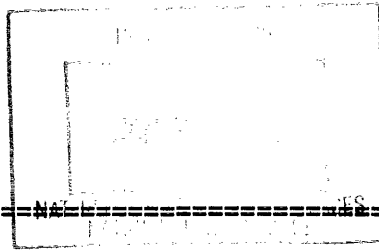


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1420

1. Name of Property

historic name Forks of Cypress Cemetery

other names/site number Jackson Cemetery

2. Location

street & number 25 mile north of Jackson Road on east side of Dowdy Road north of Little Cypress Creek
city or town Florence vicinity not for publication n/a
state Alabama code AL county Lauderdale code 077 zip code 35630

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

1/20/00
Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 2/24/00

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check only one box.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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 related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Funerary Sub: cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Funerary Sub: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

n/a

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation n/a

roof n/a

walls Stone: limestone

other Stone: limestone, marble

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Forks of Cypress Cemetery
County and State Lauderdale County, Alabama

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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

<u>Art</u>	<u>Architecture</u>
<u>Ethnic Heritage: Black</u>	<u>Social History</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Period of Significance 1819 -1949

Significant Dates n/a

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # AL-375
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data: n/a

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other state agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository _____

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Forks of Cypress Cemetery
County and State Lauderdale County, Alabama

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property approximately 5

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 16 434000 38556240 3 _____
2 _____ 4 _____
____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Johnathan A. Farris/Survey Coordinator and Trina Binkley/NR Reviewer
organization Alabama Historical Commission date 7/20/99
street & number 468 South Perry Street telephone (334) 242-3184
city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130-0900

=====

Additional Documentation

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

Property Owner

=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Dr. & Mrs. Ricky Irons and Dr. & Mrs. Gilbert R. Melson
street & number c/o 409 North Cedar Street and c/o 2129 Helton Drive telephone (205)766-3062 and 718-3200
city or town Florence state Alabama zip code 35630

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Name of Property: Forks of Cypress Cemetery
County and State: Lauderdale County, Alabama

=====

VII. Narrative Description

The Forks of Cypress Cemetery is located on 5 acres of wooded land at the end of a narrow lane which diverges east from the current Dowdy Road a quarter of a mile north of Jackson Road outside of Florence, Ala. The road proceeds a short distance through the recent growth of woods, over a small historic stone and cement culvert to a small clearing. The cemetery proper begins in this clearing and consists of two components, the Jackson family cemetery and the slave cemetery. In the clearing on the crest of a bluff over the Little Cypress Creek sits the Jackson family cemetery, surrounded by a substantial stone wall complete with stile. Beyond and to the east of the Jackson family burials in a wooded area is the African American cemetery with numerous depressions in the earth, one headstone, and a few unworked blocks of stone which indicate the graves of the slaves and, later, the descendants of Forks of Cypress slaves and tenants of the Jackson family.

The Jackson family section of the cemetery, proper, is bounded by a dry-laid stone wall that is on average four feet high and two feet in width. In the northwest corner of the wall is a stile composed of four stone steps on either side. The plan of the wall is a rectangle with the following dimensions: the north side measures 89' 10", the west side measures 83' 11", the south side measures 89' 8", and the east side measures 84' 4". The west wall was partially dismantled in recent years in order to allow admittance to equipment to repair some of the monuments after a bout of vandalism; it was reconstructed with such care that the part of the wall that was dismantled is indistinguishable from the completely intact sections of the wall on the three other sides.¹ The dimensions of the dry-laid stones vary considerably. Large, somewhat more regularly shaped stones cap the wall. The corner cap stones had their positions reinforced with iron tie bars at some unknown time within the historic period.

The monuments within the grand stone enclosure conform to several different types and materials. The nineteenth-century monuments are largely of grey limestone or white marble, while monuments from the turn-of-the-century on are largely of granite. The nineteenth-century monuments form the primary visual impression of the cemetery, being larger and more vertical (frequently as variations on the obelisk type). The later monuments seem almost to physically defer to the antebellum/Civil War era ones, with lower profiles, darker stone, and less elaboration. There are a total of fifty-six monuments within the stone enclosure. Only one monument commemorates a burial within the last fifty years, and given that it matches the spouse's stone for his burial in 1949, the monument itself may well fall within the period of significance. Seventeen monuments are obelisks or variations of the basic obelisk form, all dating to before 1880. Seven of the obelisks are solely of grey limestone, while ten are of marble but set into limestone bases. Makers' signatures on four of the marble obelisks indicate diverse origins in St. Louis, Philadelphia, Boston, and Nashville. Some of the obelisk monuments are accompanied by footstones or horizontal stone slabs to indicate where the burial lies, particularly if the obelisk acts as a headstone for more than one person. Many obelisks are very chaste in their form, firmly within Classical Revival and specifically Greek Revival tastes. Family patriarch James Jackson's monument is a good example of the standard from which the other obelisks vary to a greater or lesser degree. Within the obelisk type, there are several variations in style and some real departures from the prototypical form, however. The 1830s limestone monument for the mother and child, Martha and John Albert Childress, has an exceptionally thin obelisk shaft and shows a Federal style influence in a base with fluting and bull's-eye motifs. The circa 1840 monument for William and Pocahontas Perkins has a basic obelisk form but is capped with a small pediment and a detailed relief carved wreath. The circa 1848 marker of Robert Andrews is octagonal in plan and has a base surrounded by a crown of *fleur-de-lis*, giving it more of a Gothic Revival air. The circa 1872 Rev. W.M. Mitchell monument takes on a Renaissance Revival cast with strapwork panels imitating architectural ornaments from the 16th century and a scrolled Baroque-influenced epitaph escutcheon. The marker of Thermuthis C. Jackson is actually a truncated obelisk (i.e. the top does not come to a point) and is very much in a Greek Revival strain with pediments on the four sides of the base, but also has an elaborately carved harp surrounded by roses and other flowers. The grave of Sarah Hanna is marked by a monument in the obelisk family but which should be more precisely termed a "pedestal-tomb."² This

