

Survey Number DA-1

Owner Mattie Oakley, Cemetery Representative

Property Name Hampton Springs Cemetery,
Black Section

Address General Delivery

Location near Carthage

Carthage, AR 71725

Significant Date/s See below

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Hampton Springs Cemetery is located off Highway 48 in northwest Dallas County. The cemetery is divided into two sections, black and white. Upon approaching the cemetery it appears to be like any other rural cemetery. It contains granite and marble markers, moderate or conservative in their size and ornamentation, surrounded by a low wire fence in the common Anglo or Christian tradition. Beyond this fence to the west, offering great contrast and of particular significance is the black section of the cemetery. Within this section are approximately 128 identifiable graves oriented east-west. The earliest marked grave is dated 1916. Local residents say, however, that the cemetery has been in use for at least 100 years. The graves are marked in what John Michael Vlach and John D. Combes, in their studies of black cemeteries in the Southeast, have determined to be the traditional Afro-American method which has African antecedents. The cemetery has few commercial markers. Several homemade headstones of concrete, some with rough inscriptions, were made to resemble commercial markers. Although now weathered beyond identification many graves are identified by the small metal and glass markers commonly used by funeral homes. Other head markers include ceramic pipe, a kerosene lamp, and bushes like forsythia and farkleberry. Foot markers are also common, including metal pipe, wooden stakes and petrified wood. Some grave offerings exist in conjunction with head and foot markers, while others are the only objects identifying graves. The offerings include glass bottles and jars, ceramic pitchers, bowls, planters and urns broken and laid atop the grave either marking the head or running from head to foot. Most unusual among the offerings are mussel shells.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hampton Springs Cemetery is significant to the black heritage and culture of Dallas County and Arkansas. Before the Civil War Dallas County was a rich plantation area. Settlers from the southeast, particularly North Carolina, brought many slaves. In 1860, the black slave population represented 43% of the total for Dallas County. Following the Civil War blacks settled in what became primarily black communities. One such community was Lea Ridge in the northeast part of the county. The residents of Lea Ridge moved to a few miles westward, settling in the new railroad town, Carthage, near the turn of the century. Located near Carthage is Hampton Springs Cemetery. The Cemetery with its markers of cast concrete, ceramic pipe, oil lamps, wooden stakes and petrified wood and grave

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offerings of mussel shells and broken glass and ceramic jars, bottles, plates and pitchers resembles the traditional Afro-American cemeteries, identified by John Michael Vlach and John D. Combes, in the southeast. It is the only such recorded cemetery in Dallas County and, as of yet, in Arkansas. It is also the only known resource in the county to have traditional Afro-American influences which may have African antecedents.

Acreage: less than one

Quadrangle Name: Bunn

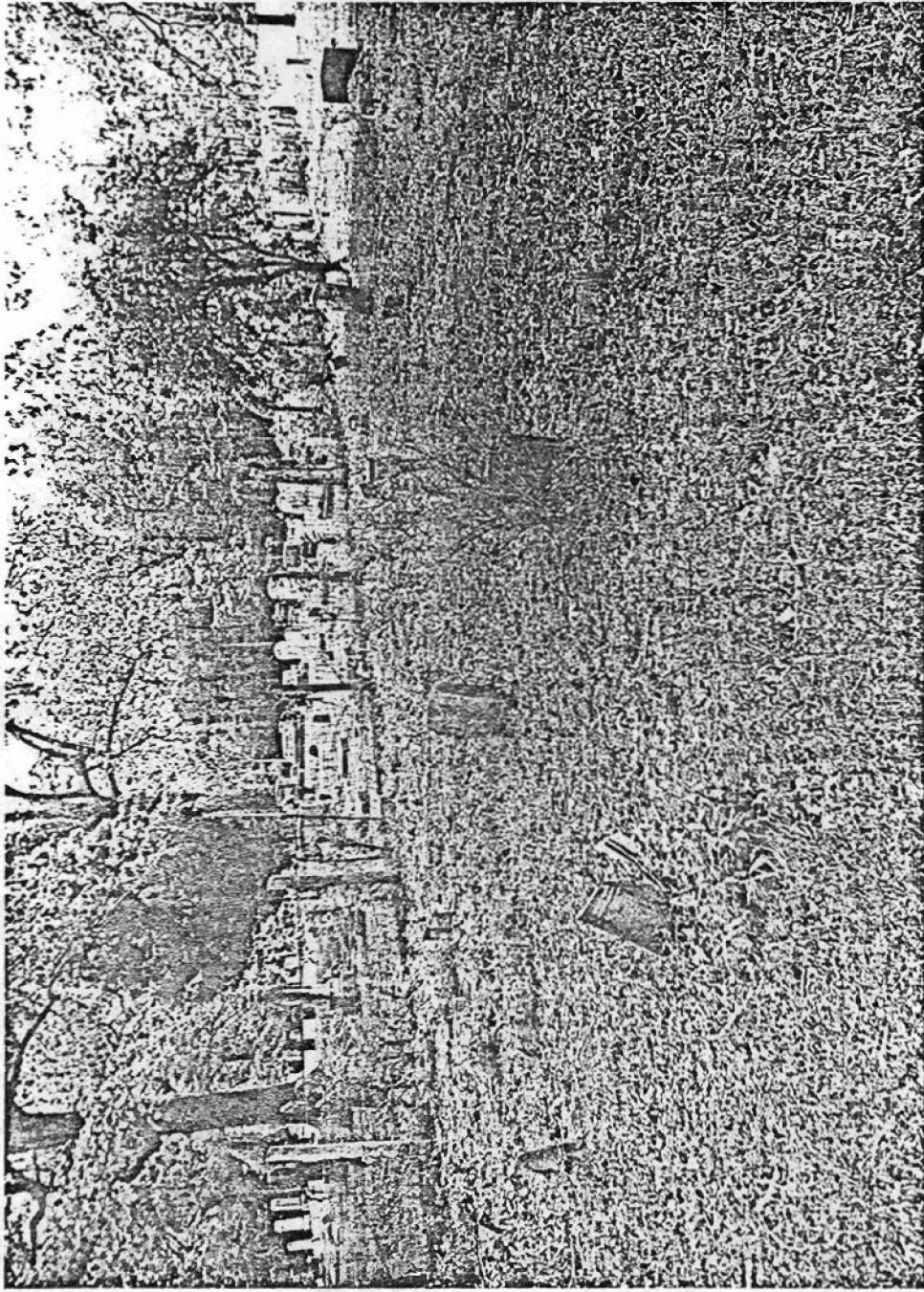
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference: 15 547040/3771960

