

NR LISTED 3/31/95 book copy

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Scatterville Cemetery

other name/site number: CY0041

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2. Location

=====

street & number: Approx. 1.5 mi. W. of AR Hwy. 90 on County Rd. 404

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Rector

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Clay code: AR 021 zip code: 72461

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	buildings
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	sites
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	structures
<u>  </u>	<u>  </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

=====  
**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**  
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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. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater \_\_\_\_\_ 2-9-95  
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. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

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

=====  
**5. National Park Service Certification**  
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
=====

Historic: Funerary Sub: Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current : Funerary Sub: Cemetery  
Not in Use \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
**7. Description**  
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Architectural Classification:

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

Other Description: N/A\_\_\_\_\_

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

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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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  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1857-1931

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 periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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X See continuation sheet.

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: Approximately two

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
A 15 741280 4018390 B 15 741400 4018420
C 15 741400 4018340 D 15 741290 4018330

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the USGS map, "Rector, Arkansas," and is a polygon whose vertices are marked by the above-referenced UTM coordinates.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, Architectural Historian
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: February 9, 1995
Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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**Summary**

The Scatterville Cemetery is located northwest of Rector in Clay County. It is composed of fifty-two recorded burials, of which approximately thirty are marked. The burial dates range from 1857 to 1931 with the majority occurring in the 1870's.

**Elaboration**

Located approximately two miles northwest of Rector in Clay County on County Road 404, the Scatterville Cemetery comprises roughly two acres and is set in an impressive stand of largely oak and hickory trees. The cemetery is surrounded on three sides by a barbed-wire fence of indeterminate age, and is further designated by a large cast-iron marker erected at the entrance by the Arkansas History Commission in 1973.

The cemetery contains approximately thirty gravestones with numerous depressions throughout. According to the Clay County Cemeteries "new book," fifty-two people are buried in the cemetery. The burial dates range from 1857 to 1931 with the majority occurring in the 1870's. There are four recorded burials in the 1860's, eighteen in the 1870's, seven in the 1880's, two in the 1890's, nine in the first decade of the twentieth century, and three between 1910 and 1931. The only nonhistoric component of the cemetery is a dedication marker of pink granite atop a concrete base that is inscribed "THE PRIVILEGE OF CARING FOR THIS FOREST SHRINE WAS ACCEPTED BY THE METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP OF RECTOR IN 1963. WE BEQUEATH ITS PERPETUAL CARE TO OUR SUCCESSORS."

Most of the markers are small, narrow marble slabs, many of which have fallen and/or possibly moved. The inscriptions on many gravestones have been obscured by age and the elements while others were never inscribed. There are a few styled markers, including two four-sided family monuments with obelisks belonging to the Allen and McNeil families. Both were damaged by vandals; the Allen monument has been repaired, while the McNeil obelisk is lying in two parts beside its base. Nearby, the largest gravestone in the cemetery, the square-based, shaft and capital monument to Nancy McNeil (1890), is in worse condition with its shaft lying on the ground and its capital broken into several pieces. There is also a multiple gravestone for three members of the Cook family. It is a tall rectangular monument with an upper sloped face featuring a sculpted open bible. Other interesting stones include H. W. Granade's 1870 horizontal cylindrical marker and Captain W. T. Morris's 1902 rectangular monument on base with an open bible and a knotted stole draped down one side.

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Although there is an unsubstantiated story regarding a grave in the southeast corner in which twenty Civil War soldiers are buried, there is no mention of slaves being buried here. It is known that some are buried at the nearby Mobley family cemetery.

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**Summary**

The Scatterville Cemetery is being nominated under Criterion A with local significance as the only remaining link to the historic and antebellum community of Scatterville.

**Elaboration**

Although a few people trickled into Clay County while Arkansas was still a territory, serious settlement did not begin until the 1830's. At that time, Clay County did not yet exist, and the western portion of the county was part of Randolph County while the eastern section belonged to Greene County. Earlier settlement of this region had been hindered by swamps on either side of Crowley's Ridge.

