

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Conway Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

Conway-Bradley Cemetery

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South of Walnut Hill, west of Bradley

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bradley

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

fourth

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Lafayette

CODE

073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

__BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

X SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

__OCCUPIED

X UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

X AGRICULTURE

__COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

X OTHER: cemetery

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

H. L. Darner, Sr. (See continuation Sheet for other claimants to the property)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bradley

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Lafayette County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Lewisville

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Other claimants to the Conway Cemetery:

(The following are descendants of the Conway-Bradley families, and claim a joint interest in the cemetery site).

1. W. C. Bradley
Route 4, Box 181
Longview, Texas
2. Mattie Bradley Maryman
218 West 71st
Shreveport, Louisiana
3. Mrs. J. W. McCalmán
Route 1
Bradley, Arkansas

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☐ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Conway family cemetery is located on the site of the Walnut Hill Plantation. The house, which was destroyed in the late nineteenth century, was originally located just northwest of the cemetery. The only remaining evidence of the plantation is the cemetery where numerous members of the Conway family are interred.

Now surrounded by soybean fields, the Conway cemetery is enclosed with a chain link fence, added in 1962. Jonquils and rye grass cover the one-half acre enclosure, and a large oak tree dominates the southeast corner. Several small mulberry trees are also located within the enclosure.

About forty tombstones dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are set in rows over the east half of the cemetery site. The grave of Governor James Sevier Conway, with its original five-foot marble marker, is located in the north central section of the cemetery. A wrought iron fence, probably dating from the late nineteenth century, encloses a small area containing several graves of the Bradley family. This small enclosure is located in the southeast of the cemetery near the oak tree.

Still situated in the site originally designated by Governor Conway, the Conway Cemetery is very well cared for and receives continual maintenance. The cemetery was declared a state historic site by the 1975 General Assembly, and its maintenance is financed and supervised by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

March 3, 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Near the south Arkansas border is the Conway Cemetery, a small graveyard containing about forty tombstones. Though a plantation house and its accompanying outbuildings were once located nearby, this quiet cemetery is now surrounded by soybean fields. Buried in this cemetery is James Sevier Conway (1796-1855), first governor of the State of Arkansas. As the only remaining site associated with this prominent citizen, the Conway Cemetery is of special historic significance to the people of Arkansas.

Among the politically prominent families in nineteenth-century Arkansas, the Conway's were one of the most important. From this illustrious clan came an Arkansas Congressman, two governors, a supreme court justice and a number of other local and state officials. When Arkansas chose its first governor in 1836, James S. Conway was selected.

Born in Greene County, Tennessee, James S. Conway was the second son of Thomas and Ann Rector Conway. In 1818 the family moved to St. Louis, and two years later James and his older brother Henry W. Conway emigrated to Arkansas Territory. The two brothers were engaged in land surveys and supervised the work of ten to fifteen field surveying parties.

Conway was a skillful surveyor, and in 1825 was appointed by President John Q. Adams to survey the western boundary of Arkansas. From the Red River in the south to the Arkansas River in the north, Conway marked the famous "Choctaw Line" which still serves as the Arkansas-Oklahoma boundary. In 1831 Conway was appointed to survey the state's southern boundary by President Andrew Jackson. Despite problems posed by the unusually cold weather and swampy lands to be surveyed, Conway successfully completed the survey of the Arkansas-Louisiana border. When the office of Arkansas Surveyor General was created in 1832, James S. Conway was the logical choice to fill this important post.

On June 15, 1836, Arkansas was admitted to the Union as the twenty-fifth state. Earlier in the spring the Democratic party had selected James S. Conway as its gubernatorial candidate. Conway received 7,716 votes, enough to secure his election over the Whig candidate Absalom Fowler. On September 13, 1836, James Sevier Conway was inaugurated as Arkansas' first governor.

Governor Conway's four year term was clouded with troubles caused by banking interests in the state. The State and Real Estate Banks, established under the Constitution of 1836, caused great economic distress in the young state.

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Financial havoc was so great that the 1844 legislature outlawed banks completely. It was only after the Civil War that banks were reestablished in the state.

A nineteenth century historian described Conway's administration as follows:

"He (Conway) was a man of fair ability and irreproachable integrity, but was not the man for the time;....The author's complaint is chiefly confined to the absence of executive forethought and resistance to the various encroachments of financial adventurers." ¹

However, despite the banking problems, Conway's administration witnessed several more positive events, including construction of the Little Rock Arsenal and the First State Capitol. Six new counties were created and the governor urged the establishment of a state college.

Following his single term in office, Governor Conway retired to Walnut Hill, his cotton plantation in Lafayette County. In 1823 he had purchased this farm on the Red River, and over the years had enlarged his holdings. Located on the "Long Prairie" in southwest Arkansas, Conway referred to his property as the "prairie plantation." ²

From his retirement from public office in 1840 until his death in 1855, Conway was a very successful farmer. Tax records indicate that his real and personal property increased greatly during these years, and he became one of the largest cotton growers in south Arkansas.

