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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 Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section

other names/site number Holly Grove Cemetery, Stevens Creek Cemetery, WH2013

2. Location

street & number Roughly 1/2 mile down Fredonia Road, past the intersection of Fredonia and Honeysuckle Roads. ☐ not for publication

city or town Stevens Creek ☒ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county White County code 145 zip code 72010

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.)

Cathy Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/08/06
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

Edson H. Beall

1-29-07

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

0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	1	objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

"Historic & Architectural Resources of White County,
Arkansas"

**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)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other STONE/Limestone, Granite, Marble; CONCRETE;
METAL/Iron (Wrought; fencing); OTHER/Rock

Narrative Description

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

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SUMMARY

Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section is located on Fredonia Road, approximately six miles northwest of Bald Knob, White County, Arkansas, in the Stevens Creek vicinity. The south entrance may be reached from Honeysuckle Road; the east entrance may be accessed off Stanley Road, north of Highway 258. Both Honeysuckle Road and Highway 258 can be accessed by turning west off Highway 167 just north of Bald Knob. The cemetery is located near an old military road, later referred to as the Batesville–Little Rock Road. The cemetery is all that remains of an early farming community, Stevens Creek, in Coldwell Township, which served as an early trade center and post office for the surrounding areas. The Grand Glaise–Searcy Stagecoach Road passed through Fredonia Cemetery on its way to the Stevens Creek Post Office.

The only legal known name of the cemetery, “Fredonia,” never changed, although it was locally known as the name of the community at the time, such as the Stevens Creek Cemetery, and later the Holly Grove Cemetery. The official name, though, came from the cemetery’s proximity to nearby Freedonia Masonic Lodge #229 and Fredonia Methodist Church, which was established circa 1868. The spelling variation stems from the Masonic Lodge bearing the name of a lodge from New York City, and the church and cemetery taking the name of a locally-found flowering plant.

The first marked burial in the cemetery dates to 1870, although an 1839 abstract indicates that the land was already in use as a cemetery at that time. Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section could well be the oldest pioneer graveyard in White County.

ELABORATION

Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section contains the graves of some of the earliest families who settled in the vicinity, as well as more recent burials. It is the desire of Fredonia Cemetery Association to close the historic one-acre portion to future burials, allowing only the portion beyond the eastern boundary of the historic section to be used for new gravesites. The nine-acre portion east of the historic section is not being considered as part of this nomination.

The monuments in the cemetery reflect the different eras of the cemetery’s past. They run the gamut from fieldstones that mark unidentified graves, etched rocks with names, typical 19th century commercially-made tombstones, ironwork and modern commercial monuments. There are many unmarked graves, as well, as would be expected in a cemetery known to have been in existence for at least 30 years before the date of the earliest dated marker.

White County Historical Society members have been on site and have surveyed the cemetery, taking into account the information given to them by a now-deceased local citizen. The local citizen had taken it upon herself to mark all unmarked graves with cement blocks, measuring roughly three inches by 12 inches.

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While she recalled the location of the graves, she did not recall the names of the persons interred in the grave. As such, there are an estimated 300 unmarked graves in the cemetery.

Another, older, resident of the community states that during an effort to reclaim and clean up the historic section of the cemetery sometime prior to 1939, workers picked up rocks lying on the grounds and used those to build a retaining wall along a portion of the eastern boundary. About 1965, additions were made to the retaining wall from other rocks in the cemetery. She believes the rocks were grave markers, and some inscribed rocks can be seen in the building materials of the retaining wall. At least one inscribed rock on the top layer of the retaining wall and visible portions of granite and concrete markers attest to the veracity of her story. Also, many of the marked family burial plots have similar rocks lying in nearby proximity. She and other residents have reported that they quit using the older portion of the cemetery, the southwest corner in particular, because they were digging up human bones while trying to dig new graves.

Large oaks and native blue cedars dot the small hillside in this part of the cemetery, along with crepe myrtle.

Oral history tells us that Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section has never charged a fee for a burial plot, and this policy remains in effect today.

Breakdown of Burials by Decade

Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section contains 965 burials, and of that total, 726 burials are within the boundaries of the historic section. Of those, 311 are marked, historic burials; approximately 300 are unmarked historic burials; and 115 are non-historic burials. In the historic section, 84% (or 611) pre-date 1957.

