

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

LISTED
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AHPD

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Rough and Ready Cemetery

Other Name/Site Number: (DR0072)

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2. Location

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Street & Number: Approx. 1 mile southeast of Monticello Civic Center on State Road 19

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Monticello

Vicinity: X

State: AR County: Drew Code: AR043 Zip Code: 71655

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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	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Rough and Ready Cemetery
Name of Property

Drew County, AR
County and State

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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 H Slater
Signature of certifying official

10-8-99
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

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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

Rough and Ready Cemetery
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6. Function or Use

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Historic: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

Current : FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

N/A

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

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The cemetery is located in hilly terrain, one mile southeast of Monticello's Civic Center on State Road 19. The first village in the area was named Rough and Ready, perhaps after Zachary Taylor, and became the first county seat of Drew County. More than 200 graves are recorded in the cemetery with about 100 having markers. According to all available information, 1847 is the date of the first burial. The historic burial dates on the marked graves range from 1860 to 1950. Only eleven markers date to after 1950. The last burial was in 1997. Until recently, the cemetery was extremely overgrown, but a small contingent of concerned individuals has recleared the land and is working to preserved the remaining monuments.

Elaboration

The Rough and Ready Cemetery is located on a hill and occupies approximately one-and-three-fourth acres of land surrounded by forest and gullies. The cemetery is surrounded by a chain-link fence at the front and back, with a very old American Wire fence on each side. The new chain link fence across the front of the cemetery along with the cast iron lynch gate were installed in 1969. The words:

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Rough and Ready Cemetery - 1847" arc over the lynch gate. The other three sides of the cemetery carry traces of a woven wire fence manufactured by the American Wire Company.

The largest headstone is about six feet tall. A marble base twenty-four by thirty-two by twelve inches supports a smaller rectangular stone inscribed with the family name "Butram." A four-and-one-half foot shaft rises from this stone and carries the inscription: "In Memoriam. Woodmen Circle. Madella Butram, died Nov. 25, 1913, age fifty-two years, Sweetly sleeping." A small marble ornamental cap completes the headstone. It is in the shape of three wood logs fronted by a seal of perhaps the women's auxiliary unit of the Woodmen of the World. The shaft itself is decorated with marble circular log pieces at each corner. This woman and/or her husband belonged to the Woodmen of the World and received the insurance benefits of this organization. At this time this fraternal group was often responsible for placing markers on the graves belonging to their members.

There are also two obelisks, one of which has toppled from its base. It reads: Ida Maxwell, wife of Bynum Maxwell - 1858-1896. The other is inscribed: J.M. Crawford - 1839-1918. A study of the readable inscriptions suggests that many of the early settlers and pioneers of Drew County buried here were born in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Representative among this group are such pioneers as: Agnes N. Fee - 1786-1867; Robert Cunningham - 1799-1865; Lydia Cunningham - 1801-1882; George E. Tool - 1812-1882; John W. Rogers - 1812-1881; and Eliza Adair 1815-1881. Later in the early 1900s the cemetery also was used as burial ground for paupers. During this time Drew County maintained a home for indigent people who had no family to take care of them. This home was known colloquially as the "Poor House." When residents of the Poor House died and no one claimed the body, Rough and Ready Cemetery often became their burial ground.

One grave is surrounded by cast-iron fencing, but the marker has been removed or has sunk

The trees in the cemetery are oak, hickory, and pine. The early grave markers are narrow marble slabs, many of which have fallen over. Some have been destroyed or removed through vandalism. Found among the graves are numerous beds of jonquils, irises, and spirea, which bloom in season and were evidently planted by family members of the deceased. Some inscriptions on the markers have weathered to the point of being illegible.

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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

Rough and Ready Cemetery
Name of Property

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Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): D

Areas of Significance: Exploration/Settlement

Period(s) of Significance: 1843-1950

Significant Dates: 1843-1950

Significant Person(s): N/A
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:

Summary

The Rough and Ready Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, Criterion Consideration D, with local significance as the only remaining feature of Rough and Ready, Drew County's first legislative seat.

