

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR 6/01/05

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 Fairview Cemetery

other names/site number Van Buren Cemetery/CW0384

2. Location

street & number Bound by AR Highway 59 North, McKibben Avenue and Poplar Street not for publication

city or town Van Buren vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Crawford code 033 zip code 72956

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.)

Catherine ...
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/7/05
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

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the
National Register.
 See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the
National Register.

removed from the National
Register.

other, (explain.) _____

Fairview Cemetery
Name of Property

Crawford 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	
0	2	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
2	0	objects
3	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

1

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: Marble
Granite

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION / SETTLEMENT

ART: Funerary art

Period of Significance

1816 - 1955

Significant Dates

1816 (First marked burial)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A-G with checkboxes and descriptions.

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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, landmark, survey, engineering record.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, Federal Agency, Local Government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Fairview Cemetery Board, Sexton's Records

Fairview Cemetery
Name of Property

Crawford County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Ten acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>377241</u>	<u>3922752</u>	3	<u>15</u>	<u>377506</u>	<u>3922879</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>15</u>	<u>377248</u>	<u>3922879</u>	4	<u>15</u>	<u>377511</u>	<u>3922752</u>

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 Randy Smith and Terri Foley/Historic Preservation Consultant; Edited by Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date January 19, 2005
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9874
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 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 The City Of Van Buren, Arkansas -- John Riggs, Mayor
street & number 1003 Broadway telephone 479-474-1541
city or town Van Buren state Arkansas zip code 72956

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

Fairview Cemetery is located in the western section of Arkansas on the edge of the Arkansas-Oklahoma state line, along the Arkansas River in Crawford County. The cemetery is approximately three city blocks north of the Van Buren Historic District (NR 04/30/76), bounded on the west by Arkansas State Highway 59 (Fayetteville Road), Poplar Street on the south, and McKibben Avenue on the north. The cemetery is the final resting place for many of the early settlers of the area. In 1846, John Drennen, co-founder of Van Buren, donated ten acres of land to the city for the purpose of establishing a cemetery. Prior to Drennen's donation, the land had been used as a burial spot with the earliest recorded grave dating to 1816, with a total of 21 marked graves from 1816 to 1840.

There are a total of 2,891 burials in Fairview Cemetery with 2,026 of those being historic burials. Of the historic burials, 1,263 are marked, and 763 are unmarked.

Included in the overall total, but not included in the historic total, are the graves of 419 Confederate Soldiers and 8 Union Soldiers in the Confederate Section of the cemetery, which has previously been listed on the National Register of Historic Places (12/6/1996).

Included in the boundaries of this nomination are two modern, non-contributing storage buildings, a historic, contributing carriage mounting block, and a historic, contributing fence that encloses the cemetery. The mounting block is located on the outer edge of the cemetery, on the northeast corner of AR Highway 59 and Poplar Street.

ELABORATION

Fairview Cemetery is comprised of ten acres in the Grandview Addition of Van Buren. The western boundary of Fairview Cemetery is located on the right-of-way of Arkansas State Highway 59. The northwest corner of the cemetery is located at the corner of Fayetteville Road and McKibben Avenue with the north boundary on the right-of-way of McKibben Avenue. The northeast corner of the cemetery is located at an alleyway that divides the cemetery from a residential neighborhood on the east. The southeast corner of the cemetery is located at the south end of the alleyway at Poplar Street, with the south boundary on the right-of-way of Poplar Street. Fairview Cemetery is situated on a zero lot line with a sidewalk on the south boundary. Located between the north boundary and McKibben Avenue is a 28-foot wide grassy area. Located between the east boundary and alleyway is a 19-foot 7-inch grassy area.

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Of the 1,783 marked burials, 1,411 are historic, or 79%. The breakdown by decade is as follows:

1816 – 1820	1 marked
1821 – 1830	5 marked
1831 – 1840	15 marked
1841 – 1850	17 marked, 74 unmarked
1851 – 1860	47 marked, 310 unmarked
1861 – 1870	50 marked, 336 unmarked
1871 – 1880	79 marked, 53 unmarked
1881 – 1890	148 marked
1891 – 1900	195 marked
1901 – 1910	167 marked
1911 – 1920	190 marked
1921 – 1930	180 marked
1931 – 1940	151 marked
1941 – 1950	122 marked
1951 – 1954	44 marked

Non-Historic Burials:

1955 – 1960	50 marked
1961 – 1970	98 marked
1971 – 1980	59 marked
1981 – 1990	65 marked
1991 – 2000	77 marked
2001 – 2004	23 marked

According to the Sexton's Record for Fairview Cemetery there are 763 unmarked, but recorded, graves. This makes the percentage of historical burials 85%. The Sexton's Record states that records from December 23, 1871, to December 26, 1875, were omitted. Therefore, an unknown total of unmarked graves exist, possibly making the percentage of historic burials higher.¹

¹ Sexton's Record. Fairview Cemetery

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Landscape Design

Fairview Cemetery is situated on a gently sloping hillside with the highest point of the cemetery being the northwest corner overlooking the Van Buren Historic District and the Arkansas River. The cemetery is filled with numerous older trees indigenous to the area including pecan, oak, cherry, elm, maple and the most prevalent of all being the tall gnarled cedar trees. Fairview Cemetery is surrounded by a wrought iron fence and is designated by a large wrought iron gate on the south side with signage at the top stating "Fairview Cemetery."

Fairview Cemetery is divided into six sections with one paved main road known as Main Street that runs east and west through the cemetery originating on AR HWY 59 or the west side of the cemetery. From the south side on Poplar Street there are two paved roads going north and crossing Main Street. One of these northbound streets, Second Street, is exactly 269.5 feet east of the southwest corner and is marked by the aforementioned wrought iron gate. Second Street, once it intersects Main Street to the north, is unpaved and continues northward to the northwest corner of Section Three where it turns eastward, and then turns southward on the east side of Section Three and becomes Third Street. Third Street remains unpaved until it intersects Main Street, and continues southward to Poplar Street at an entrance that is 230.8 feet east of the Second Street entrance.

Grave Markers and Monuments

Located within the Fairview Cemetery are many exceptional grave markers and monuments that are excellent representations of funerary art. There is an extensive diversity of historic markers ranging in size from small to large that are inaugurated into the landscape of Fairview. Marble, granite, limestone, and native stone were utilized to create the grave markers and monuments. Most of the markers are upright and are aligned on an east-west axis. Fairview is comprised of several family plots scattered throughout the cemetery. Native stone, brick, and elaborate white marble copings bound many of the family plots. A majority of the older more historic, marble monuments display examples of funerary imagery, including: flying angels, arches, flying birds, books, broken columns, cherubs, crosses, the eye of God, flowers, garlands, clasped hands, fingers pointing upward, hands shaking, hourglass with wings of time, ivy, keys, lambs, laurel wreaths, Masonic compass and set square, open book or Bible, pyramids, roses, inverted torches, tree stump with ivy, triangles, urns with wreaths or draped with cloth, and various others.

The Fairview Cemetery is comprised of many outstanding Victorian Era monuments made primarily of white marble that are superb representations of that period. Several of the markers are decorated with the symbols and sculptures that are indicative of the time period 1837-1901. The cemetery contains numerous children's markers that depicted the stylistic transition of the pre-Victorian Era into the Victorian Era when

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children's markers became very symbolic with distinctive style and form as opposed to being smaller versions of adult markers. Several of the markers for children are representative of the more elaborate three-dimensional sculptures that conveyed the sanctity of childhood, and its separateness from the adult material world of insincerity. Fairview Cemetery contains several markers that represent the essence of the Victorian time period when children were the embodiment of innocence. These Victorian grave markers symbolize the atmosphere of the role of the child in that time period and how the death of a child solidified the prominent role of children in the Victorian Era.²

Another very prevalent style of funerary architecture located within Fairview Cemetery is the obelisk shaped monument, a form of Egyptian Revival cemetery art. The Egyptian Revival style was most popular from the 1840s to the 1850s. Obelisks were thought to be tasteful with pure uplifting lines, and were associated with ancient greatness, patriotism, and were functional for use in small areas. Obelisks were less costly than larger more elaborate markers from this time period and combined with their functionalism, they became very popular. The majority of the obelisks at Fairview are very tall in scale and are decorated with several symbols and sculptures.

