

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR LISTED

DEC 12 1996

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Confederate Section, Oakland Cemetery

other name/site number: OU0029

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2. Location

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street & number: North of Pearl St., between Adams and Young Streets

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Camden

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Ouachita code: AR 103 zip code: 71701

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing      Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>232</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>234</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
	<u>0</u>	Total

Confederate Section, Oakland Cemetery  
Name of Property

Ouachita County, AR  
County and State

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

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

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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 A. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

10-11-96  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Confederate Section, Oakland Cemetery  
Name of Property

Ouachita County, AR  
County and State

     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

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Monument/marker  
FUNERARY Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Monument/marker  
FUNERARY Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

Neoclassical  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Materials:     foundation     Fieldstone     roof     N/A  
                  walls           Granite/Marble     other     N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.          See continuation sheet.

**Summary**

The Confederate Section, Oakland Cemetery, is an area of less than one acre within Camden's Oakland Cemetery at Pearl Street and Adams in Camden. It contains some 231 marked burials of Confederate dead, both known and unknown, within an iron chain fence. A tall stone monument stands in the western part of the section.

**Elaboration**

The Confederate Section, Oakland Cemetery, is an area of less than one acre within Camden's Oakland Cemetery at Pearl Street and Adams in Camden. It contains some 231 marked burials of Confederate dead, both known and unknown, within an iron chain fence. A tall stone monument stands in the southwestern part of the section.

The white marble gravestones are arranged in 33 rows that are seven deep, except where blocked by the monument. The burial area is surrounded by an iron-chain fence.

The centerpiece of the Confederate Section is a granite monument, approximately 18' tall and 4' 3" wide and deep. The monument consists of several two broad blocks topped by an inscribed section beneath an obelisk with a cannon ball on top. This in turn sits atop a rough fieldstone base roughly 3' high and 5' wide and deep.

The monument is inscribed as follows:

The east face says: WE CARE NOT WHENCE THEY CAME,/DEAR IS THEIR LIFELESS CLAY/WHETHER UNKNOWN OR KNOWN/TO FAME,/THEIR CAUSE AND COUNTRY STILL/THE SAME/THEY DIED - AND WORE THE GRAY./ERECTED/MAY 29. 1886.

The west face says: "IN MEMORIAM"/1861.-1865./OUR/CONFEDERATE/DEAD.

Both the sculpture and base show missing caulk or mortar and the sculpture is spattered with bird guano, exhibiting black crusts and organic growth, and showing evidence of sugaring. The monument would benefit from treatment, but the overall cemetery is well maintained.

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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: Statewide.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): D,F

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1866-1886

Significant Dates: 1866-1886

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Summary**

Criterion A, statewide significance  
Criteria Considerations D and F

The Confederate Section, Oakland Cemetery at Camden 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 financed and erected through the efforts of a local memorial organization and a monument association in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the people of Camden and reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration D: Cemeteries, and Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

### **Elaboration**

By mid-June 1865, organized Confederate resistance in Arkansas had ended and all major military commands had surrendered to victorious Union troops. Shortly thereafter, a Memorial Association was formed in Camden, a town briefly occupied by Federal troops during the 1864 Red River campaign, to honor the Rebel dead buried in the city cemetery.

The group worked immediately after the war to mark the some 250 Confederate graves, which even then were becoming hard to identify. An obelisk was erected in the largest group of graves and inscribed "Unknown Dead."

The memorial association held its first public decoration day on November 9, 1866. Following a speech by Methodist preacher Rev. Horace Jewell, a large group of citizens, including 75 women clad in white and bearing wreaths of flowers, proceeded to the cemetery where the Hon. E.A. Warren spoke and a Rev. Wheat conducted devotional exercises. The plot was then bedecked with flowers.

The Memorial Association protected the Confederate plot until 1886, when a Confederate Monument Association was formed. This group erected a larger, more substantial granite monument, which was dedicated on May 29, 1886. Dr. J. W. Meek, chairman of the Confederate Monument Association, made the presentation speech. Mayor C. K. Sithen also spoke and Gov. S. P. Hughes made an oration.

Though Camden's Hugh McCollum United Confederate Veterans Camp and Grinstead Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy erected a more elaborate monument on the Ouachita County Courthouse lawn in 1915 (Camden Confederate Monument, NR 5/7/96), the Confederate Section, Oakland Cemetery is the historic resource most closely associated with the activities of the early



Camden memorial association and the later Confederate Monument Association and is thus deserving of recognition on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Confederate Section, Oakland Cemetery at Camden 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 financed and erected through the efforts of a local memorial organization and a monument association in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the people of Camden and reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration D: Cemeteries, and Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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"Camden," by Mrs. J.W. Meek, "Confederate Cemeteries of Arkansas," Publications of the Arkansas Historical Association, Vol. 2, pp. 303-305, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 1908.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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:

- X State historic preservation office
- \_\_\_ Other state agency
- \_\_\_ Federal agency
- \_\_\_ Local government

Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**
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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
A 15 515600 3716900 B 15
C 15 D 15

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

An area around the site defined by a line running around the exterior of the associated chain fence that encloses this rectangular plot.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

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**11. Form Prepared By**
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Name/Title: Mark Christ, Communications/Development Director
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10/07/96
Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201





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CITY

# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

33° 37' 30"      92° 52' 30"      512000m. E.      513      514      515      50'      516      517. (HARMON)      7451.1

3720000m. N.

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