Elaboration:

Early records show that the westward migration to Arkansas began long before Drew County was established. Stephen Gaster settled on Bayou Bartholomew in 1832, and as this area became populated, new immigrants moved into the hill country of Drew County, known now as the Monticello Ridge. The first village in this hill area was Rough and Ready, located adjacent to the cemetery, one mile south of present-day Monticello. The first court proceedings were held here also. Rough and Ready was the logical site for the county seat since it was situated on a broad-topped hill of approximately ten acres. Much like a plateau, the land around it breaks off into sharp ravines on the north and west, while the land merges with other elevations on the south and east.

A town of Rough and Ready is platted in the surveyor's records at the Drew County Clerk's office. The survey records the name as "Independence, or Rough and Ready"; however, that is the only place "Independence" is given as an alternate

Rough and Ready CemeteryDrew County, AR

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For the name of the county seat. The first families to settle in the area are a canon of Drew County pioneers: the Touchstones, Wells, Folliards, Rogers, Hyatts, Royals, Geers, Rawls, Newmans, Reynolds, Holcombs, Carrs, and Sanders.

Agnes Nisbett Fee (1786-1867). Fee was born in Lancaster County, South Carolina December 6, 1786, the daughter of Colonel William Nisbett, a soldier of the Revolutionary War. She married Robert Fee, Jr. on August 13, 1811. They settled on a farm near his parents in Chester County, South Carolina. Nine children were born to this union. Robert Fee, Jr. died on March 8, 1852 and is buried in the ARP Union Church cemetery in Richburg, Chester County, South Carolina. Several of the Fee children and their families emigrated west out of South Carolina into southeastern Arkansas, beginning with Agnes Luvenia Fee Hyatt, daughter of Agnes N. Fee and Robert Fee, Jr. and wife of Benjamin Culp Hyatt. Mr. Hyatt was removed to Arkansas in the summer of 1846. Agnes Nisbett Fee, the widow of Robert Fee, Jr., moved with her son William to Drew County, Arkansas in the winter of 1854, and died there on December 27, 1867. Agnes Nisbett Fee had thirteen members of her immediate family killed and four members grievously wounded in the Civil War and it is said that she died of a broken heart. Agnes Nisbett Fee was buried in Rough and Ready Cemetery and in 1939 her great granddaughter Hannah Hyatt O'Conner placed a D.A.R. plaque on her gravestone.

Ida Tool Maxwell (1858-1896). Ida Tool, daughter of George E. Tool came to Drew County, Arkansas from Cooper's Wells, Mississippi in 1860. George was married to Sara Horne from Clark County, Mississippi and they had seven children, Ida being one of four girls. Ida married Bynum Maxwell and became the mother of nine children and died at age thirty-eight in 1896. She was buried in Rough and Ready Cemetery.

Bynum Maxwell (1852-1929). Bynum Maxwell was born in North Carolina in 1852 and while still a young boy moved with his parents to Tennessee. He spent time in Missouri and Kansas and later settled in Drew County Arkansas. He married Ida Tool and the couple had nine children. Ida died in 1896 and Bynum then married a widow, Emma Bulloch. Eight children were born to this union. Bynum engaged in farming in Drew County and later retired in the town of Monticello. He died March 2, 1929 and was buried next to his first wife in Rough and Ready Cemetery.

George E. Tool (1812-1882). George E. Tool, his wife Sarah (or Martha) and seven children immigrated to Drew County, Arkansas from Cooper's Wells, Mississippi in 1860. In 1863 during the Civil War, George took his slaves and livestock to Homer, Louisiana to save them from being confiscated by the Union army. Tool remained there until 1865 when he returned to Drew County, Arkansas and resumed farming.

Robert (1799-1865) and Lydia (1801-1882) Cunningham. Robert and Lydia Cunningham of Mississippi were the parents of eleven children. In the 1850s, the family moved to Drew County, settling south of Monticello in the area commonly known as Rough and Ready. Several of their boys served in the Confederate army during the Civil War. Robert died in 1865 and was buried in Rough and Ready Cemetery and his wife Lydia and a daughter Martha are also interred there.