According to Robert T. Webb in his 1933 *History & Traditions of Clay County*, the first Clay County communities, defined by having five or six families settled in a five mile area, were Chalk Bluff, Oak Bluff, Scatterville, and a settlement near the present community of Peach Orchard. Webb notes that Scatterville received its name because:

. . . one man put a store at the foot of a hill, another put one at the peak, still another put one at the foot on the other side. The few stores and cabins were scattered about over the hills in a careless way.

The first families to locate in the Scatterville community were the McNiels, Allens, Copelands, Mobleys, Snowdens, Waddells, Nortens, Mitchells, Golbys, Whites, Bradshaws, Deans, Rayburns, Whitakers, and Simmons. They were mainly subsistence farmers; however, the Allen, Knight, Simmon, Bradshaw, McNiel, and Mobley families brought a few slaves with them when they emigrated from Kentucky and Tennessee. Cotton was grown during the antebellum period, but it was only used to make clothing for personal use. A gin in Scatterville eased this task somewhat by removing the seeds from the boll. After the war, cotton was raised as a cash crop. In 1855, the first horse-powered sawmill was brought to Scatterville, and a frame school building was erected in 1859. In that same year the town welcomed Major Rayburn's new steam-powered sawmill. Other industries in Scatterville included a tanyard for shoe making and a hand-powered sorghum mill.

Scatterville also owns the distinction as the scene of the first "battle" of the Civil War in Clay County. According to Webb, in 1860, "Little Bill" Johnson and Tom Holifield differed as to presidential merits of Abraham Lincoln and agreed to meet and fight it out, "fist and skull."

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Apparently, Scatterville was a meeting place for many of these events, which were called pitched battles, and the preparations emulated dueling formalities. The fight ended when one admitted defeat or if the contest was too one-sided. The Holifield-Johnson battle is said to have ended with both men exhausted and unable to raise an arm. On a more serious note, actual Civil War skirmishes were fought in the Scatterville vicinity on August 3, 1862 and March 28, 1863.

Although information on Scatterville during and after the Civil War is scarce, it is known that the community remained stable until the arrival of the St. Louis and Texas Railroad about two miles to the south in 1881. The railroad company laid out a new town named Rector, and the population of Scatterville gradually migrated to the new and booming town.