¹Interview with Curtis Flowers, descendant. This would not have been evident without her pointing it out.

²See Little, M. Ruth. Sticks & Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Grave Markers. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998). p. 5.

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Name of Property: Forks of Cypress Cemetery
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marker is exceptionally "Greek" in its conception, with a pilaster and lintel epitaph surround, pediments on four sides, and a cap of an urn with raised panels.

Although the obelisk and related forms create the strongest visual impression, there are several other types of markers which add their own visual elements to the ensemble of the Jackson cemetery. Several of the antebellum markers in the cemetery are simple inscribed ledger tombs, like the 1819 marker for William Augustus Jackson that indicates the oldest burial in the cemetery. Ledgers are also used in conjunction with headstones and obelisks to indicate the location of the burial. Towards the rear of the cemetery, two uninscribed limestone slabs, used as if they were ledger tombs, traditionally mark the burials of enslaved African American jockeys, the only slaves who were allowed to be interred inside the wall.

A few headstone and footstone pairings mark graves in the Jackson cemetery as well. The simplest is that of Alexander Larrimer, the one burial whose relation to the family, if one existed, has long been forgotten. His 1847 headstone is simply inscribed and takes on a late-18th-century profile with its tympanum and flanking caps.³ A small pedestal with a sculpture of a sleeping child and holes that probably indicate the original presence of a stone canopy serves as the 1853 headstone of infant Jane Jackson. Three of the most impressive postbellum markers are carved headstones from the 1860s and 1870s. The 1868 headstone of Sarah Perkins Jackson consists of a raised epitaph escutcheon flanked by simple engaged columns which visually support a semicircular tympanum molding which in turn surrounds a relief sculpted book (undoubtedly intended as a representation of the Bible). The 1876 headstone of Miss Sallie Kirkman displays a relief-carved scroll unraveled to display the epitaph and a carved wreath of roses surrounding the words "OUR SISTER." Most elaborate of these is the headstone of Martha Mitchell, which takes on a bit of a generalized "medieval revival" cast with Romanesque and Gothic details. The headstone is ornamented with flanking engaged columns with foliate capitals and an epitaph surrounded with a molding which breaks at the top to form five arches joining at four quatrefoil pendants. The tympanum of the stone contains as its centerpiece a relief carved ivy wreath with a bow, which is in turn surrounded by a heavy semicircular molding with a leafy finial and two leafy termini and resting on two geometric florets. The footstone of this marker is, as usual, very simple but is connected to the headstone by low scalloped stone railings.

From approximately 1880 on, grave marker design is much simpler. Most interesting of the turn-of-the-century stones are three which consist simply of rails/plot borders that take on an ovoid or lozenge shape, which mark burials dating from 1899 to 1942. Several of the late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century burials take on a low rectangular form with a slight segmental arch on the top which is inscribed with the epitaphs. This modest monument type, the most numerous among the postbellum markers, is notable in its restraint. It is a marker type one would expect to see more marking Quaker burials in the mid-Atlantic rather than planter burials in the Tennessee River Valley. Whether this choice was made in aesthetic deference to the markers already there, or in ancestral deference to the antebellum founders of the family, or for some other reason--it is a startling temporal contrast of tastes. One somewhat display-conscious twentieth-century marker does exist in the cemetery. The headstone of John Jackson Mitchell and Etoile Hurd Mitchell is a fine if not unusual example of a c. 1930 marker, with two panels with Art Deco style florets at their bases flanking the epitaph and a panel above the epitaph with more naturalistic carvings of roses.