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Joel V. Cunningham (1845-1912). Joel was the youngest child of Robert and Lydia Cunningham. In the 1850s while still a young boy, his parents and family moved to Drew County, Arkansas. In 1865, at the age of sixteen, Joel volunteered for service and served in an artillery unit (Owens Battery) in the Confederate army. At the end of the Civil War he returned to Arkansas, married Mary Teer and the couple moved to Lincoln County, Arkansas. In 1880 the Cunninghams and their eight children returned to Drew County and settled on a farm seven miles south of Monticello. Joel's wife, Mary, died in the early 1880s and he later married Lizzie Arundel in 1885. In 1894 Joel Cunningham suffered a paralyzing stroke from which he never fully recovered and moved to a residence on South Gabbert Street in Monticello. He continued to operate his farm until about 1907. Joel died in 1912 and is buried in Rough and Ready Cemetery. His son, Joel V. Cunningham, Jr. who died at his father's home from injuries sustained in a farming accident, is also buried in Rough and Ready Cemetery.

David Flenniken DeArmond, Jr. (1841-1889). David DeArmond was born in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana in 1841. He migrated from Louisiana to Mississippi and thence to Drew County, Arkansas. Prior to the Civil War he acquired land near what is now known as the New Hope community in Drew County. He enlisted in the Confederate Army as a private and became a member of the twenty-sixth Arkansas which was stationed on Rough and Ready hill near Monticello. The twenty-sixth spent the war in southeast Arkansas guarding against raids by Union cavalry out of Pine Bluff and preventing the invasion of southeast Arkansas by the federal troops. The largest major engagement by the twenty-sixth was as a unit in the Battle of Marks Mill near New Edinburg, Arkansas. After the war, David DeArmond returned to his land at New Hope to engage in farming. He was married in 1870 to Leona Catherine Dunlap. After her death, he married Rosa Measles in 1888. A year later DeArmond died on October 25, 1889 at age forty-eight. He had requested burial at the Rough and Ready Cemetery where he had spent his war years.

It has often been assumed that the early settlers named the site in honor of General Zachary Taylor who had achieved fame during the 1830s in wars with the Indians. However, it is also believed by many that a sizable element of the frontiersmen justified the name "Rough and Ready." There was one hotel and also a tavern in which almost anything could happen but a good night's sleep. The hotel was a place for a good poker game along with a supply of barleycorn.

But, preachers and the church were also present in the early village. James M. Touchstone, in March, 1843 gave two acres for a Union Church, also to be used as a school. Part of the land that was given for the church was to be used as a cemetery, and this plot, which was re-surveyed in 1965, was, and still is the Rough and Ready Cemetery.

The Sixth General Assembly created Drew County in November 26, 1846 and the county was named after the then sitting governor, Thomas S. Drew. The first county court was held in the home of Alexander M. Rawls in 1847 with Judge W. H. Wells presiding and Thomas Newman and C. L. Reynolds serving as associate judges in Rough and Ready.

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Local tradition says that the town had received such a bad reputation for fights, murders, and bawdy taverns, that the leaders thought they ought to start over in a new location. Whatever the reason, in 1849 at the first term of the county court, John Carr, Josiah Holcomb, and John Sanders were appointed to select a site for a permanent county seat. Fountain C. Austin offered to deed 80 acres where Monticello is now located, and the offer was accepted. The colorful area of Rough and Ready, as known as Independence, was no longer the county seat. It had been moved to the valley north of Rough and Ready.

Even though Rough and Ready was no longer the county seat, it did not immediately disappear from the history books. On May 24, 1865, one of the last skirmishes of the Civil War in Arkansas occurred at Rough and Ready about one fourth mile east of the cemetery. Residents of the area have found spent bullets that are now on display at the Drew County Historical Museum. As late as 1870-80 there were numerous homes on the hill, and a canning factory operated for several years. The Ed Dozier home, which was destroyed by fire in the 1970s, was the last remaining structure. Today, all that is left to remind citizens of the once thriving town, the first county seat of Drew County, is the nearby Rough and Ready Cemetery.

The Rough and Ready Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, Criterion Consideration C, with local significance as the only remaining feature of the community of Rough and Ready.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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Cavaness, Virgil. "A History of Montecello." (Unpaged manuscript, 1940). Drew County Archives.

Cruce, W.C. *W.C. Cruce's Scrapbook*. (N.p. 1965). Drew County Archives.

DeArmond, Rebecca. *Old Times Not Forgotten: A History of Drew County*. (Little Rock: Rose Publishing Co., 1980).

