

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100002947

Date Listed: 9/18/2018

Property Name: Bold Pilgrim Cemetery

County: Conway

State: AR

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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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Significant Dates

1855 is hereby deleted as a significant date.

Significant dates must be within the period of significance; there is no justification for 1855 as a significant date directly associated with this property.

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

#### **DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file**

**Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

562947

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Bold Pilgrim Cemetery

Other names/site number: CN0314

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: End of Bold Pilgrim Road, West of Highway 9

City or town: Morrilton State: AR County: Conway

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

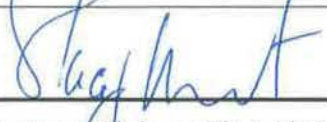
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

 <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> <u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u> <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	<b>August 1, 2018</b> <b>Date</b>
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

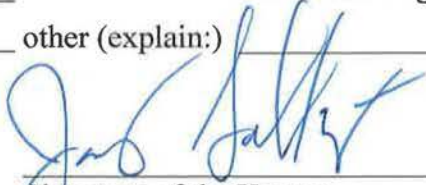
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_



Signature of the Keeper

9-18-2018

Date of Action

**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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE: Granite, Marble; CONCRETE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Bold Pilgrim Cemetery is located at the end of Bold Pilgrim Road, a well maintained gravel road, approximately 500 yards west of Highway 9, in rural Conway County, Arkansas. Historical markers identify the cemetery at the highway and at the wrought iron gated entry archway. The overall site is approximately 1.33 acres in area, surrounded by a 6 foot high wrought iron fence. The cemetery contains no built structures other than gravestones and concrete benches. The cemetery is located on relatively flat ground and is surrounded by natural tree growth and cow pastureland on all sides. Upon arrival within the entry of the cemetery, a gravel vehicular path leads to a gravel turn around area near the center of the cemetery. The possibly contains as many as 600 burials related to the historic African-American settlements and communities of the surrounding area.

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### Narrative Description

Bold Pilgrim Cemetery is located approximately seven miles north of Morrilton in Conway County, to the west of State Highway 9 at the end of Bold Pilgrim Road. Bold Pilgrim Cemetery is approximately 5,400 square meters in size, or 1.33 acres. The cemetery has a rough grass surface on a relatively flat land area and is surrounded by pastures on all sides. The cemetery is laid out as a rectangle approximately 300 feet east to west by 200 feet north to south. The access

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from Highway 9 to the cemetery is marked with a distinctive historic marker leading along a well maintained gravel road to the main entry gate to the cemetery. The ornamental metal archway includes a sign identifying the property as "Bold Pilgrim Cemetery". In 2012, through the dedicated efforts of the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery Preservation Association, a new wrought iron fence was constructed to replace the several decades old barbed wire fence around the cemetery. This new fence includes a secure gate at the entry. Several trees remain along the old fence line. There are also scattered large trees throughout the interior of the cemetery grounds. A large stone marker near the entry gates includes the text: "Bold Pilgrims Cemetery Dedicated To the Memory of Florence Byers Mitchem, Rawleigh E. Mitchem, Dora Y. Mitchem, Thomas W. Mitchem, And All the Bold Pilgrims Interred Within These Hallowed Grounds"

The cemetery is densely packed and contains an estimated 500 to 600 graves. It is estimated that as many as 80% of the total burials within the cemetery are more than 50 years old. The graves are arranged in roughly 25 rows oriented north to south with headstones at the west end of each grave and footstones at numerous gravesites. In the list of documented graves included in *The Bold Pilgrims: Preserving the Legacy, A Pictorial Catalog of African Americans Interred at Bold Pilgrim Cemetery*, one hundred and two (102) of the graves within the cemetery are marked with commercial or homemade headstones that are still legible and document the name and in many instances the date of death of the person interred. One gravestone is noted in the list as only containing a name, with no known death date recorded or known from available historical records. The vast majority of the graves within the cemetery are unmarked.

The inscriptions on other commercial or homemade gravestones throughout the cemetery have been obscured by age and the elements and cannot be deciphered. Several graves are marked by simple sandstone field markers. The remaining graves are visible only as depressions. 171 interments have been identified by name by the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery Preservation Association based on headstones as well as newspaper and local history research. The list of identified interments is included in *The Bold Pilgrims: Preserving the Legacy*, a pictorial catalog of the cemetery produced by the cemetery association in 2017, as well as on a large, two-sided historic marker within the cemetery.

The earliest death date recorded in the cemetery is that of Frances E. Parker who died in 1885 at the tender age of one. Frances Parker shares a single gravestone with Mary J. Parker (d. 1892) and Eliza J. Parker (d. 1892). This marker is a marble marker with a well carved upward pointing hand with a feminine cuff below the phrase "GONE TO REST." This gravestone must have been created after the deaths of Mary J. and Eliza, as their names are listed first on the stone, while Frances's name is very low on the stone. This is still considered the oldest gravestone now present in the cemetery. The only other stone dating from the 1880s is the gravestone of Meek Parker (d. 1887). This headstone is one of the concrete markers with an upward pointing hand stamped into the concrete. It is likely that this headstone is either a later replacement or later marking of a gravesite, based on its material and construction and the similar headstones in the cemetery dating to several decades later. There are also records of other burials in the 1880s in the cemetery, but no legible markers exist for these early recorded or remembered burials.

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The following chart includes all of the burials with known death dates that are recorded for the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery, including both marked and unmarked graves.

<b>Decade</b>	<b>Marked Gravesites</b>	<b>Unmarked Gravesites<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
1880-1889	2	2	4
1890-1899	4	1	5
1900-1909	15	4	19
1910-1919	21	1	22
1920-1929	7	1	8
1930-1939		8	8
1940-1949	8	7	15
1950-1959	11	7	18
1960-1969	4	1	5
1970-Present	30	6	36
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>
Burials with known Death Dates	102	38	140

The gravestones throughout the cemetery are made of sandstone slabs, marble/limestone, granite, concrete, and metal. One surviving example of a sandstone field marker with an inscription was still readable as of 2018 and included the partial text: “J. M. 1933 - ...”. Unfortunately, the possible death date was unreadable. Also, several locally produced and/or handmade concrete markers are found throughout the cemetery. This included the concrete marker for Meek Parker (d. 1887) which seems to have been made with stamps pushed into wet concrete and includes an upward pointing hand as well as a well-preserved inscription. Another similar example is the marker for Gradison Miller (d. 1903) which also includes an upward pointing hand, but is sadly broken. A few other similar examples could be identified in 2018, but most were broken. Another marker that appears to be homemade is the concrete marker of Lee Brown (d. 1929). Although legible, the marker seems to indicate much less skill than the Parker and Miller concrete markers mentioned earlier.

The commercial produced stones throughout the cemetery are of various sizes and shapes; including pedestals, carved scrolls, triangles, tablets with semi-circular tops (both with and without bevels), and rectangular tablets with and without bevels. Most of the standing historic gravestones are small tablet types. There are also standard military tablets for World War I and World War II veterans; including Matthew Littlejohn (d. 2009).

<sup>1</sup> Individuals buried within the cemetery have been identified through archival research, including obituaries, census rolls, birth, death, and marriage records as well as oral histories of descendants and local residents. Glenda F. Wilson, *The Bold Pilgrims: Preserving the Legacy, A Pictorial Catalog of African Americans Interred at Bold Pilgrim Cemetery*, Bold Pilgrim Cemetery Preservation Association, 2017. The full list of known burials with state of birth information is included in Appendix 1.

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Christian and common grave iconography seen throughout the cemetery includes the following<sup>2</sup>:

**Crowns** – Crowns are often a symbol of victory, leadership, and distinction. Examples in this cemetery include the markers for Lover O. Miller (d. 1916) and Turlly N. Arnold (d. 1905).

**Lambs** – Lambs are often used to mark the graves of children, especially infants, and often represent the innocence associated with youth. Lambs may also be associated with Jesus Christ, who was described as the “Lamb of God.” Examples include the markers of H. W. Walker (d. 1914) and T. W. Mitchem (d. 1914).

**Doves** – Doves have become a symbol of purity and peace due to the story of Noah’s Ark and the presence of Doves as a promise of peace, but they can also represent the Holy Ghost. An example is found on the stone for Washington Hicks (d. 1904).

