

DEC 11 2015

Resub

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places

National Park Service

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: Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section

Other names/site number: WA1232

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: W end of downtown Prairie Grove on the W side of Kate Smith St, N side of Buchanan St (Hwy 62 W), and S of Parks St.

City or town: Prairie Grove State: AR County: Washington

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u></u>	<u>12-1-15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official: Date	
_____ Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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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

1-8-2016

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	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

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:

Other Stone: granite, sandstone

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Prairie Grove Cemetery is located next to Highway 62 West on the west side of downtown Prairie Grove. In the early 1800s settlers used this area to bury their dead, and the first recorded burial in 1818 is found on the north side of Highway 62 where the oldest cemetery sections are located. This first section of the cemetery measured a little over two and a half acres and was sold to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1838. Over the years, land was gradually added to the cemetery with the current size measuring thirteen acres. Many of the hand-carved sandstone and marble markers date from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There is no cemetery sign or main entrance.

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Narrative Description

The Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section is located to the north of Highway 62, also known as West Buchanan Street, in Prairie Grove, Arkansas. The cemetery sits to the northwest of the intersection of West Buchanan Street and Kate Smith Street. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church, built in 1887-1888, sits on the southeast corner of the cemetery, adjacent to Kate Smith Street and West Buchanan Street. The small section of land surrounding the church is owned by the Arkansas Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and there are no burials adjacent to the church. The north and west boundaries of the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section are paved cemetery roads, delineating this original section from other later additions to the cemetery.

After 1900, at an unknown date, the church donated over half of the western section of their original property to the Prairie Grove Cemetery Association. The Cemetery Association, which was granted non-profit status in 1985, continues as the current owner of the Prairie Grove Cemetery and raises funds to help pay for maintenance through the sale of cemetery lots and private donations.

The cemetery was first expanded in 1900 with the Baggett Addition on the west side of the Original Addition. In chronological order, the next Additions were the Cummings Addition north of the Original Addition in 1917, the Dodson Addition north of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church property in 1958, the Rogers Addition north of the Cummings Addition in 1960, and the Loyd L. Baggett Addition west of the Original Addition in 1966.¹ In 1985, the Cemetery Association purchased 5½ acres northwest of the expanded Prairie Grove Cemetery. This land was partitioned into four 20'x12' Additions. Only two of these Additions have been named. The Bell/Carl Addition is at the southeast corner, and the Blakemore Addition is on the northeast side. The southwest and northwest Additions are unnamed and not in use at this time. All of the additions to the Prairie Grove Cemetery incorporated vacant land that surrounded the boundaries of the cemetery.

The Prairie Grove Cemetery includes over 3,000 total burials (historic and non-historic for the entire cemetery, including all historic and new additions) and 20 documented burials with unknown locations. The entire cemetery includes a total of 1604 historic burials. The historic original section, which is being nominated to the National Register, includes most of the historic burials found in the Prairie Grove Cemetery. The following is a list of approximate dates of historic burials by decade for the entire Prairie Grove Cemetery:

1818-1820: 1
1821-1830: 1
1831-1840: 10
1841-1850: 15

¹ Refer to the sketch map of the cemetery, included in additional documentation.

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1851-1860: 40
1861-1870: 31
1871-1880: 48
1881-1890: 107
1891-1900: 85
1901-1910: 82
1911-1920: 176
1921-1930: 200
1931-1940: 178
1941-1950: 247
1951-1960: 251
1961-1964: 132

The historic section of the Prairie Grove Cemetery includes 852 interments, not including several known unmarked burials in unknown locations. There are 106 non-historic burials and at least 745 historic burials within the historic section of the cemetery. The following total burials by decade come from a survey made of the cemetery by members of the cemetery board over the last decade.

Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section Burials by Decade:

1818-1820: 1
1821-1830: 1
1831-1840: 8
1841-1850: 13
1851-1860: 38
1861-1870: 29
1871-1880: 53
1881-1890: 94
1891-1900: 61
1901-1910: 72
1911-1920: 91
1921-1930: 62
1931-1940: 57
1941-1950: 67
1951-1960: 47
1961-1964: 17
Historic Burials, marked but without dates: 34
Non-Historic Burials: 106

The Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section includes the oldest marked burials in the cemetery. These include the gravestones of Rachel C. Marrs (d.1818), Mary Ann Crawford (b.1822-d.1824) and Mary Percilla Inman (d.1831). This section also includes the graves of many early settlers of the area including Rev. Andrew "Uncle Buck" Buchanan and his family, along with

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Colonel James Preston Neal as well as members of the Parks, Crawford, Marrs, McCormick, and Mock families.