Drew County. *Surveyor's Record Book*. A&C, 1848-1850.

Droessler, William F. "Friends of Bonnie and Clyde Visit Drew County," *Drew County Historical Journal*, 9 (1994), 40-45.

Ferguson, John L. *Historic Arkansas*. (Little Rock: Arkansas History Commission, 1966).

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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: _____

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0. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: approximately one-and-three-fourth acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>612330</u>	<u>371980</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

A parcel of land located in the SE1/4, NE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 2, Township 13 South, Range 7 West, containing 1 3/4 acres more or less in Drew County, Arkansas.

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Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Rough and Ready Cemetery.

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Amy Bennett/Survey Historian; Wilma Hankins

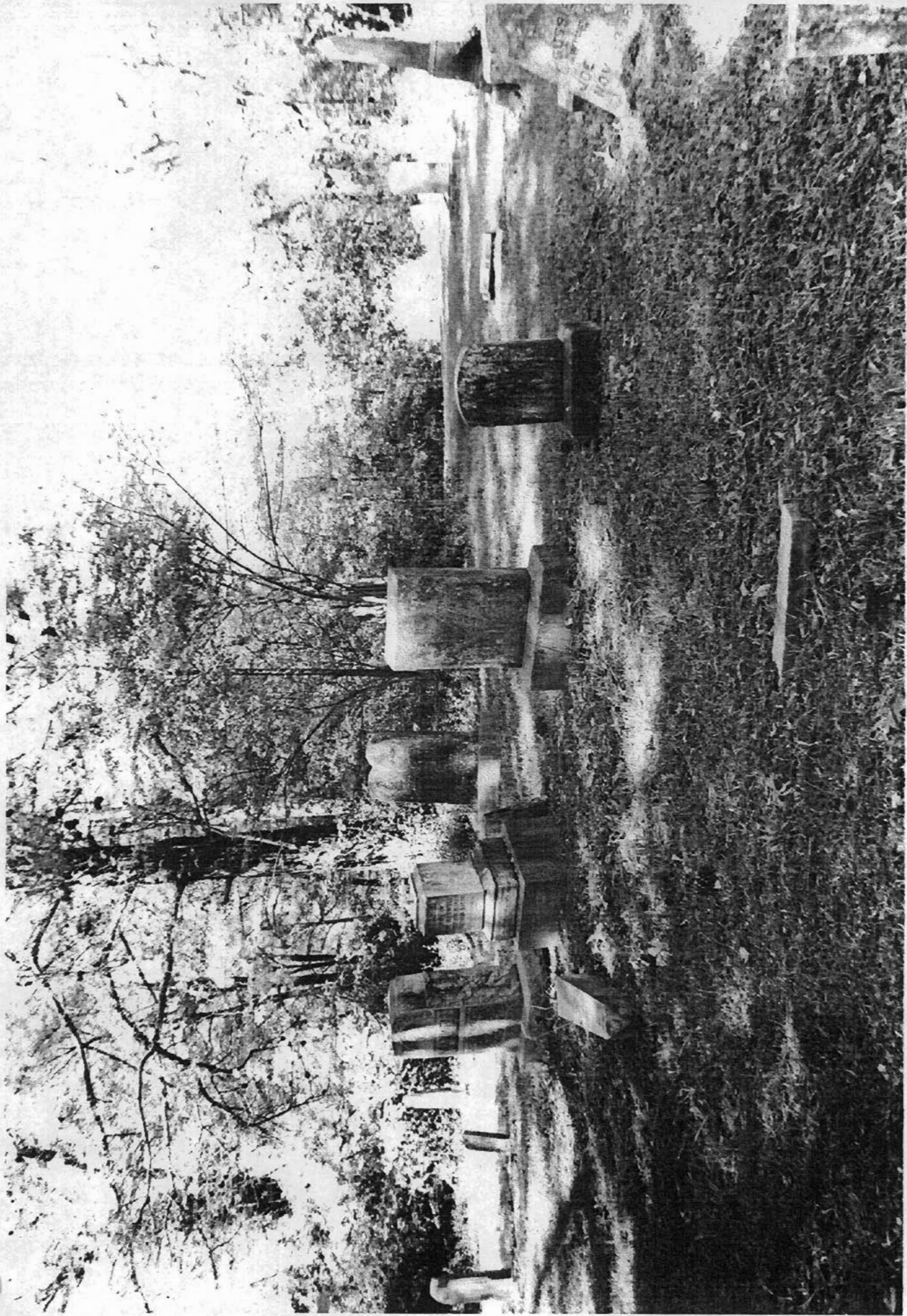
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10/07/99

