

Oak Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Prairie County, Arkansas

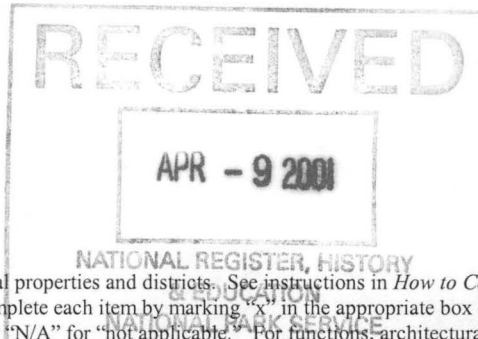
County and State

NPS Form 10-900  
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



## 1. Name of Property

historic name Oak Grove Cemetery

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number 7<sup>th</sup> Street☐ not for publicationcity or town Des Arc☐ vicinitystate Arkansascode ARcounty Prairiecode 112zip code 08972040

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

(for) Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Anaali D. Pope5/22/01

Oak Grove Cemetery  
Name of Property

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County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☐ district  
☒ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|--------------|-----------------|
|              | buildings       |
| 1            | sites           |
|              | structures      |
|              | objects         |
| 1            | Total           |

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

### Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

Located in Des Arc, Arkansas, in Prairie County, the Oak Grove Cemetery is located on approximately 3 acres of land. Shaded by large Oak trees, Oak Grove Cemetery is the oldest public cemetery in the city limits of Des Arc and it contains 182 known burials, the earliest burials dating to the 1850s. Although not recognized as an official confederate cemetery, Oak Grove does contain confederate soldier burials. The markers and enclosures located within the cemetery are representative of many community cemeteries.

### ELABORATION

Shaded by large Oak trees, Oak Grove Cemetery is the oldest public cemetery in the city limits of Des Arc and contains 182 known burials the earliest burials dating to the 1850s. The cemetery is threatened and is surrounded on all four sides by development. A chain-link fence separates the local school football field from the cemetery along the southern boundary of the cemetery. Then northern boundary joins property that is owned by the city, which is also adjacent to the bypass. A graveled town street, that separates the cemetery from an area containing residential trailers, delineates the eastern boundary. A large ravine, with a small copse of woods, separates the western boundary of the cemetery from the school's practice football field.

Despite the alterations of setting Oak Grove Cemetery is very significant as it contains 182 graves with historic markers and 15 graves with non-historic markers, of which ten are historic burials with new stones. There are 11 historic burials (pre 1930) for which there are no markers; however, the burials have been documented through obituaries and funeral records. It possesses still retains integrity as the oldest public burial ground in the city limits of Des Arc, Arkansas.

### Landscape

In 1884, a writer for the ARKANSAS GAZETTE had these kind words to say about Oak Grove Cemetery:

And here close by the banks of the clear river, the wash of whose waves is melodious with the sounds of its mountain home, there is a little city of mounds and marble shafts and monumental urns faithfully attended by loving hands, and bright with flowers that fade and bloom again . . . The proud hospitable people of Des Arc need no eulogium.

Today there are no monumental urns and the faithful attending hands are few. A concrete bird bath base contains some of the only flowers that now grace the cemetery. After passing through the splendid wrought iron arched entrance gate - that displays the name Oak Grove - the landscape is defined by the stately cedar and oak trees; hence, the cemetery's name Oak Grove. Most of the gravesites are located in the highest area of the cemetery; however, there are several interments on the northern slope. The earliest marked graves face the northeast, while later graves face directly east. Located throughout the cemetery are rises in elevation, which resemble mounds. A white marble marker marks only one of these mounds.

### Burials and Markers

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Oak Grove Cemetery contains graves that pre-date the Civil War. There are a total of 182 known interments and an estimated equal number of unmarked interments. There have been no interments since 1970. This cemetery was inventoried in 1989 and the data was published for public use. Listed below are chronological interments by decades:

1851 to 1860 - twenty-five; 1861 to 1870 - forty-four; 1871 to 1880 - thirty three; 1881 to 1890 - fifteen; 1891 to 1900 - fifteen; 1901 to 1910 - ten; 1911 to 1920 - ten; 1921 to 1930 - ten; 1931 to 1940 - two; 1941 to 1950 - three; 1951 to 1960 - one; 1961 to 1969 - three. Ten of the above-referenced graves have had new markers erected to replace broken markers.