This cemetery also includes several examples of nineteenth and early twentieth century iconography. Hand carved headstones made from marble and granite include floral motifs, gateways, archways, crosses, crowns and masonic symbols as well as other common funerary symbols. The headstones range from small, fieldstone markers with no writing to large intricately carved or cast metal headstones. There are also several large obelisks headstones and several headstones with elaborate stone urns on high pillars. Many hand-carved marble, granite and sandstone markers are found throughout the older Additions. Several of the headstones still include maker's marks, including the names M. W. Dorman, John A. Buchanan, P. R. Stout, C. Brading, Morley & Co. (Fayetteville) and Park & McLintock (St. Louis). Inscriptions on some of the older monuments are almost unreadable due to age, and there are gravestones that are broken. There are several gravestones with the iconic rustic features of the Woodmen of the World fraternal organization's style of provided headstones. The tall marble columns in the oldest Additions are visible from Highway 62, also known as Buchanan Street, the main street of Prairie Grove. Early makeshift field stones mark unknown graves from the 1800s. These markers are scattered among the older Additions, and many have been hit by mowers or moved around by visitors and maintenance staff throughout the years. In years past, there were numerous unmarked graves discovered throughout the Dodson Addition by the local funeral home workers as they were digging new graves. That section of the cemetery was eventually abandoned for others, since local workers were unable to find unoccupied plots. Unknown burials, once marked by now lost field stones may also exist in the original addition of the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

A small structure, measuring 5' by 1'7" by 3'4" and made of native stone, is located in the Original Addition. This small feature was constructed by the local American Legion Post 146 during the 1980s and used as a base for a flagpole. It has deteriorated somewhat and is no longer in use. The Mrs. Joy Webb Memorial Pavilion was constructed in 2003 and is used for outdoor funeral or memorial services. It is named in honor of Prairie Grove resident Mrs. Joy Webb (1891-1976), who is buried in the cemetery. The Pavilion is located on the southeast corner of the Blakemore Addition and is thus not included within the boundaries of the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section.

There is no main cemetery sign or main entrance for the Prairie Grove Cemetery. Instead, there are five entryways leading into the cemetery: two from Highway 62 on the south side of the cemetery, two from Kate Smith Street on the cemetery's east side, and one entrance off of Parks Street in the northwest section. All are paved with the exception of the road that marks the northernmost entrance off of Kate Smith Street, whose boundary makes up the northern edge of the Rogers, Cummings, and Dodson Additions. The south side of the cemetery is bordered by a drainage ditch, which was constructed during 1941 by men employed through the United States Government's Works Progress Administration (WPA) New Deal program. Arkansas Highway Department trucks brought in native stone that was placed on the north wall of the ditch.² A

² "Prairie Grove Cemetery." Luginbuel Funeral Home. Accessed April 28, 2015.

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bridge spanning the drainage ditch on the southwest corner of the Baggett Addition was built as an entrance to the cemetery. Another entrance was later added west of that access point.

The cemetery is in good condition with well-maintained plots and markers. It is an active cemetery, with new plots being sold and used in the newer additions. New burials in the historic section are very limited, due to lack of space and the possibility of open spaces being occupied by unmarked historic burials. A few headstones have been broken over the years. Some of the earliest carved stone markers have worn away over time and some inscriptions have been lost.

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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

ART

Period of Significance

1818-1938

Significant Dates

1818, First Burial

1938, Death of E. H. Dorman

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ernest Henry Dorman (Prairie Grove), Headstone Maker

M. W. Dorman (Fayetteville and Prairie Grove), Headstone Maker

John A. Buchanan, Headstone Maker

P. R. Stout, Headstone Maker

Charles Brading, Mason

Morley & Co. (Fayetteville), Headstone Maker

Park & McLintock (St. Louis), Headstone Maker

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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.)

As important evidence of the early settlement of Prairie Grove, the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the early settlement and continued development of the town of Prairie Grove. The cemetery is also being nominated under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, for the collection of headstones featuring artistic carvings created by local and regional masons and stone carvers, including a large collection of carved headstones created by Ernest Henry Dorman of Prairie Grove, Arkansas. This property is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D**, as a cemetery. The period of significance for the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section, stretching from 1818 through 1938, encompasses the initial settlement of the surrounding area as well as the first large scale development of Prairie Grove during the early 20th century. It also encompasses the productive life of the local stone carver Ernest Henry Dorman, who continued to create headstones until his death in 1938.

