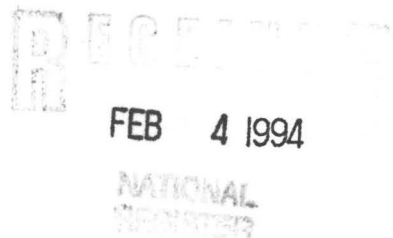


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Bean Cemetery

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: Northern side of U. S. Highway 62

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Lincoln

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Washington

code: AR 143

zip code: 72744

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 1 </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.

Catherine A. Slater

Signature of certifying official

1-28-94

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): _____

Edson H. Beall 3/7/94

Entered in the
National Register

for _____
Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: FUNERARY

Sub: Cemetery

Current: FUNERARY

Sub: Cemetery

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

Located directly to the north of U. S. Highway 62 near the eastern outskirts of Lincoln, the Bean Cemetery contains 251 known burials (those for which discernible headstone markers remain) surrounding the site of an associated Colored Methodist Episcopal Church and School, now demolished and replaced by a modern roadside picnic area. The extant historic headstones are largely of relatively simple design and of various types of stone. The nomination includes a total of approximately 2.45 acres and excludes the site of the demolished church, as it has been subdivided from the cemetery and developed into a public roadside picnic area.

Elaboration

The Bean Cemetery contains 251 known burials (those for which discernible headstone markers remain) surrounding the site of an associated Colored Methodist Episcopal Church and School, now demolished and replaced by a modern roadside picnic area. The extant historic headstones are largely of relatively simple design and of various types of stone. The nomination includes a total of approximately 2.45 acres and excludes the site of the demolished church, as it has been subdivided from the cemetery and developed into a public roadside picnic area.

The known burials in the Bean Cemetery include several veterans and even a man born into slavery. The death dates begin in 1874 and extend to the present.

Of the 251 known burials in the Bean Cemetery, 49 are non-historic, and have been determined so because the death dates do not fall within the historic period. Yet the entire cemetery is being included in this nomination as the Bean Cemetery continues to serve as an important cultural focal point for local residents of African-American descent who consider the entire cemetery an important historical and cultural link to their heritage.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1**Summary****Criterion A, local significance**

The Bean Cemetery is locally significant under Criterion A by virtue of its status as the best preserved historic resource directly associated with the post-Civil War black settlements established within the surrounding communities of Lincoln, Summers and Cane Hill. Though people of African descent had lived in this heavily agricultural area since before the Civil War - where they had largely lived as slaves -- virtually no other known historic resources associated with their settlement and occupation have survived. Families from these local communities have been burying their dead within this cemetery since at least 1874, the earliest recorded death date.

Elaboration

Though not commonly known as a slaveholding county, there existed many slaveholding plantations within the boundaries of Washington County before the Civil War. The area around Lincoln -- located approximately twenty miles southwest of Fayetteville, the county seat -- was particularly suited to agriculture as it is composed of relatively flat, rolling fields covered with rich, fertile soil. Cotton plantations thus prospered here, as they did in other parts of the state, though not in the same numbers; and it was common wisdom before the Civil War that cotton production always required a large slave workforce.

As was the case elsewhere in the state, those counties that possessed a large black population experienced little in the way of a mass exodus of former slaves and their families after the Civil War. Instead it was far more common for these former slave families to settle close to their familiar surroundings, and frequently in distinct communities that they often called "colonies." These families carried on farming, with some families owning small farms, and others working for white landowners as part of the same tenant system that prevailed in many of the state's eastern and southern counties. They lived in such western Washington County communities as Cincinnati, Summers, Cane Hill and Lincoln.

Like much of the rest of the state, the decision of whether or not to remain in a relatively isolated farming community in the late nineteenth century depended largely on whether or not the railroad ran a line through it; this, combined with the natural desire for community, resulted in some limited relocation of rural Washington County blacks during the last decades of the nineteenth century. In particular, blacks from such communities as Cincinnati moved eastward to Lincoln and Summers -- both of which were served by the railroad and could boast of small black communities. However, by far the largest and best organized black community in central Washington County was located at Cane Hill, where there had been a black community for some

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

time and which had its own church and regular social functions. After the turn of the century, however, the attendant growth in such nearby railroad cities as Fayetteville and Springdale drew the younger generations away from their rural homes and began the gradual decline of these rural black communities.