On March 3, 1855, James Sevier Conway died of pneumonia at his Walnut Hill Plantation. He was buried near the northeast corner of a ten-acre plot which he had designated as a burial ground. Other members of his wife's family (Mary Jane Bradley) were also buried in the cemetery. In the one-half acre actually used for burials, about forty members of the Conway-Bradley families are interred.

^{above ground}
The significance of the Conway Cemetery lies in the fact that it is the one remaining site most closely associated with Arkansas' first governor. Though all evidence of his plantation home has disappeared, the cemetery planned by James S. Conway remains intact.

In 1975 the Arkansas General Assembly declared the Conway Cemetery a state historic site and assigned its continued maintenance to the Department of Parks and Tourism. As the gravesite of the state's first governor, the Conway Cemetery is a significant historic site to all Arkansans.

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PAGE two

Footnotes:

1. John Hallum, Biographical and Pictorial History of Arkansas (Albany: Weed, Parsons and Company, 1887).
2. Magazine Section, Arkansas Gazette, June 5, 1836. (Reprint of James Sevier Conway Will).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, July 5, 1936.

Ferguson, John L. "Arkansas Governors and United States Senators." Little Rock: Arkansas History Commission, 1970.

_____. Speech delivered at Conway Cemetery during Lafayette County
Bicentennial Celebration, November 1, 1975.

Hallum, John. Biographical and Pictorial History of Arkansas. Albany: Weed, Parsons and Company, 1887.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

Figure 1 consists of six plots arranged in a 2x3 grid. The columns are labeled 'ZONE', 'EASTING', and 'NORTHING'. The rows are labeled 'A' and 'C'. Each plot shows a horizontal axis with 10 tick marks. Row A shows points distributed across all zones, while row C shows points concentrated in the first zone.

B			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

latitude: 33⁰ 06' 11"

longitude: 93° 41' 02"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

CODE

CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE _____

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

3-9-1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

300 West. Markham

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Little Rock

Arkansas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____

STATE ~~X~~

LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3-9-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE _____

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Hemstead, Fay. Historical Review of Arkansas. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1911.

Herndon, Dallas T. Centennial History of Arkansas, Vol. 1. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922.

Lafayette County Tax Records, 1823-1855. Microfilm, Arkansas History Commission.

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name

Conway Cemetery

County, State

Layfayette,
Arkansas

Reference Number

77000259

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

☒ Nomination Form (Photocopy from SHPO present)

☐ Photographs

☐ USGS Map



Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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MAR 31 1976

DATE ENTERED

NOV 23 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Conway Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

Conway-Bradley Cemetery

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Bradley

☒ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Lafayette

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
viewed from southwest

PHOTO NO.

1

NOV 23 1977



Conway Cemetery
Lafayette
Arkansas

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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MAR 31 1976

DATE ENTERED

NOV 23 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Conway Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

Conway - Bradley Cemetery

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Bradley

☒ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Lafayette

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Reeder, Photographer

DATE OF PHOTO Autumn, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Shreveport Times News Room

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

tombstone of Governor Conway, viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO.

2

Shreveport Times

NOV 23 1977

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Conway Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

Conway-Bradley Cemetery

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Bradley

 X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Lafayette

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S., Bradley Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1952