The John Drennen Family Plot

The Drennen Family plot is comprised of five very massive commemorative monuments of the Egyptian Revival funerary art style. Each of these commemorative monuments is made of white marble with limestone bases. The most prominent within the plot is John Drennen's, the co-founder of Van Buren and donor of the land that Fairview Cemetery is situated upon. His commemorative monument is 15 feet high and is distinguished by an urn situated at the top symbolizing immortality. The urn is draped with cloth symbolizing mourning. Each corner of this monument, near the base, which measures 4.5 feet, are inverted torches symbolizing death and life extinct.

The other commemorative monuments in the Drennen plot belong to Catherine Drennen, whose monument is topped with an urn, and also Emily Drennen, Johnanna Denckla, and Emmeline White. Smaller arch-topped white marble monuments demark the actual burial sites of these individuals. A wrought iron fence surrounds the plot and is original to the landscaping of the plot.

² Meyer, Richard E. Cemeteries And Grave markers: Voices Of American Culture. Logan, Utah: Utah State Press. 1992, p. 12-25.

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The Honorable Judge Jesse Turner Family Plot

Short granite columns that have a pyramidal shaped top, all connected by 4-inch round bronze rails, surround the Turner family plot. A very large south-facing granite commemorative monument at the north end of the plot dominates Turner's plot. This monument is 7 feet in height and over 7 feet wide at the base.

Other noteworthy monuments within the Turner family plot are Judge Turner's and those of his two wives. Judge Turner's first wife Violet's grave marker is a white marble obelisk that is 7.5 feet high and is topped with a broken column, symbolizing the loss of the head of a family. Simpler scrolled tablet white marble monuments denote the burial site of Judge Turner and that of his second wife Rebecca.

While the above markers are wonderful examples of funerary art, the most interesting grave marker in the Turner family plot is a very small upright slanted white marble monument. In relief form letters it reads "Our Faithful Little Nurse Emily". The Sexton's record states the following about this burial: "Emily – slave of Jesse Turner, mulatto, aged 15 years died and interred August 31, 1862." According to the Sexton's record, Turner owned other slaves that have a recorded burial in Fairview Cemetery, but Emily is the only one to be buried in the family plot.

The Wallace – Ward Family Plot

Limestone blocks and a decorative wrought iron fence surround the Wallace-Ward family plot. A small wrought iron gate denotes the entrance to the plot. Within the plot is an excellent representation of Victorian Era architectural funerary art. This statue of a kneeling cherub staring toward the heavens with clasped hands measures 28 inches high and is situated in an alcove within this obelisk style monument. This monument is 9 feet, 8 inches tall with columns on either side of the front of the alcove that is 24 inches wide and 23 inches deep.

Within the plot are three very tall commemorative markers. The first is the obelisk style monument with the cherub situated in an alcove and demarks the burial site of three children belonging to Martha and Fred Wallace. The children were Ann Eliza Wallace, Mary Frances Wallace, and Louisa Young Wallace. A symbolic eye of God is situated directly above the alcove on this monument, which symbolizes God the all-seeing. The triangle that surrounds the eye symbolizes the house of God. Each of the children's gravesites is marked by individual arch topped white marble monuments that descend in height in order of their age. A broken rose is situated at the top of each one and symbolizes a life cut short. Another commemorative monument within the plot is a 10-foot 5-inch high white marble obelisk belonging to Martha and Fred Wallace. At the top of this obelisk is an urn, representative of immortality, and the urn is draped with flowers symbolizing grief, sorrow, and the fragility of life. The third commemorative monument belongs to

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Eleanor and Augustus Ward and Alfred Wallace. This obelisk is 14 feet in height and is decorated in the center of the west facing side with a garland wreath that symbolizes victory in death.

Little Benny

Within Fairview Cemetery is a three-dimensional sculpture of a child sleeping in bed. According to Richard Meyer in his book Cemeteries And Gravemarkers: Voices Of American Culture, visions of children sleeping in their beds meant they were good children and representative of their innocence in life. The bed is representative of the Victorian home, and in particular the bedroom of the child. The child in the sculpture has little clothing on, symbolizing purity in the Victorian Era.

The Mystery Grave

Fairview Cemetery contains a grave that has played an important role in town lore for many decades. According to town lore, the grave is believed to be the final resting place for one of Hernando DeSoto's men. DeSoto was a Spanish explorer that traveled through Arkansas in his explorations. There is no proof to substantiate the claim that this grave contains one of DeSoto's men. For many years the Mystery Grave has been a part of the Van Buren School System curriculum, and many students are taken on field trips to Fairview Cemetery just to visit this gravesite. According to Willie Shaw, a former caretaker of the cemetery, community members dug the grave up in the 1930s believing it was the site of buried treasure, as opposed to that of an actual burial site. The excavators discovered nothing more than "bones and tacks" and presumably everything was reburied.

African-American Slave Burials

Fairview Cemetery contains several unmarked graves of African-American slaves. According to the records kept by William Stovall, Sextant for Fairview Cemetery from 1848 to 1878, there were 89 recorded slave burials during the time period of 1848 to 1865. Prior to 1864, Stovall referenced these deaths with the simple designation of "black female/black male slave", mostly without the name of the person, but most always with the name of the slave owner. Stovall did document the names of some of the slaves in the Sexton's record.

INTEGRITY

Fairview Cemetery is the final resting place for the earliest settlers of the Town of Van Buren and Crawford County, and is significant to the history of Van Buren and Crawford County. Persons interred at Fairview Cemetery include the founders of Van Buren, politicians, judges, prominent businessmen, prominent

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physicians, African-American slaves, teachers, entrepreneurs, farmers, Confederate and Union Soldiers, and other early members of the community, and as such, retains integrity of association, feeling and setting. Although Fairview Cemetery has experienced several acts of vandalism over the years and there has been some further deterioration of the markers and monuments due to erosion caused by weather and time, the cemetery is well maintained and there is an active effort underway to preserve the cemetery. Fairview Cemetery continues to exhibit excellent examples of early workmanship in funerary architecture and landscape design, and continues to retain integrity of materials, design and workmanship.

SIGNIFICANCE

Fairview Cemetery contains 1,783 marked graves. Of these marked graves 75% date prior to 1954 and contribute to this nomination. There are 763 unmarked, but recorded, graves in Fairview Cemetery from the period of 1840 to 1880, making the percentage of historical burials increase to 85%, adding to the contribution of this nomination. Not included in these burial figures are the burials of 419 Confederate Soldiers and 8 Union Soldiers in the Confederate Section of the cemetery. This section of the cemetery has previously been listed on the National Register of Historic Places (12/6/1996), adding to the significance of this nomination. Many of the individuals interred in Fairview Cemetery were the early settlers, town founders, prominent businessmen, physicians, politicians, and other members of the community that played an active role in the settlement, expansion and growth of Van Buren. Within the cemetery are 89 recorded slave burials. Fairview Cemetery has experienced several acts of vandalism over the years and there is some further deterioration of the markers and monuments due to erosion caused by weather and time. The cemetery, however, is well maintained and there is an active effort underway to preserve the cemetery. Fairview Cemetery exhibits excellent examples of early workmanship in funerary architecture and landscape design. Within the number of recorded burials only 25% of the grave markers and monuments within the boundary of the cemetery are non-contributing, and if the number of recorded unmarked historic burials are figured in, the percentage of non-contributing grave markers is lessened to 15%.