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

Summary

The Prairie Grove Cemetery is a historical landmark along the town's main street. Early settlers of Prairie Grove and the west Washington County area, including some of their present-day descendants, are buried in the cemetery. Several notable people in Prairie Grove's history, including its founder, Colonel Neal are interred there. The handcrafted marble and granite headstones illustrate the designs often used to commemorate the deceased from the 1800s to early 1900s and feature work of local and regional craftsmen. As important evidence of the early settlement of Prairie Grove, the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the early settlement and continued development of the town of Prairie Grove. The cemetery is also being nominated under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, for its large collection of headstones featuring artistic carvings created by local and regional masons and stone carvers, including a large collection of carved headstones created by Ernest Henry Dorman of Prairie Grove, Arkansas. This property is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D**, as a cemetery. The period of significance for the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section, stretching from 1818 through 1938, encompasses the initial settlement of the surrounding area as well as the first large scale development of Prairie Grove during the early 20th century. It also encompasses the productive life of the local stone carver Ernest Henry Dorman, who continued to create headstones until his death in 1938.

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Elaboration

The land now known as Washington County, Arkansas, was first home to Native American tribes such as the Osage and Cherokee. In 1817, the region surrounding present day Prairie Grove became part of Lovely's Purchase, named after Major William Lovely, who bought the land from the Osage Indian, in the hope that the area would serve as a neutral boundary between the rival Osage and Cherokee Indians and the encroaching white settlers.³ In 1827, territorial legislators representing Arkansas established Lovely County, which encompassed what is now Washington County. Almost exactly a year later, borders along Indian Territory were drawn up and Washington County was officially established.⁴

The early pioneers, mainly of European descent, who settled in Washington County established small farming and hunting communities.⁵ Mills were built along the creeks flowing through the countryside where many of the crops were processed. After the initial settlement of the area around the local spring, now located in Mock Park, farming became a major driver for the local economy. Settlers in the Prairie Grove area during the mid- to late 1800s used the rich soil near the Illinois River to help grow fruits and vegetables, including apples and strawberries. These two crops became an important part of the town's economy after the Ozark and Cherokee Central railroad opened a depot on the south side of town in 1901.⁶ In the late 1800s, a canning factory was built along the railroad track and tomatoes were added as another cash crop.⁷

In the early 1880s, several members of the local community, including members of the McCormick, Marrs and Parks families created the Prairie Grove Canning and Evaporating Factory. This canning enterprise signaled the beginning of Prairie Grove's first large scale economic boom. Over the next several decades, other canning factories were built around Prairie Grove, taking advantage of the fruit and vegetable production in the surrounding valley. The community leaders who established the first canning factory also lobbied successfully for a rail line that would connect Prairie Grove to a wider commercial market. In 1901, the first locomotive arrived in Prairie Grove, when the Ozark & Cherokee Central Railway connected Prairie Grove with Fayetteville and Okmulgee, Oklahoma.⁸ From the creation of the first canneries and railway lines in Northwest Arkansas in the late 1800s, the railroad encouraged canning due to the revenue collected on shipping empty cans into the area and full cans to

³ Matthew Bryan Kirkpatrick, Washington County Historical Society, "Washington County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, last modified June 28, 2013.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ "Two Sermons Traded for Spring; Two Sermons Traded for 'Flowing Fountain of Clear, Cold Water,'" Wiswell, *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History 1888-1988*, 2.

⁶ Neva McMurry, "Frisco Railroad; Ozark and Cherokee Central Railroad Important Part of Prairie Grove History" in Wiswell, *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History: 1888-1988*, 44.

⁷ Neva McMurry, "Canning Factories" in Wiswell, *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History: 1888-1988*, 34.

⁸ Joseph C. Neal, *History of Washington County Arkansas*, Shiloh Museum, 1989, p. 253.

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markets to the west.⁹ By the end of the 1920s, this first initial boom of development was stopped by the economic downturn of the Great Depression. Although many of the businesses in the area were affected by the Great Depression, the canning factories continued to produce and helped to maintain a basic level of economic production, with entire families working during the harvest seasons at the various canning factories. This allowed the community to weather the economic depression relatively intact.¹⁰ The train tracks to Prairie Grove were removed in the early 1940s and the train depot was demolished in 1942.¹¹ During the 1940s, the railroad was replaced by the expanding system of state and local highways, allowing new canning operations to ship their products in any direction.

