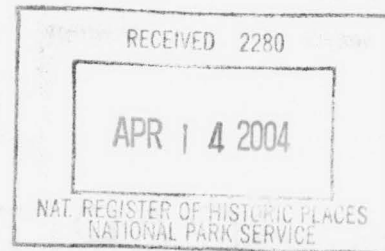


508

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National 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 Harden Family Cemetery

other names/site number Site #CH0178, Site #3CH176

2. Location

street & number Hardin Road

☐ not for publication

city or town Jennie

☒ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Chicot code 017 zip code 71653

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.)

Cathie M. Harts
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/8/04
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

Daniel J. Hill

5/24/04

Harden Family Cemetery
Name of Property

Chicot County, Arkansas
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.)

Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the
Ethnic and Racial Minority Settlement of the Arkansas Delta

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

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 STONE

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Harden Family Cemetery, which contains 14 marked graves, is located on Hardin Road approximately one mile north of Jennie, Arkansas, in Chicot County. The small rural cemetery is in the middle of a horse pasture, and is not visible from the road. In addition, it is not labeled on the USGS topographic map for the area.

ELABORATION

The Harden Family Cemetery is located in rural Chicot County, approximately one mile north of Jennie. The cemetery is located in a horse pasture at the edge of a wooded area, and is not visible from Hardin Road. In addition to the 14 marked graves, a number of unmarked graves are also present.

The Harden Family Cemetery has gravestones ranging from tablets to small obelisks. The stones are carved with various styles of script, and a few stones have pictures, including Bibles. In addition, three of the stones have the insignia of the Royal Circle of Friends.

Until recently the cemetery was overgrown, but members of the family cleared away the shrubbery and vegetation in August 2003.

This is a breakdown of burials by decade of the 14 marked graves:

1890s – 1

1910s – 2

1920s – 2

1950s – 3

1960s – 2

Unknown – 3 (Although three stones have unknown burial dates, the style of the stones and their weathering indicates that they are historic burials.)

Person is still living – 1

Harden Family Cemetery

Name of Property

Chicot County, Arkansas

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☒ **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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

Period of Significance

1892-1947

Significant Dates

1892-1947

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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: _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Harden Family Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with early settlement in the Jennie vicinity of Chicot, County. Members of the Harden Family were prominent early African-American settlers in the Jennie area, and involved in many aspects of Jennie community life, and the cemetery represents the most significant remaining site associated with the Harden family. As a result, it is also being nominated under **Criterion B** along with **Criteria Consideration C: birthplaces or graves**. The cemetery is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D: cemeteries** and under the multiple property listing "Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the Ethnic and Racial Minority Settlement of the Arkansas Delta."

ELABORATION

Much of the history of the Jennie area is unknown, although it was apparently originally known as Downsville. Although a railroad line parallels Arkansas Highway 159 through the settlement, it was not built until after 1895. Likely the development of Jennie (or Downsville) occurred just after the arrival of the railroad line.

The Harden Family included some of the early settlers in the Jennie area, and they played prominent roles in the life of the community. John Harden, Sr., was the family patriarch. Although little is known about his life, it is known that he was a slave. He was freed after the Emancipation Proclamation and lived out the remainder of his life in the Jennie area before he died on April 14, 1892.

John Harden, and his wife Mary Thomas Harden, had three sons, Sam P. Harden, John Silas Harden, and Henry Harden. They were the founders of the community and were known as the preacher, politician, and teacher. Sam P. Harden was the pastor of Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, which was located just north of Jennie and about one-half mile west of the cemetery. He was pastor in April 1927 when William H. Harden, his nephew, joined the church. John Silas Harden was the teacher and taught reading, writing, and arithmetic in the one-room schoolhouse in Jennie. Henry Harden, who was known as the politician, died March 8, 1927. (According to members of the family, Henry never held any elective office, but was known as the politician because of his civic-minded nature.)

In addition to the three sons John and Mary Thomas Harden also had a daughter, Moriah. She married General James who was born in 1897, and is also buried in the cemetery. He died on October 10, 1918, while at Camp Funston, Kansas, where he was stationed in preparation for deportation to Europe for service in World War I.

Henry Harden, and his wife Mary, had two sons, William H. and John A Harden. William H. Harden was born August 29, 1889, on the Henry Harden place in the Downsville Settlement (now Jennie). William entered Philander Smith College in Little Rock in 1905, and completed his coursework in English in 1908.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

He returned to Jennie the following year. In 1930 he was appointed a census enumerator by the Honorable Robert Zebold of Pine Bluff, who was the superintendent of the census. He died May 25, 1947.

