

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 County Home Cemetery  
other names/site number Site # CY0066

### 2. Location

street & number 3010 Heritage Park Road  not for publication  
city or town Piggott  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Clay code 021 zip code 72454

### 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 D. [Signature] 12/3/04  
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:
- 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 the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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

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	0	buildings
	1	0	sites
	0	0	structures
	0	1	objects
	1	1	Total

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

N/A

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 N/A

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 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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1912 - 1954

Significant Dates

1912 - 1954

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:

- 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.

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: Clay County Historical Society

County Home Cemetery

Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas

County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.1 acres

#### UTM References

Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>750193</u>	<u>4030224</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </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 Shannon Williams, Piggott Parks and Recreation Director/Edited by Sarah Jampole, Survey Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

date 8/05/04

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street

telephone 501-324-9874

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 City of Piggott holds a 99 year lease granted by Clay County

street & number P.O. Box 143

telephone 870-598-5884

city or town Piggott

state AR

zip code 72454

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The County Home Cemetery, which contains approximately 60 unmarked graves, is located at 3010 Heritage Park Road in Clay County, Arkansas. The small cemetery is surrounded by a public park and is marked by a dedicated monument stone. The park is located in a rural setting at the edge of the City of Piggott.

### ELABORATION

The County Home Cemetery is located on the edge of the City of Piggott in Clay County. It is located at the back of Heritage Park and is marked by a stone monument and a memorial bench. It is estimated that there are 60 unmarked graves.

Around 12 years ago, the Piggott Parks and Recreation Commission took possession of the 40-acre park and cleared debris from the cemetery.

This is a breakdown of burials that can be substantiated by documentation:

1922 – Mike Ledbetter

1925 – Tildia James

1935 – Lee Rogers

1950 – Norbert Sommersett

1951 – Joe Birchett

1951 – Edes Hologen

No Dates – Frank Eades

Albert Brown

Mr. Fowler

Pinkney Roddery

Martha Boyd

Unknown Burials – Approximately 49

The records for the home were destroyed during the demolition of the home. News articles, personal research papers, etc., were used to reference this information.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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### INTEGRITY

Although the small wooden markers that denoted the graves were either removed around 1995, or deteriorated prior to that year, the area is still recognized as a burial site as the depressions in the ground are easily discernable as graves, thus retaining integrity of feeling and association with the Clay County Home. As such, the cemetery is a reminder of the history and contribution the County Home made to Clay County and Piggott. Integrity of setting and location is retained, as the area around the cemetery is still rural. Though the cemetery lies within the boundaries of the new municipal park, the entire area is located on the edge of the City of Piggott in rural northeastern Arkansas, and there is no development in the close vicinity of the cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The County Home Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance under Criterion A** for its association with the Clay County Home and Clay County's efforts to provide aid to the poor and destitute. The last Civil War veteran from Clay County lived and died at the home. It is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D: cemeteries**.

### ELABORATION

Located on a hill inside a beautiful 40-acre public park that is maintained by the City of Piggott Parks and Recreation Department, this historical site is marked by a small stone marker, honoring those buried at the site. The monument was placed at the site in 1995 by the local genealogy society.

Approximately ten years ago, the City of Piggott Parks and Recreation Department took over the maintenance and development of the park. At that time, the cemetery was cleared of debris, and the area was manicured. Since then, a family memorial bench has been placed near the cemetery. There are only indentions in the earth marking the gravesites; the original, small wood markers have since deteriorated or have been moved.

In 1911 bids were taken on plans for the construction of a brick two-story county home with a basement, to be located on a 40 acre tract of land that was, at the time, two miles west of Piggott. Joe H. Morgan, Anderson & Company received the bid, and the architect was E. E. Porterfield. When construction of the Home was completed, it boasted of indoor plumbing, which was rare in Arkansas in 1912. According to newspaper articles, the caretaker and family lived on the main floor, while the male inmates lived in the basement. The female inmates resided on the top floor. The building was occupied sometime in early 1912 with Arthur Daniel as the first caretaker, as he and his wife were the caretakers of the previous County Home that was located about five miles north of Piggott. Over the Home's 42 years of operation, from 1912 to 1954, 16 different caretakers managed the Home. In many instances the caretakers were married couples who would live at the home, along with their children and other family members. They were paid anywhere from \$40.00 per month to \$75.00 per month to manage the home, farm, and cemetery.