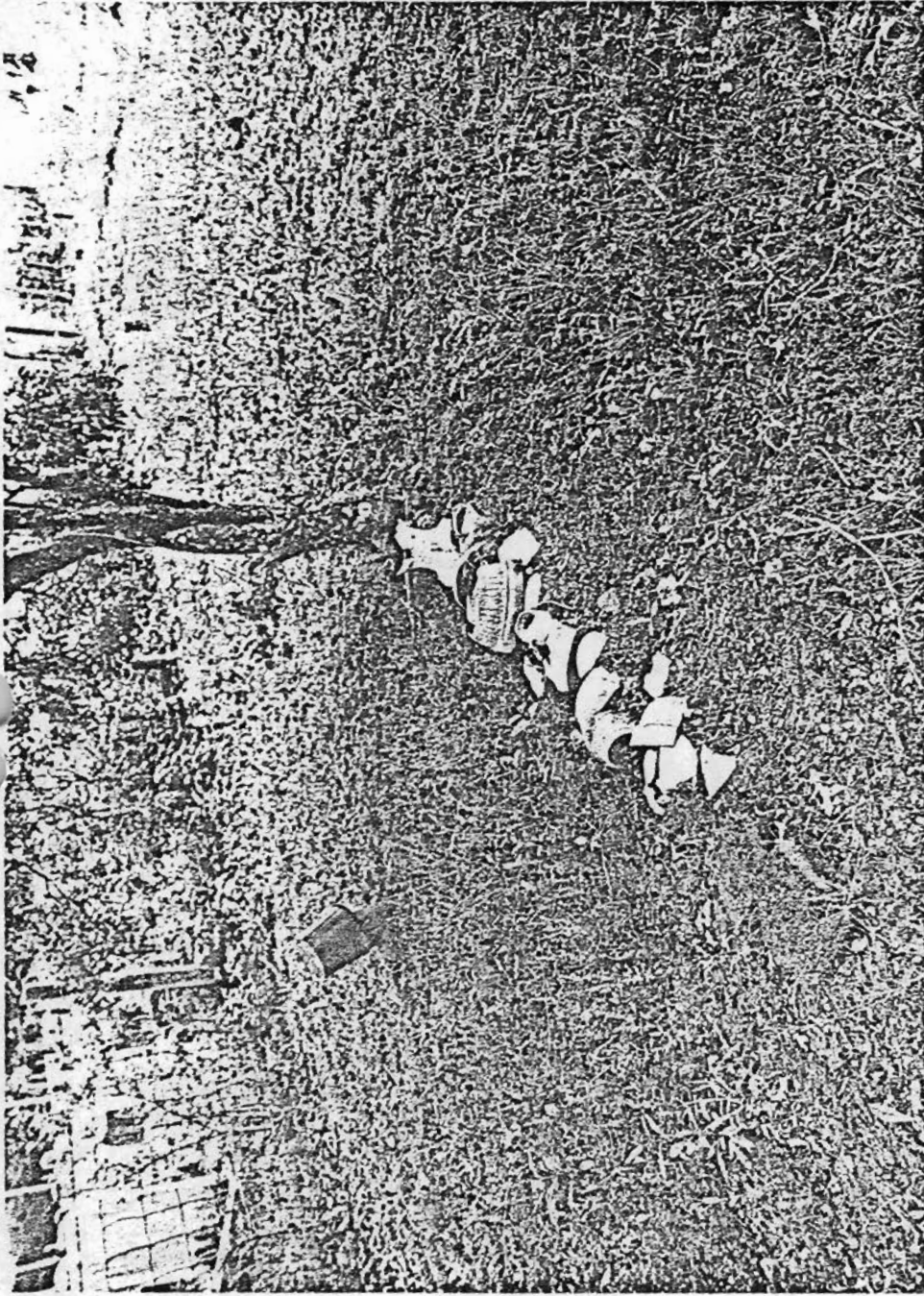
Verbal Boundary Description:

Commencing at a point 23 rods from the SE corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 26, T7S R14W 41 $^{\circ}$ W of N, thence running W 36 rods 90 $^{\circ}$ S of W, thence N 12 rods and 9' 90 $^{\circ}$ E of N then E 36 rods 90 $^{\circ}$ N of E, thence S to the point of beginning.

The nominated Black Section of the cemetery, contained within the above description, is as follows: Commencing from the center of the west stone column of the cemetery entry, running west in a line parallel to county roads 162', thence north 140' for the point of beginning, thence east 168 $\frac{1}{2}$ ', thence north 105' thence west 164 $\frac{1}{2}$ ', thence south 134' to the point of beginning.



DA-1
Hampton Springs Cemetery
(Black Section)
Sarah Brown, photographer
April 28, 1982
Negative filed at the AHPP
View from the southeast



DA-1
Hampton Springs Cemetery
(Black Section), grave
Sarah Brown, photographer
April 28, 1982
Negative filed at the AHPP
View from the southeast