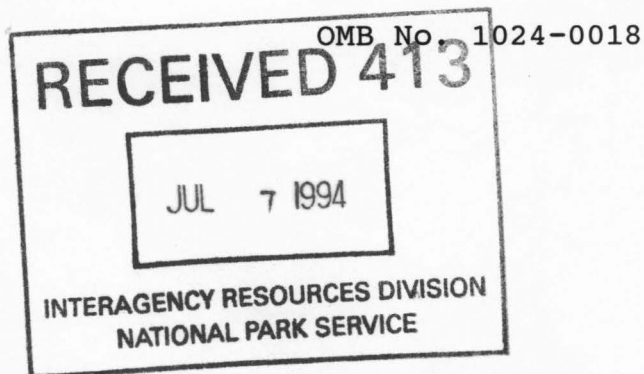


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: George Berry Washington Memorial

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: State Highway 149

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Earle

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Crittenden code: AR 035 zip code: 72331

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	structures
<u>  3  </u>	<u>      </u>	objects
<u>  3  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====

#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Christopher A. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

6-21-94  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

#### 5. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

W. R. Lugin 8/11/94

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

=====

#### 6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: FUNERARY

Sub: Graves/burials

Current: FUNERARY

Sub: Graves/burials

=====

## 7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Neoclassical

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	<u>STONE/Marble</u>	roof	<u>N/A</u>
	walls	<u>Marble sculpture</u>	other	_____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====

## 8. Statement of Significance

=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: National.

Applicable National Register Criteria: B, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): C

Areas of Significance: AGRICULTURE

ART

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1900-1928

Significant Dates: 1928

Significant Person(s): Washington, George Berry

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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**Summary**

The George Berry Washington Memorial consists of a large funerary monument set within a rectangular area surrounded by a low concrete wall. It features two elaborate 36-inch columns connected by a decorative threshold that forms an entryway to the grave site, all of which sits atop a low mound.

**Elaboration**

The George Berry Washington Memorial, located north of Earle on Highway 149, consists of a funerary monument within a low-walled area and features two elaborate 36-inch columns forming an entryway to the grave site, which sits atop a low mound.

The monument is a figure of a female angel, approximately five feet tall, standing atop a monolithic marble base, which in turn stands on a pair of marble blocks of graduated sizes, both of which collectively rise to a height of about 6 feet. The robed figure's proper right hand is extended forward at the waist with its palm upward and holding a flower. Its proper left hand is resting atop a garlanded tree stump.

The front of the base features a masonic symbol and is inscribed "REV. GEORGE B. WASHINGTON/DEC. 25, 1864/AUG. 30, 1928/HALLELUJAH! TIS DONE./I BELIEVE IN THE SON./I AM SAVED BY THE BLOOD/OF THE CRUCIFIED ONE." There is a blank oval form in the center of the base that may have contained a photograph at some point.

A small marble slab inscribed "FATHER AND HUSBAND" lies flush with the ground in front of the monument.

The columns that create an entryway are located about 12 feet to the southeast of the monument and flank two eight-foot-wide steps that lead to the grave site; the top step is inscribed G.B. WASHINGTON. The columns feature a wide cap with a dentil course running around the cap's bottom. They curve slightly inward and are carved with leaf and garland designs; each also features a prominent letter "W". They flow away from each other with a curving leaf design that ends in a rectangular section that is carved with geometric shapes. These entry ways then lead into a low stone wall that surrounds the entire grave site, an area about 25 feet square.

The George Berry Washington Memorial is located atop a one-meter-tall mound in a cultivated



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

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field outside Earle. (Archeological testing at the site revealed no evidence that the mound has any but a natural origin.) It is overgrown with weeds, but remains in fair condition.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

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**Summary**

Criteria B and C, local significance  
(Criteria Consideration C)

The George Berry Washington Memorial, located north of Earle on Highway 149, is the sole extant historic resource associated with George Berry Washington, a successful African-American landowner, farmer, businessman, and preacher. It is also the sole example in Earle and all of Crittenden County of a sculptural funerary monument.

**Elaboration**

George Washington, Jr., was likely born into slavery, the son of George Washington and Hanna Washington, on December 25, 1864.<sup>1</sup> His parents were both born in Kentucky and were possibly the slaves of James G. Berry, one of Crittenden County's largest landowners who moved to Arkansas from Kentucky as early as 1833.

