

Desha County
McGehee
Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery

Desha County, Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic Name: Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery

Other Name/Site Number: Holly Grove Cemetery
DE0306

=====

2. Location

=====

Street & Number: On Highway 4, also known as Crooked Bayou Road,
approximately two miles south of McGehee.

Not for Publication: NA

City/Town: McGehee

Vicinity: X

State: AR County: Desha Code: AR041 Zip Code: 71630

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Site

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Desha County, AR

County and State

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
		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

=====

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. Sater 5-13-99
 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

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Desha County, AR
County and State

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

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: 1858-1949

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

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

Bowden, Maude Trippe. "Old Trippe School Records." Desha County Historical Society Journal, Vol. 4, No. 1, Spring 1978, pp. 52-54.

Bowden, Maude Trippe. "Trippe Among Oldest Communities of County." Desha County Historical Society Journal, Vol. 7, No. 1, Spring 1981, pp. 77-86.

"Trippe Junction." Desha County Historical Society Journal, Vol. 6, No. 2, Summer, 1980, pp. 47-49.

"Captain Ben Desha." Desha County Historical Society Journal, Vol. 6, No. 2, Summer, 1980, page 12.

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Desha County, AR
County and State

"John George Reitzammer." Desha County Historical Society Journal, Vol. 17, Fall 1992, pp. 53-57.

Reitzammer, Verna C. Payne. "George Payne." Desha County Historical Society Journal, Vol. 17, Fall 1992, pp. 67-71.

"Bicentennial Markers." Desha County Historical Society Journal, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 4-12.

Information submitted by Robert E. Trippe, February 1999.

Information submitted by Ed Reitzammer, February 1999.

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 -- Specify Repository:

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: Approximately two acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>653280</u>	<u>3719060</u>	B
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery

Desha County, AR

Name of Property

County and State

Verbal Boundary Description:

A tract of land located in the SW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 6, Township 13 South, Range 2 West, beginning at a point 1603.5 ft. South 1 degree and 58 minutes West from the NW corner of Section 6, Township 13 South, Range 2 West, thence North 86 degrees and 45 minutes East for 344.4 ft. along the South right-of-way line of State Highway No. 4 to the NE corner of said tract, thence South 4 degrees and 48 minutes East 258.8 ft. along fence line to the center line of Crooked Bayou, thence along the meandering center line of Crooked Bayou to a point located South 1 degree and 58 minutes West 307.7 ft. from the point of beginning, being the center line of Crooked Bayou and the intersection of the West section line, Section 6, Township 13 North, Range 2 West, thence North 1 degree and 58 minutes East, a distance of 307.7 ft. to the point of beginning. This property known as the Tripp (sic) Cemetary (sic), Desha County, Arkansas, containing approximately 2 acres, more or less, (see attached plat).