There are eleven additional burials that occurred before 1930, all have been documented with funeral records or obituaries, but have no markers. These burials include:

Charlie N. Bridges (1922); E. C. Blakemore (1929); John Sidney Allen Goodwin (1868); Frances L. Vance Goodwin (1930); Charlie Harvey (1868); George Sinclair (1868); Samuel H. Greer, (1868); Willie Taylor (1913); William DeWoody (ca. 1860); John Alexander DeWoody, Jr. (1858); and Elizabeth Walker DeWoody (1857).

The earliest documented grave within the Oak Grove Cemetery dates to 1851. It is the grave of Robert Harvey who was later followed in death by three of his children in 1852, 1854, and circa 1855, all of whom are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. The dates of the above referenced burials indicate that the cemetery was used most frequently between 1851 and 1900.

Local artisans cut some of the markers and others were imported from other states. Stonecutters were identified on some stones up to the year 1870. There is one stone by M.A. Lawrence of Evansville, IN; one stone by W. L. [last name unknown]; one by J. Hyde of Natoffon; five stones were by Rothermel, T.M. Rothermel and Rothermel & Co. of Des Arc, AR. There are 12 stones made by vendors from Memphis, TN: F.H. Venn & Co., Maydwell, T. Maydwell, J. White, J. White & Son, T.A. Fisher, Fisher & Amis, and Fisher-Amis & Co.

Oak Grove contains markers of various sizes and shapes - there are ledger, tablet, and obelisk markers. Most of the markers in the cemetery are constructed of granite or marble. Unlike many cemeteries, Oak Grove has no Woodmen of the World monuments. Many of the markers located in this cemetery are tablet markers constructed of thin slabs of marble or granite - some of these tablet markers display a classic curved top while others display a pointed Gothic arch. Some of the tablet markers also possess a flat top. Another prominent marker located within the cemetery is the marble obelisk. These markers are upright, four-sided pillars that gradually taper as they rise and terminate in a pyramid. In addition to the above-referenced markers, ten ledger markers are present and were erected to replace stones that were beyond repair, these were added at some point during the past 25 years.

One of the more unique markers in Oak Grove is a cylindrical shaped white marble marker that marks the grave of Charles Cecil Crenshaw 1902-1909. Another interesting monument is that of Louisa Ellen Watts. After the death of her husband John M. Petty, Louisa erected a monument with his name in the cemetery. Louisa then goes on to marry a Mr. DeWoody. Louisa later dies and her name Louisa DeWoody is carved on the rear of her first husband's marker. There are ten barrel vaults constructed of red brick and covered with concrete or plaster. There are seven adult vaults and three children's vaults. One adult vault has a bronze identification plate attached.



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Located within the boundaries of Oak Grove cemetery are several Confederate burials. Various markers denote these graves, including five white marble military markers as well as fifteen bronze Confederate footmarkers. All known Confederate patriots in this cemetery have identifying markers with the exception of a local riverboat captain who was a known spy for the Confederacy. There are no military markers for any other conflict located in the cemetery.

Many of the individuals and families that are associated with the settlement, development, and history of Des Arc are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. They include the Schneblys, Blakeneys, Sutcliffes, Bethells, Erwins, Haleys, Plunketts, Hedgepeths, and the Morrills to name a few.

### Iconography

There are numerous images that decorate the faces of the monuments that commemorate a life that has passed. The most common images used throughout the cemetery are various representations of flowers, fruits, and rosebuds (25 markers) also very popular was the imagery of leaves and fronds (20 markers). Other imagery employed includes: Fraternal Emblems (6); Scrolls (4); Angels (3); Shields (6); Chains (2); Columns (2); Stones containing some crosshatching (2); Windows with Gates to Heaven (2); Stones with bricks etched on the back (2); Bibles (3); Anchor emblem (1); Acorns (2); Bell pulls or cords (6); Rosette (1); Laurel Wreath (1); Tree (2); Crown (1); Stars (4); Hand emblems with pointed fingers (10); Shaking of hands emblem (4); Doves (11); Lambs (10); Baskets (2); Open fan symbol, probably a rising or setting sun representation (1); and eight markers had border designs.

Eleven of the stones possessed notable scrollwork. Thirty-five of the markers contained biblical verses, sayings, or poems and three of the markers were erected as dedication stones according to descendents.