Little is known about his early years, though census data lists his occupation as "laborer" in 1870 and 1880. In May 1883, Washington -- who now went by the name George Berry Washington -- married 18-year-old Ella Rostelle. They had a daughter, Elizabeth, in 1886 and a second daughter, Irene, in 1891. In 1897, Washington married a second time (no information survives concerning the fate of his first wife); his new bride was 25-year-old Lula Wright of Tennessee.

George Berry Washington began his rise to becoming the owner of one of the largest landowners in Crittenden County with the November 1893 purchase 40 acres in Section 15 of Township 8 North, Range 6 East, for \$200. In 1898, he acquired an additional 70 acres, and also operated a cotton gin. By 1900 he had increased his landholdings to a total of 176.63 acres worth \$1,140. In addition, he owned 15 cattle, 10 horses and mules, 10 hogs, a pair of carriages or wagons, and a gold or silver watch. "Washington's growing status as a landholder was becoming evident, as of the 2,008 farms in Crittenden County at that time, only 102 were equal to or larger in size

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<sup>1</sup> There is some confusion over Washington's birth date. The Ninth U.S. Census for 1870 lists a son for George Washington as being a 12-year-old born in Mississippi; the 1880 census includes a George Washington, Jr., age 20, born in Arkansas. The December 25, 1864, date was listed on his 1883 marriage license. (Klinger, Timothy C., et al, Berry Cemetery and George Washington Berry (research report), January 1983, pp. 168-171.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

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than his own."<sup>2</sup>

By the turn of the century, Washington and his family lived where the Tyronza River meets Gibson Bayou in an area that became know as the "Main Place" and where the George Berry Washington Memorial is now located. His holdings at the "Main Place" eventually contained a total of 518.20 acres.

By 1905, Washington owned 477.30 acres worth \$2,760 and had personal belongings valued at \$1,490. By 1911, he owned 923.53 acres worth \$10,690. "The size of Washington's land holdings (at the time of the 1910 Census) placed him in the very top level of the county's landowners as only eight other farms equalled or exceeded his in size that year."<sup>3</sup>

Two years of bad weather in 1912-13 forced Washington place all of his land up for collateral for a \$12,000 loan in 1914; however, good crops in 1915 allowed him to increase his total acreage to 1,006.08 and purchase a pianoforte for his living room. In 1917, Washington's personal assets totaled \$2,710 and he purchased an automobile.

Washington paid off his 1914 loan in 1921 and increased his total holdings to 1,042.71 acres worth \$17,780; he bought a second car in 1925. His land acquisitions peaked in 1927 at a total of 1,145.08 acres valued at \$20,900.

Washington's major holdings, in addition to the 518.20-acre "Main Place," were the Chatfield Plantation with 146.18 acres, the 160-acre Marriman Place, the 20-acre Harding Place, and another 160 acres at the Dunning Place.<sup>4</sup>

Washington managed part of his vast holdings through the share-cropping system, with 12 chattel mortgages in 1923. It is likely that he also employed from 60 to 100 other hands to farm other sections of his property. "Even though no records exist from his farming operation, the presence of such a sizeable work force alone would indicate the extent of his farm's economic activity."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Klinger, p. 174.

<sup>3</sup> Klinger, p. 176.

<sup>4</sup> LeeDecker, Charles H., Iroquois Research Institute report to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District, Feb. 26, 1980.

<sup>5</sup> Klinger, p. 180.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

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The Washington Plantation featured a rather modest one-story frame house for the family, a commissary store, and a cotton gin that reportedly exploded in the 1920s, causing two deaths, as well as numerous outbuildings, tenant houses, and related structures. None of these are currently extant, however.

George Berry Washington's status as a large property owner was mirrored not only in his extensive personal belongings, but also in his social activities. He became a member of the local Prince Hall Freemasonry chapter and bought land in 1902 with two other individuals and Tyronza Lodge No. 197 in Norvell, the black residential area north of Earle, possibly as a lodge site. The extent of Washington's Masonic activities is unknown, but a masonic emblem embellishes the front of his funereal monument.

He was also active in several local churches. He served as a preacher at St. Peter's Baptist Church, located a few miles north of the "Main Place," and at the Spring Hill Church three miles east of his home. He also was known to engage in preaching sessions to farm hands gathered at his home. Washington deeded five acres in 1919 for the Gibson Bayou Cemetery and Pentecostal Church Association. The title "Rev." also appears on his monument.