**Anchors** – Anchors often symbolize hope as referred to in Hebrews 6:19-20. Two matching examples with anchors and ivy can be found on the gravestones for Refus Miller (d. 1900) and Cynthia Miller (d. 1913).

**Upward Pointing Hand** – This is usually a symbol of a soul rising to Heaven. Examples can be seen on the gravestones of Meek Parker (d. 1887) and Gradison Miller (d. 1903).

**Stars** – Stars are often symbols of divine guidance, echoing the single star as the Star of the East, guiding the Magi to Bethlehem. An example can be seen on the gravestone of Florence B. Mitchem (d. 1982).

**A Broken Tree** – A broken tree is a symbol of the end of life, usually seen on the graves of young men as a sign of a life cut short. A small but elaborately carved example can be seen as the gravestone of John W. Cochran (d. 1918).

**Shepherd’s Crook** – an ancient emblem of rulership, the Christian symbol is an emblem of the Apostles and associated with Christ as the Good Shepherd. An example can be seen on the gravestone of Emma Swinger (d. 1898).

A typical masonic symbol including a “G” surrounded by a compass and square can be found on the gravestone of Rev. John B. Roseman (d. 1908). This symbol is possibly associated with a local Prince Hall Masonic lodge. Other fraternal symbols can be found on the stones for four women. These include three gravestones provided by the Mosaic Templars of American; including Roxie Parker (d. 1925) a member of Majestic Chamber 3069 and L. E. Miller (d. 1916) a member of Majestic Chamber 3078, both of Morrilton. The fourth stone is for a member of the Adonia Tabernacle 233 of Morrilton, AR, and included the phrase “International Order Twelve Knights and Daughters of Taber” as seen on the marker for Katie Hunter (d. 1924).

There is also a multiple gravestone for three female members of the Parker family who all died in the late 1880s. This marker is a rectangular monument with the index finger of a hand pointing upwards. Surnames found on the marked stones in the cemetery include Bates, Byers, Campbell, Garrison, Good, Heaggans, Henson Hicks, Hunter, McMahan, Miller, Mitchem, Meacham, Parker, Rall, and Wallace.

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<sup>2</sup> The following explanation of funerary iconography is taken from Douglas Keister’s *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography*.



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A new community cemetery, Pruitt Cemetery, was recently established just to the northeast of the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery and is enclosed in a chain-link fence with a gated entry off of Bold Pilgrim Road. This new cemetery is not associated with the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery and the oldest burial in the cemetery dates from 1994.

### Integrity

The Bold Pilgrim Cemetery has suffered from past neglect, but has seen recent revitalization by local community members. In 1998, a group including Gracie Mitchem Williams, Annie Marks Maxfield, Cleophus Davis, Naomi Mitchem Adams, and Beverly Adams launched an effort to reclaim the cemetery for the community. The Bold Pilgrim Cemetery Preservation Association was established in 2006 to continue their work. The cemetery association provided modern fencing for the cemetery and works to keep the cemetery grounds in excellent condition. In 2018, several of the gravestones have suffered damage due to weathering and age. Some have toppled and some are broken into several pieces. Also, several of the field stones, due to their small nature, have been moved. A few broken gravestones have also been stacked close to nearby shrubs or trees. The cemetery continues to be well maintained and the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery Preservation Association is active in researching and maintaining the surviving records related to the cemetery.

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## 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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Exploration/Settlement

Ethnic Heritage:Black

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

c. 1880-1968

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1855

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Bold Pilgrim Cemetery embodies the rich legacy of pioneering families who settled in Conway County seeking new opportunities. These families were seeking a better life in the decades following the Civil War as racial tension, poverty, and bad harvests created an unviable situation for many black families in South Carolina. Many families eventually settled in Arkansas after discovering a place where land was affordable and economic and political opportunities existed. Bold Pilgrim Cemetery is the final resting place of many of these settlers and the property acts as a ‘gathering place’ for their descendants. The individuals who are buried in Bold Pilgrim Cemetery represent diverse stories that illustrate the important history of the African-American communities in Conway County and Arkansas.

The Bold Pilgrim Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, under Exploration/Settlement and Ethnic Heritage for its association with the immigration and settlement of African-American in the area after the Civil War. The period of significance for the property, from c. 1880 to 1968, incorporates the earliest known burials through the mid-20th century, when the surrounding African-American communities started to slowly decline as farming practices and economic opportunities in the area changed. The cemetery is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D** as a cemetery that derives its primary significance from its association with historic events.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Bold Pilgrim Cemetery is located north of the community of Overcup, south of Solgohachia and to the east of Hickory Hill. According to local oral histories, the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery was located near a community known as Bold Pilgrim along the ridge to the west of the cemetery.<sup>3</sup> The cemetery is also unusual in the area as a community cemetery rather than a cemetery created in association with a specific church.<sup>4</sup> The cemetery is the last historic, physical remains of an African-American community made up of former slaves and their families who traveled from South Carolina to Arkansas in the 1870s through the 1890s. These immigrants were a part of the large-scale, post-Civil War exodus of Blacks from areas in the Deep South, including South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia to available lands to the west.

Prior to the Civil War, there were very few “free blacks” in the state of Arkansas, especially after

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<sup>3</sup> Skip Stewart-Abernathy, Bold Pilgrim Cemetery, State Site No: 3CN281, Arkansas Archeological Survey Site Form, September 2005.

<sup>4</sup> Bold Pilgrim Cemetery served members from four churches in Hickory Hill: Hopewell Presbyterian, Payne Chapel AME, New Zion CME, and Pleasant Hill Methodist. Wilson, *The Bold Pilgrims: Preserving the Legacy*.

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the state government actively discouraged any immigration or even residence by any non-enslaved blacks from the 1840s through the Civil War.<sup>5</sup> The slave population of Arkansas, on the other hand, had grown from 2,000 in 1820 to over 111,000 by 1860. In 1860, this large number of enslaved individuals represented a quarter of the population of the state. The passage of the 13th amendment and the end of the Civil War created a large population of blacks who now had freedom of movement, a right that had previously been denied them. However, in Arkansas immediately after the Civil War, the state government left the newly freed population in legal limbo, free to own property and marry, but unable to vote or hold any political office. Eventually, the United States Congress stepped in and passed the Reconstruction Acts of 1867 that reformed southern state governments and led in part to the relatively progressive gains for Arkansas's African-Americans in terms of political and business opportunities.<sup>6</sup>

In the Deep South, especially along the eastern coast, racial violence and economic and agricultural turmoil soon led to large migrations of families and individuals from east coast Deep South states to the west.<sup>7</sup> Many of these immigrants left their homes in eastern southern states after selling what they couldn't take with them before heading west. One of the identified destinations for these groups was Kansas, where the black immigrants were known as "Exodusters", a term referring to the biblical exodus from Egypt.<sup>8</sup> Although Kansas may have been a specific destination for some groups or individuals, others simply wanted to escape to anywhere; away from the economic, racial, and political hardships of the post-Civil War Deep South. These immigrants settled where land was cheap and labor needed. In fact, Arkansas saw more black in-migration between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of World War I than any other state.<sup>9</sup>

In Conway County, Section 22 of Township 7 North, Range 16 West, which includes the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery, was granted by the United States Congress to the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway (LR&FS Railway) during the late 1860s as one of several land grants to subsidize the construction of western railroads.<sup>10</sup> In Arkansas, along the proposed route between Little Rock and Fort Smith, the LR&FS Railway was granted huge swaths of land through land grants in a checkered pattern of every other section to the north and south of the Arkansas River. Most of Conway County was part of this land grant area. By 1893, both Section 22 and the section to the

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<sup>5</sup> Ashlie Perry, "Free Blacks," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, Central Arkansas Library System, 3 May 2012, [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net), Accessed 1 June 2018.

<sup>6</sup> John Williams Graves, "African Americans," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, Central Arkansas Library System, 9 May 2018, [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net), Accessed 1 June 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Story Matkin-Rawn, "'The Great Negro State of the Country': Arkansas's Reconstruction and the Other Great Migration," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 72 (Spring 2013): 1-41.