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SUMMARY

Fairview Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **CRITERION A** for its association with the lives of persons significant in settlement of Van Buren, Arkansas, and in the history of Crawford County. It is the oldest public city cemetery in Van Buren and Crawford County, Arkansas. Fairview Cemetery has recorded the history of the area through the many significant burials of the early prominent settlers, judges, politicians, recorded but unmarked African-American slave graves, and the Confederate Section (NR 12/6/1996). The cemetery is eligible for inclusion under **CRITERION C** for its superb display of funerary architecture. As the oldest public city and county cemetery in Van Buren, Crawford County, it illustrates funerary architecture through monuments which illustrate artworks that are representative of the stylistic type and period from 1816 to 1955. Fairview Cemetery is also significant under **CRITERIA CONSIDERATION D** for cemeteries.

In addition to the landscape and design of the cemetery and its markers, there exists within the boundaries of the cemetery two modern, non-contributing storage sheds. Located just outside the main gates of Fairview Cemetery is a carriage mounting block made of scrolled wrought iron and wooden planks. Contributing to the nomination, this mounting block is located on Poplar Street and faces south to the river. The Fairview Cemetery, Confederate Section (NR 12/6/96) is a contributing resource within the boundaries of the cemetery being nominated.

ELABORATION

Town and County History

Arkansas was still a District of the Territory of Missouri when in 1818, David Boyd arrived at the future town site of Van Buren. His arrival was the first recorded event in the history of Van Buren. Although Boyd was the first to arrive, he was not the first white settler. Thomas Martin was the first settler and claimed his rights to the land, which later became a boat landing and a small settlement. In 1819 Arkansas was established as a Territory. Daniel and Thomas Phillips settled in the area of Martin's claim and established a wood yard for supplying fuel to the flat-bottomed steamboats that traveled the Arkansas River. The small community became known as Phillips Landing.³

This region is situated in Crawford County, Arkansas, and it was the largest county in Arkansas upon its establishment in 1820. Prior to this, Crawford County was part of eight counties and also part of the Indian

³ Eno, Clara B. History of Crawford County, Arkansas. Van Buren, Arkansas: Press Argus, 1950, p. 27-29

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Territory. The county was named for William Harris Crawford (1772-1834), who was secretary of the treasury under President Monroe. With the establishment of Crawford County, a post office was founded at Phillips Landing and named for Martin Van Buren, Secretary of State, appointed by President Jackson. As the community began to grow, the business and commerce of the region began to expand. John Henry & Company, along with John Drennen and David Thompson established general stores and ferry operations. With the expansion of the community, a new settlement, Columbus, was formed. By 1835, Drennen and Thompson became prominent members of that community. Drennen represented Crawford County at the Constitutional Convention and helped to write the first Constitution of Arkansas. In 1836, after Arkansas was admitted as a state, Drennen and Thompson realized that Van Buren, which was owned by Phillips, was a better site for a town than Columbus due to the higher elevation. Drennen and Thompson purchased the town site of Van Buren from Phillips for \$11,000.00. The following year, the land was surveyed and plotted out according to the direction of the river, thus spurring on the development of Van Buren and helping to establish Van Buren as the center of commerce for the distribution of goods for northwest Arkansas.⁴

The State Legislature first incorporated Van Buren as a town on December 24, 1842. Van Buren was reincorporated on January 4, 1845. Van Buren became the county seat and Drennen donated land for use as a public square in the center of town and for the location of the Crawford County Courthouse. During the Battle of Van Buren on December 28, 1862, Federal Troops destroyed all courthouse records dating from 1855 to 1860. Then on March 23, 1877, during the period of reconstruction, the courthouse burned, destroying most of the records with only a few surviving the fire.⁵

On April 13, 1851, Congress passed an act that provided for two terms of Federal court of the Western District of Arkansas to be held yearly in Van Buren. The first term of Federal Court that was recorded was held in the Crawford County Courthouse in May of 1854 with the Honorable Judge Daniel Ringo presiding. Ringo resigned and the Federal Court ceased to function during the War Between the States. In 1862, after the raid on Van Buren, the Federal Court of the Western District of Arkansas was moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas.⁶

Van Buren began to develop and expand more as a town with the establishment of the first newspaper, *The Intelligencer*, in 1842, and with the first railway, The Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway, in 1853. Drennen became the first president of the rail company, and the first train arrived in Van Buren from Little Rock on June 24, 1876. With the first railway in business, the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway was completed from St. Louis, Missouri, to Van Buren in 1882.⁷

⁴ Ibid., p. 52-66.

⁵ Ibid., p. 27-56.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

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Cemetery History

With the expansion of Van Buren, Drennen saw the need to establish a public cemetery. He donated 10 acres of land and Fairview Cemetery was founded. Since its establishment, the cemetery has met the needs of the community by serving as the first public cemetery located in Van Buren and Crawford County. The original legal cemetery description is as follows: Part of Section 24, Township 9 north, Range 32 west, Crawford County, Arkansas, being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point where the east line of Fayetteville Road (AR highway 59) and the north line of Poplar Street intersect; Thence north along the east line of Fayetteville Road to a point where the east line of Fayetteville Road intersects with the south line of McKibben Avenue; Thence leaving the east line of Fayetteville Road and along the south line of McKibben Avenue approximately 880 feet to a point being 20 feet east of the northwest corner of Lot 1 Block 8 Grandview Addition (which appears to be the west line of an alleyway); Thence leaving said south line of McKibben Avenue, south to a point on the north line of Poplar Street, west to the point of beginning.⁸

SELECTED BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THOSE BURIED IN FAIRVIEW CEMETERY

Prominent Early Settlers:

John Drennen, co-founder of Van Buren, was born in Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, in February of 1801. He went into business with David Thompson sometime around 1826, and moved to Arkansas in 1830. In 1835, he was elected to represent Crawford County in the first Arkansas Constitutional Convention in 1836. He was a member of the first Arkansas House of Representatives from 1836 to 1838. Drennen served as Postmaster and Captain of the Arkansas Frontier Guards. He was appointed by President Taylor, in June of 1849, as an agent for the Choctaw Indians, and later Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the southwestern region. He succumbed to Yellow Fever while in Indianapolis, Indiana.

George Henry Knox was one of the earliest settlers in Arkansas. Before Arkansas became a state in 1836, he was appointed District Marshal to look after Indian affairs. He came to live at the site of what is now Van Buren when it was still a wilderness. Knox was known as a prominent man in business, religious and social life. He died on August 12, 1854.

⁸ Legal Description. Fairview Cemetery. Crawford County Abstract Company, Van Buren, Arkansas.

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Alexander McClean was, at the time of his death in 1859, the Clerk with the District Court of the United States for the Western District of Arkansas. He was a native of Albany, New York, and was one of the early pioneers of Arkansas. McClean was the first mayor of Van Buren, and clerk of the Circuit Court of Crawford County from 1833-1836.

Judges and Politicians:

The Honorable Judge Jesse Turner was born in Orange County, New Jersey, in 1805. He relocated to the Arkansas Territory in 1831, settling at Van Buren. In 1838, he was elected a member from the counties of Crawford and Franklin to the House of Representatives for Arkansas Legislature; in 1841, he was appointed by the Secretary of War to attend the examinations of cadets at West Point Academy; in 1851, he was appointed U.S. Attorney for that district; and in 1866-1867, and 1874-1875, he was a member of the State Senate in Arkansas. Judge Turner was very involved with the Little Rock-Fort Smith Railway and the Kansas and Arkansas Valley Railway.