The large slave/black cemetery begins just east of the rear wall of the Jackson cemetery with a scattering of depressions. A sort of gully then intercedes between the two cemeteries and the African American cemetery resumes with multiple burials, largely indicated by depressions in the earth on a wooded edge of the same bluff as the family cemetery. The slave cemetery contains approximately 250 known burials as indicated by the depressions, and was mapped in 1994 by Loftin Flowers for an Eagle Scout project with the help of Troop #3 of Florence, Alabama. Local family members and historians believe that other burials exist around this area as well. The one finished marker in the cemetery is a paired headstone and footstone made of limestone. The headstone is uninscribed and has a simple top in the tympanum-and-caps configuration. A few unworked native stones apparently also mark graves.

Although no archaeological excavation has yet been conducted on the site, the potential remains for significant information to be gleaned from appropriate exploration. Limited archaeological testing could further reveal the configuration of the burials in the black cemetery. More in-depth exploration, should permission be given and the practice deemed ethical, could reveal additional facts about burial practices and attitudes towards death in the 19th century, and physical anthropological data reflecting upon diets and comparative effects of labor and lifestyle on a major Tennessee River Valley plantation.

³For brief description of this type, see Little, Ruth M. Sticks & Stones. p. 13.

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Name of Property: Forks of Cypress Cemetery

County and State: Lauderdale County, Alabama

VIII. Statement of Significance

The Forks of Cypress Cemetery is significant under criterion C for Art as it contains many fine examples of grave markers that represent the high end of antebellum funerary expressions in the western Tennessee River Valley in Alabama. Many fine obelisks and several tombstones illustrate the stone-carving skills of both local craftsmen and workshops from around the eastern United States. Limestone markers were more likely from local sources, as were the limestone bases of many of the marble markers. Among the marble markers are several that are signed by their makers or workshops. These include an obelisk by J. Sloan of Nashville, an obelisk by A. Cary of Boston, an obelisk by Hughes & Sharrod of Philadelphia, and an obelisk by L.H. and J.B. Fuller of St. Louis. A range of stylistic influences is evident in many of the markers, including Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Renaissance Revival motifs (as well as one twentieth-century stone with some restrained Art Deco details). In addition to more geometric (and architectural) details, some of the stones feature fine representational and particularly floral relief sculpture.

The Forks of Cypress Cemetery is significant under criterion C for Architecture as the Jackson family cemetery wall is an exceptional example of the stonemason's art in early Alabama. The massive dimensions, stile, and sturdy dry-laid construction all characterize a structure which stands out among the walls around other family cemeteries in the Tennessee River Valley, which were more frequently of brick or less substantial stone construction. Only about six or so walls of similar sizable and dressed appearance are known to exist in northern Alabama.⁴ The wall displays both the skill of local craftsmen and the material predilections of a family whose patriarch was a first generation Irish immigrant and who perhaps opted for a wall which imitated or recalled the quintessential boundary markers of his homeland. Although the exact date of construction of the wall is unknown, location of early graves in relation to the wall indicates a probable date of before 1840 and a positive date of before 1865.

The Forks of Cypress Cemetery is significant under criterion A for Ethnic Heritage: Black as it contains one of the largest identified African American/slave cemeteries in northwest Alabama. With around 250 burials, slave cemetery was the final resting place for the Jackson family's substantial enslaved workforce. The burials, though unmarked, do reveal to some degree that a status hierarchy existed among the enslaved inhabitants of the Forks of Cypress and perhaps the Jacksons' other plantations. Traditionally slave jockeys were the only African Americans allowed to be buried within the walls of the family cemetery. A few depressions nearer the family cemetery probably mark the graves of treasured domestic servants. The majority of the field slaves and those without distinctive status within the household were buried on the bluff further away from the family cemetery. One headstone/footstone pairing in the center of the slave section of the cemetery shows at least one person who, while not important enough to be buried with the jockeys, had a high enough position to warrant a permanent stone marker. The slave cemetery has taken on somewhat mythical associations in recent years as it is almost certainly the interment place of African American author Alex Haley's great-grandmother, Ester or Queen Ester. Traditionally, James Jackson, Jr., (son and heir to James Jackson, the builder of the Forks), had at least one child with Queen Ester, who was the Jackson's cook. Their daughter, Queen, was Haley's grandmother and the subject of Haley's unfinished book Queenie. The depth and regularity of the depressions in the slave cemetery also indicate that it was highly probable that the slaves at least on this plantation were actually buried in coffins rather than simply interred in shrouds. This cemetery continued to be used by descendants of the Jackson slaves in the late-19th- and early-20th centuries.

The Forks of Cypress Cemetery is significant under criterion A for Social History as the placement of monuments and graves within both the family and slave sections illustrate social structures of an extended elite frontier planter family and its enslaved workforce. The cemetery also offers a temporal display of changing attitudes towards death and commemoration in the transition from conspicuous and showy markers to low-profile and plain markers over a period of 130 years. The monuments of James Jackson and his immediate and contemporary family serve as the focal points of the cemetery (both because of placement and because of scale). In spatial terms, the core of the cemetery, with many of the earlier monuments, form a line from east to west slightly south of the centerline of the rectangular plot created by the wall. The

⁴Gamble, Robert. personal communication 8/9/99.