<sup>8</sup> "Exodusters," *Kansapedia*, Kansas Historical Society, June 2011, <https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/exodusters/17162>, Accessed 1 June 2018.

<sup>9</sup> Matkin-Rawn, "'The Great Negro State of the Country': Arkansas's Reconstruction and the Other Great Migration," pp. 3, 34.

<sup>10</sup> Although planned before the Civil War, construction on the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railway was not started until the 1870s and the line wasn't completed until the 1880s. Larry LeMasters, "Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, Central Arkansas Library System, 1 May 2012, [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net), Accessed 1 June 2018.

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north (15) had been subdivided and sold off by the railway.<sup>11</sup> These two sections would have been timbered land available for the newly immigrating families to clear and farm at just the time when a large influx of black immigrants were moving through the area in search of a place to settle.<sup>12</sup> With large areas of land newly available after the Civil War through the 1866 Southern Homestead Act and the land grants to the railroad, land was cheap and plentiful in areas of Arkansas and especially in Conway County.

During the 1870s, over 1000 black immigrants arrived in Conway County, raising the African-American portion of the population from 8% to 25% by the end of the decade.<sup>13</sup> The 1890s also saw a relatively large immigration by African-Americans to Conway County, with 40% of the total population of the county being African-American by 1900.<sup>14</sup> Local newspapers even noted that Conway had become the “Kansas County of the state” in reference to the contemporary Kansas Exodus.<sup>15</sup> Many of these settlers were from Georgia and South Carolina, with a large contingent from South Carolina settling in the area where Bold Pilgrim Cemetery would be founded. In 1886, national newspapers of the time even noted the large numbers of people moving west from South Carolina to Arkansas:

#### THE SOUTH CAROLINA EXODUS.

Little Rock, Ark. Dec. 21 - A Score of negro emigrants from South Carolina reached here to-day on their way to Southern Arkansas, where they will settle. More are coming in January and February. Several hundred will leave Aiken, Hampton, and Barnwell Counties for this State. The emigrants now here say they left South Carolina because the crop of cotton has been short for some seasons past, and that their share of it has been taken by the landlords under the lien law, and also that they have no political rights in that State. They say the exodus will take all the black labor from numbers of sections and leave planters without help. They say the black men have no future in that State.<sup>16</sup>

Conway County and the surrounding Arkansas River valley was the final settlement areas for a large portion of the immigrants who arrived during the mass migration from South Carolina in the early 1880s.<sup>17</sup> This rapid influx of settlers led to heightened racial tension in the area,

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<sup>11</sup> Land granted to and sold by the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad by 1893 in Conway County is identified in a map housed at the Arkansas Studies Institute, Identifier: UALR Maps M-042, 1893.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> Matkin-Rawn, “‘The Great Negro State of the Country’: Arkansas’s Reconstruction and the Other Great Migration,” p. 30.

<sup>14</sup> Kenneth C. Barnes, *Journey of Hope: The Back-to-Africa Movement in Arkansas in the Late 1800s*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004. p. 39. In spite of the racial and political turmoil rife in Conway County, this migration was steady and census records illustrated an increase in the African population from 630 in 1870 to 7,671 in 1890. Guy Lancaster, *Racial Cleansing in Arkansas, 1883-1924: Politics, Land, Labor, and Criminality*, Boulder, CO: Lexington Books, 2014. p. 26.

<sup>15</sup> Matkin-Rawn, “‘The Great Negro State of the Country’: Arkansas’s Reconstruction and the Other Great Migration,” pp. 30-31.

<sup>16</sup> *The New York Times*, December 22, 1886.

<sup>17</sup> Barnes, *Journey of Hope*, p. 44.

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including reports of street fights between gangs of men in Morrilton in August of 1881.<sup>18</sup>

According to local histories, African-American families began arriving in the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery area from South Carolina starting in the 1870s.<sup>19</sup> The earliest death date recorded in the cemetery is that of Frances E. Parker who died in 1885 at the tender age of one. Frances Parker shares a single gravestone with Mary J. Parker (d. 1892) and Eliza J. Parker (d. 1892). This gravestone must have been created after the deaths of Mary J. and Eliza, as their names are listed first on the stone, while Frances's name is very low on the stone. In an archaeological report on the cemetery from 2005, archeologist Leslie "Skip" Stewart-Abernathy noted that at least one group represented in the cemetery was from the Blacksburg, South Carolina, area.<sup>20</sup> This group had possibly immigrated to the area under the leadership of George Meek Whisonant. The person by this name that is known to have been buried in the cemetery in a now unmarked grave was born in 1874 and passed away in 1961, meaning this group may have not been in the area until at least the late 1880s. The Blacksburg connection was also represented in the nearby New Hope Presbyterian Church, which is thought to be a sister church to a church with the same name in Blacksburg, South Carolina. Today, the cemetery is not associated with any church in the surrounding communities.

Also, as noted in the archeological report, there may have been a church or community building just to the west of the cemetery: a local informant in the archeological report named Mr. Porter Mitchem remembered playing in the ruins of a wood-framed building near the cemetery in 1939 when he came to the cemetery with a group of men who were tasked with opening a grave.<sup>21</sup> Mr. Mitchem also noted that many of the burials during the last half of the 1900s were handled by Jarrett and Thrower Mortuary of Morrilton, than known as Ruffin and Jarrett. This funeral home would also provide a wagon and mule team to carry caskets to the cemetery if the gravel access road off of Highway 9 was too muddy to access by vehicle. Mr. Mitchem also noted that Johnny "Duck" Campbell was the one who often dug the graves by hand, using picks and shovels he kept at his house.

Approximately 165 of the over 500 possible burials in the cemetery have been identified by either remaining gravestones or historical research.<sup>22</sup> The research conducted by the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery Preservation Association has found the birth state and year for approximately 159 of the individuals buried within the cemetery.<sup>23</sup> This represents roughly 23% of the over 500 possible burials. Thirty one (31) individuals are known to have been born prior to 1866, with 23 of these (roughly 75%), who were born in South Carolina. The others were born in Arkansas (1 individual), North Carolina (2 individuals), and from unknown states (5

<sup>18</sup> Barnes, *Journey of Hope*, pp. 44-45.

<sup>19</sup> Wilson, *The Bold Pilgrims: Preserving the Legacy*.

<sup>20</sup> Skip Stewart-Abernathy, Bold Pilgrim Cemetery, State Site No: 3CN281, Arkansas Archeological Survey Site Form, September 2005.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> Individuals buried within the cemetery have been identified through archival research, including obituaries, census rolls, birth, death, and marriage records as well as oral histories of descendants and local residents. Wilson, *The Bold Pilgrims: Preserving the Legacy*.

<sup>23</sup> The list of known burials, both marked and unmarked can be found in the appendix to the nomination

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individuals). By the turn of the century, immigration into the surrounding community had greatly diminished. The 68 interred individuals in the cemetery with known birth dates and birth states between the end of the Civil War and 1899 include 35% born in South Carolina (24 individuals) and 32% born in Arkansas (22 individuals). The rest were born in Mississippi (2 individuals), North Carolina (3 individuals), one person from Tennessee, and one person from Georgia, as well as 15 individuals from unknown states. There are 60 individuals born after 1900, identified in the cemetery. The majority of these individuals, roughly 83%, were born in Arkansas. Although the identified burials represent only a quarter of the possible burials within the cemetery at most, this information does serve as a good cross-section of the population of the area echoed by census records and family histories. The majority of known burials in Bold Pilgrim Cemetery date from the period of 1900 to 1920, encompassing 41 known interments. This time period would have encompassed a period following the first arrival of immigrants in the 1880s and 1890s through their settlement and the raising of the next generation.