The Honorable Judge Jonathan B. Ogden was born in Cumberland County, New Jersey, on July 3, 1812. He moved to Van Buren in 1843 and began to practice law. In 1856, he was appointed United States Commissioner of the District Court, Western District of Arkansas, which included all of the Indian Territory west of the Rocky Mountains, and held that office until the Civil War. After the Civil War, he was offered the position of Clerk of the United States Court at Van Buren, but declined. In 1866, he was appointed Assistant United States District Attorney for the Western District and held that position for 6 years.

The Honorable Judge Joseph James Green was born in North Carolina in 1813. He moved to Van Buren in the early 1840s. In 1847, he was appointed aide de camp to Brigadier General Duval with the rank of Major of Cavalry in the militia. In 1855, he served in the state senate and in 1857, was a member of the state legislature. He helped to organize the Van Buren Female Academy and served as president of the board of trustees until the Civil War. Green served as Judge of the Fourth Circuit in 1863, and acted as a Civil Officer of the Confederate States of America. He died in February of 1863.

Former Mayors of Van Buren buried at Fairview Cemetery include Alexander Mc Clean, 1845; A.J. Ward, 1849 & 1855; John Austin, 1854 & 1861; Thomas Walden, 1860; David Dickson, 1866-1868; L.C. White, 1872; J.M. Wood, 1872-1873; F.M. Neal, 1876-1877, 1887-1888; Jesse Turner Jr., 1880-1885; James D. Hawkins 1886-87, 1894-95; H.C. Hayman, 1890-1901; Nimrod Turman, 1891-1993; Judge Ben Decherd, 1894-95; Alvis Smith, 1896-1897; J.C. McKinney, 1929-1931, 1945-1947; and Warren G. Furry, 1931-1935.

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Former Postmasters buried at Fairview include Jonathan A. Eno, 1852-1855; W.T. England, 1893-1897; Marion Orrick, Oct. 1901 – Mar. 1903; Catherine Orrick, Mar. 1903 – July 1903; and Jonathan Neal, 1906.

Physicians:

Dr. Addison McArthur Bourland was born in Franklin County, Alabama, in 1825. In 1844, he began studying medicine in Barry County, Missouri, under Dr. B. B. Clements. Then, in 1846, he enlisted in Company D, Arkansas Mounted Volunteer Cavalry and fought in the Mexican-American War. He resided in Franklin County, Arkansas, until 1864, and moved to Van Buren where he became one of Van Buren's prominent physicians. He was a member of the Van Buren Medical Society and American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. James A. Dibrell was born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1817, and was of French-Huguenot descent. He moved to Van Buren very early in his life and lived here his entire life except when the War Between the States was being waged. He died in February of 1897.

Dr. Henri Charles Pernot was born in France on August 1, 1820, and was educated in Paris, France. He came to America in 1847, and in 1851, married Emilie Annie Sargeant, who was a descendant of Josiah Bartlett, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Pernot moved to Van Buren in 1851, and practiced medicine in Crawford County and in the Indian Territory. He was a president of the Crawford County Medical Association; a member of the City Council; appointed Chief Surgeon of a confederate hospital in Van Buren, and served until the Union troops occupied Van Buren. He then served as physician to soldiers of the Civil War on both sides. He moved briefly to Fort Washita in the Indian Territory where he was appointed to be surgeon of that post. After the war ended, he returned to Van Buren to practice medicine. He died on January 8, 1881.

Prominent Businessmen:

Phillip Pennywitt was a steamboat operator between Cincinnati and New Orleans. He built the first steamboat ever constructed in Cincinnati and named it for that city. He arrived in Little Rock, Arkansas, in January of 1828, as commander of the steamer *Facility*, one of the first steamboats to ever sail the Arkansas River. Pennywitt was one of the most popular steam boat men of his day and his name is intertwined with navigation on the Ohio, Mississippi, and Arkansas Rivers. He retired from the steamboat business and engaged in a mercantile and manufacturing business until the onset of Civil War and then retired. He died in 1868.

Leonard Wilhaf opened the first bakery in Crawford County in 1840.

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James A. Scott came to the Arkansas Territory in 1830 or 1831, but was unable to find work at that time, and moved to Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. He returned to Crawford County in 1835, to what was known as Columbus, a rival of Van Buren for the role of county seat, established by John Drennen and David Thompson. In 1837, he married Francis McAlister Thompson, the daughter of David Thompson, co-founder of Van Buren, and established a mercantile business in Van Buren.

Alfred Wallace was born in Georgia on December 22, 1809. In 1844, he moved to Van Buren and engaged in a mercantile business, and was joined by his brother-in-law A. J. Ward. Wallace died in 1856, and left \$10,000.00 in a trust fund to the Crawford Institute, a school for boys, which later became the Wallace Institute. The school did not reopen after the Civil War.

Henry F. Meyer was born in Lawrence, Kansas, in 1857, and moved to Van Buren with his mother. He attended school in Van Buren and entered the mercantile establishment of J.W. Statler and later became the firm of Meyer and Hodges. In May of 1892, he was elected assistant cashier of Citizen's Bank in Van Buren. When Citizen's Bank & Trust consolidated in 1914, he was elected vice president, and served the bank for 27 years, resigning in 1919.

Other Significant Persons:

Nicholas F. Cornelius was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1838. He lived on the home farm until he was 14, and then worked in a dry goods store in Bremen, Germany, until 1857, when he moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and then to New Orleans, Louisiana. He returned to Hanover for a visit in 1858, and then upon his return to the United States, he operated a clothing store in Buffalo, New York. In 1861, he established himself in business in Van Buren. During the Civil War, he moved briefly to Rochester, Indiana. He was held in high esteem in the city of Van Buren, and was ranked among the city's most prosperous businessmen.

Captain William Bowlin was born in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1832. He traveled to Van Buren with his mother by steamboat, arriving in March of 1844. At the age of 18, he became an apprentice in a printing office, and worked on the *Arkansas Intelligence* newspaper. From 1860 to 1864, Bowlin served as City Marshall. In 1859 he established a family liquor and grocery store and remained in business until 1863, when he joined the Union Army. He served in General Pleasanton's Division of the Department of Missouri, General Sanborn's brigade, and Colonel John E. Phelps regiment, which drove the Confederate General Price from Missouri in the fall of 1864. After the war, he was appointed by the governor to the board of registration. Bowlin owned and operated a successful farm. He became one of Crawford County's leading businessmen. He was also a director of the Citizen's Bank in Van Buren.

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William Henry Harrison Shibley was born in Ralls County, Missouri, in 1840. He moved to Crawford County with his parents in 1860. In 1862 he enlisted in the Confederate Army as a private in Company G, 22nd Regiment, Arkansas Infantry. He fought in the battles of Prairie Grove, Saline River, and Helena. Shibley became the acting adjutant of the regiment while commanding his company. Shibley was the chief clerk of Mr. D. C. Williams for 10 years prior to 1868, and the firm then became Shibley, Wood, and Company. Shibley sold his interest to Wood Brothers and Southmayd. In February of 1888, he became president of the Van Buren Canning Company, which he helped to establish and later became its general manager. In July of 1888, the company of Shibley, Bourland, and Company succeeded T. D. Bourland and Company in the wholesale grocery and commission business. Shibley was one of the first leading businessmen in Van Buren; a stockholder in the Van Buren Ice and Coal Company; director and stockholder in the Crawford County Bank; treasurer of the Van Buren Building and Loan Association and the Van Buren Land and Improvement Company.