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

=====

11. Form Prepared By

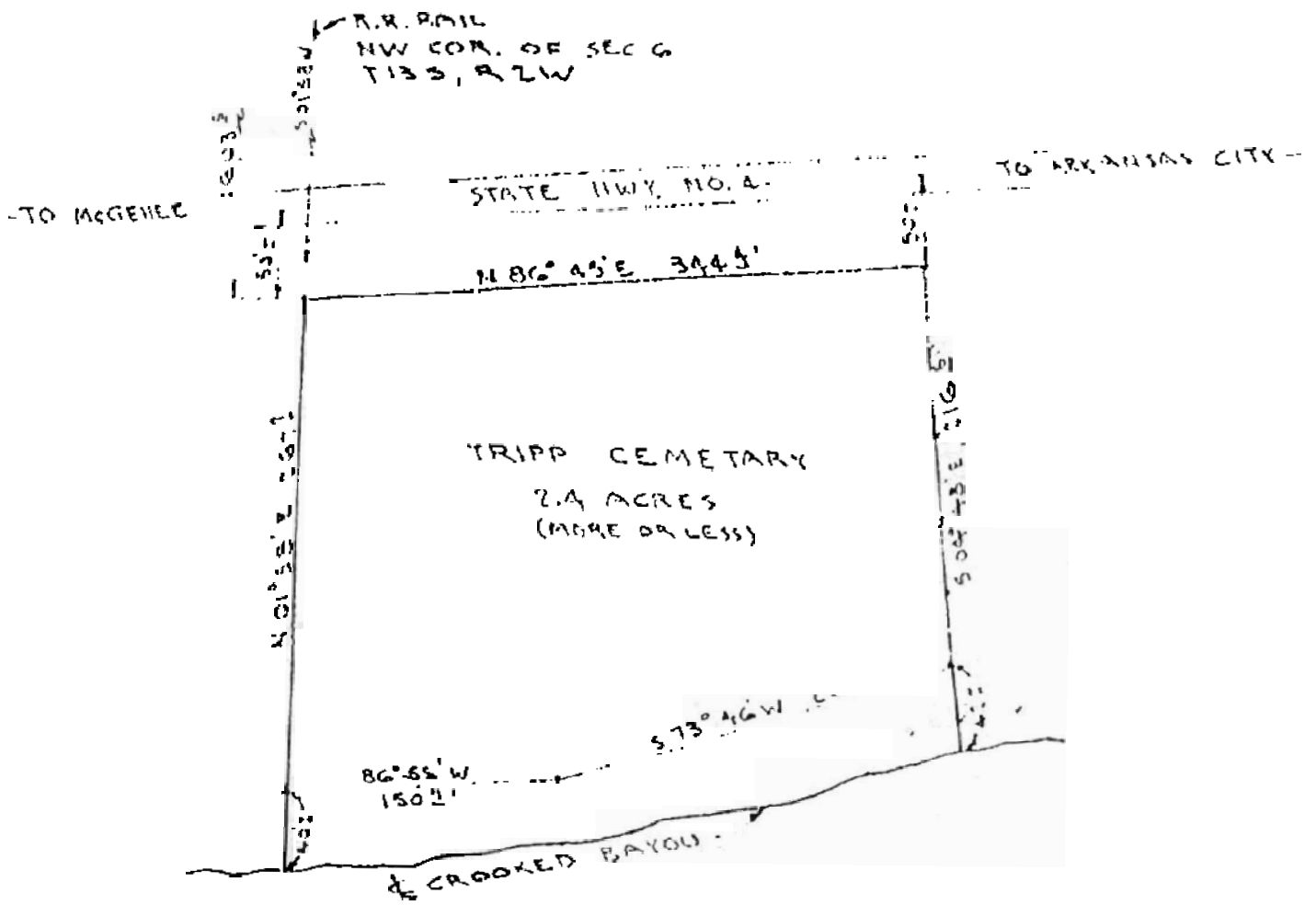
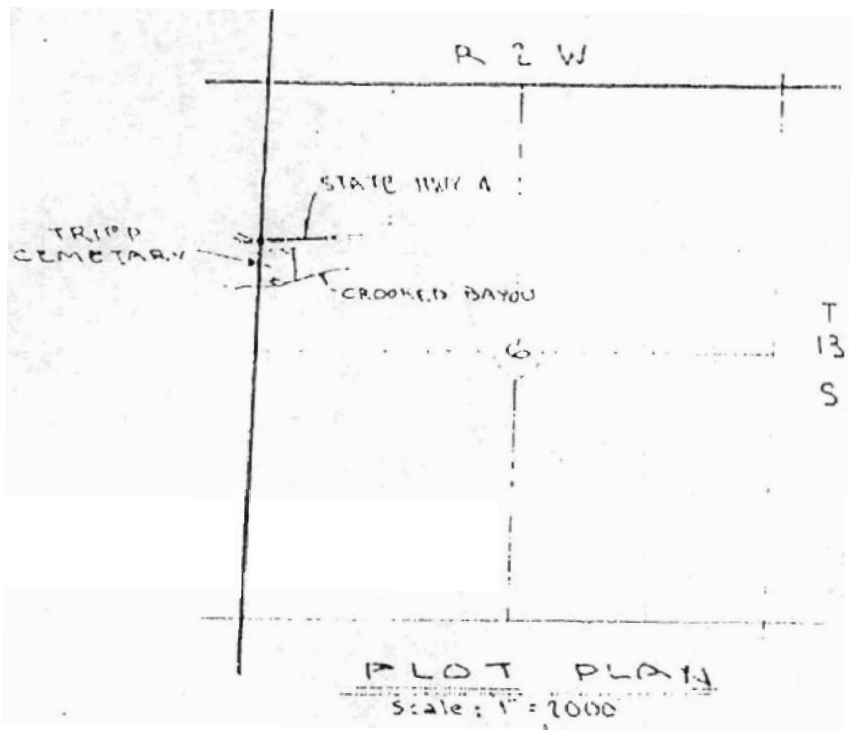
=====