John A. Harden served as the first black postmaster of Jennie, Arkansas. (Although it is not known when he took the position of postmaster, the post office in Jennie was established in 1905.) In 1910 he was the owner of the general merchandise store and post office, and he died on August 16, 1917.

John A. and John Silas Harden were also members of the Royal Circle of Friends. The Royal Circle of Friends, which was a benevolent society, was organized in Helena, Arkansas, in 1909 by Dr. R. A. Williams. By 1918 the circle had 25,000 members in five states. According to church members it cost \$5 to join and the dues were \$1 every two months. As a benevolent society the circle paid hospital bills and burial expenses.

Although Jennie has always remained a small settlement, the Harden family has been an important family in the community's history. From teachers to preachers and postmasters, the Harden family has been involved in many aspects of Jennie's community life. The Harden Family Cemetery remains today as the final resting place of many of the Harden family's most prominent members.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harden Family Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with early settlement in the Jennie vicinity of Chicot, County. Members of the Harden Family were prominent early African-American settlers in the Jennie area, and involved in many aspects of Jennie community life, and the cemetery represents the most significant remaining site associated with the Harden family. As a result, it is also being nominated under **Criterion B** along with **Criteria Consideration C: birthplaces or graves**. The cemetery is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D: cemeteries** and under the multiple property listing "Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the Ethnic and Racial Minority Settlement of the Arkansas Delta."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baker, Russell Pierce. *From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices, 1832-1971*. Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1988.

Cram's Township and Rail Road Map of Arkansas. Map. Chicago: George Franklin Cram, 1895.

Goodson, Lori. *Pandemic*. The Manhattan Mercury, 1998. Found at www2.okstate.edu/ww1hist/flu.html.

Harden, William H. *Autobiography*. Jennie, Arkansas, written June 1936.

Jeter, Marvin, Ph.D. E-mail to Gwen Perry 5 September 2003.

Johnson, Ida B. Harden. *Harden Roots / Oral History Handout*. (Family historian and daughter of William H. Harden), Family Reunion, 2001.

Perry, Gwen. Letter to Dr. Ann Early, State Archaeologist – Arkansas Archaeological Survey, 25 August 2003.

Harden Family Cemetery
Name of Property

Chicot County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 660454 3682736
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.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date February 12, 2004
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

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.)

Property Owner

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

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

Harden Family Cemetery
Name of Property

Chicot County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Harden Family Cemetery is located in the northwest part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 35, Township 16 South, Range 2 West.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains all of the land historically associated with the Harden Family Cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 04000508

Date of Listing: May 24, 2004

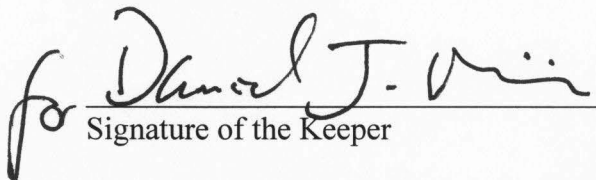
Property Name: Harden Family Cemetery

County: Chicot

State: Arkansas

Ethnic and Racial Minority Settlement of the Arkansas Delta MPS
Multiple Name

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.


Signature of the Keeper

May 24, 2004
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Statement of Significance

Criterion B is hereby added to reflect the property's association with the Harden Family.

The following are hereby added as significant persons: Harden, John, Sr.; Harden, Sam P.; Harden, John Silas; Harden, Henry; Harden, Mary Thomas; Harden, William H.; and Harden, John A.

The Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

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 Harden Family Cemetery
NAME:

MULTIPLE Ethnic and Racial Minority Settlement of the Arkansas Delta
NAME: MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Chicot

DATE RECEIVED: 4/14/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/07/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/22/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/28/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000508

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT ☐ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Harden Family Cemetery is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of exploration/settlement and under Criterion B in the area of African-American heritage. The cemetery is the sole remaining property associated with the Harden Family, which played a leading role in the civic life of Jeannie, Arkansas, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Bonds of kinship were central to the social fabric of the rural South, especially in African-American communities such as Jennie. Members of the Harden Family founded the community in 1892 and contributed significantly religious and civic life in later decades. The cemetery reflects the role played by the Hardens in the founding of Jeannie and its later history. It retains integrity from its period of significance.