Thomas M. McGee was born in Van Buren in 1846, in the Collins Hotel. His father was one of the first white settlers in Crawford County, Arkansas. McGee was educated in Van Buren and at the Kentucky Military Institute near Frankfort, Kentucky. After his education he farmed until 1874. In 1881, he engaged a mercantile business in Van Buren and became one of the more successful businessmen in the city. In 1871, McGee served as Deputy United States Marshal and later served two years as the Sheriff of Crawford County under Colonel William L. Taylor. McGee served on the Van Buren School Board for several years and the Van Buren City Council. He was a stockholder in the Crawford County Bank. In 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate Army, first in the Van Buren Guards, and later with General Terry's regiment in Texas. He served for the duration of the Civil War and was present at the surrender at San Antonio, Texas.

Robert S. Hynes was born in Canada in 1845. He was educated at Lower Canada College and in 1864, came to the United States. He moved to Bentonville, Arkansas, around 1871, and started the *Advance*, a successful newspaper, which he sold in 1877. In 1879, he came to Van Buren and in 1884, he purchased the Crawford County Bank. In 1886, the Honorable Judge Jesse Turner and D. W. Moore joined him in making the bank a stock company with a capital of \$50,000.00, and he was elected cashier. He was one of the original incorporators of the Van Buren Canning Company and the Van Buren Ice & Coal Company where he held the position of a stockholder and treasurer. Hynes was closely identified with many of the chief movements in Van Buren. He was one of the active principals in securing the San Francisco Railroad to the town of Van Buren.

M. W. Drewrey was a brick manufacturer and contractor, born in Princess Anne County, Virginia, in 1828. He was educated in Virginia and lived in Norfolk, Virginia, until he was 16. He then worked as an apprentice in the brick mason's trade for five years, and in 1857, was employed in the Government Navy

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Yard at Norfolk for 14 months. In 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate Army, Company A, 16th Regiment, Atlantic Guards, and served as a First Lieutenant for 18 months. After the war, he worked as a brick mason in Memphis, Tennessee, and in 1869, moved to Van Buren, Arkansas. He manufactured brick in Van Buren, and in the first year produced over 600,000 and averaged around 300,000 every year after that. During his years as a brick-maker he erected some of the finest buildings in Van Buren. He erected the courthouse, which still stands today; a public school; the Methodist Episcopal Church South; and the business blocks of Wood and Southmayd, Creekmore and Lynch, etc. He also erected the college at North Fork and a public school in Paris, Arkansas.

Frank McKibben was born in Seneca County, Ohio, in 1843. He was orphaned when he was 12 and was reared by Henry Isabel in Richland County, Ohio, where he learned the carriage trimmer trade when he was 14. In November of 1861, he enlisted in Company A, 1st Ohio Cavalry, and participated in 52 engagements. He served under General Garfield in Kentucky, General Burnside in Tennessee, and General Sherman in Georgia. After the war, he worked for his brother David in his mercantile business in Fort Smith, Arkansas, until 1870, when he became a plantation superintendent. In 1871, he established a store in Van Buren and in 1880, his brother-in-law Henry Pape joined him as partner in the business. They sold general merchandise, hardware, clothing, furniture, etc. It was known as the largest inventory of general goods in western Arkansas. McKibben was an influential citizen of Van Buren and was a member of the school board; city council; vice president of the Van Buren Canning Company; and stockholder and director of the Crawford County Bank.

Charles J. Murta was born in Ireland in 1855, and immigrated to the United States in 1865. He received his education in St. Louis, Missouri. At the age of 18 he became an engineer on the Iron Mountain Railroad, and then served as the telegraph agent for the city of Alma, Arkansas, from 1875 to 1885. In 1887, Murta started a mercantile business in Van Buren. In July of 1888, he purchased the hardware stock of Reynolds Brothers. He was a well-respected businessman, who also engaged as bookkeeper in the Exchange National Bank of Little Rock. He was a stockholder in the Van Buren Ice and Coal Company and the Van Buren Canning Company.

Clara B. Eno was a noted historian of Crawford County. She was born in Van Buren on February 14, 1854. In her younger years she taught school, and later devoted her life to work in religious, literary, and historical affairs. Her contemporaries knew her as one of the more outstanding historians in Arkansas.

INTEGRITY

Fairview Cemetery retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design and workmanship. The cemetery's setting atop a hill overlooking the Van Buren Historic District (NR 04/30/76) and the Arkansas River

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remains comparable to when the first burial took place in 1816 and when the cemetery was officially established in 1846. Cedar and oak trees dot the cemetery, and alleyways and narrow drives incise the landscape, inviting guests to walk the cemetery and enjoy the serenity it has to offer. Victorian-era and Egyptian Revival-influenced markers are prevalent throughout Fairview Cemetery, the granite and marble stones formed into columns, urns, obelisks, massive monuments and understated tablets. These various markers exhibit funerary art, such as clasped hands, roses, inverted torches, crosses and Masonic emblems.

In addition to the landscape and design of the cemetery and its markers, there exists within the boundaries of the cemetery two modern, non-contributing storage sheds. Located just outside the main gates of Fairview Cemetery is a carriage mounting block made of scrolled wrought iron and wooden planks. Contributing to the nomination, this mounting block is located on Poplar Street and faces south to the river. The Fairview Cemetery, Confederate Section (NR 12/6/96) is a contributing resource within the boundaries of the cemetery being nominated.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fairview Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **CRITERION A** for its association with the lives of persons significant in settlement of Van Buren, Arkansas and in the history of Crawford County. It is the oldest public city cemetery in Van Buren and Crawford County, Arkansas. Fairview Cemetery has recorded the history of the area through the many significant burials of the early prominent settlers, judges, politicians, recorded but unmarked African-American slave graves, and the Confederate Section (NR 12/6/1996). The cemetery is eligible for inclusion under **CRITERION C** for its superb display of funerary architecture. As the oldest public city and county cemetery in Van Buren, Crawford County, it illustrates funerary architecture through monuments which illustrate artworks that are representative of the stylistic type and period from 1816 to 1955. Fairview Cemetery is also significant under **CRITERIA CONSIDERATION D** for cemeteries.

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Meyer, Richard E. Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture. Logan, Utah: Utah State Press. 1992.

Sexton's Record. Fairview Cemetery. Held by Joe E. Smith, Acting Superintendent and Board Member of Fairview Cemetery, Van Buren, Arkansas.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of Section 24, Township 9 North, Range 32 West, Crawford County, Arkansas, being more particularly described as follows:

