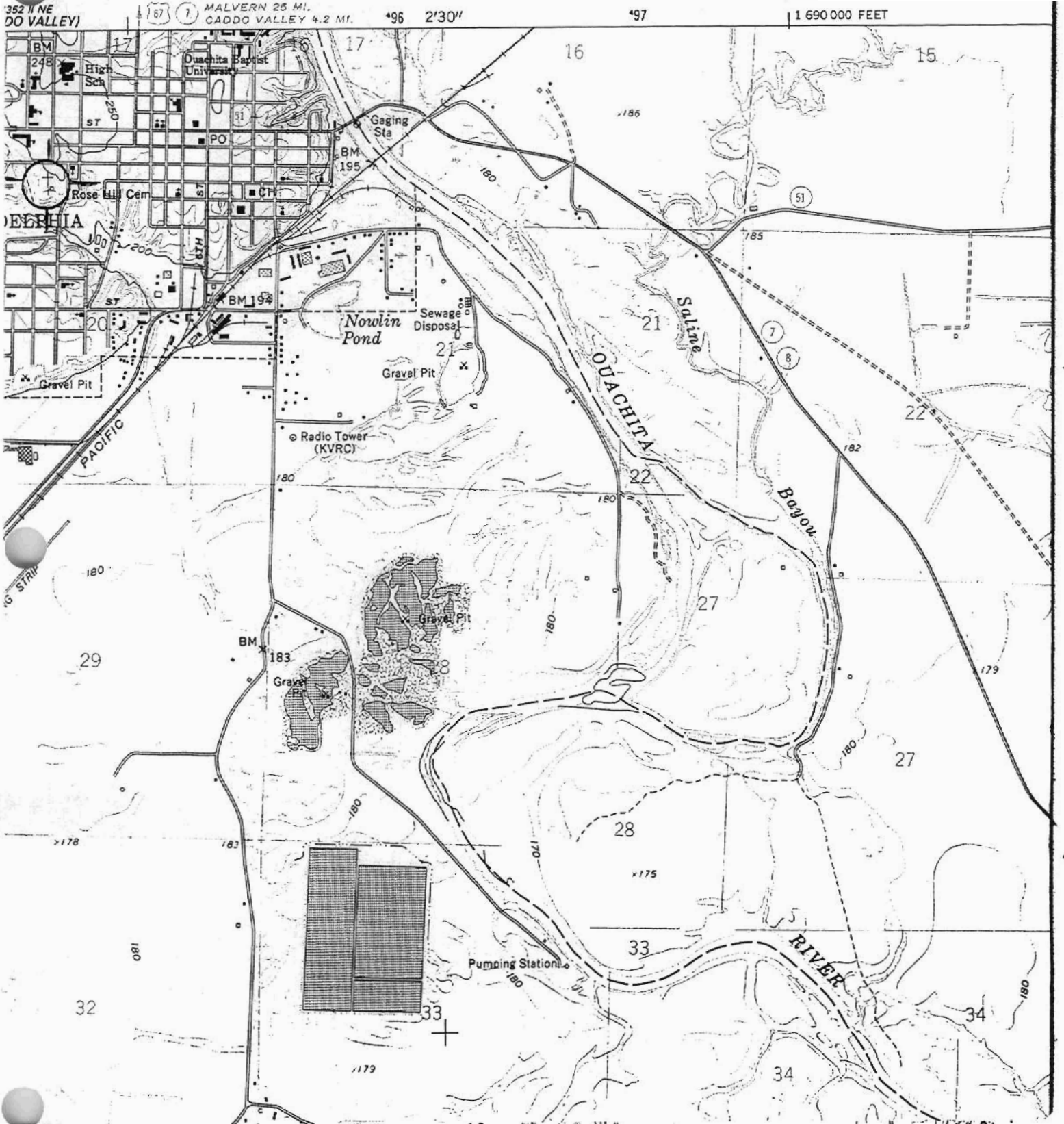
City or Town: Little Rock

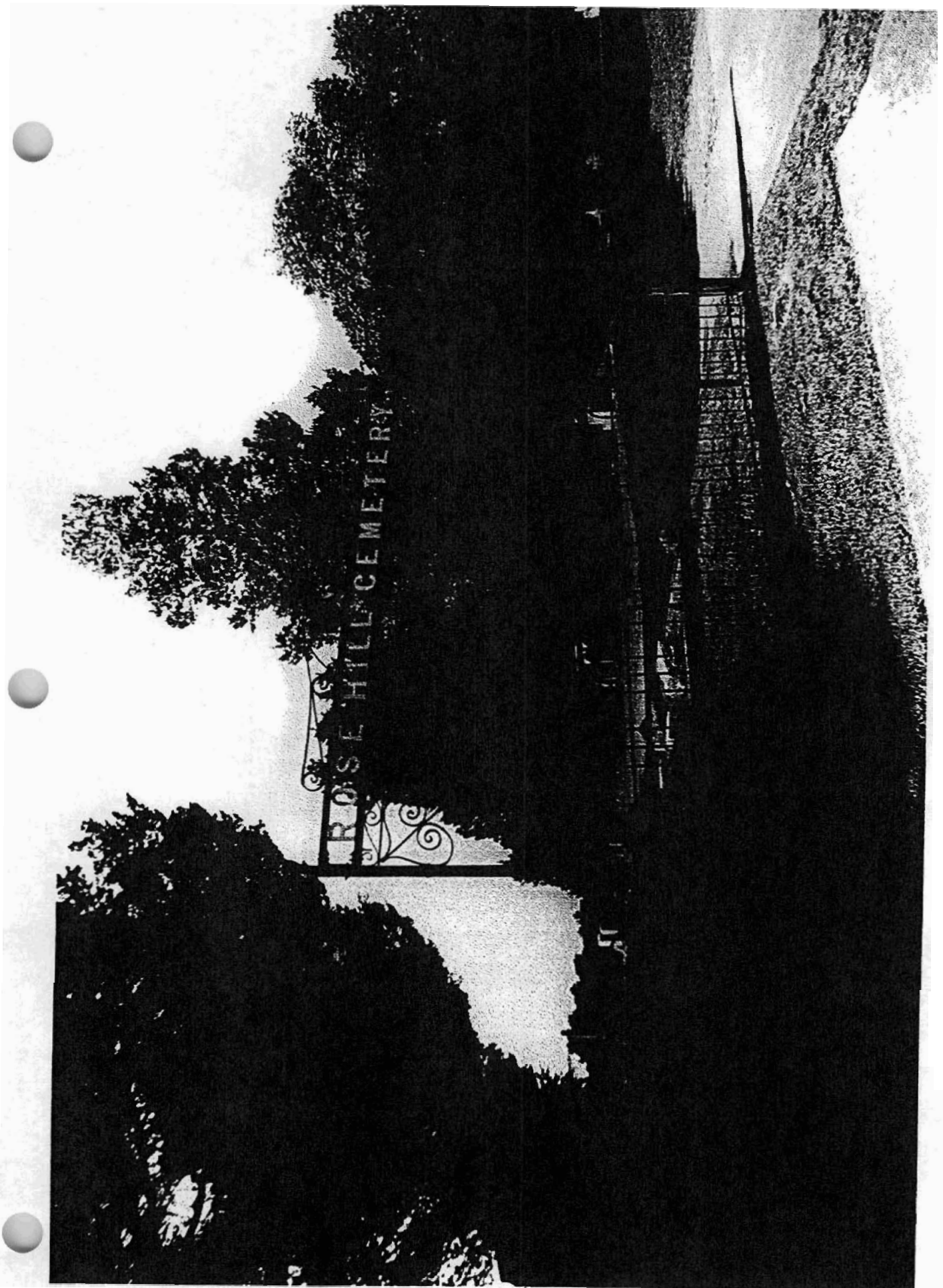
State: AR ZIP: 72201

Rose Hill Cemetery  
Arkadelphia  
Clay County, Arkansas  
UTM: 15/494360/377

DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
ROCK

ARKADELPH  
ARKAN  
7.5 MINUTE S





ROSE HILL CEMETERY