1870 – 1879 = 10
1880 – 1889 = 19
1890 – 1899 = 25
1900 – 1909 = 39
1910 – 1919 = 49
1920 – 1929 = 70
1930 – 1939 = 49
1940 – 1949 = 28
1950 – 1957 = 22

There are 115 non-historic burials, which account for 16% of the burials in the historic section.

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Non-historic burials

1956 – 1959 = 3
1960 – 1969 = 24
1970 – 1979 = 25
1980 – 1989 = 33
1990 – 1999 = 20
2000 – 2005 = 10

Very few burial spaces remain in the older section and very few, in any, burials are expected to take place there prior to the closing of the section. Therefore, the historic to non-historic burial ratio will change only slightly, if at all.

Landscape Design

Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section is a rural cemetery with little evidence of a planned design. It is partially shaded by large oaks and native cedars. A few crepe myrtles are scattered at random near grave markers, a sprinkling of daffodils bloom here and there in spring, and some creeping phlox is planted near markers and some of the graves. The sparse grass is kept mowed and the cemetery is well-maintained now, as it has been for several years. The placement of graves is predominately by rows. Some family plots are surrounded by iron fencing with gates, and most of the non-historic graves are adorned by floral arrangements.

Grave Markers and Monuments

Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section contains a wide variety of grave markers and monuments, from simple fieldstone to large commercially produced monuments from the 19th and 20th centuries. Most of the markers face east and most commercial markers are upright in design. Some older markers have toppled due to sloping ground or the intrusion of tree roots under the markers; cleaning, resetting and repairs of those markers has begun. Arrangements are being made to mark the known, but unmarked, graves with the name of the deceased using flat, engraved slabs, utilizing using a plot map made by a former overseer of the cemetery.

In spite of being a rural farming community, Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section offers good examples of funeral art of the various historical periods and suggests a community with a good socio-economic mix. The markers in Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section include slabs, tombstones, pedestals, tab in socket, and other designs that are topped by urns, peaked/peon coping posts, bulbous coping posts, and marble pillows. Bibles, doves, and other markings adorn many of the stones. Several various styles of Woodmen of the World monuments are found in the cemetery, and the Masonic emblem decorates many stones, as well. Granite, marble, concrete and limestone are the most common materials used for commercial markers. One family

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plot is enclosed in a milled point fence. Another is enclosed in a hairpin fence, adorned by adding a second, shorter hairpin to the taller section.

Several family plots are encircled with coping, and there are a few plots that are surrounded with fieldstone.

INTEGRITY

Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section is the final resting place for many of the earliest settlers of a community that was known as Stevens Creek, and was renamed Holly Grove, a name it still bears. It became a trade center, perhaps because it found itself near important travel and trade routes of the mid-to-late 1800s. Persons interred here include early founders, judges, prominent citizens, businessmen, farmers, servicemen, and other early members of the community. The area is no longer a thriving community. It has no school, post office, or store, but a church remains. The community remains intact, with some descendants of the early settlers still making their homes here. As such, the cemetery retains integrity of association, feeling and setting. It has experienced little vandalism, other than removal of rocks marking graves to expedite mowing, and offers good examples of mid-19th century to mid-20th century workmanship in funerary art, and it continues to retain integrity of materials, design and workmanship.

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

ART: funerary art

Period of Significance

c. 1839-1957

Significant Dates

c. 1839-1957

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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: Private collection: Cheryl and Robert Shaver,
Sec./Treas., Fredonia Cemetery Association, Bald Knob, AR

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SUMMARY

Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion A** for its association with early settlers of Stevens Creek and Holly Grove, Coldwell Township, White County, Arkansas, and for its association with the Freedonia Masonic Lodge #229 and the Fredonia Methodist Church and schoolhouse, under **Criterion C** as a good example of mid-19th to mid-20th century funerary art, and under **Criteria Consideration D: Cemeteries**.

ELABORATION

Community and County History

White County, Arkansas, was created by the Territorial Legislature on October 23, 1835, from parts of Pulaski, Independence and Jackson counties as Arkansas' 35th county. At the time of its creation, White County was the second largest county in the state. White County is named after Hugh Lawson White of Tennessee, the Whig candidate for President in 1835. Searcy is the county seat and the largest community in its borders. In 1883, Cleburne County was carved out of parts of White County. County boundary changes include: February 3, 1843—line with Pulaski County, and the county line with Prairie County was defined on April 17, 1873.