Although several western southern states, including Texas, Louisiana, and the Mississippi Delta offered essentially the same draw in terms of better pay and lower cost land than the Atlantic coastal states, Arkansas stood out due to a short period of immigration promotion as well as a period of political parity for both poor whites and freedmen.<sup>24</sup> Although not without pushback, black immigration to Arkansas continued to increase during the 1870s.<sup>25</sup> The incoming migrants were escaping political, racial, agricultural, and economic turmoil in states such as Georgia and South Carolina. The lack of good crops and the need for expensive fertilizer for the overworked fields, the continued racial violence, and the denial of civil and political rights, forced large groups of African-Americans to leave in search of new opportunities. Although some records indicate that some groups of immigrants were duped by overly rosy descriptions of western lands, it is important to note that most were moving for the opportunity to make a new life, not just the promise of rewards without work.<sup>26</sup>

The travelers from the east settled in Arkansas, including Conway County, due to the availability of low-cost land as well as the economic opportunity that land ownership would provide. This allowed the immigrants to establish new self-governed communities where they could develop businesses, schools, churches, and community organizations.<sup>27</sup> This also allowed for a greater role in local governments that could serve as stepping stones to larger political power. The new arrivals in Conway County, and the Bold Pilgrim area, were able to work to pay off their land in a few short years. This led to farmers who owned their own property rather than the continued system of sharecropping that often trapped both poor white and poor black families into a cycle of never-ending debt. This is echoed in the census rolls for the surrounding township, where many black residents are shown as owners of substantial farm land at the turn of the 20th century.<sup>28</sup> This land ownership is a continued legacy, as descendants of several of the original

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<sup>24</sup> Matkin-Rawn, "The Great Negro State of the Country': Arkansas's Reconstruction and the Other Great Migration," p. 15-16.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.* p. 21.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.* p. 27.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* p. 27.

<sup>28</sup> United States Federal Census Rolls, 1900.



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settlers still own land in the area.

The decline in immigration at the turn of the century and the evidence of a new Arkansas-born generation during the late 1800s and early 1900s echoes the statistical records of black immigration into the state, which slowed dramatically by the end of the 1890s. The state's new segregation laws, poll taxes, and multiple lynchings disproved the early reports of the state of Arkansas as a comparatively progressive destination for African Americans.<sup>29</sup> The 1890s also became a period of emigration out of Arkansas for black residents. The changing political environment with more focus on Jim Crow-type laws and seasons of either drought or flood during the 1880s led members of the African American community of Arkansas to explore and even embark on migration to other states and even Liberia, Africa, during the 1880s and 1890s. The dramatic change in circumstances of many of the African American communities of Arkansas was due to the shift in politics and the focus by many powerful whites on Jim Crow segregation laws and black voter disenfranchisement. After several counties had seen dramatic rises in African-American population and subsequently voter power on the local and even state level, there was a dramatic and sometimes violent push back against this new political reality by the entrenched white led power structure. Violence and fraud ruled during the 1888 and 1890 state elections in many communities throughout the states.<sup>30</sup> Also, this change from a relatively progressive stance on racial issues to a system defined by racial inequality was codified in law with the Separate Coach Law passed by the Arkansas Legislature in 1891.<sup>31</sup>

Contemporary with and in the following decade, in response to the rise in racial tensions and violence in Conway County in the 1890s, black communities saw much less immigration and even a turn toward opportunities to immigrate out of Arkansas. Conway County accounted for a large proportion of the request for resettlement from Arkansas to Liberia with over 1500 black residents formally requesting help from the American Colonization Society (ACS) in Washington, DC.<sup>32</sup> The ACS was an organization that was formed in the 1820s and worked to arrange transportation to and settlement of blacks in Liberia throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>33</sup> The large number of application from Conway County accounted for about 20% of the county's black population at the time, although not all those who applied made the journey.<sup>34</sup> Although in less numbers than in previous decades, African Americans continued to immigrate into Arkansas through the early 20th century. This immigration pattern eventually stopped with the Great

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<sup>29</sup> Matkin-Rawn, "The Great Negro State of the Country': Arkansas's Reconstruction and the Other Great Migration," p. 28.

<sup>30</sup> Kenneth C. Barnes, "Back-to-Africa Movement," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, Central Arkansas Library System, 3 May 2012, [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net), Accessed 1 June 2018.

<sup>31</sup> Carl H. Moneyhon, "Jim Crow Laws," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, Central Arkansas Library System, 22 January 2014, [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net), Accessed 1 June 2018.

<sup>32</sup> Barnes, *Journey of Hope*, p. 70. Barnes notes that during the early 1890s, Liberia migration remained at a fever pitch in Conway County.

<sup>33</sup> Barnes, "Back-to-Africa Movement."

<sup>34</sup> It is estimated, based on surviving records, that approximately 650 emigrants left Arkansas for Liberia in the 1880s and 1890s from Arkansas, more than any other state. Barnes, "Back-to-Africa Movement."

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Migration of African-Americans to northern industry jobs during the early 20th century.<sup>35</sup>

Although the community of Bold Pilgrim seems to have faded early in the 20th century, the nearby community of Hickory Hill continued to be a viable farming community through the mid-1980s. This area of Conway County echoes the overall trend of loss of rural populations throughout Arkansas during the last several decades. Today, several families still own land originally settled by their ancestors in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although the surrounding community has vanished, the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery continues to exist as a testament to the dramatic changes in population and culture of the area in the decades following the Civil War. The early African American settlers of Conway County, Arkansas, have compelling and varied histories. These men and women who migrated to Arkansas were daring, courageous, and determined. They were Bold Pilgrims. Although uncertain about their future, they were willing to take the chance that a better life awaited them in Arkansas.

#### Statement of Significance

The Bold Pilgrim Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, under Exploration/Settlement and Ethnic Heritage for its association with the immigration and settlement of African-American in the area after the Civil War. The period of significance for the property, from c. 1880 to 1968, incorporates the earliest known burials through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, when the surrounding African-American communities started to slowly decline as farming practices and economic opportunities in the area changed. The cemetery is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D** as a cemetery that derives its primary significance from its association with historic events.

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<sup>35</sup> Matkin-Rawn, "The Great Negro State of the Country': Arkansas's Reconstruction and the Other Great Migration," p. 39.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Matkin-Rawn, Story. "The Great Negro State of the Country": Arkansas's Reconstruction and the Other Great Migration." *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 72 (Spring 2013): 1-41.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** CN0314

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property** 1.33 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |    |            |                 |                   |
|----|------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| A. | Zone: 15 S | Easting: 528293 | Northing: 3899572 |
| B. | Zone: 15 S | Easting: 528289 | Northing: 3899499 |
| C. | Zone: 15 S | Easting: 528180 | Northing: 3899504 |
| D. | Zone: 15 S | Easting: 528182 | Northing: 3899573 |

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Starting at a point (A) with UTM coordinates Zone 15, Easting 528293, Northing 3899572 and then South to a point (B) with coordinates Zone 15, Easting 528289, Northing 3899499 and then West to a point (C) with coordinates Zone 15, Easting 528180, Northing 3899504 and then North to a point (D) with coordinates Zone 15, Easting 528182, Northing 3899573 and then East back to the starting point at (A).

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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kwendeche, FAIA, Little Rock, Arkansas

name/title: Callie Williams, National Register Historian (Edited By)

organization: Department of Arkansas Heritage, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

street & number: 1100 North Street

city or town: Little Rock state: Arkansas zip code: 72201

e-mail callie.williams@arkansas.gov

telephone: 501.324.9789

date: June 1, 2018

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Bold Pilgrim Cemetery

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## Photo Log

Name of Property: Bold Pilgrim Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Morrilton vic.

County: Conway

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Callie Williams

Date Photographed: 2 June 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 21: Entry gate of Bold Pilgrim Cemetery, camera facing west.

Photo 2 of 21: Overview of Bold Pilgrim Cemetery with historic marker, camera facing southwest.

Photo 3 of 21: Overview of Bold Pilgrim Cemetery, camera facing north.

Photo 4 of 21: Overview of Bold Pilgrim Cemetery, rows of graves, camera facing north.

Photo 5 of 21: Overview of Bold Pilgrim Cemetery, camera facing east.

Photo 6 of 21: Overview of Bold Pilgrim Cemetery, camera facing west.

Photo 7 of 21: Overview of Bold Pilgrim Cemetery, featuring various types of gravestones including fieldstone and marble markers, camera facing northeast.

Photo 8 of 21: Detail of concrete and metal marker for Mrs. Mary Monts and Mr. Samuel Monts, near center of cemetery.

Photo 9 of 21: Detail of stone gravestone of Lemon Good (1908-1926) with floral carving, camera facing west.