### Enclosures

Throughout the years wrought iron and cast iron fence enclosures have been removed from family plots to allow for easier maintenance. Today, only three such enclosures remain. One is a wrought iron fence with spear points that has no gate and is in need of some repair. The other two enclosures possess gates and are defined by braided wire fences. Brick or concrete coping delineates other family plots. Recently some concrete coping surrounding a family plot was removed because of its deterioration and because the vegetation was so dense.

### Integrity

Oak Grove is one of the last remaining vestiges of Des Arc in its pre Civil War days. It possesses integrity of location, design, feeling, workmanship, materials and association. Originally located on the outskirts of town in a rural setting, the cemetery is now surrounded on all four sides by development. A chain-link fence separates the local school football field from the cemetery along the southern boundary of the cemetery. Then northern boundary joins property that is owned by the city, which is also adjacent to the highway bypass. A graveled town street, that separates the cemetery from an area containing residential trailers, delineates the eastern boundary. A large ravine, with a small copse of woods, separates the western boundary of the cemetery from the school's practice football field. So although the setting has been altered throughout the years, the importance of the cemetery has not diminished, if anything it has increased in importance because of its age and longevity. There are some broken markers located within the cemetery, some of which have been

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repaired. However, overall this cemetery's integrity is not compromised as Oak Grove beautifully displays many historic markers that are sheltered beneath large oak and cedar trees.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS.

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☒ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

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### Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

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### Period of Significance

1851 - 1951

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### Significant Dates

N/A

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### Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

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### Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

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### Architect/Builder

N/A

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

Oak Grove Cemetery, located in Des Arc in Prairie County, is being nominated with local significance to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its association with the settlement and development of Des Arc. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of **Criteria Consideration D: Cemeteries** - because it contains graves of a number of persons who contributed to the growth and development of Des Arc and because the cemetery can attain significance from its association with the towns historic settlement.

### ELABORATION

The area of now known as Des Arc, has a long and rich history. The first inhabitants of present-day Prairie County were Native Americans. The White River, which borders Des Arc on the east was called "Niska" by Native Americans. The Osage Indians were a prominent tribe in the area. They officially ceded their lands to the United States in a treaty signed at Fort Clark, Missouri, on November 10, 1808. Prairie County was part of that land cession.

As early as the 1700s there were French traders traveling up and down the White River trapping, but none have been identified as Prairie County residents. Bear oil and skins, abundant in this area at this time, were sought after commodities on the New Orleans markets. The rivers were the transportation highways of this early era. Early maps identify the White River as "Eau Blanche" and "Riv. Blanche" Blanche being the French word for white. Two of the first known men to temporarily reside in the area later known as Des Arc were men with the last name Watts and Easts. Other early visitors include individuals with the last name Runkle, Coburn, Goforth.

After the War of 1812, the government began issuing Bounty Land Warrants during the 1820s through the 1840s to soldiers as payment for their military service in the war. The territories of Missouri, Arkansas, and Iowa began opening up for settlement. Some grant recipients sold their land deeds but many pioneer families moved westward into Arkansas at that time.

The ARKANSAS GAZETTE newspaper for July 6, 1831, states Des Arc was a Territorial Post Office. In 1848, the local Post Office is documented as "Francisville". Two weeks after this announcement, the official name was changed to Des Arc. Other names for the town of Des Arc are noted to be Des Arcs, des Argues, Desarc, Des Arques, Desare, McNulty's Bluff, Des Arcs Bluffs, and Dezark Bluff, on various documents. It was not until after the Civil War that the name Des Arc was accepted universally.

Des Arc is a French term for bow or bend; therefore the town of Des Arc is named for the bend in the river on which it is situated. Timber for homes was plentiful. Fish and game were abundant and the population grew rapidly. Selling wood to power the steamboats and rafting timber along the river were viable occupations. Farming and the timber industry, along with river traffic and trade, were the mainstays of this town until the railroad era. The fur trade, floating timber, stave mills, veneer plants, sawmill, and button factories were some of the local industries. Buttons were made from the mussel shells found in great quantities on the riverbed. The Butterfield Overland Mail route in the late 1850s was a key event in the development of Des Arc. The route crossed the White River just north of Des Arc near the mouth of Bayou Des Arc. Eventually this route was phased out. The town of Des Arc lies on the banks of the White River in Prairie County,



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Arkansas, which was carved from Pulaski County in 1846. According to Dallas T. Herndon's Annals of Arkansas, the town was formally laid out around 1850 by the major landowner of the area, George C. Watkins, who was later Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court (1852-54). 1850 census records reveal that there were 2,097 white persons in Prairie County and 273 slaves. Des Arc was incorporated on December 28, 1854; and later, in the fall of 1858, there was quite a local uproar about Des Arc becoming the capital of the state of Arkansas and losing by only one vote.