Coldwell Township in White County, Arkansas, was one of the early settlements in White County; the county only had a population of 920 people by 1840. Reuben Stephens, who was a wealthy land owner from Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas, was known to be in the Stevens Creek area by 1822, while the earliest reported settler in what would become the town of Bald Knob did not arrive until 1829.

The primitive nature of the area is underscored by an order of the White County Quorum Court in 1844: persons killing wolves in the county were to be paid \$3 for each wolf scalp.

In 1868, Gideon Bullock, who served as a judge, signed over two acres of land in Section 22 near the north area of the cemetery to the Freedonia Mason's Lodge # 229. A church was already located here when the land was gifted to Bullock. The Freedonia Lodge expanded the use of the church to include usage not only as a Masonic Lodge, but also as a schoolhouse. The Fredonia Methodist Church continued to hold services in the downstairs portion of the building, with the Masonic Lodge housed in the upstairs portion. The school was also housed in the first floor of the building.

Fredonia Cemetery is located near an old military road that later became known as the Batesville – Little Rock Road. Early in the county's history, the road passed near the developing town of Searcy, which was to become the county seat. The Grand Glaise – Searcy Road, also known as Stagecoach Road, ran alongside

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the cemetery, and was established by 1850. Otherwise, rural farming roads were the only connections between communities until the 1880's and 1890's.

By 1850, the Stevens Creek Post Office, Coldwell Township, was located just southeast of Fredonia Cemetery and continued to serve the fledgling community until 1909. The William Crenshaw Gin and Grist Mill was located on the north bank of Stevens Creek, (north of Fredonia Cemetery); the creek was used to run the mill in the early years. Later, Crenshaw bought a steam engine to run the mill. The mill was removed by about 1900.

Hayden Sam Edwards moved to the Bald Knob area in 1853, and was one of the charter members of the Fredonia Masonic Lodge. He is believed to have been a teacher at Fredonia School, which was housed in the bottom portion of the Fredonia Masonic Lodge #229. The building that housed the Fredonia Methodist Church and School and the Masonic Lodge burned in the early 1930s; however, the Masonic Lodge had already moved to Bald Knob many years before the fire.

B. F. "Parson" Holdford, a Baptist preacher, moved to the unsettled area known as Bald Knob, White County, Arkansas, in 1871. In 1898, Holdford donated land in Bald Knob on which the Masonic Lodge #229 was eventually built. The new Masonic Lodge in Bald Knob was also used by Central Baptist Church.

A new rock schoolhouse was built a short distance away, in Holly Grove, replacing the burned structure. This National Youth Administration-built school was listed on the National Register on 7/13/1992.

From the mid-1920s to the early 1950s, a local Holly Grove store provided the community with groceries, seeds for planting, and feed for animals. The store owner, Tom Bone, would show movies in a tent next to the store in the evening hours during berry picking season, providing a good social relief for the workers and laborers.

Cotton was king in the early years, and Crenshaw's Gin on Stevens Creek soon had competition from cotton gins in Bald Knob. The boll weevil eventually made its way to the area, and shortly thereafter, strawberries became the new cash crop. By 1879, the county had its first strawberry association. Several others were soon formed, in both Bald Knob and Judsonia. Nearby Bald Knob was once known as "the strawberry capital of the world," and many of those strawberries were grown in and around Holly Grove.

Many of the early settlers in the Stevens Creek/Holly Grove area were associated with the Methodist Church and with the Masonic Lodge, and many of those early settlers and their descendents are buried at Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section. The cemetery is all that remains of this early community.

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Cemetery History

Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section is located approximately six miles northwest of Bald Knob, in the Stevens Creek vicinity. The south entrance is on Fredonia Road, off Honeysuckle Road; the east entrance is off Stanley Road from Highway 258. Both Honeysuckle Road and Highway 258 can be accessed by turning west off Highway 167 just north of Bald Knob. The Grand Glaise–Searcy Road, also known as Stagecoach Road, ran alongside the cemetery and old military road that later became known as the Batesville – Little Rock Road is located in the vicinity.