As there are no known structures that are extant from that period in the Scatterville vicinity, the Scatterville Cemetery is locally significant under Criterion A as the best surviving link to this important early Clay County settlement which faded from view in the post-railroad era.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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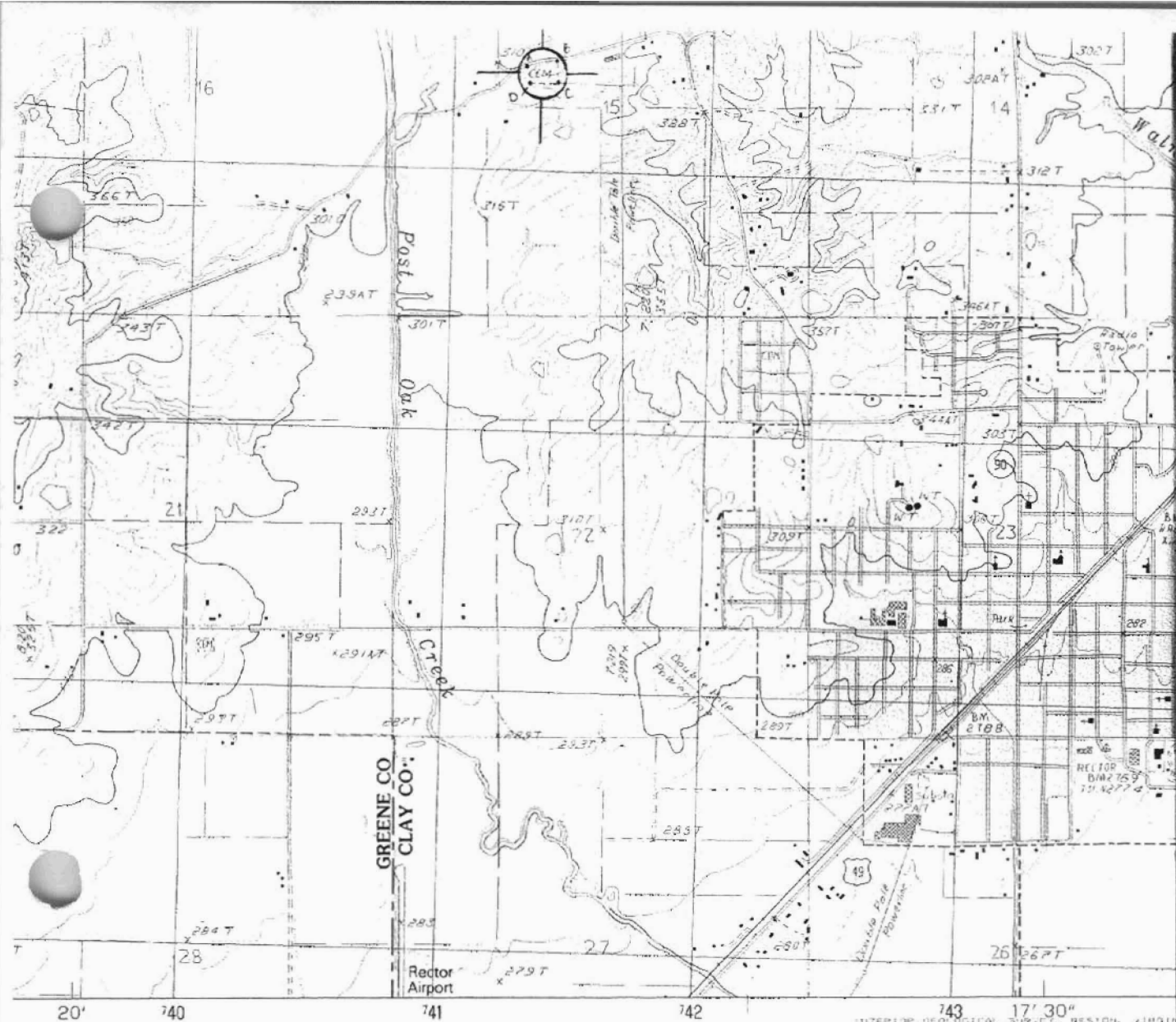
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### Bibliography

Dalton, O. L. "Old Scatteredville Cemetery Has Been Adopted." *Clay County Democrat*, August 8, 1963.

Dalton, O. L. "Scatteredville Cemetery Gravestones." *Clay County Democrat*, August 15, 1963.

Information submitted by Lea Harley, June 1994.