Name/Title: Tammie Dillon, Education Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: March 15, 1999

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

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201



Scale: 1" = 100'

PLAN OF TRIPP CEMETARY
 SITUATED IN
 THE SW 1/4 OF THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 6,
 TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST,
 DESHA COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Desha County, Arkansas
County, State

NPS Form 10-900
1024-0018
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1
=====

Summary

The Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery is the only remaining property associated with the community known as Trippe Junction. Located in Desha County, the cemetery was originally composed of two sections divided by Highway 4. The side located south of the highway is being nominated with 58 marked and 32 unmarked historic burials. Since the site has been in continued use since 1859, there are 46 burials that have occurred in the past fifty years, located mainly in one section of the cemetery. The area located north of the road is not being nominated. The site is seeking nomination under Criteria A, being the only physical fabric remaining of a once small delta community.

Elaboration

The two-acre Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery is located along both sides of Highway 4, approximately two miles south of McGehee in Desha County. The borders for this property are the Crooked Bayou to the south, a golf course to the west, a horse pasture to the east, and highway 4 to the north. Oaks and pine are scattered about with a number of historic bulbs that lend color during most times of the year. A historical marker erected in 1974 for the Bicentennial celebration denotes the entrance. Access within Holly Grove is gained through use of a U-shaped dirt road, wide enough for one car.

The cemetery contains 90 historic burials, with 58 historic marble markers and 32 unmarked recorded burials denoted by depressions. There are 47 newer granite memorials marking non-historic burials and another four relocated graves with historic death dates and non-historic gravestones. Two surveys have been completed for this site, one in 1968 and the second in 1998. Maude Trippe Bowden conducting the first survey in 1968 for *The Arkansas Family Historian* noted 107 grave sites. She recorded one for the 1860s, six for the 1870s, seven for the 1880s, nine for the 1890s, in the

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery

Desha County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County, State

1900s, there were eleven people buried, in the 1910s there were six deaths, in the 1920s there were eight burials, in the 1930s there were nine burials, in the 1940s there were four burials, for the 1950s there were nine markers, and in the 1960s, five people were interred. There are also 32 unmarked gravesites. Mrs. Bowden stated that all graves were marked at one time. The 1998 survey indicates that since the first survey, two historic markers have been lost, one from 1910s and one from 1930s, and one historic burial was marked with a non-historic marker.

The fifty-eight historic markers are made of marble, some with granite bases. Ranging from one to five feet in height, many are covered by organic growth. Most of the markers are narrow marble tablets, a form that can be traced back to ancient funerary stele and is the most universal form used to mark the head of the interred. Many of the tablets use the simple single curved arch or the flat top. The most variation in tablet tops exists within the Trippe lot with multi-curved shapes that are stepped, extended and notched in form. A number of obelisks shaped markers are scattered about, some with cross vault tops. These upright four-sided pillars are associated with the Egyptian revival style, popular during the late 1800s. One shape, unusual for the site, is the classical revival column that marks the Adams grave. All memorials are engraved with one to three different lettering styles, although some of the messages and dates are obscured with growth. Popular funerary imagery may be found in the wheat sheaves symbolizing divine harvest on Edmund Trippe's marker, the gates of heaven design on a weathered marker, and a three dimensional lamb upon one of the McGehee children's stones. The most elaborate design scheme is carved on the Frame Henry stone with a coat of arms on the front and a monogram on the back of a marble obelisk. The coat of arms is rarely seen in Arkansas. **Many of the graves have** footstones, some carved with the initials of the deceased. Popularity of foot markers was at its height during the Victorian era.