Reverend Andrew “Uncle Buck” Buchanan and Early Settlement

One of the first families to visit the area for any length of time was the Marrs family, who passed through during 1817 or 1818. The leaders of the Marrs family were thought to have mapped the area, in hopes of finding land suitable for settlement. The Marrs family did return to the area and settle along a creek in another part of the valley in 1827.¹² Just before 1830, a hunter named Tom Wagon claimed land around the spring in present-day Mock Park in Prairie Grove.¹³ Soon after clearing his new land, Wagon traded his land claim to Reverend Andrew “Uncle Buck” Buchanan for two good sermons. Rev. Buchanan had travelled from Kentucky, by way of Crawford County, Arkansas, to Cane Hill Township in northwest Arkansas in 1829. He travelled in search of a homestead for his growing family, who would eventually make the long trek to northwest Arkansas in later years. While visiting his brothers in Cane Hill, Rev. Buchanan heard of a fertile valley with a bountiful spring several miles to the east. After securing this promising land from Tom Wagoner, Rev. Buchanan would eventually build the first church and school on his new land with the help of his wife Sinai Buchanan.¹⁴ During his years in Prairie Grove, Rev. Buchanan was well known throughout the county as an itinerate circuit riding preacher, leading services all over northwest Arkansas.¹⁵ His contribution to the religious life of the area contributed in large part to the continued growth of the small community of Prairie Grove as well as the influence of the Cumberland Presbyterian church throughout northwest Arkansas. His prominence in the community is remembered in the name of Buchanan Street, which serves as the main street of Prairie Grove and runs adjacent to the Prairie Grove Cemetery along its southern edge. The Buchanan family graves in the Prairie Grove Cemetery are the only tangible reminder of the Buchanan family’s physical impact on the community. The structures directly linked to the family have been lost over time.

⁹ Velda Brotherton, “Days Gone By: The Economic Boost of Ozarkansas Canning Factories” *Edible Ozarkansas*, Issue 5, Fall 2014, 29.

¹⁰ Susan Parks-Spencer, “Prairie Grove (Washington County),” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Central Arkansas Library System. December 11, 2013. Accessed April 28, 2015.

¹¹ Neal, *History of Washington County Arkansas*, 265.

¹² “History of Prairie Grove,” Shiloh Museum: Springdale, AR, 1989 pamphlet.

¹³ Parks-Spencer, “Prairie Grove (Washington County),” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Neal, *History of Washington County Arkansas*, 103.

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Reverend Andrew "Uncle Buck" Buchanan was interred in the Prairie Grove Cemetery at his death in 1857. His wife, Sinai Buchanan is also buried in the cemetery, as well as many members of the Buchanan family from various generations. Uncle Buck and Sinai Buchanan both were instrumental in founding the first church in the area and setting aside the land that would become the Prairie Grove Cemetery. The land had already seen a small number of burials prior to Rev. Buchanan's ownership of the land. These earliest burials were from deaths in groups that were visiting the area for a short time while on their way to settle other areas of the territory. The original church, founded by the Buchanans was on the site of the present Cumberland Presbyterian Church, next to the original section of the cemetery. An early wood framed church, known as the "White Church" was replaced by the current church structure.¹⁶ The current Cumberland Presbyterian Church building is the third on the site and dates from the late 1880s. The current church building has been altered, including the addition of vinyl siding as well as multiple additions and outbuildings.

In 1840, the first post office near present day Prairie Grove was established. This first post office was called Sweet Home. The first postmaster at Sweet Home was James Chestnut Pittman. He operated the post office until it closed in 1846. Eleven years later, in 1857, a second post office was opened under the name Ada. This post office was named after one of postmaster Archibald Borden's daughters. This structure survived the Civil War and the nearby Battle of Prairie Grove largely intact, except for the numerous bullet holes (Battlefield Park, NR 9.4.1970).¹⁷ The post office of Ada was relocated west of its original site after the Battle of Prairie Grove of 1862 and the original building was abandoned. The last remnant of this structure, the front door, was lost in a fire in 1940.

Colonel James Preston Neal and the Establishment of Prairie Grove

In 1871, Buchanan's stepson, Colonel James Preston Neal arrived in Washington County.¹⁸ Colonel Neal, who is buried in the Original Addition near his mother Sinai Buchanan and stepfather, Rev. Andrew Buchanan, was the founder of Prairie Grove. Neal, a lawyer, was a veteran of the Mexican-American War in the late 1840s and mayor of Fayetteville, Arkansas, from 1851-1854. At the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, Neal joined the Confederate forces and was made "an elector" and voted for Jefferson Davis as president of the Confederacy. He also helped provide Confederate forces with much-needed supplies.¹⁹ In 1875, four years after moving to his stepfather's Prairie Grove farm, Neal decided to pursue his stepfather's effort to establish a town. A plat for the downtown area was drawn up, and Neal opened the first "merchandising" business. He also served as postmaster from the early 1870s until his resignation in 1887.²⁰

¹⁶ "Washington County." *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwestern Arkansas*. Chicago: Goodspeed, 1889. 143.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ "Death of Col. J.P. Neal," *Fayetteville Weekly Democrat*, January 9, 1896, 2.

²⁰ "Col. James P. Neal (From *Goodspeed History of 1889*)" Wiswell, *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History: 1888-1988*, 81.