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Name of Property: Forks of Cypress Cemetery
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planter patriarch, James Jackson, and several of his siblings form this axis. James' brothers, John and Alexander, are buried near the center, with James' own grave near the front and his wife's grave to his south. The offspring of James Jackson's sister, Eleanora Jackson Kirkman (who herself is buried in New Orleans), are interred just to the north of his grave. Another of Jackson's sisters, Sarah Jackson Hanna, and many of her family members (including at least one daughter-in-law and one son-in-law) are buried to the west of the main axis formed by the older markers. Though within the family, there is not a great deal of differentiation as to burial place excepting the grouping of Sarah Jackson Hanna's family to the west of James, most of his descendants and his other siblings, a distinction is made between the core of the extended family and more distant relations or social connections. The earlier burials along the back wall are burials of people with somewhat tenuous connections to the family. William O'Neal Perkins and Pocahontas Bowling Perkins, whose monuments are the most impressive on the western end of the cemetery, appear to be the parents of one of James Jackson's daughters-in-law. Alexander Larrimer, buried in the southwest corner, appears to have no familial connection whatsoever to the Jacksons. Two uninscribed slabs traditionally marking the burials of slave jockeys are on alignment with the old main axis of the cemetery but along the west wall.⁵ The social units in this extended planter family, therefore, come out in their burial locations--the planter patriarch, James Jackson, his offspring, and his siblings without or with few offspring are buried towards the front of the cemetery in an intermixed fashion. Jackson's sister Sarah Hanna had a large enough extended family of her own to warrant a contiguous section of burials in the southwest quarter of the cemetery. People with more tenuous connections with the family were buried along the rear (west) wall. In addition, the hierarchy of slave burials, mentioned above, reveals more aspects of the social organization of Jackson's plantation. Finally, the burials in the cemetery after the 1870s are consistently of James Jackson's direct descendants. Their attitudes towards commemoration varies drastically with that of their antebellum ancestors' conspicuous consumption via tall and elaborated monuments.⁶ Later monuments of the deceased are rather low to the ground and inscribed with little other than the descendants' names and vital dates. These burials are consistently in the northern half of the cemetery as well.

The Forks of Cypress Cemetery meets criterion exception D as it derives its primary importance both from distinctive design features and association with historic events.

Historical Summary

James Jackson acquired the plantation at the Forks of Cypress and subsequently relocated his family there. Jackson, an ambitious Irish-born venturer of capital, probably moved to Lauderdale County, Alabama, shortly after his 1818 purchase of the land above the Forks of Cypress Creek.⁷ Jackson had initially immigrated to Philadelphia about 1799, where he went into business with his brothers.⁸ In 1801, Jackson relocated to Nashville, Tennessee, where he continued to act as a

⁵This supposition is credible though not proved. It is based mainly on family tradition, although the investment, both social and economic, which James Jackson had in his equine culture is well attested to and circumstantially corroborates the theory.

⁶Though more modest monuments may also indicate declining circumstances, in this instance there is no evidence that the social or economic standing of the descendants of James Jackson was in anyway diminished in more recent times.

⁷Meyer, Mike. (Derry, Linda., ed.). "Forks of Cypress Archaeological Excavation Report: Main House and Kitchen Dependency". (unpublished, report #1-Lu-520). p. 2.

⁸ibid. and Owen, Thomas M. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1921). Vol. III, pp. 891-892.

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Name of Property: Forks of Cypress Cemetery
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merchant and also pursued surveying.⁹ Heavy investment in lands in Lauderdale County as a prominent part of the Cypress Creek Land Company no doubt precipitated his removal to Alabama in the late 1810s.¹⁰ He is considered a founder of the town of Florence. James Jackson was a friend and close associate of many of the Tennessee elite including Colonel John Coffee and Andrew Jackson.¹¹ James Jackson's quest for success led him to run for (and in fact win) a seat in the Alabama House of Representatives in 1822 and 1823, and a state Senate seat in 1825 and 1830. The desire to obtain a definitive expression of social status to accompany his successful business projects and civic career drove Jackson to commission one of the first peripteral plantation houses in America on his Lauderdale County property.¹² Jackson was also one of the premier breeders of race horses in the Tennessee River Valley. He owned more than \$30,000 worth of horse flesh at his death in 1840.¹³ Thirty-three race or riding horses (as opposed to work horses) were listed in Jackson's inventory.¹⁴ Jackson in fact owned a half share of a prize English stud, Glencoe (ancestor of Man O' War and Citation among others), worth \$10,000.¹⁵ Jackson's horses represent a substantial risky investment--an adult thoroughbred in Jackson's inventory was frequently worth more than an adult slave (and in the case of Glencoe, more than twenty slaves). Given Jackson's love of the sport of racing, it is no surprise that there is a family tradition of the burial of enslaved jockeys within the stonewalled precinct of the family cemetery.