SCALE 1:24 000

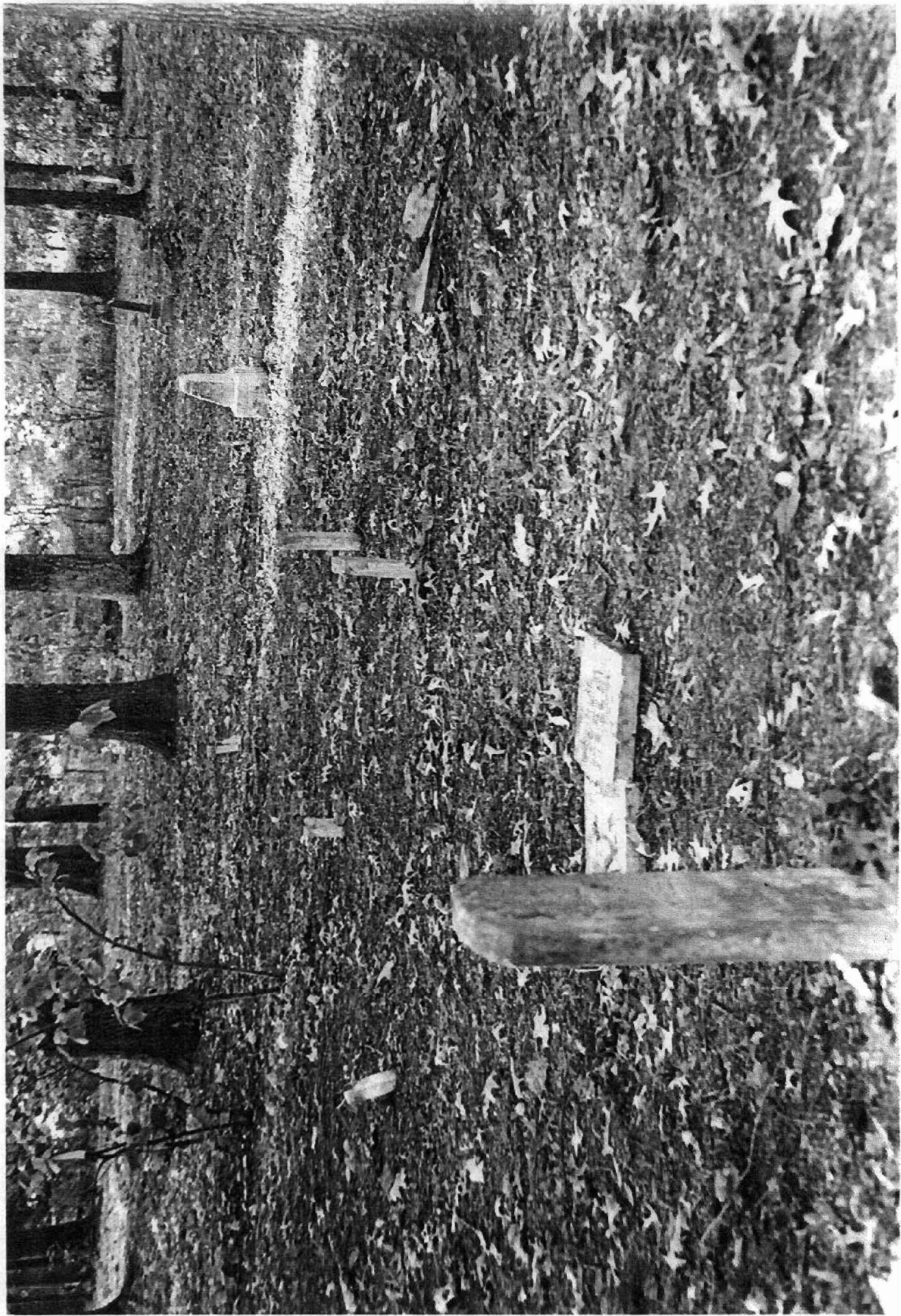


CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
 SUPPLEMENTAL CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
 CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 FOOT  
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST FOOT  
 To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048  
 To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

*Scatteredville Cemetery*  
*Rector vic., Clay Co.*  
 UTM: 15/741340/  
 4018380

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 AND THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204

1
4
6
AD





# SCATTERVILLE

This early settlement, located on the Military road which connected Chalk Bluff and Conwayville, is said to have acquired its name because stores and houses were scattered about over the area. It was founded by James M. Scattergood in 1836 and March 21, 1837. The town was one of the earliest in the county.

NANCY JANE W

Wife of

J. T. MEHARG

Born May 5, 1856

Died March 1907



EDWARD  
DIED  
MAY 10 1892  
AGED 72

N.S.