Concentrated in one location on the grounds, the newer granite stones are block, bevel and flat in shape. The numerous unmarked burials were marked at one time with wooden markers, with many plots many enclosed by picket fences. Today, only the depressions found upon the empty land indicates a grave. Unlike in the mountainous region where use of native fieldstone markers was common, wood was the most readily available, easily manipulated material, but deteriorated quickly due to the effects of time and nature. The only surviving description of the wooden markers stated that they were headboards, an old form once prevalent in eastern cemeteries.

Six lots are enclosed with cast iron fencing, a feature common to Victorian cemeteries. The largest enclosed family lot is found in association with the Trippe family and was made by the Ludlow Saylor Wire Company from Saint Louis, Missouri. The smallest, surrounds one burial. All display decorative features such as

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery

Desha County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County, State

finals and fluer de lys. The fluer de lys is symbolically used to denote the Virgin and the trinity. At one time there were many more enclosures, those being closest to the road have disappeared in the past twenty years.

The cemetery contains many historic plants. Some placed as memorials, others as part of an earlier restoration effort. A number of bulbs add a bit of color throughout the year and include spider lilies, surprise lilies, blood and wine lilies, jonquils, daffodils, grape hyacinth, and johnny jump ups. Other plants and bushes found on the cemetery grounds are yuccas, nandina bushes, and hollies.

The orientation of burials provides an unusual characteristic for this site. Traditionally, Americans have taken the custom of burying individuals with their feet facing east. After the Civil War, some burial sites, with the Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery as an example, choose to follow the contour and layout of the land. The burials seem to be placed facing either east or west, depending on its location to the U-shaped dirt road that circles the cemetery.

Of special note, sometime after 1968 and before 1998, the Thane family of Arkansas City placed five non-historic granite markers in the cemetery. Four Thane reburials have historic dates of death with 1905, 1912, 1916, and 1938. The graves had to be relocated when a person, from outside of the family, purchased the Thane home in Arkansas City. Thane was a colorful character in the history of Arkansas City.

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Desha County, Arkansas
County, State

NPS Form 10-900
1024-0018
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

=====

Summary

The Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery is being nominated under Criterion A with local significance as the only remaining site connected to the historic community of Trippe Junction.

Elaboration

County formation and settlement in the region:

Desha County was formed from Arkansas County in 1838 and was named for Captain Benjamin Desha, a hero of the War of 1812. The county's southern boundary was extended when the Twenty-second session of the General assembly passed Act 7, approved February 10, 1879, which provided for the detachment of 129,900 acres of land from Chicot County and annexed it to Desha County. The territory annexed included Trippe Junction and Arkansas City.

Desha County is composed of rich alluvial soil, rivers, bayous and lakes. Agricultural pursuits have been the primary occupation of this area for both residents of the past and present. Just as nature was a lure for settlers, it served to dampen their spirits as well. The earliest settlers in the region, built near the Mississippi River. Flooding caused many communities to cease to exist, such as Napoleon, the first county seat.

In the early 1870s, because of frequent flooding, the county seat was moved from Napoleon to Watson which was farther west of the Mississippi River and on a rail line. In 1878 the rail line to Watson was moved because of continual flooding. In December 1880 the county seat was relocated from Watson to Arkansas City then just coming into prominence as the railway terminus of the county.

The abundant natural resources, such as timber and rich soil, nearness to river transportation and the coming of the railroad led many to settle in this area. This is what led William Fletcher Trippe to emigrate from Georgia in 1857.

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery

Desha County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County, State

In the fall of 1857 William Fletcher Trippe, wife Mary Elizabeth McGehee and children left their home in Eatonton, Georgia and traveled by covered wagon to Arkansas where they would settle on 1,526 acres of land recently purchased from his wife's uncle, Edmund McGehee of Memphis. Accompanying them on this trip was Mary Elizabeth's brother Benjamin McGehee, and his family.

The party crossed the Mississippi River at Gaines Landing located several miles below Arkansas City. Cutting their way through dense woods they traveled west until they reached their newly acquired property. This property was located about six miles west of Arkansas City on Crooked Bayou. There Fletcher built his home. The area later came to be known as Trippe Junction or Trippe Station.