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

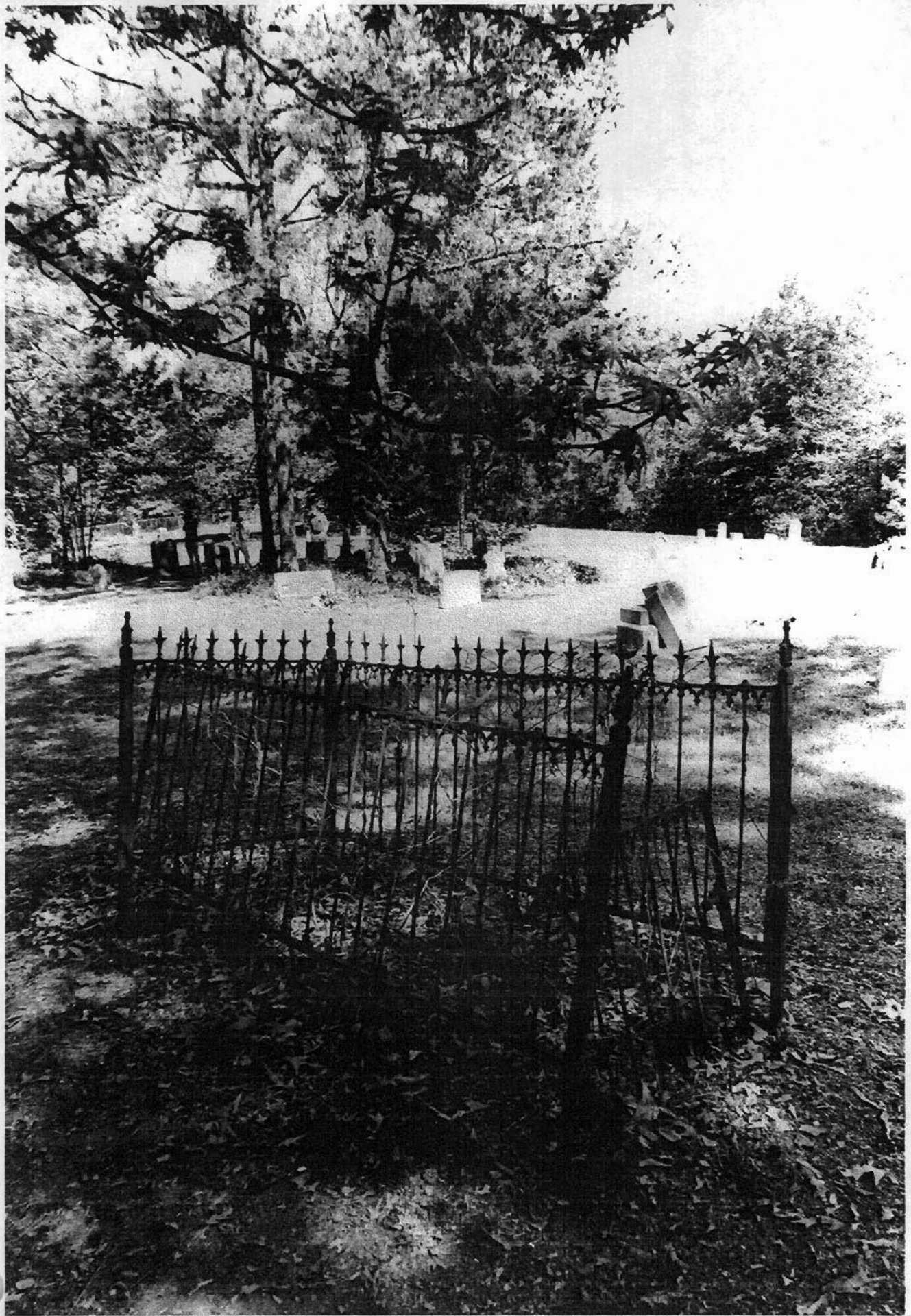
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