Before this fairly consistent pattern of black relocation to the Cane Hill/Summers/Lincoln occurred, black families buried their dead locally, either in private cemeteries or small community cemeteries. With the onset of this relocation, however, the Bean Cemetery soon became known as the main community cemetery for the local black population. The land, originally owned by John Wesley and Eliza Bean and located adjacent to the Frisco Railroad right of way, was granted by him for the construction of a church and associated cemetery, though he and his family retained actual ownership until the land was formally deeded by his heirs in 1915 (they are both buried within). The extant burial markers within indicate death dates from 1874 to the present, and thus reveal that the cemetery has in fact been actively used by the local black community since that time. Recent burials reveal also that it remains in use today.

The Bean Cemetery is the extant historic resource most directly associated with the history of these central and western Washington County rural black communities and their vanishing heritage, and is, in fact, the *only* known such resource. Their legacy, and indeed their very existence, is tied to the preservation of this important historical and cultural site. By virtue of these associations the Bean Cemetery is eligible under Criterion A.

This boundary includes all the property associated with the historic cemetery that retains its integrity.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Information provided by Mr. Ulon Fae Barnes, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Shiloh Museum, *History of Washington County, Arkansas*, (Springdale: 1989)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: January 27, 1994

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
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Bean Cemetery
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 2/04/94 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/15/94
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/03/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/21/94
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94000152

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/7/94 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWER
DISCIPLINE
DATE

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
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



BEAN CEMETERY

LINCOLN, WASHINGTON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

OCTOBER, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP

VIEW FROM NORTH



R. ISAAC
BROWN

DIED

15 1882

AGED

82 YEARS

BEAN CEMETERY

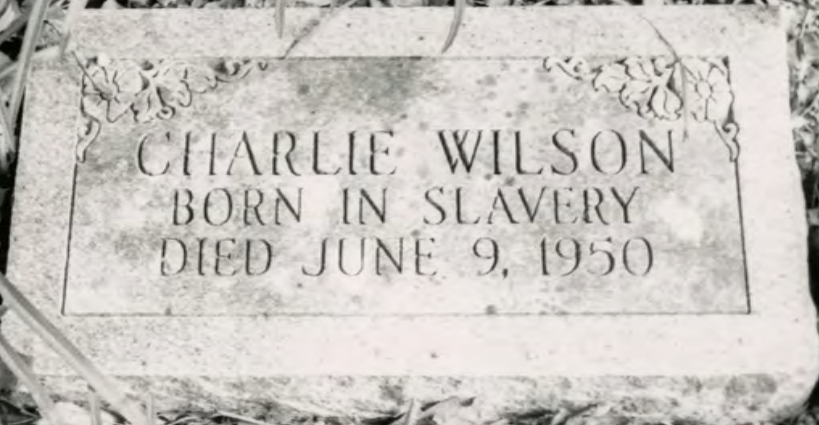
LINCOLN, WASHINGTON CO., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

OCTOBER, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

DETAIL OF ABOVE MARKER

A black and white photograph of a rectangular gravestone set into the ground. The stone is surrounded by dense foliage, including tall grasses and various leaves. The inscription on the stone is centered and reads: CHARLIE WILSON, BORN IN SLAVERY, DIED JUNE 9, 1950. The stone has a decorative border around the text area.

CHARLIE WILSON
BORN IN SLAVERY
DIED JUNE 9, 1950

BEAN CEMETERY

LINCOLN, WASHINGTON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

OCTOBER, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

DETAIL OF GRAVE MARKER



BEAN CEMETERY


LINCOLN, WASHINGTON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

OCTOBER, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTH



A black and white photograph of a rectangular, weathered gravestone. The stone is set in a grassy area with some dry leaves in the foreground. To the left of the stone is a dense, leafy shrub. The background consists of more foliage and trees. The stone has a simple rectangular shape with a slightly raised border around the inscription. The text is carved in a serif font and is arranged in three lines. The stone shows signs of age, with some discoloration and wear.