About 1868 a road was cut from the Trippe place into Arkansas City so the people living in the area could get to Chicot City to sell their produce. Chicot City was located about 3 miles above Arkansas City on the Mississippi River.

Little Rock, Pine Bluff and New Orleans Railroad built a rail line from Pine Bluff southeast through Varner, Medford, Watson and Tidwell to Chicot City in 1870. The Railroad reorganized in 1873 and then went bankrupt in 1875. In 1877 the new owners, Little Rock, Mississippi River and Texas Railroad, constructed a new line leaving the old line about 1 1/4 miles south of Varner and running in a southerly direction west of the edge of the outer flow of the river with a branch leaving the main line at Trippe Junction. From Trippe, embankments and bridges were built across the swamp to Arkansas City.

Trippe Junction then and now:

In 1879 a post office was established at Trippe with Rueben Crenshaw as postmaster. The railroad line and post office lead to visions of a town at Trippe. Around 1881 a town site was drawn with lots for houses. At this time there was a depot, store, post office, sawmill, planing mill, gin and a saloon. E.M. Trippe and S.E. Sweet, brothers-in-law owned the sawmill, planing mill, and gin. The saloon was owned and operated by J.B. Amburn and R.D. Crenshaw. By the 1920s, all of these businesses had gone. A filling station and store run by a Mr. Rash; a skating rink, a dance hall, a café run by Rip Tyson and an auto repair shop, had replaced them. Claude W. "Tubby" Janes owned all these businesses which were located at the intersection of U.S. 65 and State Hwy 4 (Now State Hwy 4 and State Hwy 159). All but the filling station and store burned around 1930.

Several other businesses sprang up over the years. Among these were several grocery stores, a slaughterhouse, a dairy, another sawmill and a giant bullfrog farm.

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Desha County, Arkansas
County, State

Relocation of U.S. 65, abandonment of the rail line, the shift in the Mississippi River away from Arkansas City, all helped contribute to the demise of Trippe.

In April 1970 Marion M. Stroud wrote about Trippe Junction: "The once smaller community of McGehee has now become the trade and railroad center. But the old Trippe and Sweet homes are still there with the fine old trees and yards along Crooked Bayou. As one drives to Arkansas City or Halley past the Holly Grove Cemetery and Church site where rest the Trippes, the McGehees, the Hydes, the Maiers, the McDermotts, and others who helped to build southern Desha County, we can remember these pioneers."

As one drives by in 1999 all that remains is the Cemetery. It is the only surviving environment created by the early settlers of this area.

Holly Grove Methodist Episcopal Church:

In 1859, William F. Trippe donated 2 ½ acres of land for use as a Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery. By 1861 the Holly Grove Episcopal Church had been erected on the north side of the dirt road running through the property. (The cemetery was located on the south side of the road nearest Crooked Bayou.) The Church took its name from a grove of large holly trees which stood in front of the Church. James M. See was pastor and A.B. Windfield presiding elder.

Many circuit riders preached at Holly Grove Church. They usually came once a month, often having an all day meeting with dinner on the ground. Some of the circuit riders who preached at the church were Rev. Pryor, Rev. J.J.Colson, Rev. F.C.Cannon and Rev. J.L.Cannon. During church service men and women set on separate sides while they sang from hymnals that had no notes. Mrs. Maude Trippe Bowden, William F's granddaughter, stated "Someone would pitch the tune and everyone would sing."

In 1904 the Rev. J.L.Cannon, at that time pastor of the Holly Grove Church, became the organizing pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church South of McGehee. As the community of McGehee began to grow members of the Holly Grove Methodist Church started going into McGehee to church. This included the McGehee, Trippe and Maier families. Rev. J. L. Cannon was the last pastor to preach in the old Holly Grove Church that had witnessed so many sad and happy occasions.

Holly Grove Church serves as a school:

In 1906 the Trippe School District began holding classes in the vacant church building.