Photo 10 of 21: Detail of concrete gravestone of Lee Brown (1864-1929), camera facing west.

Photo 11 of 21: Detail of gravestone of Iona Cochran (1902-1918), camera facing west.

Photo 12 of 21: Detail of gravestone of John W. Cochran (1865-1918) with carved lilies and tree stump motifs, camera facing east.

Photo 13 of 21: Detail of gravestone of Washington Hicks with carved flying dove and greenery, camera facing east.

Photo 14 of 21: Detail of gravestone of H. W. Walker (1832-1914) with carved lambs and cross motifs, camera facing west.

Photo 15 of 21: Detail of gravestone of Hannah Walker (1837-1942) with elaborately curved top, camera facing west.

Photo 16 of 21: Detail of gravestone of the Parker family, including Mary J., Eliza J., and Frances E. with carved upward pointing hand with a buttoned cuff, camera facing east.

Photo 17 of 21: Detail of gravestone of T. W. Mitchem (1855-1914) with a carved lamb atop the flat topped marker, camera facing west.

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Photo 18 of 21: Detail of gravestone of Lover O. Miller (1876-1916), a pointed top marker with carved cross and crown motif within a roundel, camera facing east.

Photo 19 of 21: Detail of the front of the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery historic marker located near the center of the cemetery, camera facing west.

Photo 20 of 21: Detail of the rear of the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery historic marker located near the center of the cemetery, camera facing east.

Photo 21 of 21: Detail of the dedication marker located just outside the entry gate to the cemetery, camera facing northwest.

**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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## Bold Pilgrim Cemetery List of Known Interments<sup>1</sup>

NAME                      Marked (M) / Unmarked (UM) - Year of Birth - Year of Death - State of Birth

Arnold, Henry	UM	1886	x	AR
Arnold, Lillian	M	1880	1908	SC
Arnold, Mary E.	M	1899	1900	
Arnold, Turly N.	M	1879	1905	
Bates Jr., Samuel J.	M	1909	1954	AR
Bates, Hattie	M	1884	1957	SC
Bates, Jacob	M	1887	1944	SC
Bates, L.C.	M	1858	1940	
Blackmon, Edward S.	M	1882	1957	SC
Blackmon, Emma Brown	M	1884	1955	SC
Brown, Alice	M	1894	1918	
Brown, Della Miller	UM	1889	1959	AR
Brown, Lee	M	1874	1929	SC
Brown, Lillie	M	1901	1909	AR
Brown, Lydia West Marks	M	1893	1972	AR
Byers, Bishop Norman	M	1890	1973	NC
Byers, Lorraine	UM	1929	1936	AR
Byers, Virginia	UM	1926	1927	AR
Campbell Jr., Johnnie	M	1893	1971	AR
Campbell, Annie Hicks	UM	1867	1941	SC
Campbell, Frances Lois	M	1923	2016	AR
Campbell, Gussie V.	M	1892	1967	AR
Campbell, James N.	M	1913	1955	AR
Campbell, Johnnie Sr.	UM	1863	1943	SC
Campbell, Marzellar	M	1895	1940	
Campbell, Nathaniel	UM	1905	1988	SC
Campbell, Norman	M	1886	1973	AR
Campbell, Tollie	M	1917	1971	AR
Christian, John W.	M	1886	1906	NC

<sup>1</sup> This list of known marked and unmarked gravesites in the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery is based on the records and lists of burials presented in *The Bold Pilgrims: Preserving the Legacy, A Pictorial Catalog of African Americans Interred at Bold Pilgrim Cemetery* compiled by Glenda F. Wilson of the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery Association published in 2017.

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NAME	Marked (M) / Unmarked (UM)	Year of Birth	Year of Death	State of Birth
Cochran, Cain C.	UM	1898	x	AR
Cochran, Iona	M	1902	1918	
Cochran, John W.	M	1865	1918	
Coleman, Eliza J.	UM	1890	1900	
Criswell, Wanda Christine Heaggans	M	1932	2002	AR
Davis, Jasper	M	1898	1941	AR
Evans, Nevada McAllister	UM	1902	x	AR
Evans, Roger	UM	x	x	
Fleming, James Lafayette	M	1894	1947	AR
Fleming, Ruby Pledger Henson	UM	1901	x	AR
Garrison, Louesa	M	1865	1924	SC
Garrison, Zackeriah	UM	1889	x	SC
Givens, Eunice Campbell Parker	UM	1904	1959	AR
Good, James Walter	M	1890	1917	AR
Good, John	UM	1906	x	AR
Good, Lemon	M	1908	1926	AR
Good, Michael	M	1895	1918	AR
Good, Roosevelt	UM	1903	x	AR
Good, William M.	M	1897	1917	AR
Hampton, William R.	UM	1871	x	MS
Hampton, Iccyphine	M	1924	1977	AR
Hampton, Laura	UM	1872	x	MS
Hampton, Willie F.	M	1896	1971	AR
Heaggans Jr., William	UM	x	x	
Heaggans, Christine	UM	x	x	
Heaggans, Harriett	M	1874	1926	
Heaggans, Johnson	M	1885	1945	
Heaggans, Maudie Mae Boone	UM	1898	1977	NC
Heaggans, William	UM	x	x	
Henson, Dock	UM	1853	x	SC
Henson, Erma Lee	M	1921	1998	AR
Henson, George A.D.	M	1898	1951	AR
Henson, James Wheeler	M	1922	1950	AR
Henson, Josephine	M	1897	1983	AR
Henson, Leatha J.	M	1873	1953	SC

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NAME	Marked (M) / Unmarked (UM)	Year of Birth	Year of Death	State of Birth
Hicks, Washington	M	1870	1904	
Hunt, Bertha	UM	x	x	
Hunt, Michael	UM	x	x	
Hunter, Katie	M	1854	1924	SC
Hunter, Mary A.	M	1875	1917	SC
Hunter, Mike	M	1838	1919	NC
Ivan, J	UM	1904	1904	AR
Johnson, Betty Jean	M	1955	2006	AR
Johnson, Kantina	M	1972	1978	AR
Kimmons, Canois	M	1880	1962	
Littlejohn Sr., Matthew	M	1911	2009	AR
Littlejohn, Felix	UM	x	x	
Littlejohn, Jeremiah	UM	1916	1988	AR
Littlejohn, Worth	M	1914	1983	AR
Marks, Lewis	M	1905	1948	AR
Marks, Luchious	M	1872	1951	SC
Marks, Marry	M	1887	1918	SC
Marks, Willie	M	1907	1994	AR
McAllister, Amazair	UM	1851	x	SC
McAllister, Lucy	UM	1856	x	SC
McAllister, Maddie	UM	x	x	
McAllister, Mot	UM	x	x	
McAllister, Rucker	UM	1882	x	AR
McAllister, Theadis	UM	1931	1939	AR
McClain, Ella Wallace	UM	1949	2014	AR
McCluney, Ervin	M	1915	1917	AR
McFerren, Hannah J. Campbell Wallace	M	1900	1988	AR
McMahan, Nanny (Nancy) Parker	M	1860	1902	SC
McMahan, Rev. James T.	M	1846	1910	NC
Meacham, J.F.	M	1881	1902	
Meacham, Lilla L.	M	1875	1900	
Meacham, Mandy	M	x	1916	
Meachem, William	UM	1875	1900	
Miller, Alvin	UM	1919	1945	AR