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In 1877, the town of Prairie Grove was formally laid out and the first sale of lots took place on March 24th of the same year.²¹ By the end of the 1880s, a downtown area was growing just east of the modern Prairie Grove Cemetery along Buchanan Street. The first brick building in Prairie Grove was built in 1886.²² This downtown area was ravaged by fires during the early 20th century. The town of Prairie Grove was incorporated in July of 1888. By the turn of the 20th century, the population of the town was over 500 people and the downtown area had several stores, a hotel, two newspapers and several professional offices, including several physicians and a telephone company.²³ A few historic structures still remain from the original development of the town of Prairie Grove, dating mainly from the beginning of the 20th century and later. Much of the remaining commercial historic fabric of the town has been altered with slipcovers and replaced storefront windows. The early commercial heart of Prairie Grove, at the intersection of Buchanan Street and Mock Street, has changed significantly over the years and is no longer recognizable as a remnant of the early settlement of the area. Several of the buildings do originally date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but have been updated with new storefronts or significantly altered from their original appearance due to changing stylistic updates and several fires that damaged the downtown core. The Southern Mercantile Building at 107 E. Buchanan, although originally built in the 1880s, now has an architectural significance of 1920 due to later alterations (NR 6.14.1990). This National Register listed building is the largest and most significant surviving commercial structure in Prairie Grove, however, it doesn't reflect the period of initial settlement for the surrounding community.

The Growth of Prairie Grove Cemetery

The Prairie Grove Cemetery, although used before the region was officially settled, became the main common cemetery for the surrounding region. The cemetery has witnessed the growth of the surrounding community for nearly 200 years. The first owner of the cemetery property, known today as the "Original Addition" and which then included the church property, was Rev. Andrew "Uncle Buck" Buchanan and his wife, Sinai Buchanan. On September 21, 1838, Andrew Buchanan and his wife, Sinai Buchanan (1797-1883), sold a little over two and a half acres of land for \$25 to representatives of the Prairie Congregation for the "use and benefits of a place for the worship of God[,] for teaching school, and for a burying ground for all peoples who may wish to rites [sic] their dead there."²⁴ Sometime later, over half of the property's west side was donated to the Prairie Grove Cemetery Association.

This original section includes the graves of many of the early settlers, businessmen and women and civic leaders of Prairie Grove. The graves of these individuals represent for many, the only surviving site associated with their life and work. Tragedy in Prairie Grove is also recorded in

²¹ Southern Mercantile Building National Register Nomination 6.14.1990.

²² Parks-Spencer, "Prairie Grove (Washington County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ Washington County, Arkansas Deed Record B-237, 238, September 21, 1838, Washington County, Arkansas Courthouse Archives.

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the burials in the Prairie Grove Cemetery. A higher number of burials in the decade from 1880 to 1890 than in the preceding and following decades are likely a result of local severe outbreaks of Smallpox. Also a similar peak in burial numbers during the decade from 1910-1920 can be read as at least partial evidence of the flu epidemic that swept the United States during 1918. In the cemetery itself, the original addition was mostly full by the end of the 1930s.

The cemetery was expanded in 1900 with the Baggett Addition on the west side of the Original Addition. In chronological order, the next Additions were the Cummings Addition north of the Original Addition in 1917, the Dodson Addition north of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church property in 1958, the Rogers Addition north of the Cummings Addition in 1960, and the Loyd L. Baggett Addition west of the Original Addition in 1966.²⁵ In 1985, the Cemetery Association purchased 5½ acres northwest of the Prairie Grove Cemetery.²⁶ This land was partitioned into four 20'x12' Additions. Only two of these Additions have been named. The Bell/Carl Addition is on the southeast corner, and the Blakemore Addition is on the northeast side. The southwest and northwest Additions are unnamed. These additions are for future expansion and are not in use at this time. The cemetery is still in use; however, new burials in the historic section are limited due to the lack of available space and the existence of unmarked historic burials.

At an unknown date, the church donated over half of the western section of their property to the Prairie Grove Cemetery Association. The Cemetery Association, which was granted non-profit status in 1985, continues as the current owner of the cemetery and raises funds to help pay for its maintenance through sales of cemetery lots as well as donations.

The location of the first grave in the Prairie Grove Cemetery is not known. Chunks of field stone served as grave markers and are scattered throughout the older Additions. Some are broken, and others have disappeared. The oldest recorded grave in the cemetery is of a five year-old girl, Rachel C. Marrs, who died in 1818. The second oldest documented burial was of another child, Mary Ann Crawford (1822-1824). Until recently, Tennessee resident Mary Percilla Inman was thought to have been the first person buried in Prairie Grove. Miss Inman was visiting relatives in nearby Cane Hill when she became ill and died in 1831. Before her death, she asked to be buried in the beautiful valley she had traveled through on her way to Cane Hill.²⁷ The Prairie Grove Cemetery Association in 1941 placed a commemorative marble headstone at her grave with the inscription, "First Grave in Prairie Grove." When the Marrs and Crawford markers were discovered a short time ago, the Inman grave became the third oldest recorded interment in the cemetery.