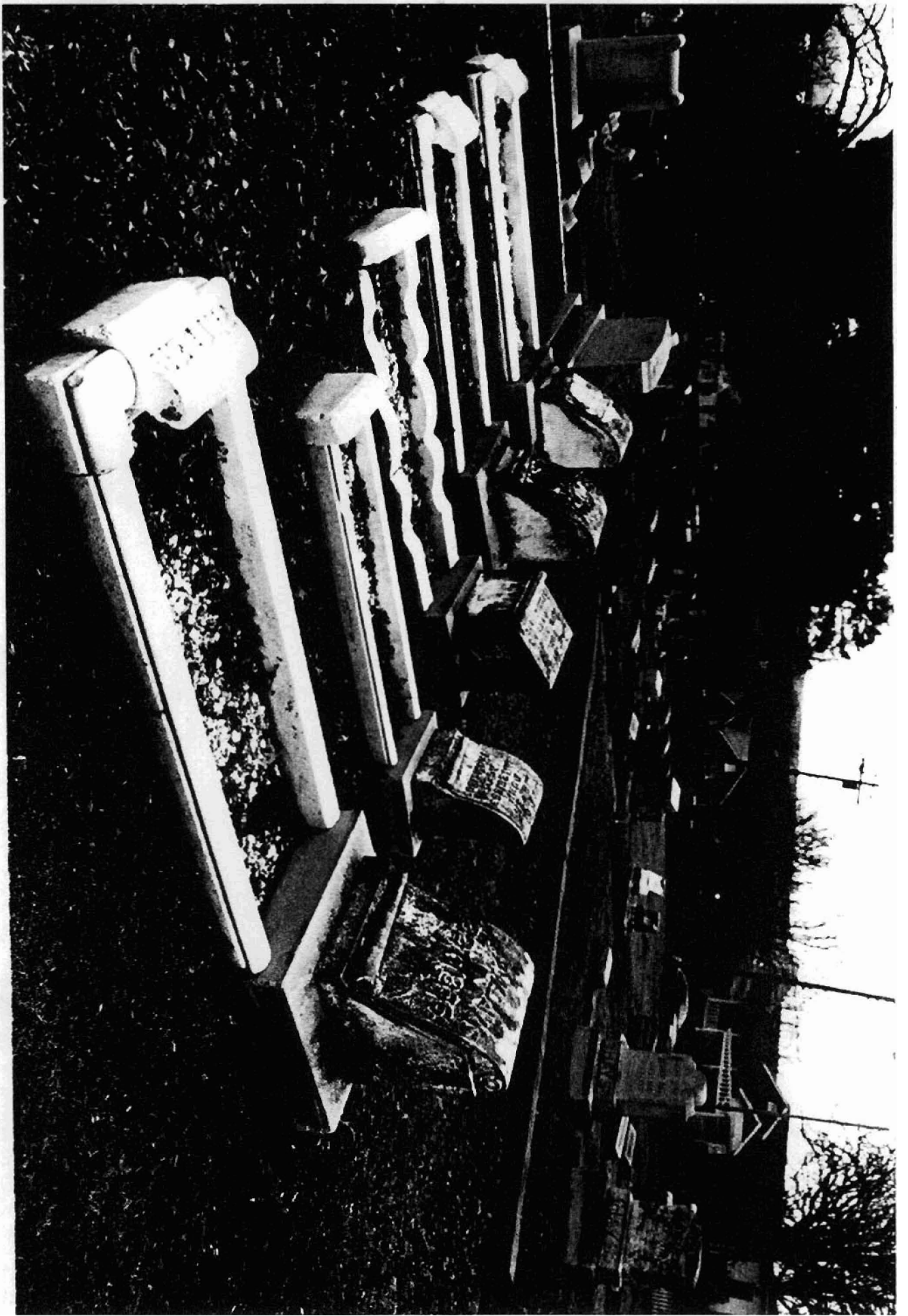
Beginning at a point where the east line of Fayetteville Road and the north line of Poplar Street intersect; Thence north along the east line of Fayetteville Road to a point where the east line of Fayetteville Road intersects with the south line of McKibben Avenue; Thence leaving the east line of Fayetteville Road and along the south line of McKibben Avenue approximately 880 feet to a point being 20 feet east of the northwest corner of Lot 1 Block 8 Grandview Addition (which appears to be the west line of an alleyway); Thence leaving said south line of McKibben Avenue, south to a point on the north line of Poplar Street, west to the point of beginning.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The selected boundary includes all the property historically associated with the Fairview Cemetery.