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NAME	Marked (M) / Unmarked (UM)	Year of Birth	Year of Death	State of Birth
Miller, Cynthia Byers	M	1848	1913	SC
Miller, Floyd	UM	x	x	AR
Miller, Gradison	M	1846	1903	
Miller, John	UM	1874	1931	SC
Miller, L.E.	M	1882	1916	
Miller, Lover O.	M	1876	1916	SC
Miller, Mervin	UM	1917	1941	AR
Miller, Rufus	M	1837	1900	
Miller, Ruth	M	1901	1918	
Miller, Springs	UM	1876	1955	SC
Miller, Willis J.	UM	1891	x	SC
Mitchem, Amanda	M	1853	1909	SC
Mitchem, Anderson	UM	1885	x	AR
Mitchem, Anderson	UM	1845	1885	SC
Mitchem, Arnetta Davis	M	1937	2009	AR
Mitchem, Dora Y.	M	1868	1918	TN
Mitchem, Elbert	M	1905	1986	AR
Mitchem, Elbert Miles	UM	1949	1952	AR
Mitchem, Elizabeth Butler	UM	1846	1886	SC
Mitchem, Florence Mabel Byers	M	1902	1982	AR
Mitchem, Hattie Blackmon	UM	1880	1938	SC
Mitchem, Jewell	M	1908	1969	AR
Mitchem, Lucille Williams	UM	1916	1949	
Mitchem, Rawleigh Elvest "R.E."	M	1908	1983	AR
Mitchem, Spain	UM	1878	1930	SC
Mitchem, Thomas W.	M	1855	1914	SC
Monts Jr., Samuel	M	1928	1975	AR
Monts, Marie	UM	1925	x	AR
Monts, Mary E.	M	1900	1967	SC
Monts, Samuel	M	1900	1972	AR
Parker, Alma	UM	x	1906	
Parker, Elbert	UM	1865	1930	AR
Parker, Eliza J.	M	1872	1892	SC
Parker, Elvira	UM	1841	x	SC
Parker, Frances E.	M	1884	1885	AR

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix 1 Page 5

NAME	Marked (M) / Unmarked (UM)	Year of Birth	Year of Death	State of Birth
Parker, James D. "Jim"	UM	c1850	c1896	SC
Parker, John E.	UM	1831	x	SC
Parker, Margret	M	1872	1895	
Parker, Maria	UM	1854	x	SC
Parker, Mary J.	M	1853	1892	SC
Parker, Meek	M	1865	1887	SC
Parker, Minnie West	UM	c1886	1936	SC
Parker, Orea	UM	x	1912	AR
Parker, Roxie Ann McFarland	M	1886	1925	GA
Pledger, Viola Good	M	1900	1950	AR
Rall, Aaron Jordan	M	1897	1974	AR
Rall, Earlie C.	M	1901	1982	AR
Rall, John H.	UM	1872	1934	SC
Rall, Oscar	M	1918	1956	
Rall, Robbie	M	x	x	
Rall, Samuel	UM	1895	1953	AR
Roseman, Elihu	M	1893	1914	SC
Roseman, Rev. John B.	M	1849	1908	SC
Sullivan, Eugene	M	1904	1904	
Walker, Hannah Hicks	M	1837	1942	SC
Walker, Hompton W.	M	1832	1914	SC
Wallace Sr., Elvin	M	1917	1999	AR
Wallace, Arthur James	M	1898	1929	AR
Wallace, Frances Lynn	M	1965	2016	AR
Wallace, Henry	M	1903	1916	AR
Wallace, Josephine Garrison	M	1920	1993	AR
Wallace, Mattie Thompson	M	1864	1904	SC
Wallace, Ruffus	UM	x	x	SC
Washington, Dora Whisonant	UM	1919	1945	AR
Watts, Mattie Campbell	UM	1916	1996	AR
West, Daisy Campbell	UM	1890	1955	AR
Whisonant, Abrama	UM	1918	x	AR
Whisonant, Audrey Ray	M	1949	2016	AR
Whisonant, George Meek	UM	1874	1961	SC
Whisonant, Magdalene	UM	1918	1947	AR

Bold Pilgrim Cemetery

Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

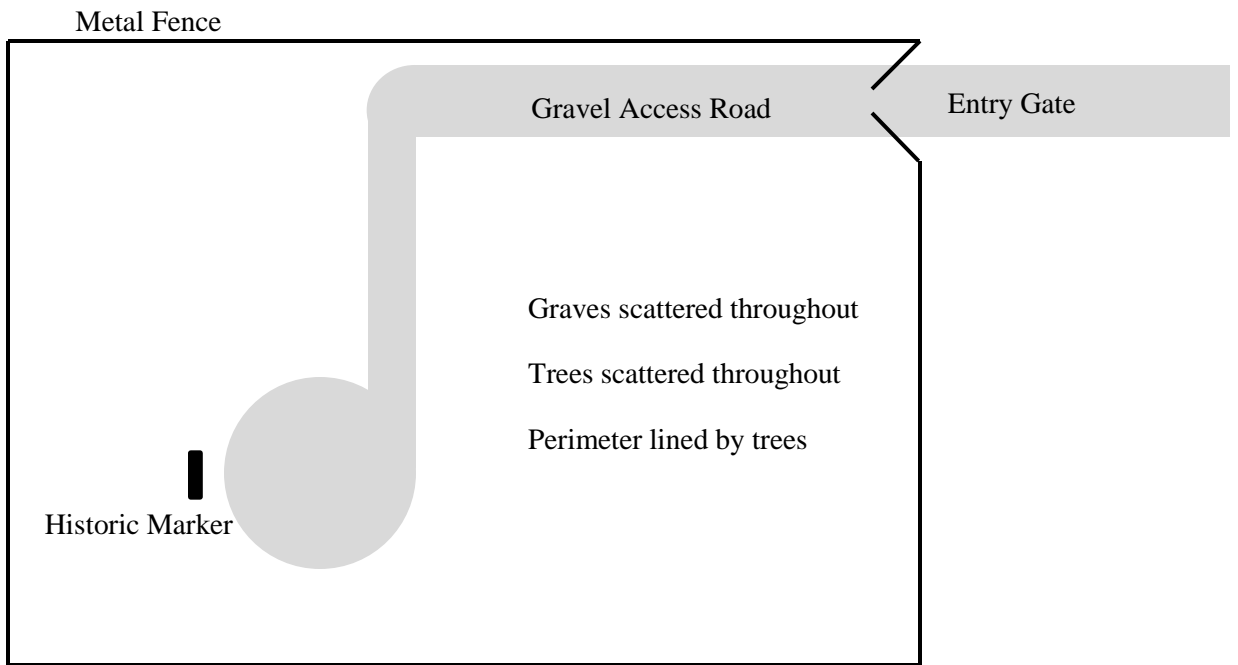
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix 1 Page 6

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NAME	Marked (M) / Unmarked (UM)	Year of Birth	Year of Death	State of Birth
Whisonant, Minnie	UM	1877	1952	SC
Whisonant, Shirley Ann	M	1933	2009	AR
Williams, Alma Hampton Byers	UM	1904	1979	MS
Winger, Emma S.	M	1865	1898	