²⁵ Refer to the sketch map of the cemetery, included in additional documentation.

²⁶ "Prairie Grove Cemetery." Luginbul Funeral Home. Accessed April 28, 2015.

²⁷ "Prairie Grove Cemetery." Luginbul Funeral Home. Accessed April 28, 2015.

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Other important local citizens buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section include:

Nancy Morton Staples (1831-1921):

Nancy Staples was born in Prairie Grove and experienced many hardships during the Civil War. Mrs. Staples taught school as well as a Sunday school class. After war was declared, bushwhackers and other lawless men began roaming the hills. So, Mrs. Staples moved her students to a barn loft. Immediately after the Battle of Prairie Grove she attended to the needs of wounded soldiers on the battlefield until they were taken to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church or other makeshift hospitals in the area.²⁸ To protect the dead soldiers from wild hogs that wandered the countryside, she and other local women constructed wood fences around the stack of corpses. Later, bushwhackers invaded her ailing father's house and began burning his feet with a hot poker in an attempt to force him to tell where he had hidden his money. Mrs. Staples, who was at the house, grabbed the poker, seriously burning her hands.²⁹ She was later given an honorary membership to the United Daughters of the Confederacy's Prairie Grove Chapter.

James Frank Holmes (1876-1947):

Mr. Holmes was a Georgia lawyer who moved to Prairie Grove in 1931. A year later, he was elected mayor of Prairie Grove and served in that position until 1941. During his tenure as mayor, Mr. Holmes helped organize the construction of the city's water and sewer systems.³⁰ He was also instrumental in starting a public library for Prairie Grove residents.³¹ In 1941 he left the mayor's office to serve in the Arkansas House of Representatives for several years.

Several historic structures are now located within the boundary of the nearby Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park and are included in the listing of the Prairie Grove Battlefield in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 9.4.1970). Although a few historic structures have been recreated at the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, the landscape only represents a very small slice of the area's history in relation to the years during the Civil War. Also, the recreated farmsteads and homes are not representative of the community that worked to create the town of Prairie Grove. This includes the Borden House, built in 1868 to replace a previously burned structure; the Morrow House, a c. 1855 house moved from a community 9 miles away; the Latta House, a c. 1834 house moved from the nearby vineyard community and replacing a previous house on the site. Also, the several support structures that dot the landscape of the center of the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park were all moved to the site from various Washington County locations, in an effort to recreate a mid-1800s "village atmosphere".³²

²⁸ "Mrs. Nancy Staples Dead Aged Ninety Years," *Prairie Grove Herald*, April 7, 1921, 2.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ "J. Frank Holmes," in Wiswell, *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History: 1888-1988*, 90.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² "Prairie Grove Battlefield," Arkansas State Parks Informational Trail Brochure, 2015.

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Stone Masons and Stone Carvers:

The work of several local and regional stone masons and stone carvers are represented in the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section, including Charles Brading from Cane Hill, Ernest Henry Dorman of Prairie Grove, A. H. Morley of Fayetteville, as well as others. The markers present in the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section include examples from a cross-section of regional stone carvers, with examples dating as early as the 1820s. Many of the 19th century stones are signed, while later stones are illustrative of the changing national trends in monument design, including examples ranging from elaborate obelisks and urns to cast metal.

Charles Brading

Mr. Charles Brading is listed in the 1850 census of Cane Hill Township as a 28 year old Mason. He is also listed in the census with a 2 year old of the same name, most likely his son Thomas J. Brading (born Nov 1846).³³ Charles Brading was born in England in 1822 and had immigrated to the United States sometime before 1845.³⁴ After arriving in Arkansas, he married Elizabeth G. Truesdall, of Northwest Arkansas. Elizabeth died at age nineteen in 1849 and her marker in the Cane Hill Cemetery matches the size, style and script of the signed markers in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.³⁵ Charles Brading then married Margaret B. Moore on December 2, 1850.³⁶ He is thought to have died before 1860, and no records for his life exist after his marriage in 1850 other than the stones he carved in various local cemeteries. Charles's son Thomas Brading enlisted in the U.S. Army in November of 1863 and was discharged after the end of the Spanish American War in 1899 at age 51.³⁷ Thomas relocated to Kansas during his military service and settled there with his family.