In 1860, prior to the onset of the Civil War, there were 6,015 white persons and 2,839 slaves. Cotton was king and it took massive amounts of labor to produce a crop. The American Civil War literally decimated this town. The river being the local "highway" of this era, Des Arc was a significant military port. Union troops located at DeValls Bluff, Arkansas, were ordered to raze Des Arc's local buildings and transport the building materials downstream to DeValls Bluff to construct barracks and buildings, there. It would take a lot of foraging to feed, clothe, and house, at one time, purportedly, 30,000 troops there. One local resident who lived through that time period later swore that there was not a chicken left in Prairie County at the end of the Civil War.

By the end of the Civil War, there were approximately 400 residents remaining in the town of Des Arc. In 1880 the total was 547 people in Des Arc, of which 392 were white and 155 were black. The rebuilding of this river town would take many decades and it would never again regain the prominence it had achieved before the Civil War.

Oak Grove Cemetery is one of the only extant pre Civil War historic resource in Des Arc that has survived (1) the Civil War, (2) time, and (3) development. Oak Grove Cemetery is a direct reflection of the development of Des Arc from the 1850s through the 1950s. For over a century this cemetery has served as a final resting-place for the citizens of Des Arc.

Oak Grove cemetery is located on "high ground" in close proximity to the White River; it is one of seven cemeteries in Prairie County located along this river. Each of these cemeteries contains burials of men who would have been the correct age to have participated in or at least witness the nation's devastating Civil War. At the time of its establishment Oak Grove was located on the outskirts of town yet it was close enough to be considered convenient for the citizens of Des Arc.

Burials in the cemetery occurred most frequently between 1851 and 1900. The earliest documented grave within the Oak Grove Cemetery, dates to 1851 and it is the grave of Robert Harvey who was later followed in death by three of his children in 1852, 1854, and circa 1855, all of whom are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Many of Des Arc's pioneer family members rest in the Oak Grove Cemetery these include families such as Bethell, Morrell, and Sutcliffe. These families and other pioneers traveling from the east westward settled in this area and formed the first citizens of Des Arc. Within Oak Grove cemetery are several graves of emigrant families such as the Sutcliffe family who were of English decent and Elizabeth Scott and her son William Greenslade from Exter, England, are also interred here. There are at least twenty known Confederate patriots buried in the cemetery. Many of these men were not only confederate soldiers but they were also associated with the economic and political development of Des Arc. The following are only a sampling of people buried in the cemetery whose lives influenced and contributed to the settlement and development of Des Arc, Arkansas. In 1862, the townspeople of Des Arc lost the owner and editor of the town's first local newspaper "The Des Arc Citizen," which by 1860 had 700 subscribers. In 1858, John Morrill was one of two

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appointed citizens to read before the legislature the proposal for Des Arc to become the new state capital and in 1859 he was elected Mayor of Des Arc. After enlisting in the Confederate army, Morrill died of typhoid and was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Also buried in Oak Grove Cemetery is Isaac Newton Hedgpeth, former Missouri State Representative. Hedgpeth also served in the Civil War, but more importantly served the community of Des Arc as an attorney, "Homestead Land Agent," postmaster, and Justice of the Peace.

Marion Martin Erwin was a long time resident of Prairie County. Throughout his life he held a several jobs, he was a farmer as well as an innkeeper. After serving in the Civil War he returned to Des Arc and served the citizens of Prairie County as a Representative in the Arkansas Legislature from 1872-1874.

Doctor William Hazen moved from Charlottesville, Virginia, to Tennessee, Texas, and then to Arkansas where he purchased several thousand acres of land, which served as his plantation, in what is now Prairie County. During the Civil War, Hazen served in the Wattensaw Township Home Guard. After the war, Hazen found that his farmland was virtually useless so he opened a small general store in Des Arc. After his death on 16 April 1872, one year later, the town of Hazen was established and named in his honor since he had originally owned all of the land in the vicinity.