North

Bold Pilgrim Cemetery  
Overcup vic.  
Conway County  
CN0314

# Bold Pilgrim Cemetery

Morrilton Vic., Conway County

UTM

NAD 1983

A. Zone: 15 S Easting: 528293 Northing: 3899572

B. Zone: 15 S Easting: 528289 Northing: 3899499

C. Zone: 15 S Easting: 528180 Northing: 3899504

D. Zone: 15 S Easting: 528182 Northing: 3899573



Google Earth

© 2018 Google

200 ft



# Bold Pilgrim Cemetery

Morrilton Vic., Conway County

UTM

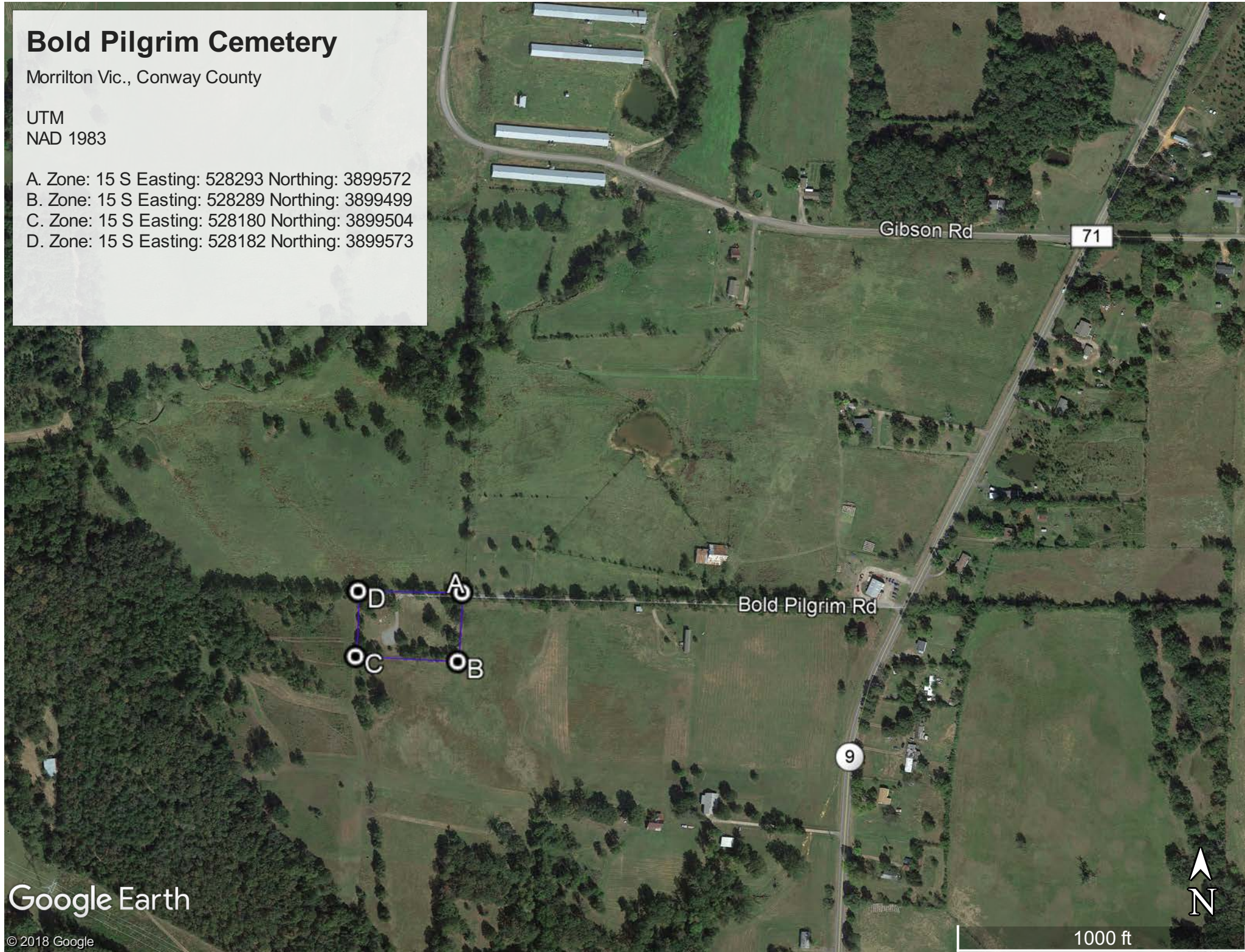
NAD 1983

A. Zone: 15 S Easting: 528293 Northing: 3899572

B. Zone: 15 S Easting: 528289 Northing: 3899499

C. Zone: 15 S Easting: 528180 Northing: 3899504

D. Zone: 15 S Easting: 528182 Northing: 3899573



# Bold Pilgrim Cemetery

Morrilton Vic., Conway County

UTM

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A. Zone: 15 S Easting: 528293 Northing: 3899572

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C. Zone: 15 S Easting: 528180 Northing: 3899504

D. Zone: 15 S Easting: 528182 Northing: 3899573

Google Earth

© 2018 Google

Bold Pilgrim Cemetery

Hwy 71 Hw



1 mi

BOLD PILGRIM CEMETERY  
FOUNDED CIRCA 1880



**BOLD PILGRIM CEMETERY**  
Circa 1880

They married, raised families, shared hopes and sorrows, and now lie within the hallowed grounds of Bold Pilgrim Cemetery. These were the Bold Pilgrims of Conway County.

<p>... ..</p>	<p>... ..</p>
---------------	---------------

POWERED BY DONATIONS FROM THE ... CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE









Gravestone on the far left.

Gravestone in the middle ground, left side.

Gravestone in the middle ground, center.

MOTHER  
ALICE BROWN  
1864 - 1944

JAMES H. CAMPBELL  
1864 - 1944

Gravestone on the right side.

LYDIA WEST  
MARKS BROWN  
FEB 15 1893  
NOV 7 1972

MARKS BROWN  
FEB 15 1893  
NOV 7 1972

MARKS BROWN  
FEB 15 1893  
NOV 7 1972





MRS. MARY E. MONTE  
BORN 9-15-1900 DIED 2-23-1987  
MR. SAMUEL MONTE  
BORN 7-23-1900 DIED 6-2-1978



LEMON GOOD

Sept. 28, 1908

Apr. 4, 1926

Blessed are they that die  
in the Lord for they shall  
rest from their labors

LEE BROWN  
BORN NOV  
9 1864  
DIED SEPT  
6 1929  
AT REST

ONK  
BOGHEAN  
BORN  
JAN. 18. 1902  
DIED  
SEPT. 5. 1918  
I come to you for me  
my parents dear  
and my dear  
resting here





WASHINGTON HIGGS

BORN DEC. 2. 1878  
DIED SEP. 15. 1904



H. W.  
WALKER  
BORN 1832  
DIED  
APR 19 1914



AT REST  
HANNAH WALKER

DEC. 18, 1837

APR. 4, 1927

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN  
SLEEP ON, DEAR MOTHER,  
AND TAKE YOUR REST.

WOMEN TO FREEDOM



MARY  
WOMAN SUFFRAGE LEADER  
DIED OCT 15 1902  
BORN JUNE 8 1872  
DIED JAN 26 1903  
FRANKS  
DIED JUNE 6 1907



IN MEMORIAM  
T. W. MITCHEM  
BORN 1855  
DIED  
APR 10, 1914  
*Asleep in Jesus*



LAWRENCE J. MILLER  
BORN FEB. 20, 1876  
DIED JUNE 24, 1916

He was buried with a  
burial near  
for the sake of  
But for the sake of God  
and

# BOLD PILGRIM CEMETERY

## Circa 1880

They married, raised families, shared hopes and sorrows, and now lie within the hallowed grounds of Bold Pilgrim Cemetery. These were the Bold Pilgrims of Conway County.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DATE OF DEATH	PLOT NUMBER
Arnold	Henry	*	*
Arnold	Lillian	02-13-1908	249
Arnold	Mary E.	05-1900	238
Arnold	Talley N.	03-09-1909	247
Bates	Hattie	1957	254
Bates	Jacob	1944	253
Bates	L. C.	07-18-1940	237
Bates	Samuel Jr.	12-11-1954	256
Blackmon	Edward Stokes "Ed"	06-1957	223
Blackmon	Emmit Brown	05-1953	224
Brown	Alice	1918	220
Brown	Deila Pryor Miller	1959	229
Brown	Lev	09-06-1929	222
Brown	Lillie	09-17-1909	120
Brown	Lydia West Marks	11-07-1972	78
Byers	Bishop Norman	08-20-1973	82
Byers	Lorraine	1916	*
Byers	Virginia	1927	*
Campbell	Annie Hicks	03-02-1941	*
Campbell	Gussie Vampert	06-17-1967	148
Campbell	James N.	08-01-1955	166
Campbell	Johnnie Jr. "Duck"	09-05-1971	143
Campbell	Johnnie Sr.	07-08-1943	*
Campbell	Mazellar	11-27-1940	142
Campbell	Nathaniel	03-22-1968	*
Campbell	Norman	12-17-1973	149
Campbell	Tollie	10-27-1971	106
Christian	John W.	1906	107
Cochran	Cam Cornelius	*	*
Cochran	Ima	09-06-1918	285
Cochran	John W.	03-04-1918	284
Coleman	Eliza J.	07-02-1900	*
Criswell	Wanda Christine Heagans	05-30-2002	344
Davis	Jaaper	07-06-1941	96
Evans	Nevada McAllister	*	*
Evans	Roger	*	*
Fleming	James Lafayette	07-24-1947	140
Fleming	Ruby Pledger Henson	*	80
Garrison	Louisa	03-21-1924	97
Garrison	Zackariah "Zack"	*	*
Givens	Emmie Campbell Parker	05-31-1959	*
Good	James W.	12-31-1917	122
Good	John	*	*