Charles Brading worked as an active Mason, carving headstones in Cane Hill and the surrounding region from as early as the 1840s through at least 1854. Gravestones in the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section signed "C. Brading, Mason" include the following markers: Josiah Doak, d. 1845; John Moore, d. 1844; and James Crawford, d. 1854. Charles Brading seems to have had a very specific carving style, as all of the headstones signed or associated with Mr. Brading have very similar shapes, a rectangle with a smaller rounded top-piece, similar script, and an incised decorative pattern along each edge. Several other headstones, with very similar shapes and decorative banding, are located in the same area of the Prairie Grove Cemetery as the tombstones for Doak, Moore, and Crawford, and may have also been carved by Charles Brading. These other headstones may have not been signed or the signature has been lost due to breakage and weathering, as many of these oldest tombstones are weathered beyond reading or broken and stacked together.

³³ U.S. Census, 1900. Ancestry.com.

³⁴ U.S. Census, 1850. Ancestry.com. Also, the earliest signature for Charles Brading in the Prairie Grove Cemetery has a death date of 1845, so it could not have been done before 1845, but may have been carved sometime after 1845.

³⁵ U.S. Census, 1850. Ancestry.com. Find-A-Grave index "Elizabeth G. Brading, 1830-1849", <http://www.findagrave.com/>, Accessed June 10, 2015.

³⁶ Arkansas marriage rolls: 1837-1944, Ancestry.com, Accessed June 10, 2015.

³⁷ Kansas, Grand Army of the Republic Post Reports, 1880-1940, Ancestry.com, accessed June 10, 2015.

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A.H. Morley, Morley & Son

Albert Henry Morley was the founder, owner, and operator of the Morley Marble and Granite Works of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Morley founded his Fayetteville stone works in 1886 and produced stones for customers across Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri for 40 years. Before producing gravestones in Arkansas, A. H. Morley operated the Joplin Marble and Building Stone Works in Joplin, Missouri. His relocation to Northwest Arkansas was attributed to stiff competition from as many as five other stone producers in Joplin in an extensive article on the Morley stone business by Abby Burnett in the *Journal of the Washington County Historical Society*.³⁸

Initially, upon establishing his stone works in Fayetteville in 1886, Morley partnered with several other businessmen including L. D. Oliver and a businessman with a last name of Thomason.³⁹ Soon, at least by 1890, Morley had dropped any remaining partners and instead incorporated his children into the business, signing stones as Morley & Son starting in 1890. Morley's children May, Claude, Fred and Arthur all helped in the family business at different times, though all four children died of tuberculosis or respiratory illnesses during their early adulthood.⁴⁰ Ruth, one of only two children of A. H. Morely, would eventually take over her father's business.

Throughout his career as a stone carver in Fayetteville, A. H. Morley moved his operations several times, often locating near a popular hotel and/or the rail yards, for ease of stone transport and maximum traffic flow.⁴¹ According to Burnett in her study of the Morley family:

The Morley's excelled at making tall, rectangular columns topped with gabled cornices surmounted by urn-shaped finials, but they also produced impressive obelisks, pulpit stones and even empty, stylized cribs marking infant burials. Though excellent at producing straight lines and geometric shapes, the Morley's were strangely inept when carving such three-dimensional objects as lambs, baskets of roses and flower garlands and, not surprisingly, very few of these shapes were sold.⁴²

Examples of the Morley family's work, which parallel Burnett's assertions, can be seen in the following gravestones: Fanny K. Kolb (b. 1875, d. 1892), a large square pillar with floral carvings on all faces, various scripts, and a now broken finial; J. V. Rich (b. 1860, d. 1860), another large square pillar with carvings on all sides, a multi-tiered base, various long script engravings, and an elaborate vase finial; and Elizabeth West Marrs (b. 1859, d. 1889), a further larger square pillar with carvings on all sides, multiple carved scripts, and an elaborate curved

³⁸ Abby Burnett, "'No Pompous Marble to Thy Name We Raise': A.H. Morley and Family, Fayetteville Tombstone Carvers," *Flashback: Preserving the Past for the Future* 58.3 (Fall 2008): 114-145.

³⁹ *Ibid*, 120.

⁴⁰ *Ibid*, 130-135.

⁴¹ *Ibid*, 123.

⁴² *Ibid*, 127.