The site was known as the County Home, or as some called it the "Poor House". The purpose of the farm was to provide a home for destitute widows with young children, orphans, mentally and/or physically handicapped people who could not care for themselves, and elderly people with no family to care for them. The tenants, or "inmates" as they were called, who were able-bodied assisted with farming the land, canning foods, and other tasks related to the upkeep of the home.

The farm produced most of the food needed for the residents of the home. Some of the food produced was bartered for other items that were needed.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

A stigma surrounded the home and its tenants. Many times, the people that were left there were forgotten. Children who were residents of the home were available for adoption, and were inmates until adopted out, or, if adoption seemed to not be an option, the children were relocated to a children's home. In the back of the only remaining document associated with the Home—a ledger, there are numerous notations containing the names of potential parents, along with a description, the age, and the gender of the child wanted.

A Chaplain would visit the home and conduct church services. When a resident passed away, the caretaker would prepare the grave. Other people would help make the casket from pine boards; the interior was padded with cotton, and the box was covered, inside and out, with a material that was suitable for the age of the deceased. The last Civil War veteran of Clay County died at the home. His last name was Craddock; although his first name is unknown.

After 1951, when Arkansas established a managed health care system to handle people in need, such as the County Home inmates, the need for the Home no longer existed. The Clay County Home closed its doors in 1954, and was demolished shortly thereafter.

An unknown author once wrote of the Clay County Home:

I have sheltered the homeless, the aged and the sick. The helpless have been tended and the hungry fed beneath my roof. Within my walls have been joy and laughter, and also heartache and tears. Many who were unable to fend for themselves found security in my heart—this Home.”

The County Home Cemetery is the only extant site remaining that is associated with the history of the Home itself.

Unsubstantiated records indicate there are approximately 60 burial sites. Unfortunately, when the home was demolished in 1955, the records of the home and its tenants were also destroyed. There is only one intact ledger book remaining from the home.

In 1995, the local genealogy society attempted to trace death records and contact past residents' family members in an effort to gain more accurate information and a more accurate count of the burial sites. The society honored those buried in the cemetery with a simple marker placed at the foot of a 100-year-old tree. The marker reads: *County Home Cemetery, Clay Co Arkansas, 1912-1954.*

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The County Home Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the Clay County Home and Clay County's efforts to provide aid to the poor and destitute. The last Civil War veteran from Clay County lived and died at the home. It is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D: cemeteries**.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Census Bureau. 1920 Census Report.

Cox, Camilla. Personal Research Papers.

Crittenden, Ava Jean, Garrett, Shirley, and Pollard, Una. Personal Interviews.

James, Tildia. Certificate of Death. 1925.

Piggott Public Library.

*The Piggott Times*. Articles.

Pollard, Una. County Home and Cemetery Ledger. January 1, 1926 – January 1, 1948.

County Home Cemetery  
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The County Home Cemetery is located in the southwest part of Heritage Park, which is located in the SE 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 9, Township 20 North, Range 8 East in the Eastern District of Clay County. The cemetery size is north-south 203 feet and east-west 239 feet (approximately 1.1 acres).