James Jackson was born October 25, 1782, the twelfth of thirteen children. Despite his relative youth, several of his siblings and/or their families were buried in the Forks of Cypress cemetery, presumably as a result of James Jackson's prosperity and success in making his plantation a center of social events. Two of James' brothers who died without issue, John and Alexander, are commemorated by monuments placed side by side near the center of the cemetery.¹⁶ James' sister, Sarah Jackson Hanna, is interred along with her daughter, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren to the east and south of James Jackson's immediate family. Immediately to the north of James Jackson's monuments are monuments to members of the Kirkman family, the children and grandchildren of Jackson's sister, Eleanora Jackson Kirkman (who herself died and is presumably interred in New Orleans). Along the back wall are located the tombs of William O'Neal Perkins and Pocahontas Bolling Perkins, who appear to have no direct link to the Jackson family. Jackson's son, George Moore Jackson, did marry a Sarah Cabell Perkins, and the dates of the aforementioned Perkins seem to indicate that they could be her parents. Even if they were, this would be a predominantly social rather than familial relationship, and may explain their marginal spatial position. Besides the burials along the back wall of the cemetery, the rest of the monuments commemorate direct descendants of James Jackson or their spouses. Notable among the latter are two high profile monuments near the front. They belong to the two husbands of James Jackson's daughter Martha, being the Renaissance-Revival influenced marker of Reverend W.H. Mitchell and the Gothic Revival influenced marker of Robert Andrews. That siblings without

⁹ibid.

¹⁰ibid.

¹¹ibid.

¹²See National Register Nomination, "Forks of Cypress" (#97001166), and HABS AL-375.

¹³McDonald, William L. and Russel, Darrell A. "James Jackson of the Forks of Cypress: Will and Inventory". in Natchez Trace Traveler. Vol. 13, No. 1, Feb. 1993. pp. 62, 69-72.

¹⁴ibid.

¹⁵ibid. and Meyer, Mike. "Forks of Cypress Archaeological Excavation Report". p. 3.

¹⁶Genealogical info is gleaned from Jackson, James. Family Record. (Memphis, TN: unpublished, 1965).

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children or sometimes a spouse relied on their brothers and sisters for funeral commemoration is witnessed by the inscription "OUR SISTER" on Miss Sallie Kirkman's monument as well as the obelisks erected for James Jackson's two brothers who did not have offspring.

At his death in 1840, James Jackson owned eighty-five slaves. They are listed in his will by both first and last names (the latter being very unusual for planters' wills in the region). Many families of the enslaved African Americans mentioned in the will show up in the 1870s census records as being in residence near the Forks of Cypress. These records suggest some of the possible identities of African Americans interred in the cemetery. Separate cemeteries for white and African American communities are the rule in Alabama in more recent times, and few slave cemeteries associated with planter family cemeteries have yet been identified in the state. The orderly rows of depressions which reveal the location of the slave cemetery at the Forks are rarely found either because of later cultivation of the ground over unmarked graves, of the rarity of the use of coffins in slave cemeteries, or simply of the usual remoteness of places where such indicators still exist.

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Name of Property: Forks of Cypress Cemetery
County and State: Lauderdale County, Alabama