The Bethell family has a long history associated with the early history of Des Arc. Doctor William Bethell and his family moved from North Carolina to Memphis, Tennessee; next to Tulip, Arkansas; and finally to Des Arc. While in Tulip Dr. Bethell owned a substantial plantation where he also practiced medicine for ten years before moving to what is now Des Arc. According to lifetime resident George Ellis (died Dec. 1999 - age 102) it is believed that one of the members of the Bethell family held the stick for surveying the town of Des Arc. Dr. Bethell is also remembered for firing the first cannon at Des Arc after secession and his daughter, Miss Martha Bethell, presented the flag to Captain Pearson's Company, "The Des Arc Rangers". Dr. Bethell's son John fought in the Civil War for which he received a Medal of Honor. Both William and John Bethell are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Des Arc originated as an agricultural community and has remained so for over 150 years. In 1903 rice farming first arrived in the county and throughout the years it has become one of the major grains grown in Prairie County. River trafficking has also taken on a new perspective. Fishing is a secondary industry locally but the transportation of grain in massive river barges is probably the major river industry. Des Arc has been slow to accept technological changes over the years. There is a very laid back, "sit back and watch what happens, elsewhere" attitude to this town. Life does not progress at a rapid pace, here. There are many descendents of the pioneer families still in this area and they include members of the Bethell, Morell, Brown, Erwin, Nichols, Walsh, and Sutcliffe families. Just like the pioneers, southern families grew up very close and have remained that way over many generations. There is an old saying associated with this river town. "If you drink from the White River, you will eventually return to it".

### Significance

Oak Grove Cemetery, located in Des Arc in Prairie County, is being nominated with local significance to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its association with the settlement and development of Des Arc. It is also being submitted under **Criteria Consideration D**. Oak Grove Cemetery is a direct reflection of the development of

Oak Grove Cemetery

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Des Arc from the 1850s through the 1950s. For over a century this cemetery has served as a final resting-place for the citizens of Des Arc.

## Bibliography

Sickel, Marilyn Hambrick, PRAIRIE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS, 1989, p. 156-8.

Sickel, Marilyn Hambrick, PRAIRIE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, PIONEER FAMILY INTERVIEWS, by W.P.A - Federal Writer's Project, compiled, 1989.

Sickel, Marilyn Hambrick, CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL SERVICE, Oak Grove Cemetery, Des Arc, Arkansas, 3 June 1995.

Worley, Ted, "THE HISTORY OF DES ARC AND ITS PEOPLE," published weekly in the WHITE RIVER JOURNAL, Des Arc, Arkansas, 22 March 1956 - 28 March 1957.

WHITE RIVER JOURNAL, Des Arc, Arkansas, local newspaper; all issues reviewed from 1907 [beginning of extant issues] through 1957 + [end of personal consecutive research].

\* 15 Years of Personal Research, including many oral interviews with descendants and local residents.

### 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
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.475 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|   |           |               |                |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | <u>15</u> | <u>636753</u> | <u>3871636</u> |
|   | Zone      | Easting       | Northing       |
| 2 | _____     | _____         | _____          |

|   |       |         |          |
|---|-------|---------|----------|
| 3 | _____ | _____   | _____    |
|   | Zone  | Easting | Northing |
| 4 | _____ | _____   | _____    |

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Located in Des Arc, Arkansas, in Prairie County, the Oak Grove Cemetery is located in the North ½ of the Northeast ¼, of the Southeast ¼, of the Southwest ¼ in Section 11, Township 4 north, Range 5 west on the Des Arc West Quadrangle Map.

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The selected boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Oak Grove Cemetery.



Oak Grove Cemetery  
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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Marilyn Hambrick Sickle  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number Route 1 Box 125 A telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town DeValls Bluff state AR zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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### Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name CITY  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number:** 01000507

**Date Listed:** 05/22/01

**Property Name:** Oak Grove Cemetery

**County:** Marion

**State:** AR

**Multiple Name:** N/A

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

(for) *Anna D. Pope*  
**Signature of the Keeper**

5/22/01  
**Date of Action**

=====

**Amended Items in Nomination:**

An amendment is made to add "granite" and "marble" to the "other" line under Materials in Section 7 of the form.

An amendment is made to add "Social History" as an Area of Significance under Section 8 of the form.