An 1839 abstract indicates that Reuben Stephens, from Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas, was one of the early settlers in White County. Stephens originally owned the land that contained the cemetery. In 1854, Stephens sold a majority of his land in Section 22 to Lee Deatherage; however, two acres were withheld from the sale because those two acres had already been deeded over for use as a cemetery, thus proving the cemetery existed prior to 1839.

Although the original name is unknown, the cemetery has historically been called the Fredonia Cemetery. When the name of the surrounding community changed from Stevens Creek to Holly Grove, the cemetery took on, as a common name, the name of the nearby community, such as the Stevens Creek Cemetery, and then later, the Holly Grove Cemetery.

In 1868, Gideon Bullock signed over two acres of land in section 22 near the north area of the cemetery to the Fredonia Mason's Lodge # 229. Fredonia Methodist Church was already located on the land given by Bullock to the Masons. After receiving ownership of the land and the church, the Lodge was housed in the upstairs portion of the building, while the Fredonia Methodist Church and School operated out of the first floor. The cemetery evidently derived its only recorded name from its close association with this structure.

Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section has been in continuous use as a cemetery since sometime before 1839. Prior to the Civil War, Stevens Creek Community was inhabited predominately by small farmers, though some larger landowners probably had slaves, as is indicated by the presence of the Old Slave Cemetery nearby. A few of the men in the community served as justices of peace for Coldwell Township.

White County Historical Society members estimate that there are 300 unmarked graves in the cemetery, and have reconciled this count with records from a former overseer of the cemetery. Oral history recounts that the southwestern corner of Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section stopped being used for burial many years ago, occasionally because graves were being disturbed and bones dug up while attempting to dig a new grave. Another former overseer of the cemetery marked the "unknown" graves with cement blocks; however, no personal information has been associated with these markers. It is the desire of members of the Fredonia Cemetery Association to erect commemorative lawn style markers at these graves, using information gathered from local citizens and historical records.

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According to oral history, community members joined together to clean the cemetery sometime before 1939. In the process, they built a retaining wall, which extends around the northeast boundary of the historic section, from large rocks found scattered around the cemetery. In 1965, rocks were picked up again in order to make the grounds easier to mow, and these were added to the retaining wall. Some of these rocks were undoubtedly grave markers. At least one carved rock reading "E. A. Willis" is visible on the top layer of the retaining wall, while portions of granite and concrete markers are visible within the retaining wall.

Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section has been well-tended for many years and has few problems with vandalism. Local residents keep flowers on several of their ancestors' graves. The Fredonia Cemetery Association is responsible for general upkeep and mowing. Restoration and cleaning efforts have begun on the older stones, a few of which have toppled due to the sloping ground or large tree roots growing near the stones. Fredonia Cemetery Association has announced its intention to close the historic one-acre hilltop site to future burials, with the exception of those who already have a headstone in place.

SELECTED BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THOSE BURIED IN THE FREDONIA CEMETERY HISTORIC SECTION

Gideon Freeman Bullock (1814 – 1869)

Gideon Bullock, originally from North Carolina, came to Arkansas in 1855 and bought land in Caldwell Township in 1861, where he served as Justice of the Peace. In 1868, Bullock signed over two acres of land in Section 22 near the north area of the cemetery to the Fredonia Masonic Lodge # 229. He was a charter member of Fredonia Masonic Lodge # 229. Oral history accounts state that he was a large landowner who owned several slaves and that the Old Slave Cemetery, or Bullock Family Cemetery, is located on what was his property at the time. Bullock's remains were removed from the Old Slave Cemetery by Wilma Mobley, his daughter, around 1905 to his final resting place at Fredonia Cemetery. *His burial is counted with the 1900-1909 burial decade.

Darlin C. Jones (1833 – 1912)

His marker indicates he served in the Grand Army of the Republic.

Phillip Louks (1837 – 1925)

He was a Civil War veteran and served with Co. G, 9th Illinois Calvary. His wife, *Catherine (1845 – 1895)*, is also buried at Fredonia Cemetery. Their daughter, *Rosa Evalena (1884 – 1887)* is buried in Fredonia Cemetery, close to her parents' graves.

Daniel Peake Moseley (1811 - ?)

He served as postmaster of the Stevens Creek Post Office on July 1, 1872. He married *Caroline Virginia Lawton Moseley (1813 - ????)* in 1836.