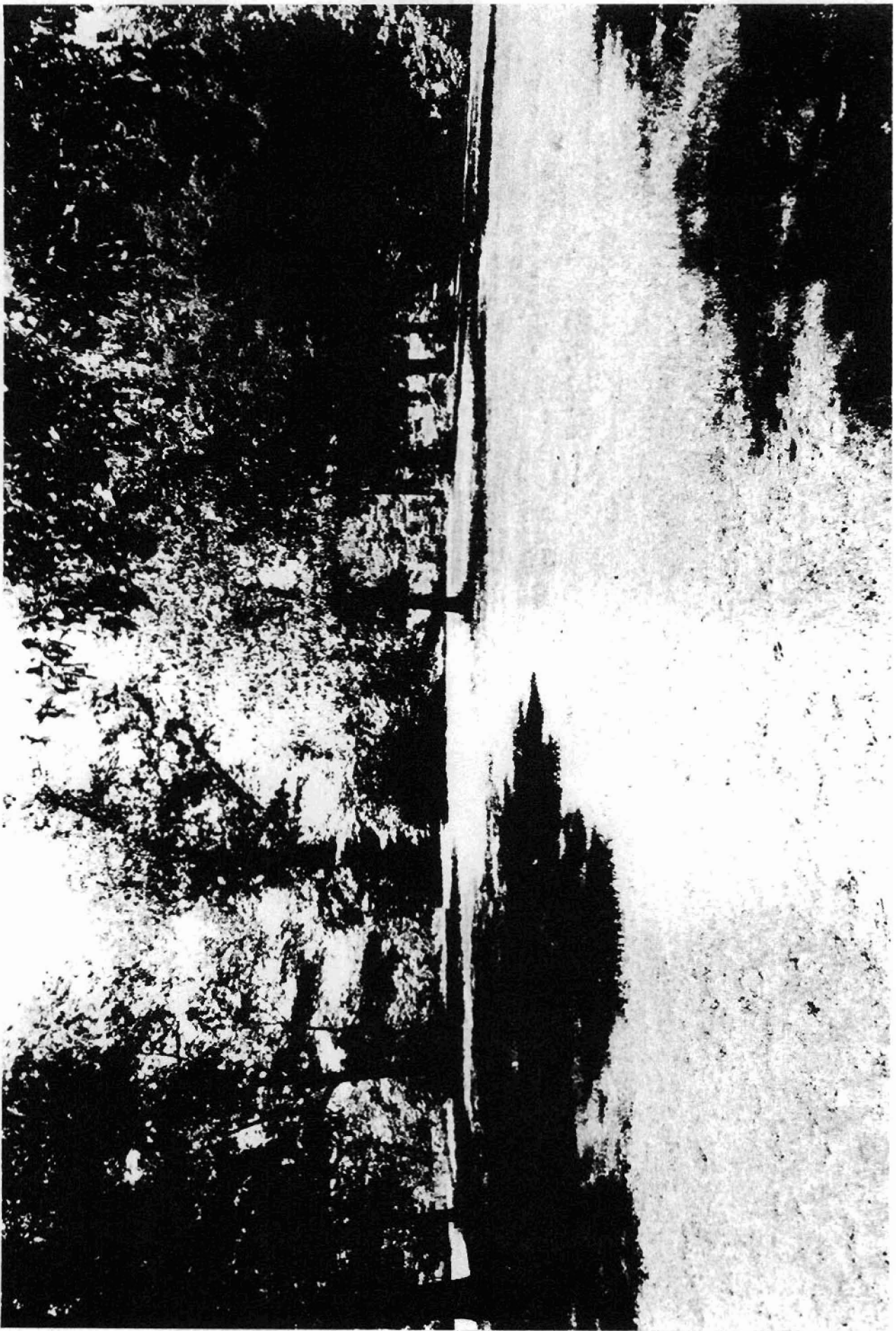
### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