This information was confirmed with Kara Mills of the Arkansas SHPO.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file**

**Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Oak Grove Cemetery

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Marion

DATE RECEIVED: 4/09/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/26/01  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/12/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/25/01  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01000507

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 5/22/01 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Oak Grove Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for Exploration/Settlement and Social History. The town of Des Arc, where the cemetery is located, was almost completely destroyed during the Civil War. This cemetery is associated with the early settlers of the community and is one of only a few properties remaining in the town linked with the early settlers. The cemetery is <sup>also</sup> significant as one of only a handful of resources that shows the continuity of growth of this town from 1851 - 1951.

RECOM./CRITERIA A

REVIEWER Sarah Pope DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE 202/343-9534 DATE 5/22/01

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y ☒ N ☐ see attached SLR ☒ Y ☐ N







1. Oak Grove Cemetery
2. Prairie County, Arkansas
3. Amy Bennett
4. February 2001
5. AHPP
6. View of gates on Southeast corner looking northwest into cemetery





1. Oak Grove Cemetery
2. Prairie County, Arkansas
3. Amy Bennett
4. February 2000
5. AHPP
6. Detail of Walsh fence and  
markers from southeast  
looking northwest





1. Oak Grove Cemetery
2. Paine County, Arkansas
3. Amy Bennett
4. February 2001
5. AHPP
6. Closeup of markers on  
the south boundary, looking  
west (note football field).





1. Oak Grove Cemetery
2. Prairie County, Arkansas
3. Amy Bennett
4. February 2001
5. AHPP
6. Detail of stone looking  
Southwest.





- 1, Oak Grove Cemetery
- 2, Prairie County, Arkansas
- 3, Amy Bennett
- 4, February 2001
- 5, AHPT
- 6 View of cemetery from the  
west border looking east





1. Oak Grove Cemetery
2. Prairie County, Arkansas
3. Arny Bennett
4. February 2001
5. AHPP
- U. Close up of Plunkett tombs  
looking west.





1. Oak Grove Cemetery
2. Prairie County, Arkansas
3. Amy Bennett
4. February 2001
5. AHPP
6. View of cast iron fence near northeast  
corner looking northwest