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Daisel Orvice Hutchinson Lucas Moseley (1900 – 1950)

She was married to Daniel Peake Moseley's son, *Theodore (1899 – 1977)*, and they owned a farm near Fredonia. Theodore was a justice of the peace.

Annie Caroline Jumper Overstreet (1812 – 1896)

Annie and her husband, William Joseph Overstreet, as with many of the early settlers in the Holly Grove area, came to Arkansas around 1860 and were farmers. The family was prosperous enough to send their children to subscription schools.

Clifton C. Overstreet (1891 – 1955)

The son of William D. and Tenessee, Clifton farmed the 160 acres his father bought in 1871. He married *Ollie E. Sheffer (1891 – 1961)* and built what was, at the time, a large home near his widowed mother, Tenessee. Clifton and his family took care of Tenessee until her death in 1940. Clifton and Ollie had five children. Three of those are now deceased and are buried at Fredonia.

William DeBerry Overstreet (1850 – 1902)

The son of Annie and William Joseph Overstreet, William DeBerry became a prosperous farmer. He was educated at subscription schools in White County. In 1870, he married Gabriella Lumpkin. In 1871, the couple bought 160 acres of land in Holly Grove and had seven children. Gabriella died, though there is no marked stone for her in Fredonia. William then married *Tenessee A. Benson (1866 – 1940)* sometime prior to 1894. Their first son, *Dixon (1894 – 1909)*, is buried at Fredonia. They had several other children. He was probably a founding member of Fredonia Methodist Church, established 1868, as it was located near his property. William died when Tenessee was 36 years of age, leaving her with a large family to rear alone. Another son, *John M. (1885 – 1936)* is also buried at Fredonia.

James T. Roaseau (1854 – 1905)

In 1875, members of the Roaseau family found a trail of coins in a stream in Georgia that led to thousands of dollars in an old stump. They used part of the money to charter a railroad car to bring them to Arkansas, along with their household goods, and bought land near where other members of the Roaseau family had settled at Holly Grove. James was married to *Julie E. (1861 – 1934)*. Two of their sons, *Paul (1886 - 1906)* and *Lawrence (1886 – 1906)* are also buried at Fredonia.

John Henry Scarborough (1861 – 1915)

His father, Dr. John Bell Scarborough, was an early settler in the Bald Knob area who practiced medicine and preached at the Methodist Episcopal Church. John was part of the westward movement and moved his family from White County, Arkansas, to the Texas Panhandle in 1901. In 1902, their 40 acres of cotton was struck by boll weevils, and his wife and baby died, leaving John a widower with children to raise. He moved back to this area in 1903. John has a large Woodman of the World marker at Fredonia Cemetery. While his monument lists the year of death as 1915, the family Bible lists John's death as 1925.

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Robert Green Sheffer (1844 – 1902)

Robert Green Sheffer was born in Henderson County, Kentucky, and was a prosperous farmer. His wife *Sarah J. (1850 – 1931)* and daughter *Sylvia (1893 – 1913)* are also buried at Fredonia Cemetery.

Green Wright (1833 – 1913)

Green and *Mary Glosson Wright (1833 - 1903)* came to this area between 1859 and 1861 from Snow Crop, North Carolina. The Wright family had a prosperous turpentine business there. Green and Mary traveled by railroad to Memphis, and then took a river boat to Prospect Bluff, a nearby town now known as Judsonia where, according to oral history, he traded a mule for 84 acres. Green fought with McCauley's Raiders during the Civil War. He and Mary had eight children. Green moved his family to Texas in 1901, where they farmed. Mary died in 1903 and was buried at Fredonia. Green returned to Bald Knob from Texas in 1909 and died in 1913.

Lillie Paralee Gordon Wright (1867 – 1940)

The wife of *James S. Wright (1868 – 1962)*, who was the son of early settlers Green and Mary Glosson Wright, together they became a major influence in Holly Grove. By 1889, they had built a log house. In 1907, James S. wrote to his father that his land was paid for, all his debts were paid, and he had money in the bank. He made a net profit of \$600 from his strawberry crop that year and wrote, "I can make more money here on a few acres of strawberries than George (his brother) can make in Texas on a hundred acres of cotton." The James S. and Paralee Wright farm was the center of social activity for the small community, and was the location of many Saturday night dances, as well as providing the site for itinerant preachers set up tents for "brush arbor meetings." Also, silent films were shown in tents on the property. They had a Delco electric plant with a kerosene generator long before electricity came to the area, and had one of the first radios in the community. Neighbors would come over and listen to the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday nights.