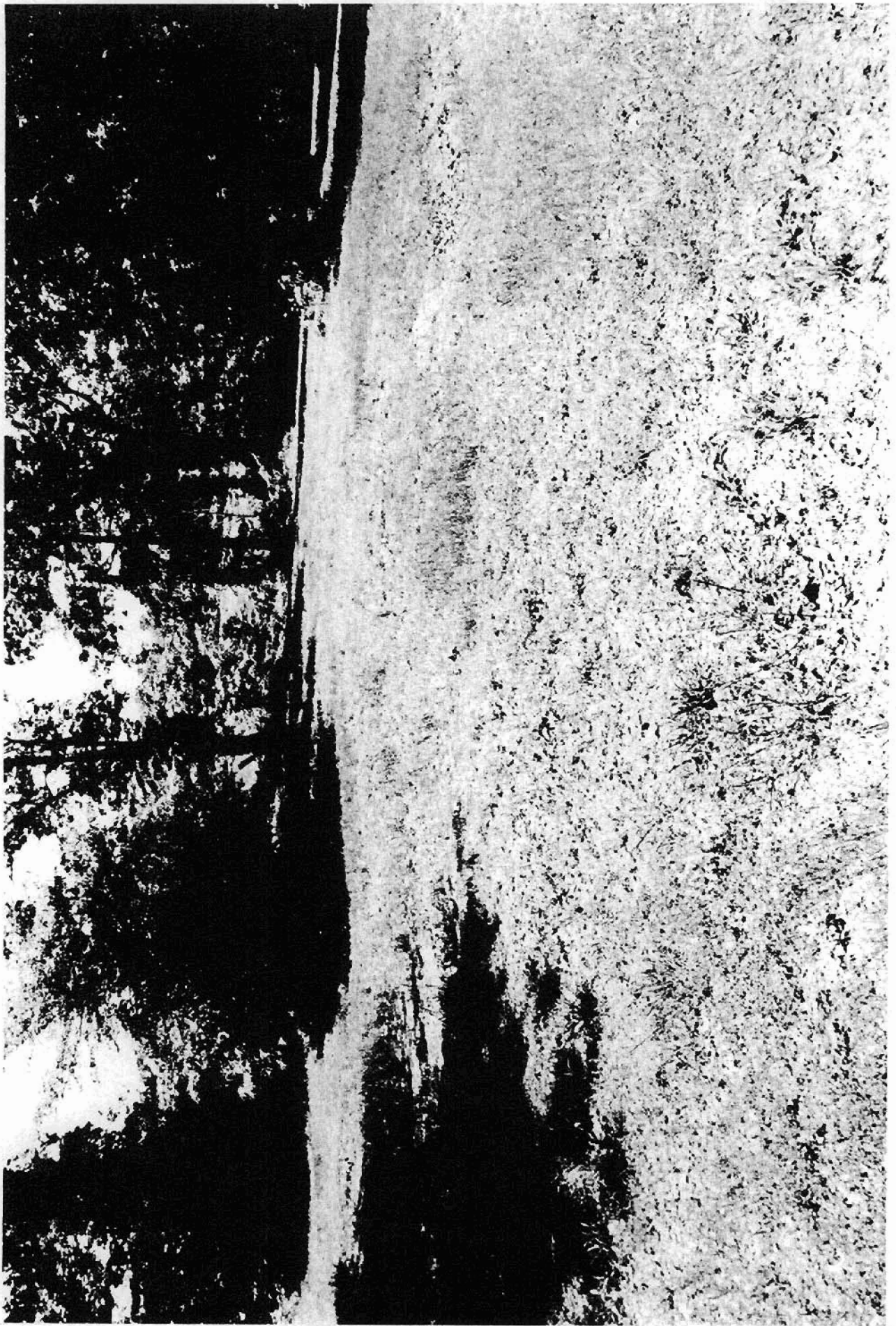
The boundary contains all of the land historically associated with the County Home Cemetery.

