

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF DALLAS COUNTY  
DALLAS COUNTY, ARKANSAS

## ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Survey Number DA-1  
 ✓ Property Name Hampton Springs Cemetery,  
Black Section  
off AR 48  
 Location near Carthage vic.  
 Significant Date/s See below

Owner Mattie Oakley, Cemetery Representative  
 Address General Delivery  
Carthage, AR 71725

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Hampton Springs Cemetery is located off Highway 48 in northwest Dallas County. The cemetery is divided into two sections, black and white. Upon approaching the cemetery it appears to be like any other rural cemetery. It contains granite and marble markers, moderate or conservative in their size and ornamentation, surrounded by a low wire fence in the common Anglo or Christian tradition. Beyond this fence to the west, offering great contrast and of particular significance is the black section of the cemetery. Within this section are approximately 128 identifiable graves oriented east-west. The earliest marked grave is dated 1916. Local residents say, however, that the cemetery has been in use for at least 100 years. The graves are marked in what John Michael Vlach and John D. Combes, in their studies of black cemeteries in the Southeast, have determined to be the traditional Afro-American method which has African antecedents. The cemetery has few commercial markers. Several homemade headstones of concrete, some with rough inscriptions, were made to resemble commercial markers. Although now weathered beyond identification many graves are identified by the small metal and glass markers commonly used by funeral homes. Other head markers include ceramic pipe, a kerosene lamp, and bushes like ~~forsythia~~ and ~~farkieberry~~. Foot markers are also common, including metal pipe, wooden stakes and petrified wood. Some grave offerings exist in conjunction with head and foot markers, while others are the only objects identifying graves. The offerings include glass bottles and jars, ceramic pitchers, bowls, planters and urns broken and laid atop the grave either marking the head or running from head to foot. Most unusual among the offerings are mussel shells.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hampton Springs Cemetery is significant to the black heritage and culture of Dallas County and Arkansas. Before the Civil War Dallas County was a rich plantation area. Settlers from the southeast, particularly North Carolina, brought many slaves. In 1860, the black slave population represented 43% of the total for Dallas County. Following the Civil War blacks settled in what became primarily black communities. One such community was Lea Ridge in the northeast part of the county. The residents of Lea Ridge moved to a few miles westward, settling in the new railroad town, Carthage, near the turn of the century. Located near Carthage is Hampton Springs Cemetery. The Cemetery with its markers of cast concrete, ceramic pipe, oil lamps, wooden stakes and petrified wood and grave

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Property Name Hampton Springs Cemetery, Black Section  
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offerings of mussel shells and broken glass and ceramic jars, bottles, plates and pitchers resembles the traditional Afro-American cemeteries, identified by John Michael Vlach and John D. Combes, in the southeast. It is the only such recorded cemetery in Dallas County and, as of yet, in Arkansas. It is also the only known resource in the county to have traditional Afro-American influences which may have African antecedents.

Acreage: less than one

Quadrangle Name: Bunn

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference: 15 547040/3771960

Verbal Boundary Description:

Commencing at a point 23 rods from the SE corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 26, T7S R14W 41 $^{\circ}$  W of N, thence running W 36 rods 9 $^{\circ}$  S of W, thence N 12 rods and 9' 9 $^{\circ}$  E of N then E 36 rods 9 $^{\circ}$  N of E, thence S to the point of beginning.

The nominated Black Section of the cemetery, contained within the above description, is as follows: Commencing from the center of the west stone column of the cemetery entry, running west in a line parallel to county roads 162', thence north 140' for the point of beginning, thence east 168 $\frac{1}{2}$ ', thence north 105' thence west 164 $\frac{1}{2}$ ', thence south 134' to the point of beginning.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 9/14/83  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 3

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Dallas County Multiple Resource Area  
State Arkansas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Garrison Place

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

12. Goodgame, Capt., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

13. Hampton Springs Cemetery  
(Black Section)

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

14. Knight, Ed, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

15. Koonce Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 10/28/83

Attest

16. Mallett, George W., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

17. Mt. Carmel Methodist Church

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

18. Mt. Zion Methodist Church

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

19. Old Fordyce Post Office

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

20. Princeton Cemetery

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 3/27/84

Attest



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Hampton Springs Cemetery (Black Section)  
(Dallas County MRA)  
Dallas County  
ARKANSAS

Working No. SEP 14 1983  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85  
Date Due: 10/13/83 - 10/29/83  
Action: ACCEPT 10/28/83  
Entered in the RETURN  
National Register REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location \_\_\_\_\_

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property \_\_\_\_\_

5. Location of Legal Description \_\_\_\_\_

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection

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## 8. 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

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

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## 13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_





DA-1  
Hampton Springs Cemetery  
(Black Section)  
Sarah Brown, photographer  
April 28, 1982  
Negative filed at the AHPP  
View from the southeast





DA-1  
Hampton Springs Cemetery  
(Black Section), grave  
Sarah Brown, photographer  
April 28, 1982  
Negative filed at the AHPP  
View from the southeast

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000025