X. Geographical Data

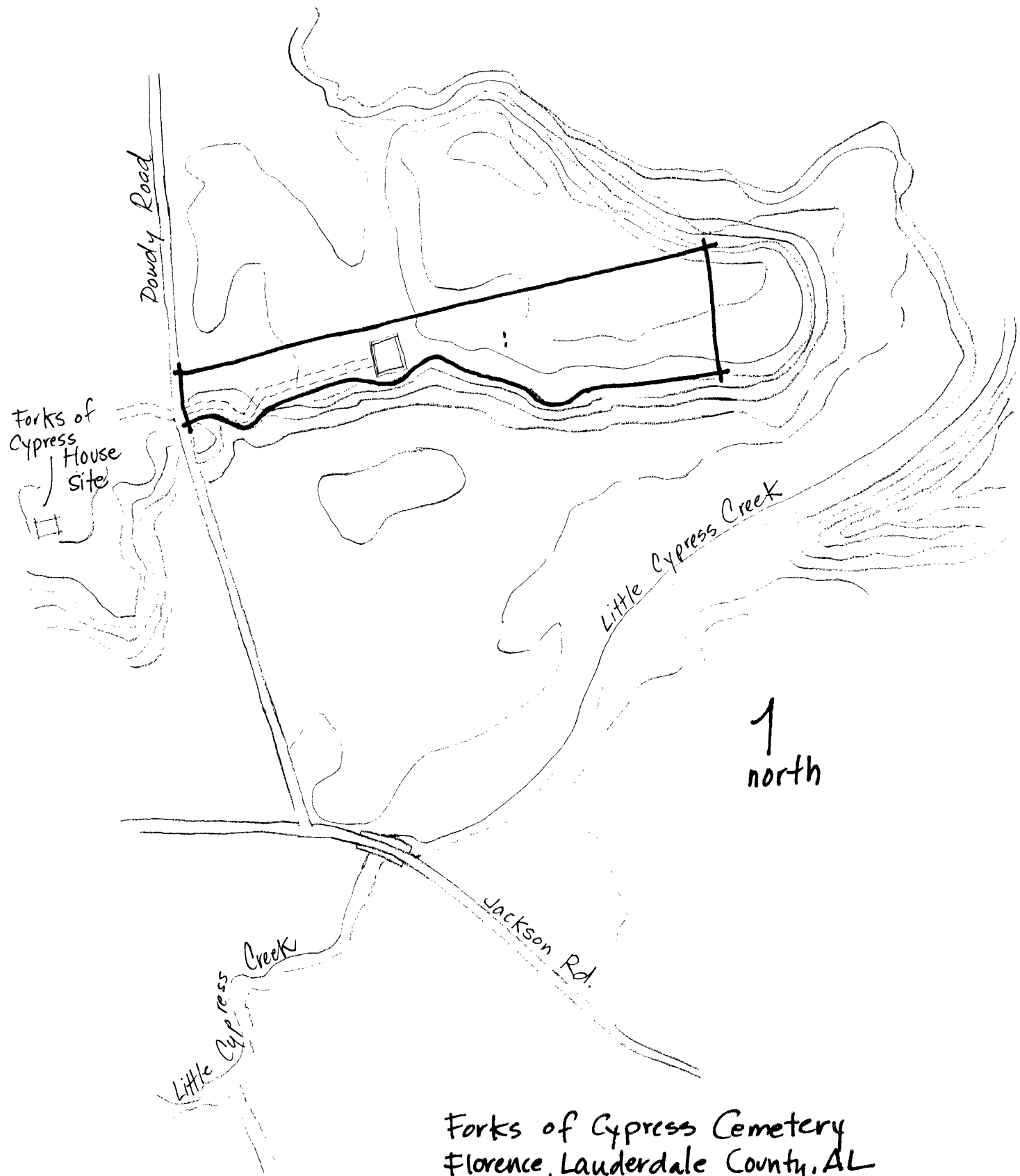
Verbal Boundary Description: The Forks of Cypress Cemetery is located on the eastern side of Dowdy Road across from the Forks of Cypress house site approximately one quarter of a mile north of Jackson Road and Little Cypress Creek as represented on Lauderdale County tax map and parcel numbers 15-09-29-0-000-16, 15-09-29-0-000-17, and portions of 15-09-29-0-000-15 in Section 29, Township 2 South, Range 11 West. The northern boundary follows the northern line of parcel 15-09-29-0-000-15 till parcel line proceeds south. This northern boundary line follows an old fence intertwined with trees and other foliage. The western boundary line intersects with the northern line at Dowdy Road and runs approximately 1/8 of a mile southward until it intersects with the dirt road that leads to the cemetery. The southern boundary line follows the southern outline of the cemetery road to the Jackson cemetery clearing, where it follows the southern line of the clearing eastward into the black cemetery, where the southern boundary continues and follows the upper contour line of the hill. The southern boundary ends at the eastern boundary of parcel 15-09-29-0-000-15.

Boundary Justification: The Forks of Cypress Cemetery boundaries have been drawn to incorporate the lands historically associated with the Jackson family and slave/African American cemetery. The boundaries follow the historic dirt road which leads to the cemetery with its northern boundary following current land boundaries delineated by an old fence/tree line and the southern boundary following the southern edge of the road. The boundaries comprise the Jackson family cemetery, located in a clearing, and the slave/black cemetery immediately to the east. The boundaries around the black/slave cemetery were drawn to encompass known burial plots (as defined by the 1994 Eagle Scout survey) and probable unknown sites directly around this area to the eastern boundary line of parcel 15-09-29-0-000-15 and along one of the higher contour lines of the hill. It is unlikely that burials were made much lower than this point on the hill, as it descends quite rapidly.

Photographic Log

Forks of Cypress Cemetery; Lauderdale County, AL; Nathan Farris, photographer; March 1998; negatives located at AHC.