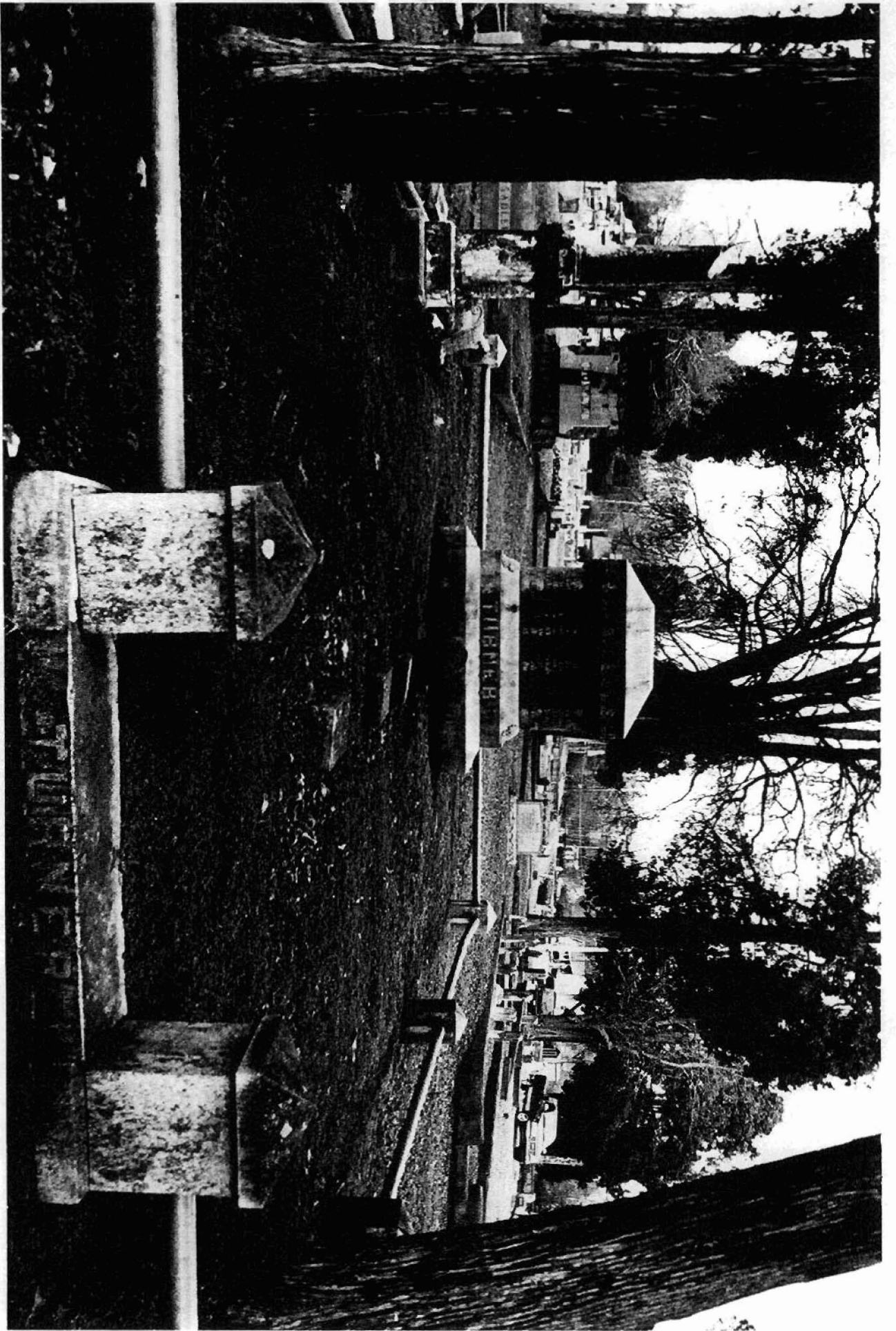




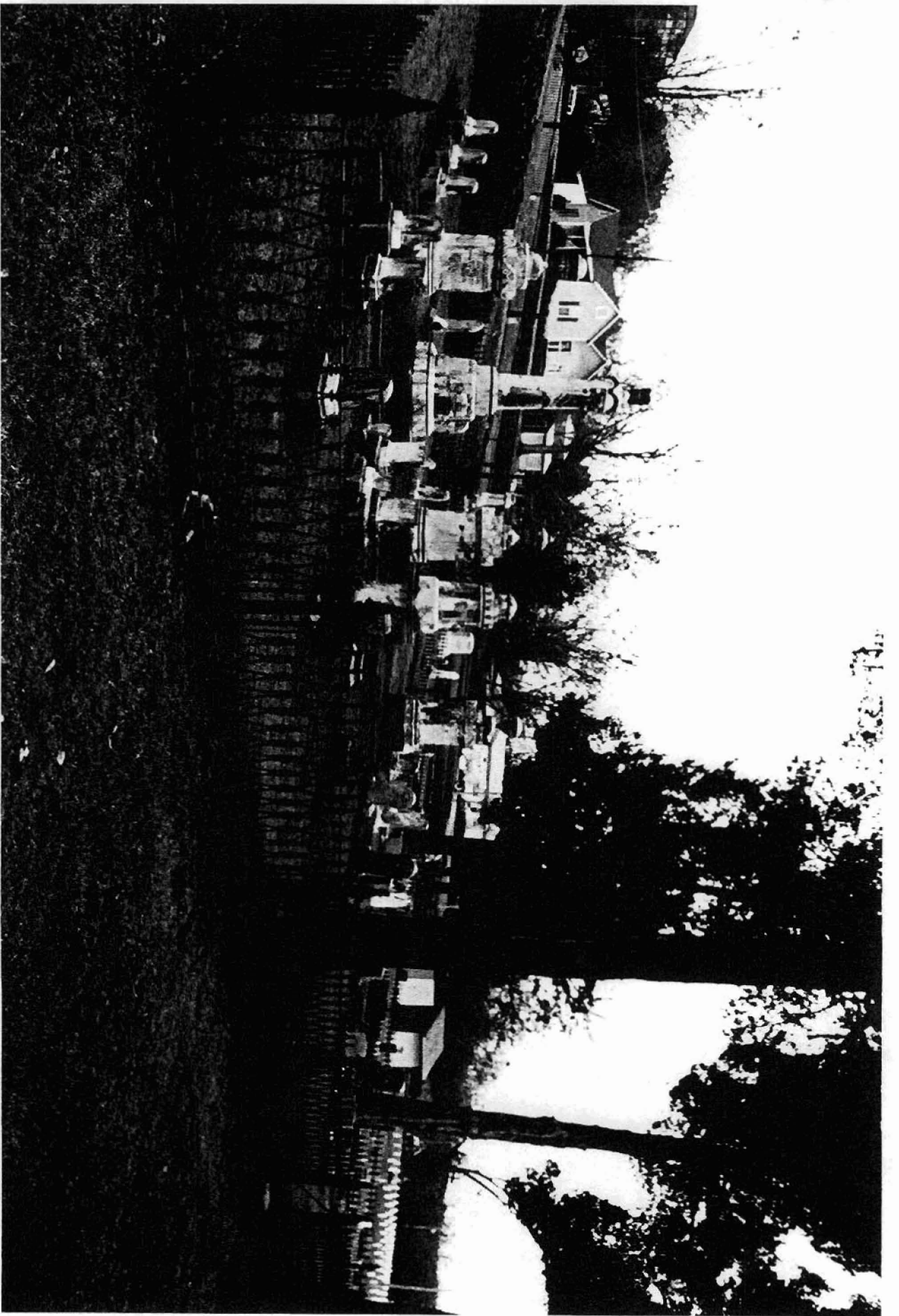


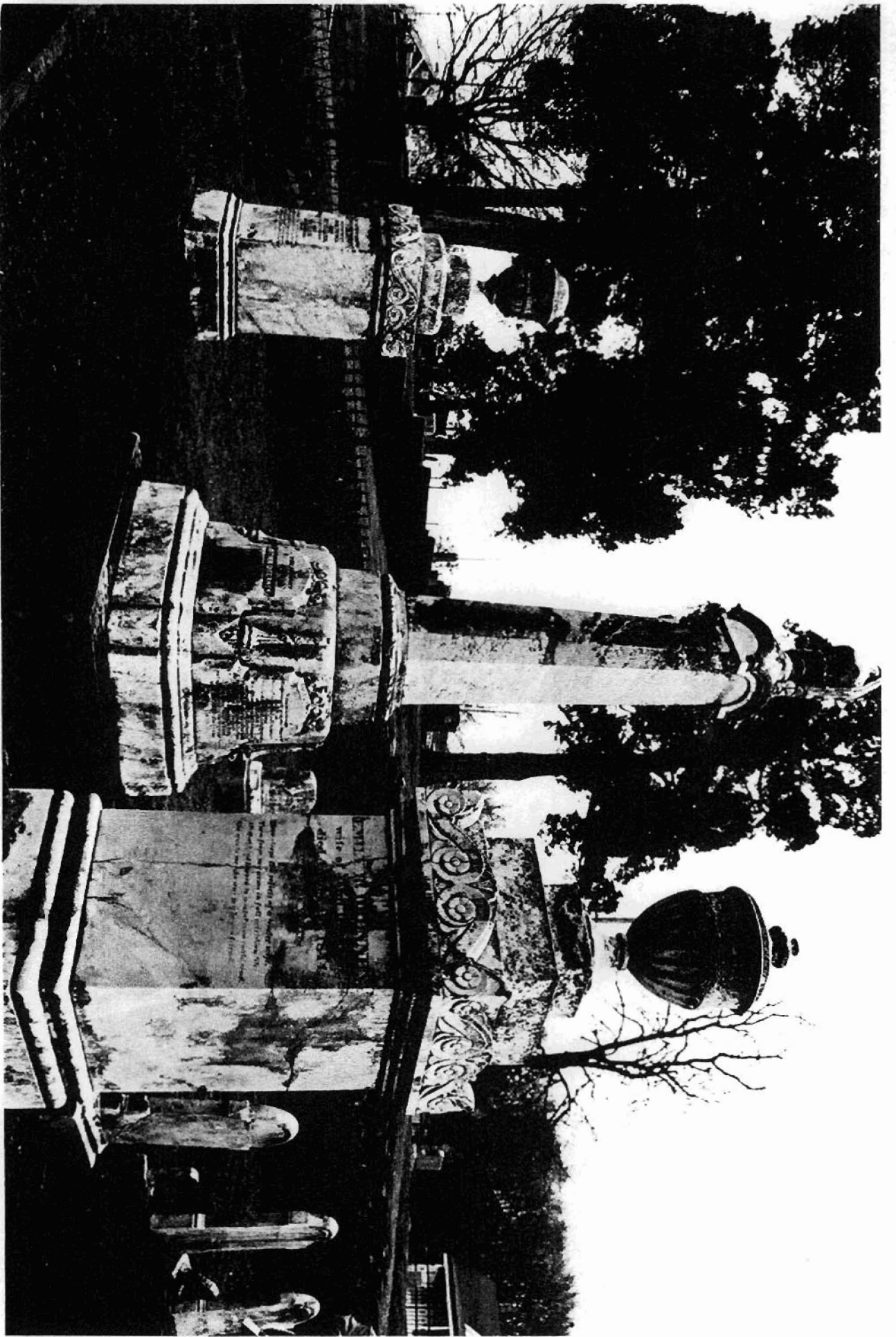
Leaves have their time to fall
And flowers to wither at the touch of wind & breath
But stars to set - But those
That live fall not as leaves nor as the flowers.

