

Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery
Name of Property

Miller County, Arkansas
County and State

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: Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery

Other Name/Site Number: MI0139

2. Location

Street & Number: 1612 Smith Road

Not for Publication: NA

City/Town: Rondo

Vicinity: NA

State: AR County: Miller Code: 091 Zip Code: 71854

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Site

Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery
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Miller County, Arkansas
County and State

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing Noncontributing

___	___ buildings
<u> 1 </u>	___ sites
___	___ structures
<u> 18 </u>	<u> 2 </u> objects
<u> 19 </u>	<u> 2 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: ___ NA

Name of related multiple property listing: “Something So Dim It Must Be Holy”: Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934

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.

Cecilia Mateaus 7/27/04

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

Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery
Name of Property

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5. National Park Service Certification

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification: NO STYLE

Materials: foundation NA roof NA
 walls NA other NA

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

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Summary:

The Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery is located in Plot 72 near the center of the Old Rondo Cemetery at 1612 Smith Road in Rondo, Miller County, Arkansas. It contains 17 historic government grave markers, a small monument installed in 1962 and a historic marker placed in the 1990s. It, along with Plot 73, is contained within a rectangular concrete boundary.

Elaboration:

The Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery is located in Plot 72 near the center of the Old Rondo Cemetery at 1612 Smith Road in Rondo, Miller County, Arkansas. It contains 17 historic government grave markers, a small monument installed in 1962 and a historic marker placed in the 1990s. It, along with Plot 73, is contained within a rectangular concrete boundary.

The Confederate Section is situated near the center of the Old Rondo Cemetery. From the northern end of the plot heading south, there are nine evenly spaced marble grave markers inscribed with the words “FIVE UNKNOWN/CONFEDERATE/SOLDIERS.” A ziggurat-shaped fieldstone monument with an inset marble slab is located south of the first group of grave markers; it is inscribed “IN MEMORY OF/85 UNKNOWN/CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS/WAR BETWEEN THE STATES/ 1861—1865/ERECTED BY/ALBERT PIKE CHAPTER/UDC—1962”. Immediately behind the monument is a metal historical marker with information on Camp Josephine McDermott. Continuing south of the monument are eight more marble grave markers, inscribed as are those north of the monument. The monument and historical marker do not contribute to the integrity of the Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery; the seventeen marble grave markers and the surrounding concrete border are contributing elements.

Immediately adjacent to the Confederate Section and within the concrete border is Plot 73, which contains the remains of A. Archer, who was born Jan. 18, 1872 and died Dec. 12, 1910. It is not within the boundaries of this nomination.

The plot and markers are well maintained and in good condition.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Statewide.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): C, F

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Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY

Period(s) of Significance: 1862-1934

Significant Dates: 1862, 1934

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

SUMMARY:

The Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery at Rondo in Miller County is associated with the historic context “Something So Dim It Must Be Holy: Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934” as a commemorative cemetery associated with the efforts of ancestral organizations in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the Albert Pike Chapter No. 2057 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect members’ perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Considerations C (Cemeteries) and F (Commemorative Properties).

Elaboration:

On June 12, 1862, Brig. Gen. H.E. McCulloch ordered all Confederate troops located east of Tyler, Texas, to march to Little Rock, which was threatened by Samuel Curtis’s Union army.¹ These troops included the 19th Texas Infantry Regiment under Col. Richard Waterhouse. At least seven companies of the 19th were stationed at Rondo, just past the Arkansas-Texas state line, from July through early September. A fellow Texan encountered them there on September 6, 1862, noting that “we passed through a little village named Rondo. Near this place we encamped alongside the camp of Waterhouse Regiment for the night. They did us the honor of presenting arms as we passed their camp.”²

While camped at Rondo measles struck, killing dozens of Waterhouse’s Rebel soldiers. (The 19th Texas later transferred to Camp Nelson near Cabot, where still more died of measles. Camp Nelson Confederate Cemetery, NR listed May 3, 1996). After the war, the remains of 85 Confederate soldiers who died in the measles epidemic were disinterred and reburied side by side in a common grave in the Old Rondo Cemetery.³

The Albert Pike Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was organized in Texarkana in 1931 and immediately began efforts to recognize the unknown soldiers in the Old Rondo Cemetery. Working with Congresswoman Effiegene Wingo, a granddaughter of Confederate soldiers, the group sought federal funding to acquire the plot in which the dead Confederates were buried, as well as marble markers for the grave. There

were seventeen markers placed, one for every five of the unknown soldiers.⁴

The Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery was sold for \$1 to the Albert Pike Chapter on Dec. 7, 1934; the deed was recorded on July 1, 1938.⁵ The first Rondo dedication cemetery was conducted in 1934 and featured a speech by Confederate veteran T.T.C. Anderson.⁶

In 1962, the Albert Pike Chapter placed a sandstone and marble marker in the center of the Confederate Section in honor of the 85 disease victims buried there. The chapter also holds a memorial service at the cemetery every May.⁷

The Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery is the historic property most closely associated with the efforts of the Albert Pike Chapter 2057 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to honor Confederate war dead. As such, it deserves recognition on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery at Rondo in Miller County is associated with the historic context “Something So Dim It Must Be Holy: Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934” as a commemorative cemetery associated with the efforts of ancestral organizations in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the Albert Pike Chapter No. 2057 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect members’ perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Considerations C (Cemeteries) and F (Commemorative Properties).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Blessington, Joseph P. *The campaigns of Walker's Texas Division: containing a complete record of the campaigns in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas* (New York: Lange, Little, 1875)

Faircloth, Bunyon. “Rondo Homecoming Address, May 25, 1987,” manuscript copy.

Field, Iola Edwards. *Rondo Pioneer Frontier Community of Miller County, Arkansas, 1835-1958* (Rondo Cemetery Association, 1958)

Hewett, Janet B., ed. *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union And Confederate Armies*, 83 volumes (Wilmington, N.C.: Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1998)

Trammell, Pamela. E-mail correspondence, April 20, April 29, 2004.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 70 vols. In 128 books and index (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1890-1901) in *The Civil War CD-ROM* [CD-ROM] (Carmel, IN: Guild Press of Indiana, 1996)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery
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- 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

Acreege of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 410070 3701002 B
C D

Verbal Boundary Description: Plot 72, Old Rondo Cemetery, Rondo, Arkansas

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

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Mark Christ/Community Outreach Director

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: May 14, 2004

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

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

Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery

Name of Property

Miller County, Arkansas

County and State

¹ *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 70 vols. In 128 books and index (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1890-1901) Ser. I, 9: p. 718, in *The Civil War CD-ROM* [CD-ROM] (Carmel, IN: Guild Press of Indiana, 1996).

² Janet B. Hewett, ed. *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union And Confederate Armies*, 83 volumes (Wilmington, N.C.: Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1998) Part II, Record of Events, Vol. 68, Ser. 81; Joseph P. Blessington, *The campaigns of Walker's Texas division : containing a complete record of the campaigns in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas* (New York: Lange, Little, 1875) p. 36.

³ Iola Edwards Field, *Rondo Pioneer Frontier Community of Miller County, Arkansas, 1835-1958* (Rondo Cemetery Association, 1958) p. 6.

⁴ Field, p. 9.

⁵ Bunyon Faircloth, "Rondo Homecoming Address, May 25, 1987," p. 4.

⁶ Pam Trammell, Albert Pike UDC Chapter 2057, e-mail message to author, April 20, 2004.

⁷ Faircloth, p. 5; Trammell, e-mail message to author, April 29, 2004.



Confederate Section - Old Rondo Cemetery
 Rondo, Miller County, AR
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