1. Road to cemetery, looking west
2. Stone culvert underneath road, looking north
3. Jackson family cemetery, looking west southwest
4. Section of northern cemetery wall, looking north
5. Southwestern corner of cemetery wall, looking down and to the west
6. Jackson family cemetery inside the wall, looking southwest
7. James Jackson monument, looking southwest
8. James Jackson, Jr., monument, looking southwest
9. Sarah Hanna monument, looking northwest
10. William O'Neal Perkins and Pocahontas B. Perkins monuments, looking west
11. Parolee Frances Hanna and John Albert Childress/Martha Childress monuments, looking west
12. Rev. W. H. Mitchell monument, looking west
13. Robert Andrews monument, looking west
14. Thermuthis C. Jackson monument, looking west
15. Thermuthis C. Jackson monument, detail of signature, looking east
16. William Augustus Jackson monument, looking west and down
17. Martha Mitchell monument, looking west
18. Miss Sallie Kirkman monument, looking west
19. William Moore Jackson, James Jackson, and Alethea Wardlaw Jackson monuments with other 20th century monuments in the background, looking northwest
20. Etoile Hurd Mitchell/John Jackson Mitchell monument, looking west southwest
21. African American grave depressions, looking north
22. Headstone & footstone in black cemetery, looking south
23. Unworked stone marker in black cemetery, looking west
24. African American cemetery looking toward white Jackson family cemetery, looking west
25. Unmarked slave jockey grave markers within white Jackson family cemetery along eastern wall

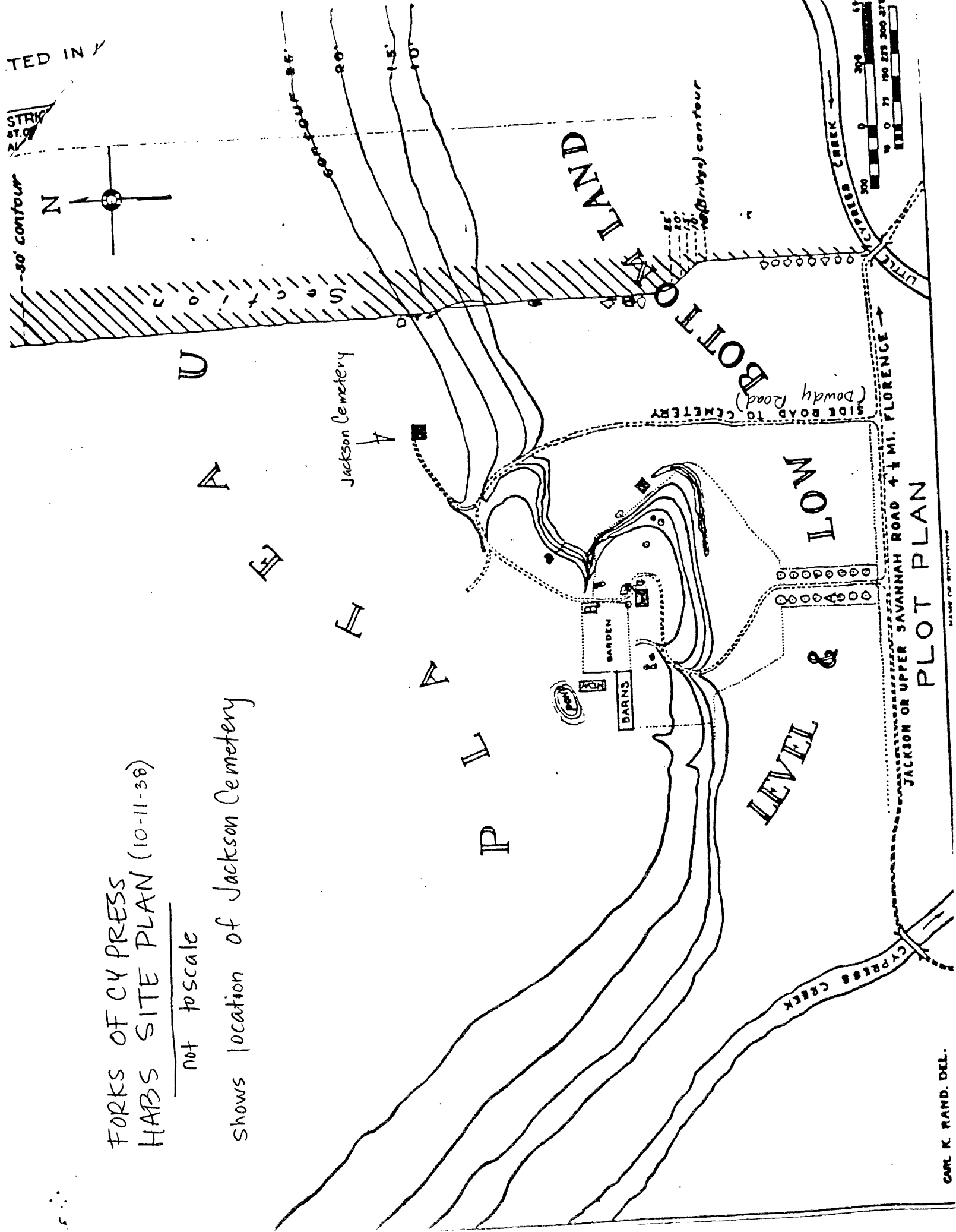


Forks of Cypress Cemetery
Florence, Lauderdale County, AL
not to scale

FORKS OF CYPRESS
HABS SITE PLAN (10-11-38)

not to scale

shows location of Jackson Cemetery



THE FORKS OF CYPRESS BLACK CEMETERY

Lauderdale County, AL



The cemetery lies in the SW quarter of section 29, Township 25, Range 11W in Lauderdale County, Alabama. The NW corner of this map lies at a point 205 feet due East of the NE corner of the walled Jackson Family Cemetery in the 1st. = 25 feet same section.