SACRED
to the memory of
EDWARD CUNNINGHAM
who was born June 1st 1809.
died March 2nd 1851
and of
PAUL DESMUKES
died Dec. 1st 1833 aged 1 month
RICHARD HENRY
died July 1844 aged 1yr & 8 mo
HENRY
died April 27 1846 aged 7 months
Children of
EDWARD & SUSAN T. CUNNINGHAM

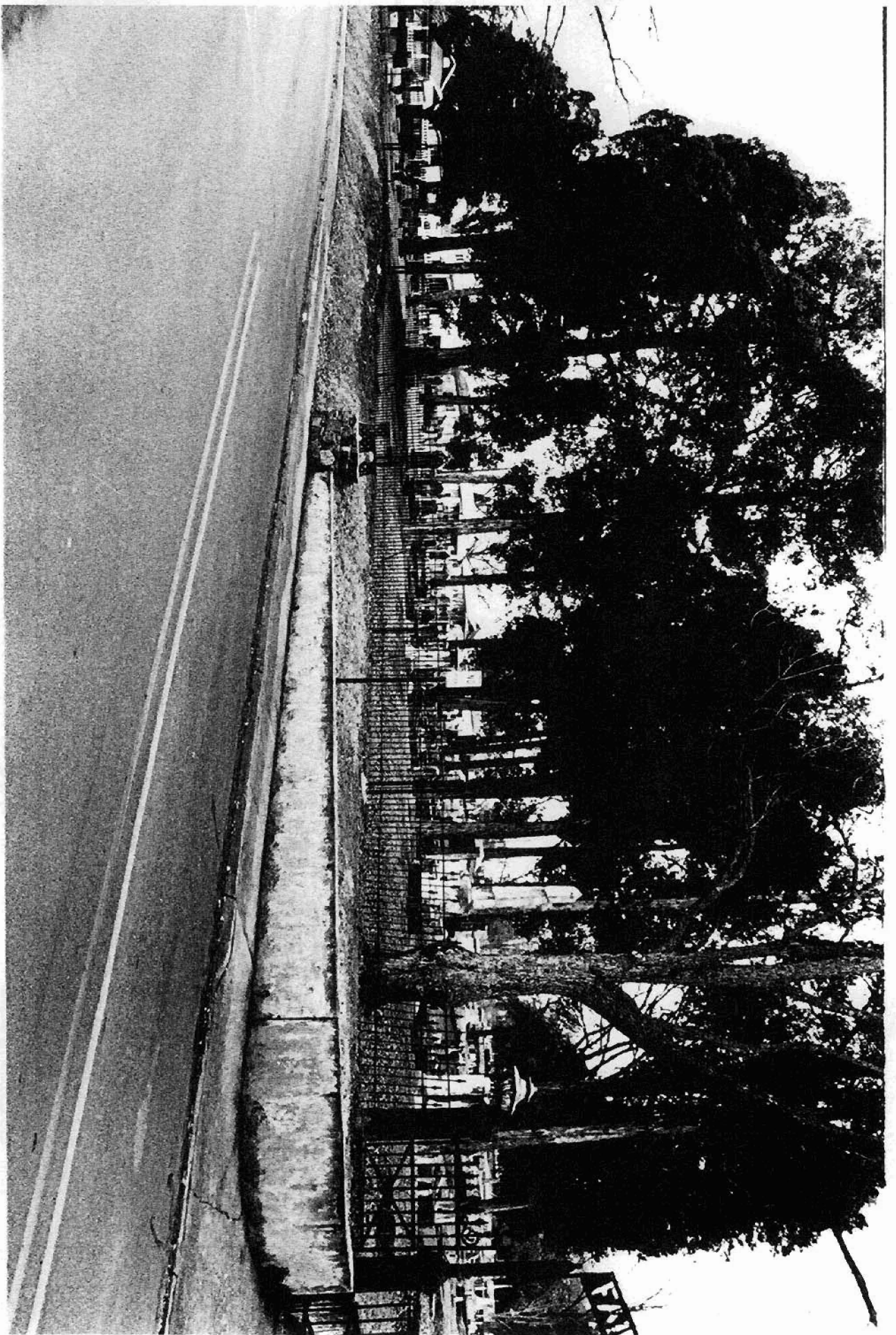




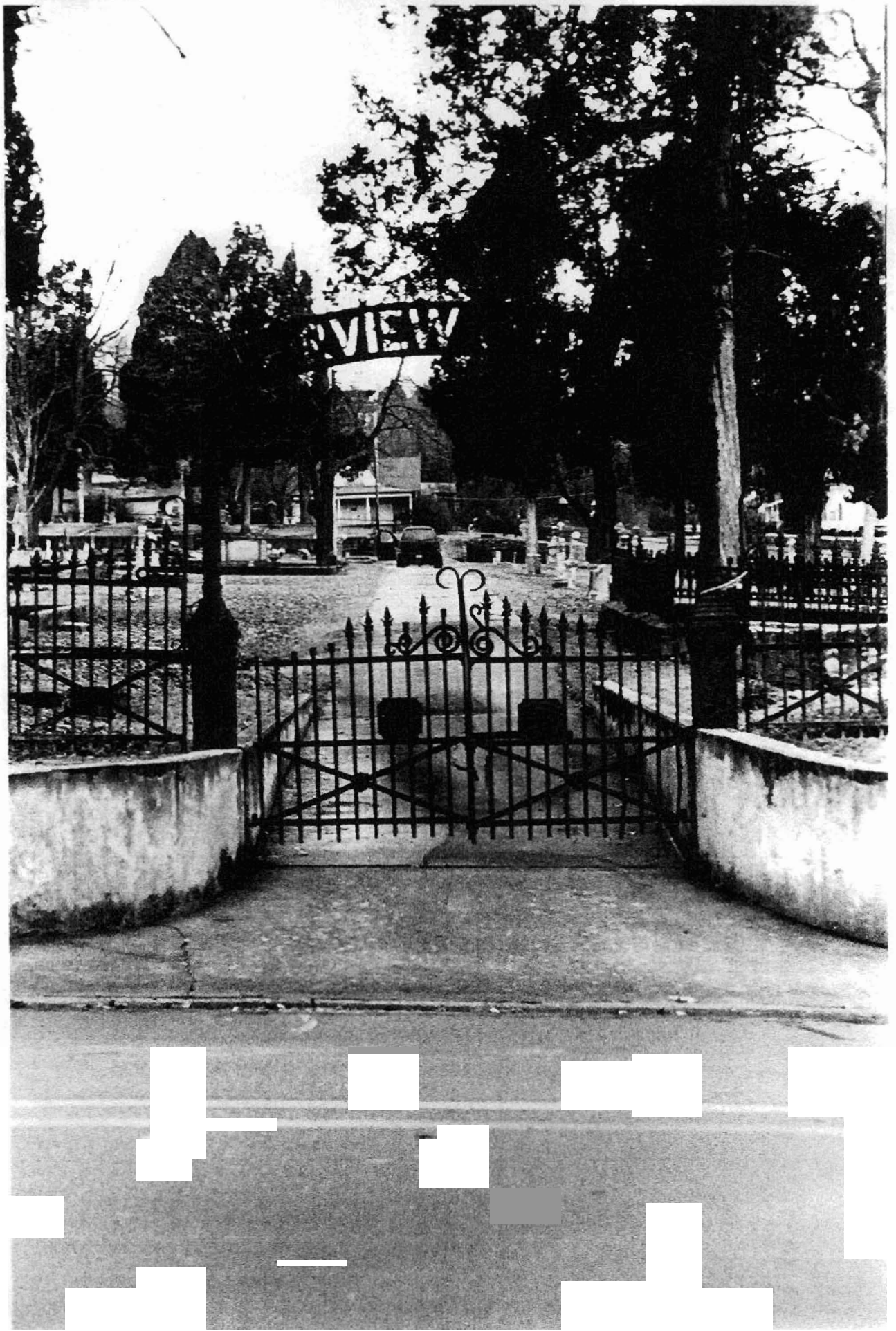












FAIRVIEW CEMETERY
VAN BUREN CRAWFORD COUNTY AR
UTM REFERENCE
15/277373/2922015