The Wrights accumulated 520 acres of land before their deaths and left a detailed record of all their expenses and income over a 70 year period. James S. had two brothers who remained in the community and were successful farmers: *Andrew (1874 – 1933)* and *James S. (1868 – 1962)*, as well as sons *Roy (1890 – 1961)*; *James Bryan (1896 – 1967)*; and *Walter (1892 – 1980)*, all of whom are buried in Fredonia Cemetery. James S. and Paralee had three daughters who did not survive childhood and are buried at Fredonia: *Ida (1894 – 1908)*, *Lillie Mae (1898 – 1900)* and *Ester (1906 – 1906)*.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section is the only remaining resource associated with the early settlement of the once-thriving community, known early on as Stevens Creek, and later as Holly Grove. The cemetery is also the last remaining resource associated with the Fredonia Methodist Church and School, as well as the Fredonia Masonic Lodge #229. The building that housed these three organizations burned in the 1930s, and markers of the men and women who populated the community survive at Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section

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to honor their contributions to the area. Many of these men were prosperous farmers, businessmen and judges who were some of the earliest settlers of not only the area, but also the county. They contributed to the economic, social, educational and spiritual aspects of the community. Several descendants of these families still live in the Holly Grove community and many more live within White County.

Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section, located in the vicinity of Bald Knob, White County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the early settlement of White County and Holly Grove Community and for its association with Fredonia Methodist Church, schoolhouse and the Freedonia Masonic Lodge. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as a good example of funerary art through monuments which illustrate artworks that are representative of the stylistic type and period from the date of the first marked burial in 1870 to 1957. It is eligible for inclusion under **Criteria Consideration D** as a cemetery.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books and Periodicals

Goodspeed Publishing Company. *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Central Arkansas*. Southern Historical Press, 1889. Reprinted 1978.

Johnson, Lincoln and Elizabeth Short. *In and Around the Big Rock: A History of Bald Knob, Arkansas*. Columbus, Georgia: Quill Publishing Co., 1985.

Miller, Paul E. *The Grand Glaise-Searcy Stagecoach Road*. White County Heritage, Vol. XII, No. 4, October 1974.

Orr, W. E. *That's Judsonia*. White County Publishing Company, 1957.

Courthouse Records

Abstract of Title, *Book of Land Entries*, White County Arkansas, certificate No. 8868, January 11, 1839.

Independence County Court Book A, page 22, 1822.

White County, Arkansas County Court Record 1836 – 1847. Compiled by Cloie Presley, 1986.

Newspapers

Searcy Sun

The Daily Citizen

The Daily Citizen

Arkansas Democrat

Bald Knob Banner

Websites

www.rootsweb.com/~arwhite/cems/index_cems.htm

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Interviews with the Author

Eligh, Marie Gordon; September 2006.

Guthrie, Zelda Guthrie; September 2006.

James, Glenn; September 2006.

Mobley, Freeman; May 2006 – September 2006.

Overstreet, Minnie Mae Overstreet; September 2006.

Parker, Avalyn; May – September 2006.

Reed, Juanita Reed; September 2006.

Shaver, Cheryl and Robert; January 2006 – September 2006.

Wilson, Conway and Nina; September 2006.

Wright, Bob; May 2006 – September 2006.

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 1 acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>624772</u>	<u>3916584</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

☐ 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	<u>Pat Hambrick; Edited by Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian</u>		
organization	<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	date	<u>September 21, 2006</u>
street & number	<u>323 Center Street, Ste. 1600</u>	telephone	<u>501.324.9874</u>
city or town	<u>Little Rock</u>	state	<u>AR</u> zip code <u>72201</u>

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 locationA **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	<u>Fredonia Cemetery Association, c/o Robert D. Shaver, Secretary/Treasurer</u>		
street & number	<u>146 Opie Road</u>	telephone	<u>501.724.3930</u>
city or town	<u>Bald Knob</u>	state	<u>Arkansas</u> zip code <u>72010</u>

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

“To Wit: A part of the South half (S 1/2) of Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 22, Township 9 North, Range 6 West, more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the Southwest corner of Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Southeast Quarter (SE 1/2) of said Section 22 and run thence East 210 feet; thence north 420 feet, thence West 420 feet; thence South 420 feet and thence East 210 feet to point of beginning.”