Surveyed on December 27, 1994 by the following members of Day Scout Troop 3 in Prance, AL:
 Matt Crockett
 Lottin Flowers
 Ben Killen
 Jonathan Killen
 Thompson McEford
 Christopher Morgan
 Alex Warren

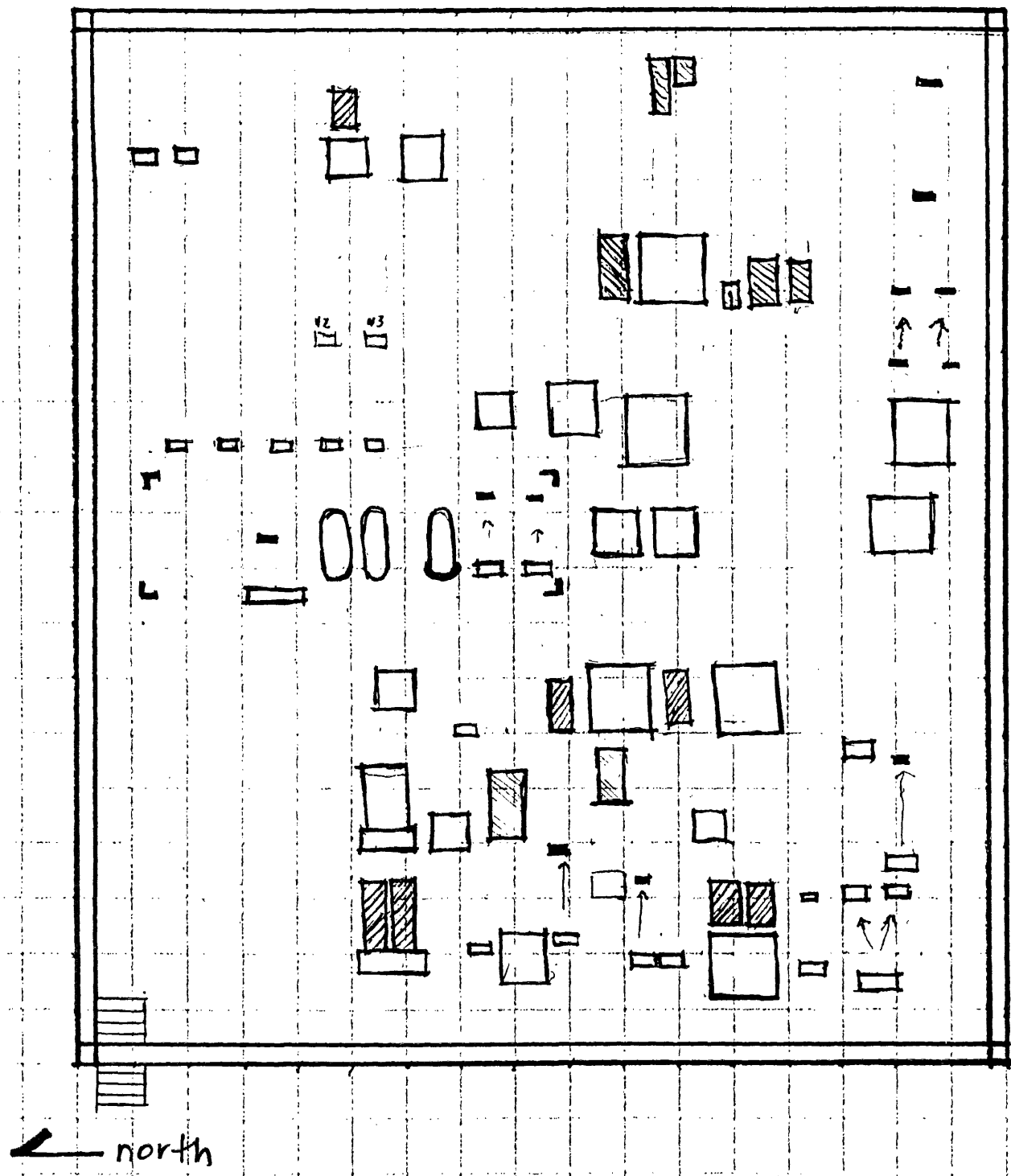
Data compiled by: Lottin Flowers
 Advisor: Cal William L. McDonald

← to Jackson Cemetery

Eagle Scout Survey, 1994
 photocopied:
 not to scale

1 north

* Graves with finished burials



Jackson Family Cemetery
of
the
Forks of Cypress Cemetery
not to scale