RECOM./CRITERIA A, B

REVIEWER Daniel Vivian

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE (202) 354-2252

DATE 5/24/04

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

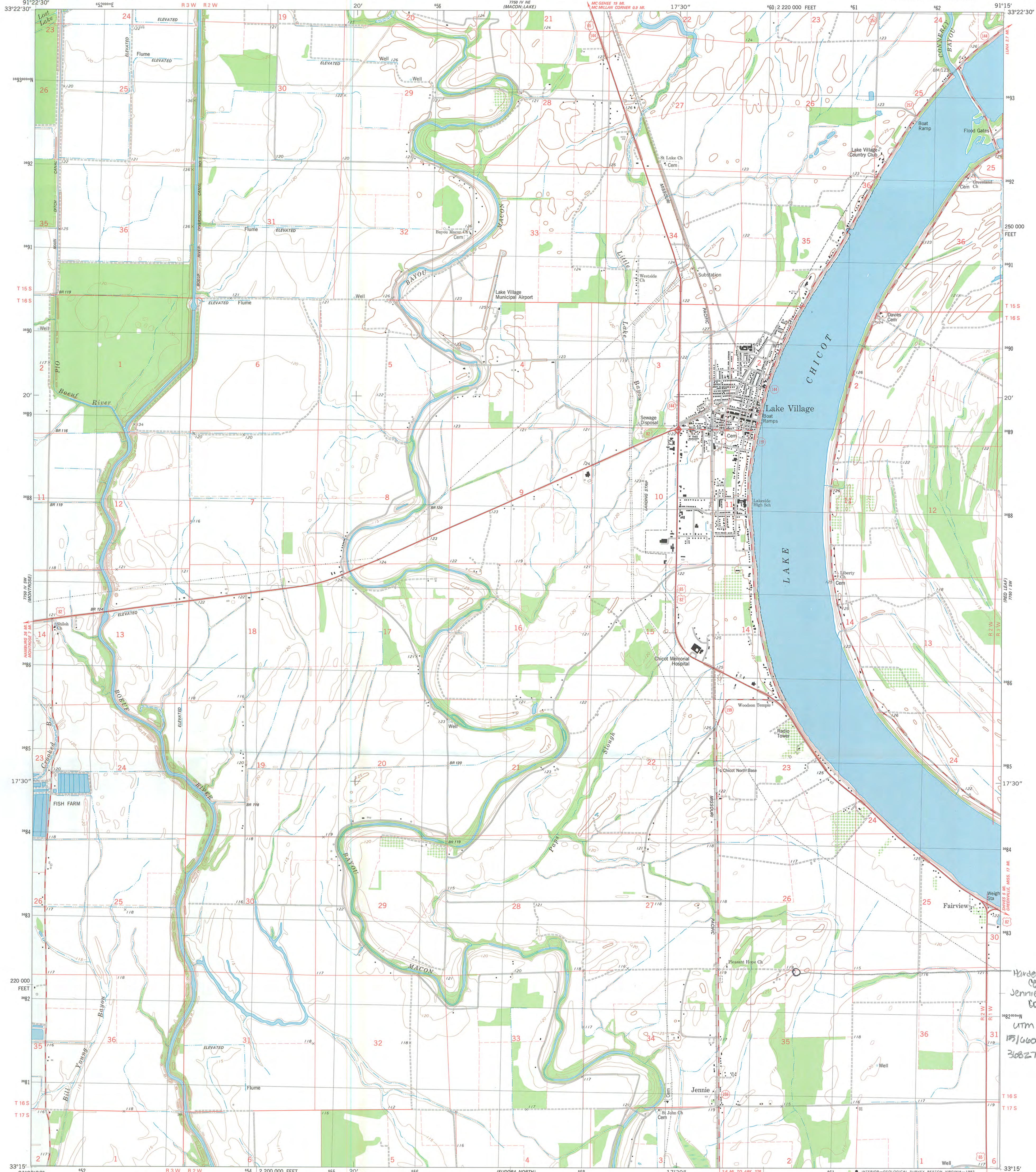


1. Haden Family Cemetery
2. Chicot Co., AR
3. Zac Cothren
4. December 2003
5. Office of AHP
6. View facing south from N side
7. #1



JUL. 230 70
FATHER OF
MEMBER OF
FIDE 30
BENTLEY
FILE NO. 835
DIED
1932

1. Harden Family Cemetery
2. Chicot Co., AR
3. Zac Cathren
4. December 2003
5. Office of ADP
6. View facing south from N ~~SE~~
7. #2





The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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(501)324-9880

fax: (501)324-9184

tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail:
info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:
www.arkansaspreservation.org

April 8, 2004

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: Harden Family Cemetery-Jennie, Chicot County

Dear Carol,

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

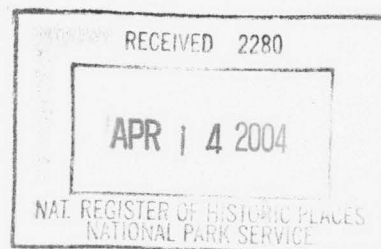
If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:sj

Enclosure



An Equal Opportunity Employer