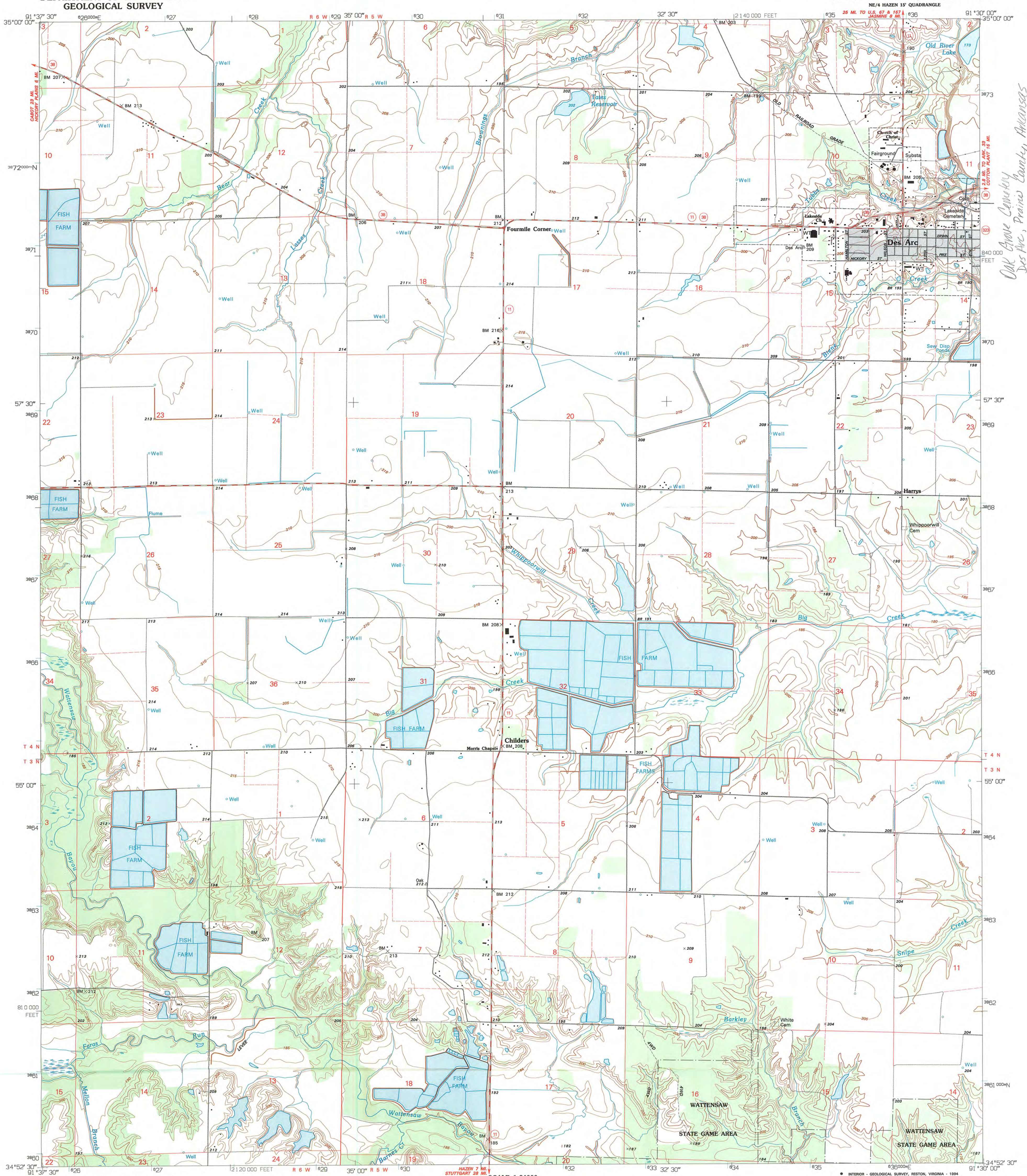


1. Oak Grove Cemetery
2. Prairie County, Arkansas
3. Amy Bennett
4. February 2001
5. AHPP
6. View of cemetery from Southeast  
closeup of gates looking northwest.



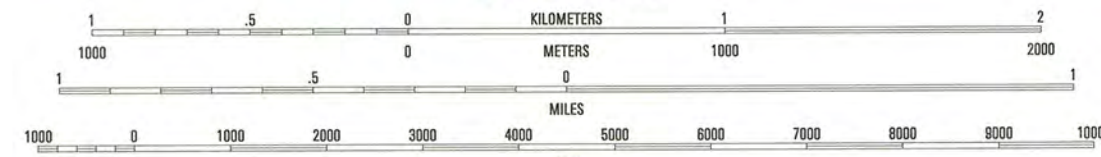
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DES ARC WEST QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS-PAIRIE CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



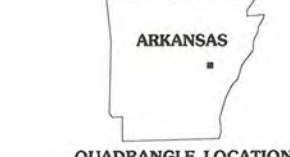
Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1963. Field checked 1964. Revised from aerial photographs  
taken 1990-91. Field checked 1993. Map edited 1994  
Universal Transverse Mercator projection  
10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue  
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks  
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute  
intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Gray tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

UTM GRID AND 1994 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



| ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLE NAMES |   |   |                  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|------------------|
| 1                              | 2 | 3 | 1 Walker         |
|                                |   |   | 2 Jeanine        |
|                                |   |   | 3 Gregory SW     |
| 4                              |   | 5 | 4 Hickory Plains |
|                                |   |   | 5 Des Arc East   |
|                                |   |   | 6 Carlele        |
|                                |   |   | 7 Hazen          |
| 6                              | 7 | 8 | 8 De Valls Bluff |

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway  
hard surface .....  
Secondary highway  
hard surface .....  
Light-duty road, hard or  
improved surface .....  
Unimproved road .....  
Interstate Route  
U.S. Route  
State Route

DES ARC WEST, ARK.  
NE/4 HAZEN 15' QUADRANGLE  
34091-H5-TF-024

1994

DMA 7653 1 NE - SERIES V884

Oak Grove Cemetery  
Des Arc, Prairie County, Arkansas  
UTM: 15 636753 3871636





# The Department of Arkansas Heritage

**WE LOVE TO TELL  
THE STORY.**

Mike Huckabee, Governor  
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

Arkansas Territorial Restoration

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



## Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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e-mail:  
[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)  
website:  
[www.arkansaspreservation.org](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org)

April 2, 2001

Carol D. Shull,  
Chief of Registration  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1849 C St. NW  
Room NC 400  
Washington DC 20240

RE: Oak Grove Cemetery – Des Arc, Prairie County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above-referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews,  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:km

Enclosures

An Equal Opportunity Employer