Local children had previously attended classes held in either the E.M.Trippe or the S.E. Sweet home. Records show that in 1906 Miss Rene Peoples was paid \$35 to teach 8 months. Other teachers who taught in the church building were Miss Pearl Knowlton - 1908, Miss Sallie Sykes - 1911 and Miss Pearl Knowlton again in 1912-13. Miss

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery

Desha County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County, State

Knowlton was teacher in 1913 when the church/school building burned down. A cinder caught the wood shingle roof on fire. In half an hour there was nothing left but ashes where the old Holly Grove Methodist Church building once stood. For the remainder of 1913 school was held at the E.M. Trippe home. In 1914 the school board had Rev. J.L. Cannon build a one-room schoolhouse at another site. School was held here until the district consolidated with McGehee schools in 1917. The students from Trippe Junction were then bused to McGehee. Tubby Jaynes drove the first bus, a model T car, for several years.

The site where the church and school building once stood is now overgrown with thick under growth and small trees. In 1918/22 when U.S. Highway 65 replaced the dirt road the roadbed was widened to 14 feet. Most of this was taken off of the north or church side encroaching into the Church property. During a survey of the cemetery in 1968 Mrs. Maude Trippe Bowden stated that there were six graves at one time with hand carved wooden headboards (markers) behind the church building. She also stated that there were at least thirty unmarked graves on either side of the road. The church site is not being included in this nomination.

Holly Grove Cemetery:

Holly Grove Methodist Church was the site of funeral services for many buried in the adjoining Holly Grove Cemetery. One of these was William F. Trippe's brother-in-law, Benjamin McGehee, who had accompanied him to Arkansas. Benjamin McGehee was the father of Abner McGehee who the city of McGehee is named for. Benjamin McGehee's funeral was held on February 12, 1900 at 3 o'clock p.m. He was buried in his family lot next to his first wife Sarah Ann Vanhoose, and three of their children.

The oldest grave in the cemetery is that of Benjamin Scott McGehee, infant son of Benjamin and Sarah Ann McGehee (Mar. 25, 1862 - Apr. 29, 1862).

There are several individuals buried in the cemetery that emigrated from Europe. These include John G. Reitzammer and wife Anna Reinhart, George E. Payne and Job Hyde. John George Reitzammer (1846 - 1932) emigrated from Nuremburg, Bavaria in 1870. His wife Anna Reinhart (1854 - 1937) was also a native of Germany and all of their children except one are buried in the Reitzammer plot. George Edward Payne (1872 - 1931) was a native of Bexhill on Sea, Sussex, England. Job Hyde (1832 - 1927) was born in Cambridgeshire, England and served in the Confederate Army.

A Territorial settler buried in the cemetery is Elizabeth E. Bowles (1812 - 1896). She came from Lynchburg, Virginia on a flat boat with husband Oscar in 1834 and settled in what is now Arkansas City.

Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery

Desha County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County, State

Claude W. Janes (1879 -1941), owner of several businesses in Trippe, who in the early 1900s rode with Teddy Roosevelt and his Roughriders, is also interred in the cemetery.

A bicentennial marker was erected in Holly Grove Cemetery by the Desha Historical society in 1974. The marker states:
"William Fletcher Trippe donated 2 ½ acres of land on either side of Crooked Bayou Road for a Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery about 1859. Holly trees along this early trace gave the site its name. The church was organized in 1861 in a building on the east side. James M. See was pastor and A. B. Winfield presiding elder. Some of the early members were Mary Elizabeth (McGehee) Trippe, her brother Benjamin McGehee and Mary Frances (Halley) his wife. The church was active until about 1905. The building was then used as a school until it burned in 1913. **The cemetery is still used by old families.**"

Although the cemetery was neglected for a number of years, in 1958, a group of citizens banded together to form the Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery Association. The group raised money from family members as well as local residents that had no connection to the site. The fund has been used to assist with maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery. Recently, plans have been made to clear and fence the property that once held the church. The Trippe Holly Grove Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with Criterion Exception D as the only remaining vestige of the historic community of Trippe Junction.

721 M
MCGEHEE NORTH

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TRIPPE HOLLY
GROVE CEMETERY
DESHA CO., AR
UTM REF;
15/653280/3719060