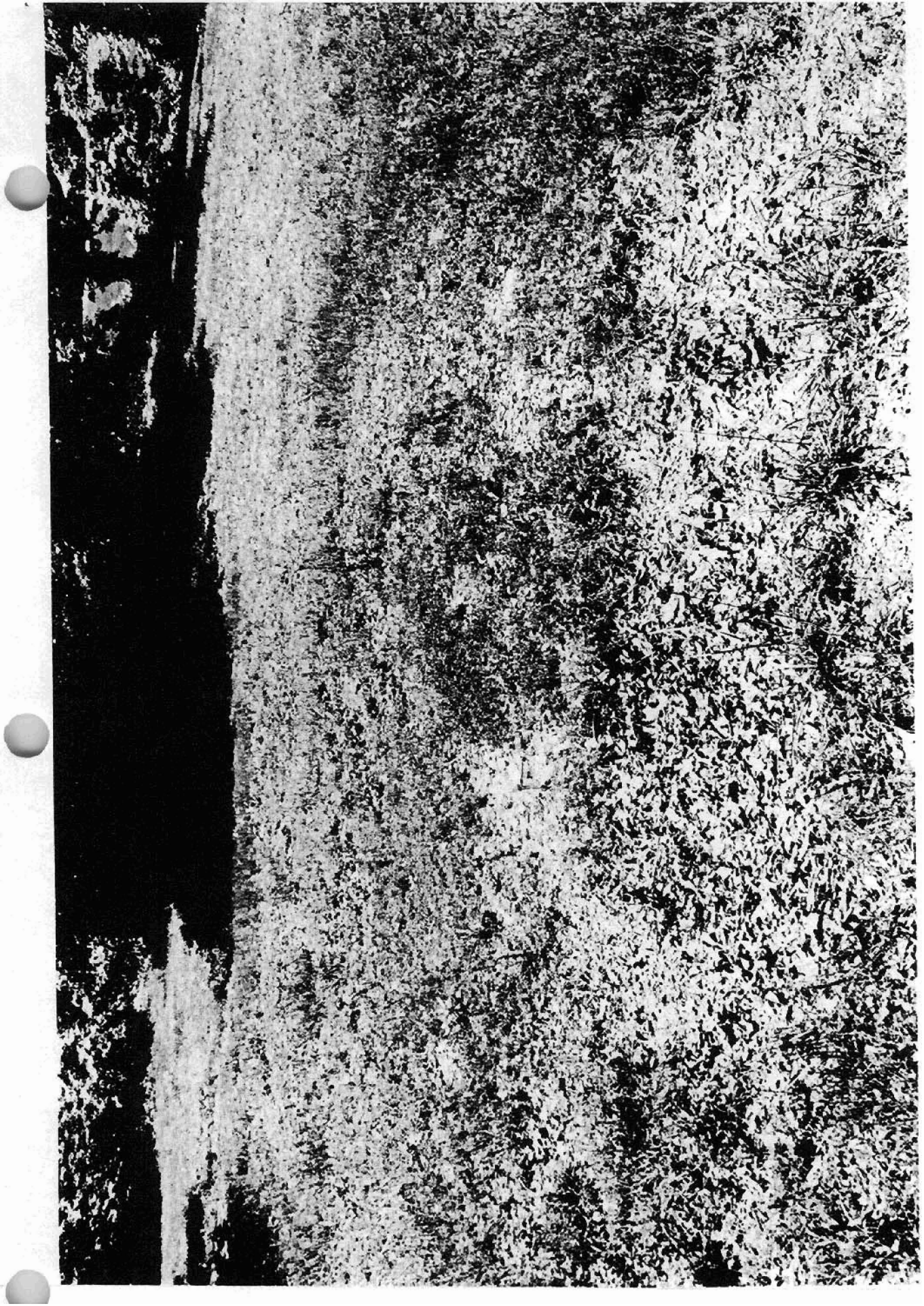
COUNTY HOME CEMETERY

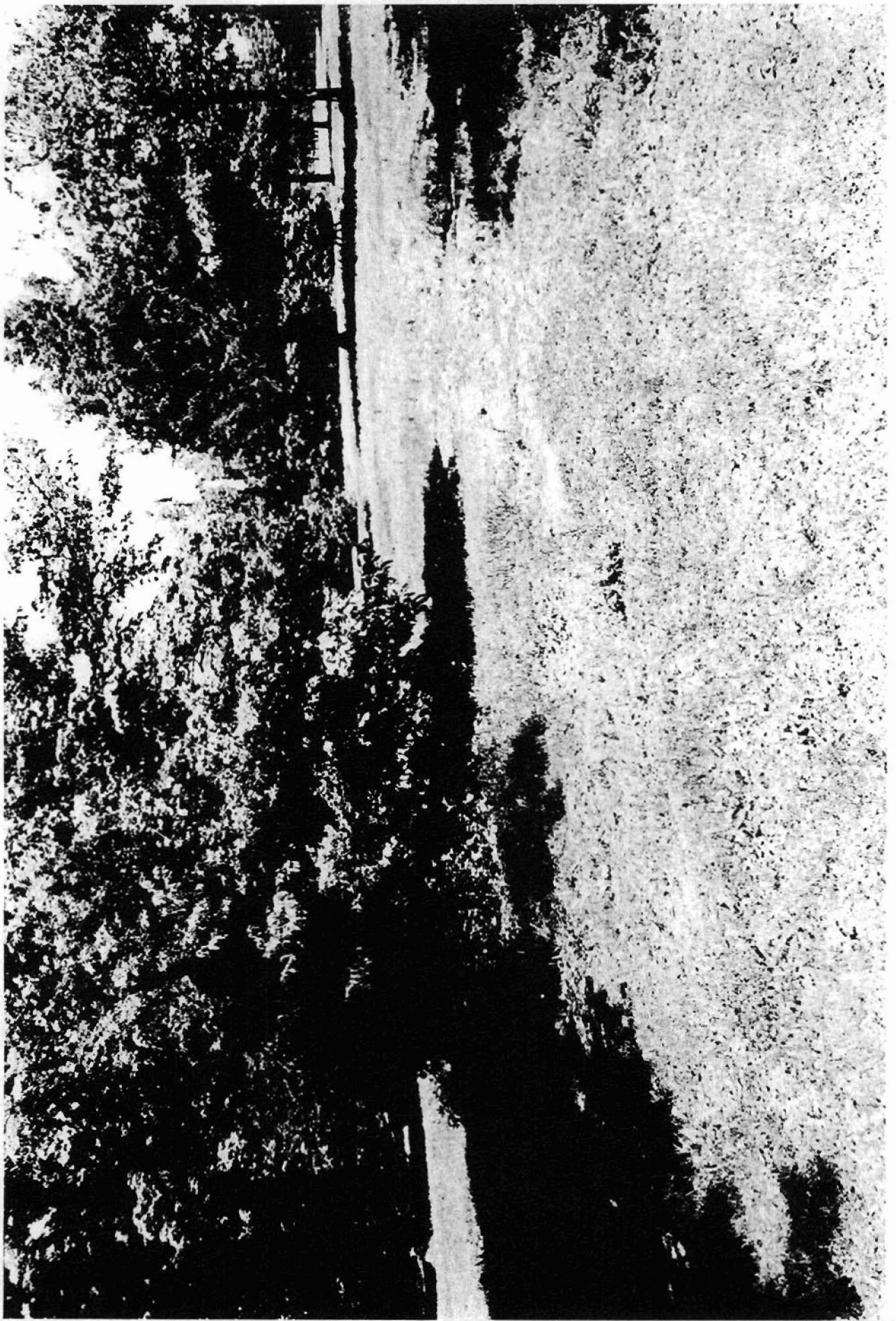
CLAY CO. ARKANSAS

1912 — 1954











PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 CONTROL BY . . . . . USGS AND NGS/NOAA  
 COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN . . . . . 1980  
 FIELD CHECKED . . . . . 1982. MAP EDITED . . . . . 1984  
 PROJECTION . . . . . LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC  
 GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR . . . . . ZONE 15  
 10000-FOOT STATE GRID Ticks . . . . . ARKANSAS, NORTH ZONE  
 AND MISSOURI/EAST ZONE  
 UTM GRID DECLINATION . . . . . 1°40' EAST  
 1984 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION . . . . . 3°00' EAST  
 VERTICAL DATUM . . . . . NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
 HORIZONTAL DATUM . . . . . 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM  
 To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983,  
 move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks  
 (5 meters south and 9 meters east)  
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any  
 Federal and State Reservations shown on this map  
 No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings  
 Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown

**PROVISIONAL MAP**  
 Produced from original  
 manuscript drawings. Infor-  
 mation shown as of date of  
 photography. I

SCAL. 1:50,000  
 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000  
 0 0.5 1 1.5 2  
 To convert feet to  
 To convert meters

CONTOUR I  
 SUPPLEMENTAL COI  
 CONTROL ELEVATIONS SH  
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SH

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH N.  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DEN  
 AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COM  
 AND DIVISION OF GE  
 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATU

County Home Cemetery  
 Piggott, Clay Co., Ark  
 with Reference 15/75493/44224