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above boundary includes all land historically associated with the Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section
NAME:

MULTIPLE White County MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, White

DATE RECEIVED: 12/18/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/09/07
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/24/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/31/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06001312

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 1.29.07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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 Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section

② White County, AR

③ Sarah Jampole

4. October 16, 2006

5. AHIP

6. Rock retaining wall @ northeast boundary of historic section; standing northeast, looking southwest

7. #1



1. Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section
2. White County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 16, 2006
5. AHPP
6. Rock retaining wall @ northeast boundary of
Historic Section; starting northwest, looking east
7. #2



1. Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section
2. White County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 16, 2006
5. AHP
6. One of the "raks" in the masonry wall of the
Historic Section boundary. Standing @ northeast
corner, looking down towards the ground.
7. #3



1. Melina Cemetery Historic Section
2. White County, AR
3. Sarah Jampel
4. October 16, 2000
5. AHPP
6. Standing east, looking west
7. #4



1. Malvern Cemetery Historic Section
2. White County, AR
3. Sarah Sample
4. October 16, 2006
5. AHPP
6. Sunting northwest corner looking south west
7. #5



1. Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section
2. White County, AR
3. Saml Jampole
4. October 14, 2000
5. AHPP
6. J.C. Woodall monument
7. #6



1. Masonia Cemetery Historic Section
2. White Section
3. Sarah Temple
4. October 16, 2000
5. AHPD
6. W.W. Gordon monument
7. #7



1. Masonia Cemetery Historic Section
2. White County, AR
3. Sarah Jampfle
4. October 16, 2006
5. AHPP
6. J. Scarborough W.O.W. monument
7. #8



DEAREST

MOTHER



MARY E. WALLER

DEC. 24, 1854

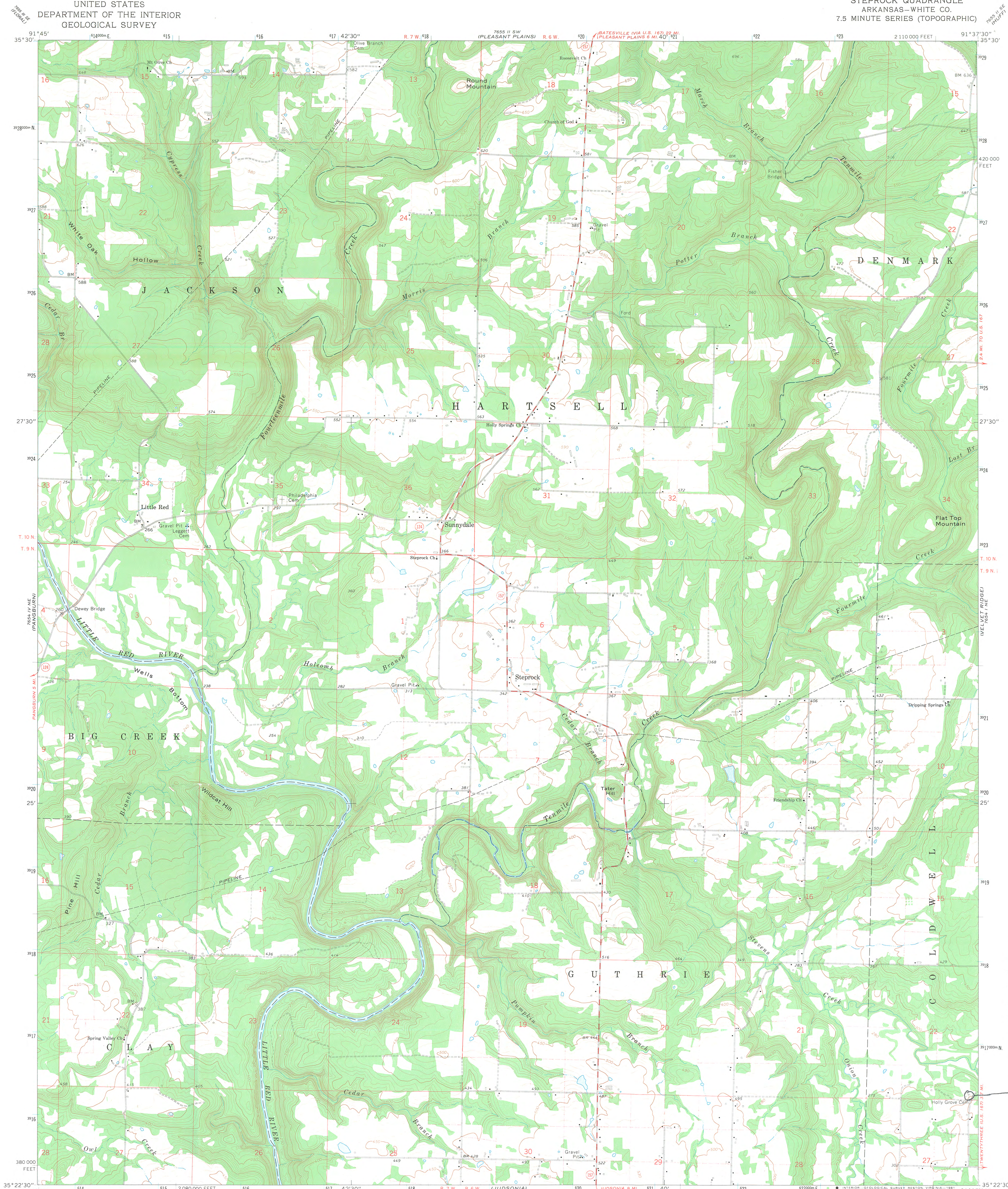
1. Inaomia Cemetery Historic Section
2. White County, AR
3. Sarah Jampfe
4. October 16, 2006
5. AHPP
6. M.E. Waller Monument Detail
- 7 #9