Early on the afternoon of August 30, 1928, Washington became ill and collapsed. By 3 p.m., he was dead of "acute gastritis." He was buried September 2, 1928 on a mound at the "Main Place" where "his wife could keep watch on him" from their family home.

Elizabeth Washington attempted to continue the farming operations in 1929, but the advent of the Great Depression that year forced Lula Washington and her stepdaughters to borrow nearly \$28,000. They defaulted on the loan and, on March 7, 1932, Prudential Insurance Company of America sold the "Main Place" at auction to satisfy the 1929 note. "With the sale of these lands, the George Berry Washington farming enterprise ceased to exist."<sup>6</sup>

George Berry Washington rose from humble beginnings as a laborer and the son of slaves to become one of the most successful landowners and farmers in Crittenden County. As the last extant historic resource associated with this remarkable businessman, the George Berry Washington Memorial is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B.

The George Berry Washington Memorial is also eligible under Criterion C as the best example

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<sup>6</sup> Klinger, p. 183.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

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in Earle and, in fact, all of Crittenden County of a sculptural grave marker. A state-wide survey of outdoor sculpture conducted by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program revealed only four sculptures in the entire county and the George Berry Washington Memorial was the sole example in the county of sculptural funerary art. Its graceful angel, clasping a single flower in its hand, also inspired noted Delta artist Carroll Cloar, an Earle native, to produce a painting titled "Angel in a Thorn Patch."

The George Berry Washington Memorial meets the requirements of Criterion Exception C, regarding birthplaces and graves, by virtue of its status as the last standing structure of any kind associated with Washington, a man with outstanding importance within his local area, and his myriad activities in and around the "Main Place."

It should also be noted that, while this nomination does not address Criterion D, the George Washington Berry Memorial is located on a site that was an occupation locus during the Late Archaic, Woodland and Mississippian Periods; it also contains evidence of Parkin Phase occupation. Future archeological investigation would probably supply sufficient evidence to justify the nomination of a larger area surrounding this sites for its prehistoric cultural significance.



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

## 10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>730340</u>	<u>3908750</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The funerary statue and associated resources whose boundaries form a circle with a radius of 50 feet centered on the main statue located on the mound known as the Berry Cemetery.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

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**Bibliography**

"Angel's 'Thorn Patch' Due Clean-Up By Earle Students," The Crittenden-Cross County Times & Shopping Guide, March 4, 1986, Page 1.

Davis, Hester A., August 20, 1980 letter to State Historic Preservation Officer.

Klinger, Timothy C., et al, "Berry Cemetery and George Washington Berry," Historic Preservation Associates Reports 83-2, January 1983.

LeeDecker, Charles H., Iroquois Research Institute report to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District, February 26, 1980.

=====

**11. Form Prepared By**

=====

Name/Title: Mark Christ, Public Information Officer/AHPP Staff

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 06/09/94

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

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: 94000824

Date Listed: 8/11/94

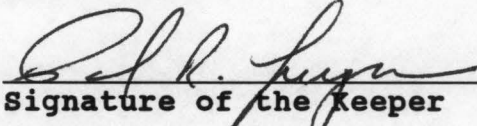
Washington, George Berry, Memorial  
Property Name

Crittenden  
County

AR  
State

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

8/11/94  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Level of Significance:

The national level of significance noted on the cover form was incorrectly cited. The proper context for the evaluation is the local level, as is discussed in the narrative. The level of significance is amended to read: **Local**.

Period of Significance:

The period of significance is amended to read: **1928**. The period of significance must reflect the era in which the resources being nominated--the memorial--achieved its significance [NR Bulletin 41, p. 25].

continued on page 2

This information was confirmed with Ken Story of the Arkansas SHPO.

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 Washington, George Berry, Memorial  
NAME:

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

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Crittenden

DATE RECEIVED: 7/07/94  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/5/94  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: 7/20/94

DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/21/94

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94000824

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: Y	NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6.11.94 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The George Berry Washington Memorial is significant under National Register Criteria B and C, in the areas of Agriculture and Art. Marking the burial site of local landowner G. B. Washington, the memorial is the last extant resource associated with this important area businessman, farmer, and social patron. The son of former slaves, Washington had developed his land holdings into one of the largest farming operations in the county by the 1920s. The monument itself is a excellent example of twentieth century funerary art in rural Crittenden County, Arkansas.