WALFORD

THOMAS JEFFERSON

APR. 28 1888

APR. 3 1921





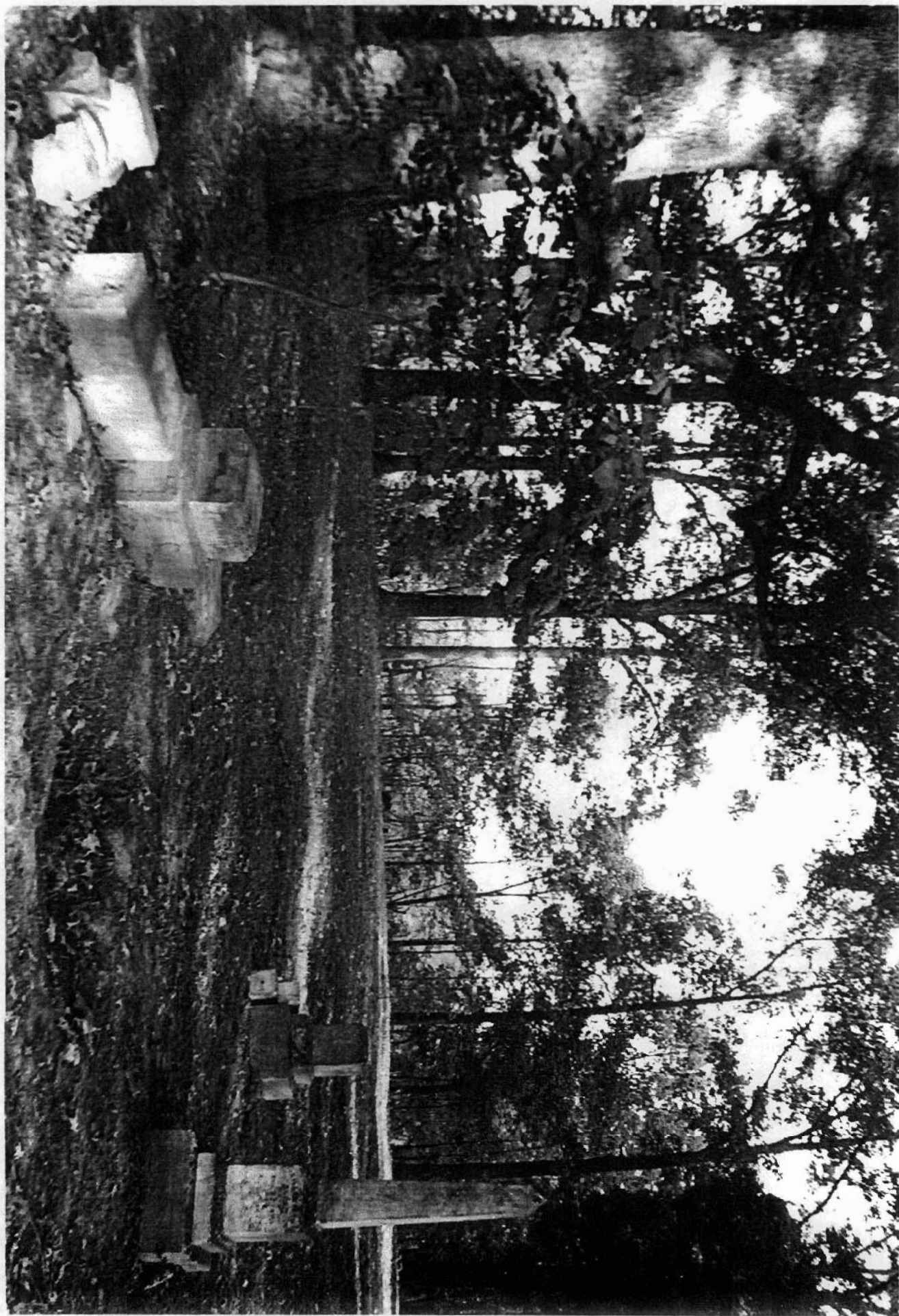








ELLEN  
BLEN  
MAY 21 1871  
AUG 11 1877



GEO. W.  
CREWS  
1844-1874  
HENRIETTA G.  
WIFE  
1844-1902

CREWS