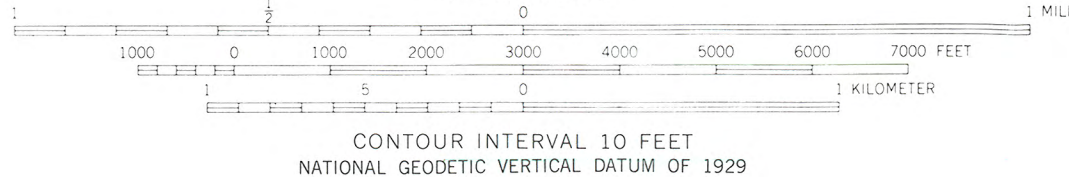
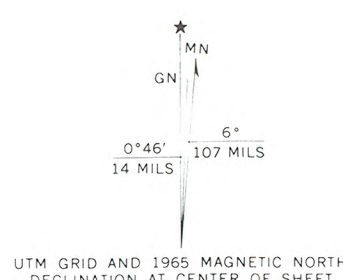
1. Melrose Cemetery Historic Section
2. White County AR
3. Sarah Sample
4. October 16, 2006
5. AMON
6. J. M. Waller monument detail
7. #10

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STEPROCK QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS—WHITE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
13 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Unimproved dirt - - - - -
State Route ○

STEPROCK, ARK.

N3522.5—W9137.5/7.5

1965

AMS 7654 I NW—SERIES V884

Frederick County Historic Section
Saville Creek County, Volume 20, Plate
15/024772/3910524



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184
tdd: (501) 324-9811

e-mail: info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

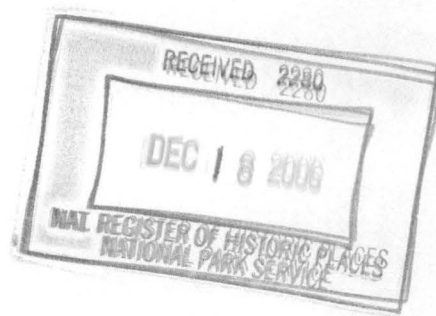
www.arkansaspreservation.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer



December 7, 2006

Dr. Janet Matthews
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: Fredonia Cemetery Historic Section; Stevens Creek vicinity,
White County

Dear Dr. Matthews,

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 Sarah A. Jampole of my staff at (501) 324-9874. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:sj

Enclosure