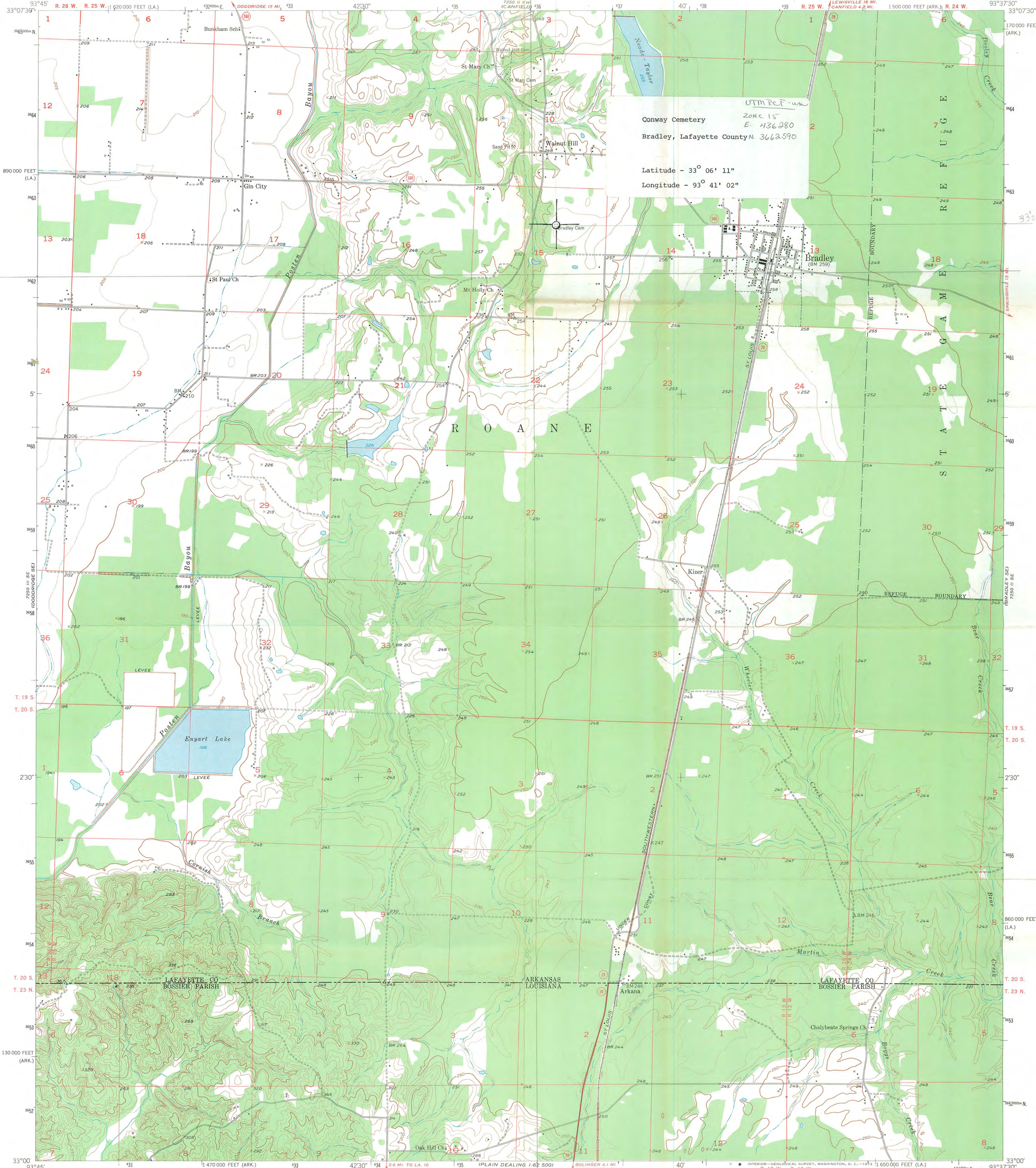
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

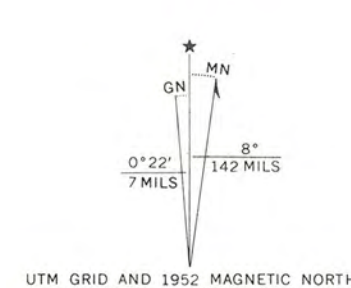
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BRADLEY QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



UTM REF - un
ZONE 15
E 436280
N 3662590
Latitude - 33° 06' 11"
Longitude - 93° 41' 02"

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1949. Topography by plane-table surveys 1952
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Arkansas coordinate system,
south zone, and Louisiana coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT HALF-INTERVAL CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE Light-duty
Medium-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route Slate Route

BRADLEY, ARK.-LA.
N3300-W9337.5/7.5
1952
AMS 7250 II SW-SERIES V884

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20542.
THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201.
AND BY THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



"THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 WEST MARKHAM

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 7

TELEPHONE - 501 371-163

PROPERTY OWNER'S APPROVAL

I, H L Darnen, Jr., am the legal
owner of the Conway Cemetery
located at Walnut Hill

I hereby acknowledge that I have been fully informed and understand the significance of having the aforementioned property placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

I hereby approve the inclusion of the aforementioned property on the National Register of Historic Places.

H L Darnen
Owner

1-26-76
Date

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



"THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 WEST MARKHAM

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
TELEPHONE - 501 371-16

FEB 09 1976

FEB 0

PROPERTY OWNER'S APPROVAL

I, Mr. C. Bradley, am the legal
(part) owner of the Courthouse Cemetery
located at Walnut Hill - Ark

I hereby acknowledge that I have been fully informed and understand the significance of having the aforementioned property placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

I hereby approve the inclusion of the aforementioned property on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. C. Bradley
Owner

2-5-76
Date

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRA



"THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 WEST MARKHAM LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 7
TELEPHONE - 501. 371-163

FEB 05 1976

PROPERTY OWNER'S APPROVAL

I, Matthew Bradley Maryman, am the legal
owner of the Cosmos Cemetery
located at Walnut Hill (Bradley) Ark

I hereby acknowledge that I have been fully informed and
understand the significance of having the aforementioned
property placed on the National Register of Historic
Places.

I hereby approve the inclusion of the aforementioned
property on the National Register of Historic Places.

Matthew Bradley Maryman
Owner
Feb 3 - 1976
Date

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



"THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 WEST MARKHAM

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS /
TELEPHONE - 501 371-1600

FEB 05 1976

PROPERTY OWNER'S APPROVAL

Mr. J. W. McCann, am the legal
owner of the an interest in land
located at Walnut Hill, Ark.

I hereby acknowledge that I have been fully informed and
understand the significance of having the aforementioned
property placed on the National Register of Historic
Places.

I hereby approve the inclusion of the aforementioned
property on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. J. W. McCann
Owner of an interest
Feb 4 - 1976
Date