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DATE OF DEATH	PLOT NUMBER
Good	Lenon	04-04-1926	126
Good	Michael	06-20-1918	123
Good	Roosevelt	*	*
Good	William M.	07-06-1917	121
Hampton	Isyphina Garrison	08-31-1977	86
Hampton	Laura Ann	*	*
Hampton	William R.	*	*
Hampton	Willie F.	02-03-1971	87
Heagans	Christine "Tina"	*	*
Heagans	Harrion	1926	186
Heagans	Johnson	08-10-1945	371
Heagans	Maude Mae Hootz	05-05-1975	*
Heagans	William	1953	*
Heagans	William Jr.	*	*
Henson	Dick	*	*
Henson	Erna Lee	05-17-1998	33
Henson	George A. Dewey	04-05-1951	35
Henson	James Wheeler	06-02-1950	34
Henson	Josephine	07-12-1983	37
Henson	Leatha J.	1953	36
Hicks	Washington	04-10-1934	103
Hunt	Bertha	1933	*
Hunt	Michael	1960	*
Hunter	Katie	03-04-1924	62
Hunter	Mary A.	10-11-1917	60
Hunter	Mike	1919	61
Johnson	Betty Jean	03-08-2006	343
Johnson	Kanitta	08-27-1978	339
Kimmons	Canos	11-18-1962	47
Limjohn	Felix	05-23-1963	*
Limjohn	Jeremiah	07-25-1988	51
Limjohn	Matthew Sr.	01-22-2008	565
Limjohn	Worth	05-01-1983	32
McAllister	Amaziah "A.M."	*	*
McAllister	Lucy	*	*
McAllister	Maddie	*	*
McAllister	Mox	*	*
McAllister	Rucker	*	*
McAllister	Theopha	*	*
McClain	Ella Wallace	03-26-2014	130
McClaney	Ervin	11-04-1917	388
McFarren	Hannah J. Campbell Wallace	10-02-1900	211
McMahon	Rev. James T.	06-18-1910	351
McMahon	Nancy Parker	12-29-1932	348

CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE

FUNDED BY DONATIONS FROM ETHEL CAMPBELL, JOSH CHILDRESS, BOLD PILGRIM DESCENDANTS, AND IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE BLACK HISTORY COMMISSION OF ARKANSAS  
 BOLD PILGRIM CEMETERY PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES:  
 NAOMI ADAMS, ONYE CHILDRESS, HELEN CURRY, LOIS LANE, ANNIE MAXFIELD, GRACIE WILLIAMS,  
 EDNA WILSON, AND GLENDA WILSON  
 DEDICATED: JUNE 2015  
 LOVE NEVER FAILS.  
 1 CORINTHIANS 13:8 (NIV)

# BOLD PILGRIM CEMETERY

## Circa 1880

They married, raised families, shared hopes and sorrows, and now lie within the hallowed grounds of Bold Pilgrim Cemetery. These were the Bold Pilgrims of Conway County.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	PLAT NUMBER
Marke	Lewis	10-23-1909	76
Marke	Mary	1951	77
Marke	White	12-26-1914	78
Marke	William	07-11-1904	75
Marshall	L.E.	10-22-1900	*
Marshall	Lilla E.	04-20-1902	107
Marshall	Minnie	10-28-1900	106
Mason	Alvin	10-03-1914	104
Mason	Anna	08-1905	*
Mason	Carroll	04-25-1917	964
Mason	Thos	*	*
Mason	William	01-20-1901	473
Mason	John	1911	*
Mason	L. E.	06-22-1910	481
Mason	Leona	06-24-1910	410
Mason	Mary	1901	*
Mason	Walter	01-29-1900	407
Mason	Paul	11-06-1919	419
Mason	Spring	12-1902	*
Mason	Willie	*	*
Mason	Acorn	06-14-1900	367
Mason	Andrew	10-18-1907	*
Mason	Andrew (McIntyre)	06-26-2000	506
Mason	Anna Davis	1914	432
Mason	Dea Yvonne (Vick)	08-16-1906	10
Mason	Edith	02-1902	*
Mason	Edith Mabel	09-19-1900	*
Mason	Elizabeth Miller "Beth"	04-27-1902	12
Mason	Thomas Mabel Rose	1910	*
Mason	Willie Blackman	09-25-1900	11
Mason	Joseph	1940	*
Mason	Lucille Williams	1940	*
Mason	Porter	1910	*
Mason	Rachel Elizabeth "R.E."	12-06-1902	73
Mason	Sam	1910	*
Mason	Thomas Walter "T.W."	04-10-1914	471
Mason	Walter	*	*
Mason	Walter	05-23-1907	10
Mason	Walter	10-02-1907	09
Mason	Walter Jr.	07-26-1904	112
Mason	Walter	10-03-1906	*
Mason	Walter	06-14-1900	*
Mason	Walter J.	01-20-1901	524
Mason	Walter Thomas	*	*

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	PLAT NUMBER
Marke	Francis	06-07-1914	721
Marke	James D. (Jim)	1906	*
Marke	John E.	*	*
Marke	William	06-09-1907	532
Marke	Mary J.	12-11-1902	520
Marke	Mary	08-11-1887	571
Marke	Minna West	09-21-1910	*
Marke	Olga	1902	*
Marke	River Ann McParland	10-27-1902	541
Marke	Viola Ford	01-06-1900	178
Marke	Anna Miller	03-20-1914	100
Marke	Robert County Pilgrim	07-23-1902	371
Marke	John H.	1914	*
Marke	Clara	07-24-1920	144
Marke	Walter	1915	144
Marke	Samuel	1915	*
Marke	Willie	03-23-1914	212
Marke	Walter	10-1904	272
Marke	Walter	05-14-1904	184
Marke	Walter	04-08-1902	103
Marke	Walter	04-10-1914	104
Marke	Walter	11-20-1909	110
Marke	Walter	07-01-1900	171
Marke	Walter	08-07-1916	472
Marke	Walter	02-06-1901	130
Marke	Walter	05-28-1904	209
Marke	Walter	1914	*
Marke	Walter	05-11-1905	*
Marke	Walter	01-26-1906	*
Marke	Walter	08-07-1907	*
Marke	Walter	11-25-1901	*
Marke	Walter	11-25-1907	*
Marke	Walter	07-28-1901	*
Marke	Walter	01-02-1902	*
Marke	Walter	05-29-1900	*
Marke	Walter	12-11-1874	11
Marke	Walter	1900	*
Marke	Walter	1900	*
Marke	Walter	11-17-1906	263

CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE

FUNDED BY DONATIONS FROM ETHEL CAMPBELL, JOSH CHILDRESS, BOLD PILGRIM DESCENDANTS, AND IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE BLACK HISTORY COMMISSION OF ARKANSAS  
 BOLD PILGRIM CEMETERY PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES:  
 NAOMI ADAMS, ONYE CHILDRESS, HELEN CURRY, LOIS LANE, ANNIE MAXFIELD, GRACIE WILLIAMS, EDNA WILSON, AND GLENDA WILSON  
 DEDICATED: JUNE 2015  
 LOVE NEVER FAILS.  
 1 CORINTHIANS 13:8 (NIV)

BOLD PILGRIM CEMETERY  
DEDICATED  
TO THE MEMORY OF  
FLORENCE BYERS MITCHEM  
RAWLEIGH E. MITCHEM  
DORA Y. MITCHEM  
THOMAS W. MITCHEM  
AND  
ALL THE BOLD PILGRIMS  
INTERRED WITHIN THESE  
HALLOWED GROUNDS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 8/6/2018      Date of Pending List: 8/27/2018      Date of 16th Day: 9/11/2018      Date of 45th Day: 9/20/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL            | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Period  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      9/18/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:      see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : **Yes**

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
**HERITAGE**

Asa Hutchinson  
*Governor*

Stacy Hurst  
*Director*

---

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural  
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

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ARKANSAS HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION PROGRAM



1100 North Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201

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website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

An Equal Opportunity Employer

August 1, 2018



Joy Beasley, Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street., NW  
Mail Stop 7228  
Washington D.C. 20240

RE: Bold Pilgrim Cemetery – Morrilton vic., Conway County,  
Arkansas

Dear Ms. Beasley:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Bold Pilgrim Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places. 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 Callie Williams of my staff at (501) 324-9789. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst  
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:clw

Enclosure