The resource is also significant in the area of Ethnic History: Black, under Arkansas' Ethnic & Racial Minority Settlement MPS.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept B+C  
REVIEWER PAUL R. LUSIGNAN  
DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN  
DATE 8/11/94

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



CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_ count \_\_\_ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_ historic \_\_\_ current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_ architectural classification  
\_\_\_ materials  
\_\_\_ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

\_\_\_ summary paragraph  
\_\_\_ completeness  
\_\_\_ clarity  
\_\_\_ applicable criteria  
\_\_\_ justification of areas checked  
\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource  
\_\_\_ context  
\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance  
\_\_\_ justification of exception  
\_\_\_ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_ acreage \_\_\_ verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_ UTMs \_\_\_ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_ sketch maps \_\_\_ USGS maps \_\_\_ photographs \_\_\_ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_ Date \_\_\_







George Berry Washington Memorial  
Earle vic., Crittenden Co., Arkansas  
Photograph by K. Story

January 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Detail of grave site



George Berry Washington Memorial  
Earle vic., Crittenden Co., Arkansas  
Photograph by K. Story

January 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Detail of grave site





George Berry Washington Memorial  
Earle vic., Crittenden County, Arkansas

Photograph by K. Story

January 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View from southeast







George Berry Washington Memorial  
Earle vic., Crittenden County, Arkansas  
Photograph by K. Story  
January 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Detail of grave site





George Berry Washington Memorial  
Earle vic., Crittenden County, Arkansas  
Photograph by K. Story  
January 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from Southeast

A black and white photograph of a weathered, rectangular gravestone. The stone is set in a rural landscape with tall grass and a line of trees in the background. The top of the stone features a decorative, circular medallion with a central oval cutout. The name 'REV. GEORGE WASHINGTON' is carved in an arc around this medallion. Below the name, the dates 'DEC. 25, 1864' and 'AUG. 30, 1928' are inscribed. At the base of the stone, a religious inscription is carved in several lines.

REV. GEORGE

WASHINGTON

DEC. 25, 1864

AUG. 30, 1928

HALLELUJAH! 'TIS DONE.  
I BELIEVE IN THE SON.  
I AM SAVED BY THE BLOOD  
OF THE CRUCIFIED ONE.

George Berry Washington Memorial  
Earle vic., Crittenden Co., Arkansas  
Photograph by K. Story  
January 1994  
Negative on file at AHP  
View from southeast