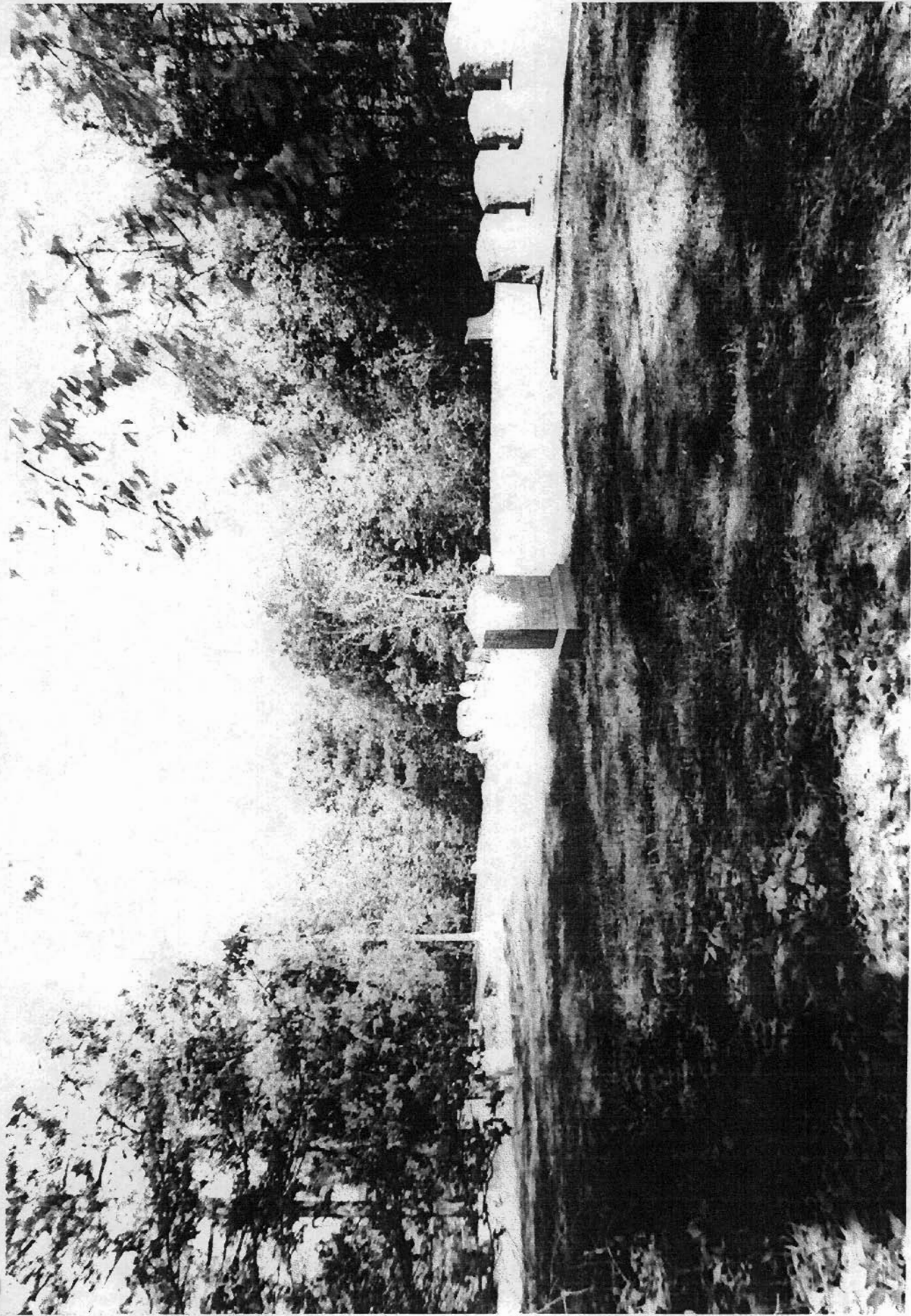
ROUGH & READY
CEMETERY











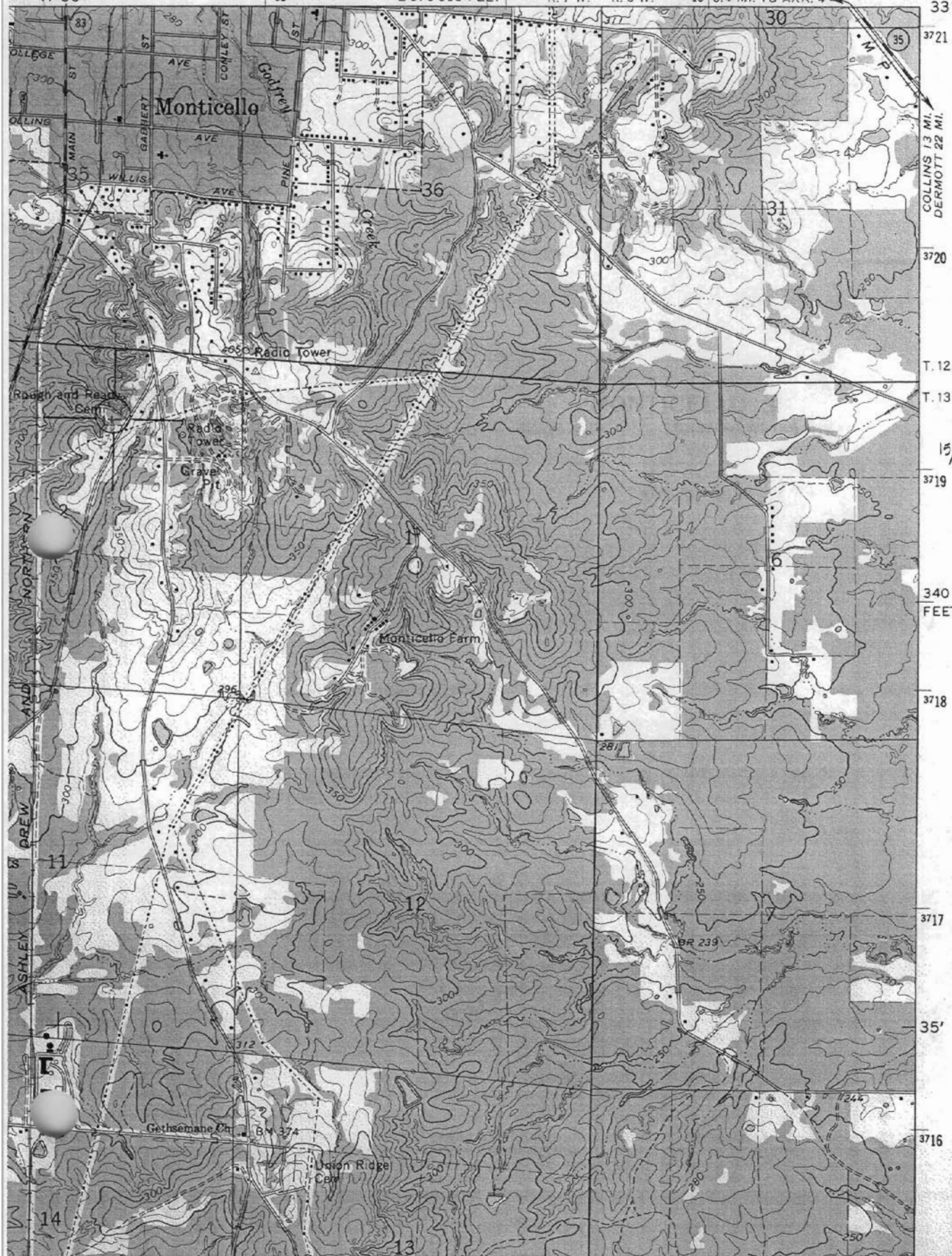


MONTICELLO SOUTH QUADRANGLE
 ARKANSAS—DREW CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7651 11 NW
 (COLLINS NW)

COLEMAN 11 MI.
 47 30"

613 2 070 000 FEET R. 7 W. R. 6 W. 615 RYE 17 MI. 0.4 MI. TO ARK. 4 91° 45' 33' 37" 30"



T. 12 S. Rough and Ready
 T. 13 S. Drew Co., AR
 UTM Reference:
 15/612330/3719180

340 000
 FEET

ASHLEY U S DREW AND NORTH

14

13