ELIZY BEAN
NOV. 10. 1836
MAR. 23. 1909

BEAN CEMETERY

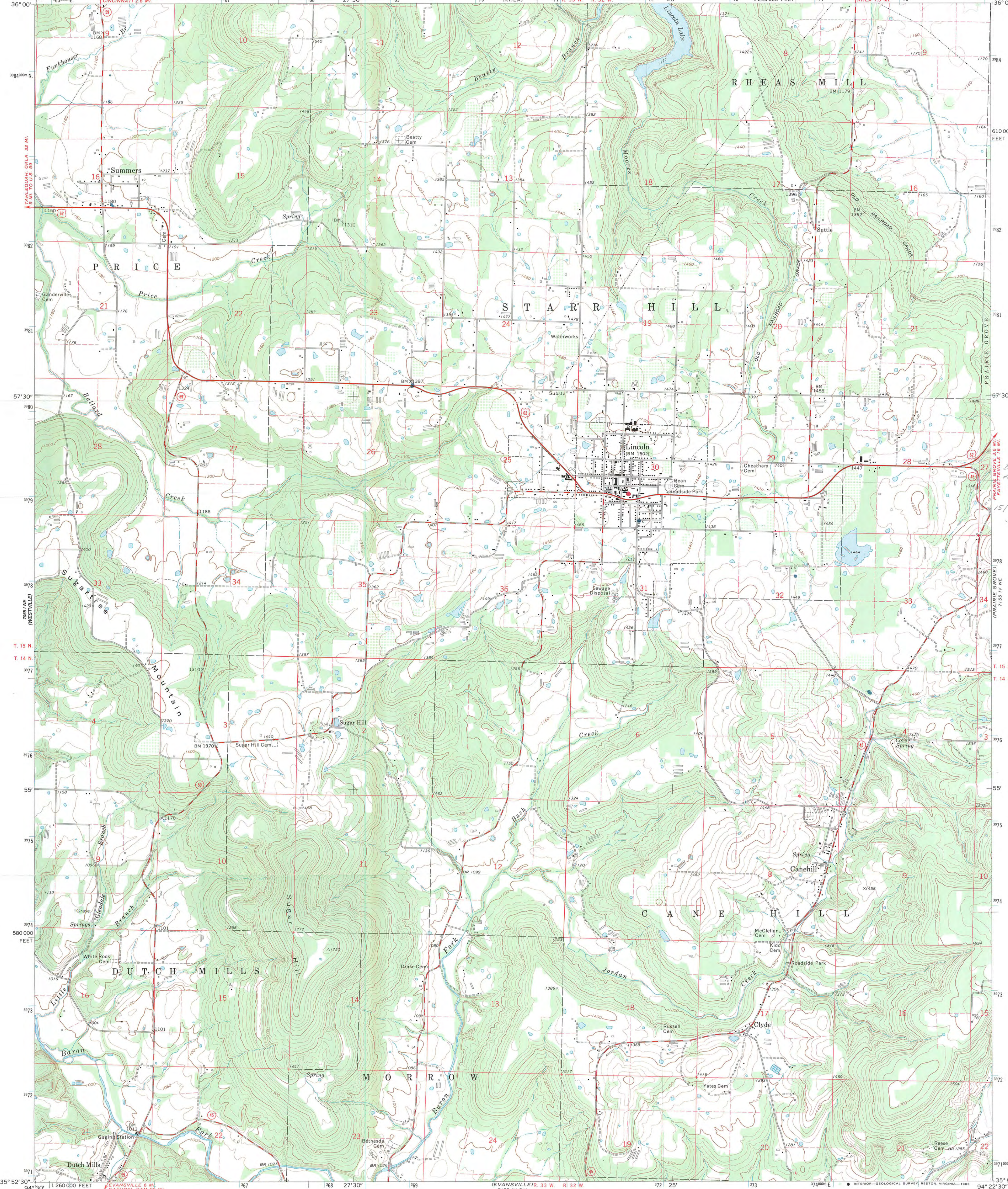
LINCOLN, WASHINGTON Co., ARKANSAS

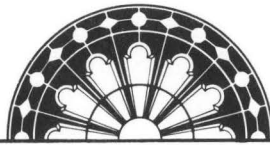
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

OCTOBER, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

DETAIL OF GRAVE MARKER





ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

RECEIVED

FEB 4 1994

NATIONAL
REGISTER

January 28, 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: Bean Cemetery
Lincoln, Washington 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