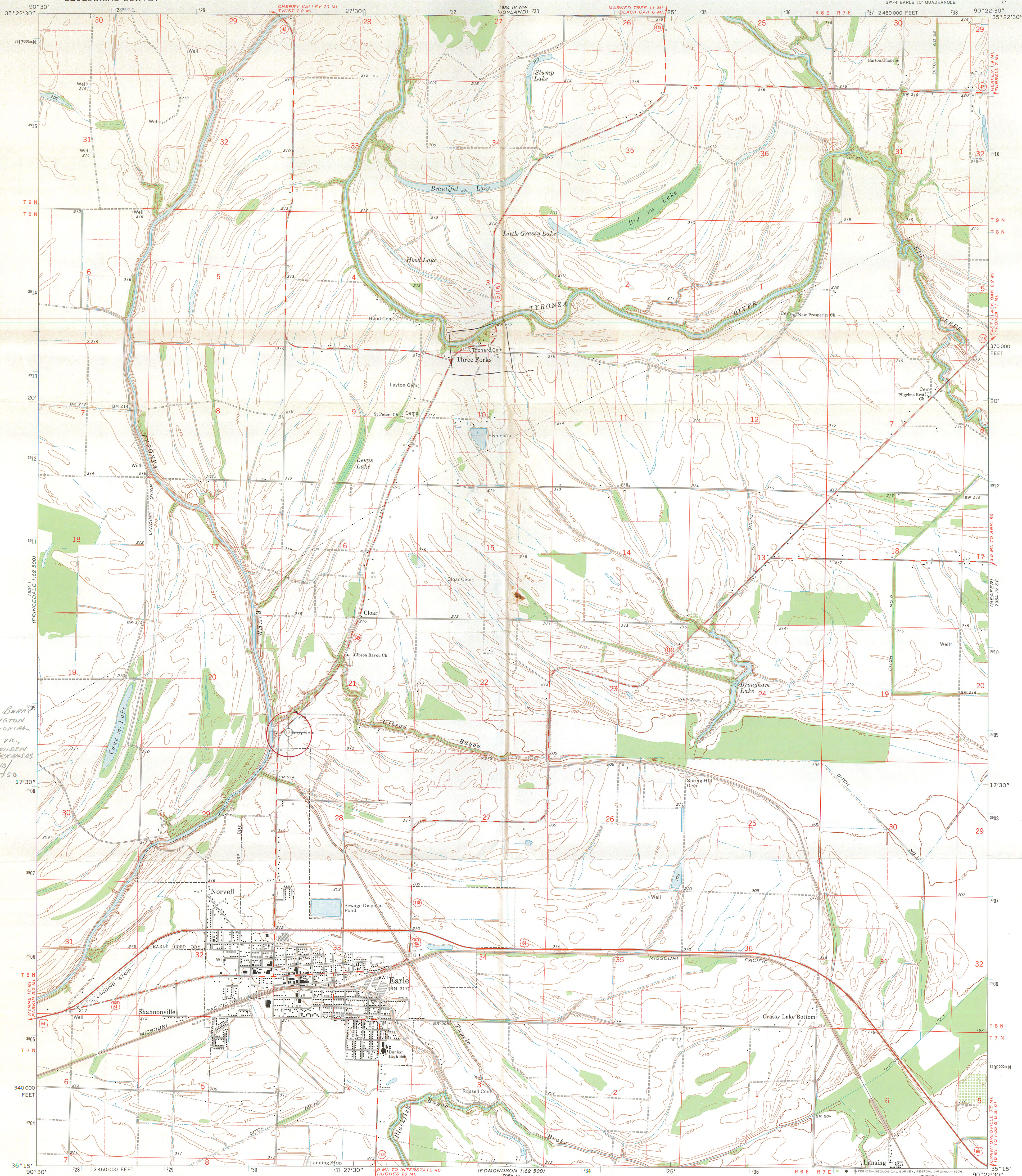


George Berry Washington Memorial  
Earle vic., Crittenden Co, Arkansas  
Photograph by K. Story  
January 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from southeast



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

EARLE QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS—CRITTENDEN CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SW 1/4 EARLE 15' QUADRANGLE



GEORGE BERRY  
WASHINGTON  
MEMORIAL  
EARLE VR,  
CRITTENDEN  
CO., ARKANSAS  
15/730340/  
3908750

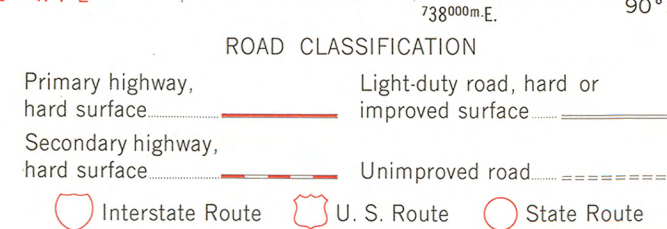
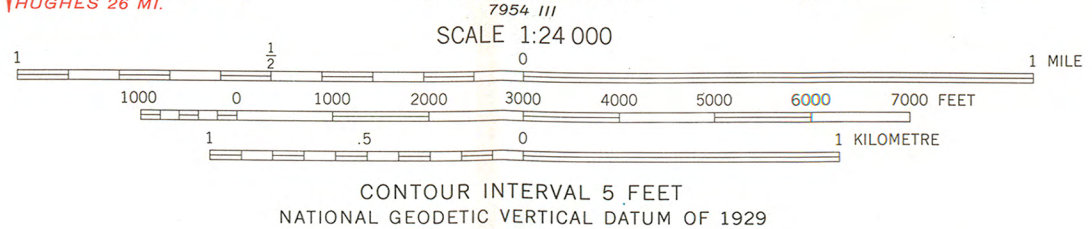
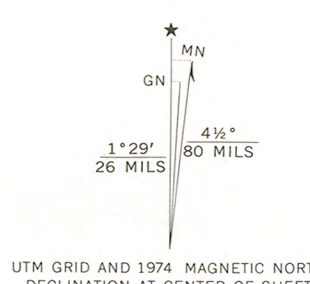
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1974

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate  
system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



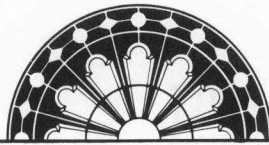
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

EARLE, ARK.  
SW 1/4 EARLE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3515-W9022.5/7.5

1974

AMS 7954 IV SW—SERIES V884





ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

June 22, 1994

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20002



RE: George Berry Washington Memorial  
Earle, Crittenden 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,

Cathy Buford Slater  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:kg

Enclosures