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finial. After Mr. Morley's death in 1924, his business was continued by an adult daughter, Ruth Morley. Ruth kept the business going, just barely, until the mid-1940s.⁴³

As illustrated in her study of Fayetteville stone carver A. H. Morely, Abby Burnett notes that the practice of signing gravestones died out after the first decade of the 20th century, resulting in many later hand carved stones lacking definitive authorship, though many can be assumed to be by local and regional carvers based on style. In Burnett's article, the reason the signing stopped is attributed to the growing popularity of hard granite for tombstones as well as the loss of many of the itinerate carvers who could not keep up with the changing trends toward large, elaborate grave-markers that required greater skill, different tools and the ability to move larger stones often great distances.⁴⁴ The great age of many of the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section markers offers the chance for many signed stones, creating a kind of directory for the production of gravestones in Northwest Arkansas. Interestingly, the trend of dropping the signature is illustrated in the Prairie Grove Cemetery in a unique pair of identical large obelisks atop elaborate rectangular pillars, commissioned for Henry H. Rickert (b. 1840, d. 1895) and his wife Jennie C. Rickert (b. 1851, d. 1906). Henry's pillar bears the signature of Morley and Son while the pillar for Jennie bears no signature. The stones so closely resemble each other in form and carved script, it is hard to imagine that any carver, other than Mr. Morley or his son, could have completed the pair.

Ernest Henry Dorman and Mark Warren Dorman

Ernest Henry Dorman was born in Manton, Rutlandshire, England, on April 17, 1859.⁴⁵ He immigrated to the United States at age seven with his family, eventually settling in Fayetteville, Arkansas.⁴⁶ He started carving tombstones when he was nineteen, selling his tombstones from Fayetteville until 1886. He moved to Prairie Grove in 1886 and started producing carved stones from a workshop along Buchanan Street soon afterward.⁴⁷ Ernest Dorman's father Mark Warren Dorman also carved headstones, most likely helping his son start in the business and working with him before his death in 1908. One headstone in the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section includes the signature of "M. W. Dorman": Etter Jane Morton (b. 1872, d. 1875). This rounded top, rectangular headstone includes a carved figure of an angel in flight holding an unfurled scroll within a textured roundel. The first name is carved to resemble raised type in an arch below the angel. The last name, birth date, and death date follow on five subsequent lines in a combination of standard and italicized script. Although not as well spaced and ordered as the examples of later work by Ernest Dorman, this tombstone was created before Ernest moved the monument works to Prairie Grove and before Ernest would have started carving stones at age 19 in 1877 or 1878. Although the stone could have been commissioned well after the death of Etter Jane Morton; the signature of M. W. Dorman points to an early monument business run at least in part by Mark Dorman after his arrival in the area.

⁴³ *Ibid*, 135.

⁴⁴ *Ibid*, 126-130.

⁴⁵ U.S. Census, 1900. Ancestry.com.

⁴⁶ Paisey Clifton, "Monument Maker Has Had Unique Career in Arkansas Ozarks," *Arkansas Gazette*, Little Rock, Arkansas, January 21, 1937.

⁴⁷ Clifton, "Monument Maker," *Arkansas Gazette*.

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A business list from a commemorative edition of the *Fayetteville Democrat*, published in November of 1882 also lists M. W. Dorman under the heading “Marble Shops”, definitely placing Mark Dorman in control of the business before its move to Prairie Grove in 1886.⁴⁸ Mark Warren Dorman arrived in Washington County in 1867 or 1868 with his wife and their six sons, after emigrating from England, through New York and finally to Northwest Arkansas.⁴⁹ At one point after settling in the area, Mark Dorman was supporting his family by selling not only tombstones, but groceries and baked goods as well.⁵⁰ In 1882, M. W. Dorman’s Fayetteville business, located along Center Street, was advertised as a “Marble Work, Bakery and Restaurant.” This was an unusual combination, even for an era of commercial activity that routinely saw business combined, such as an undertaker and furniture maker.⁵¹ It is noted in histories of area families that the Dorman family ran an early bakery in the Fayetteville before moving to a homestead on the Old Wire Road east of Prairie Grove to raise cattle, most likely in the late 1880s.⁵² The Dorman family move could possibly have been in response to the arrival of A. H. Morley, who set up his own stone works and carving shop in Fayetteville in the mid-1880s.⁵³

By 1889, Ernest Dorman was operating in Prairie Grove as “Leach & Dorman, marble works” according to the 1889 Goodspeed Biographical and Historic Memoirs of Northwest Arkansas.⁵⁴ In 1899, an issue of the *Monumental News*, a trade magazine for tombstone providers and carvers, noted that the partnership of Dorman & Baggett had dissolved and was now operating under E. H. Dorman only.⁵⁵ Throughout the late 1880s and 1890s, advertisements from local newspapers list Dorman in partnership with Atchison, Mathews, Leach, Welch and Baggett as well as A. C. Hess, all as providing marble works or stone carvings.⁵⁶ He was married in 1884 to Miss Dora Cohea, who died in 1912. Interestingly, three of the children of Mark Warren Dorman married three sisters of the Cohea family; Ernest married Dora A. Cohea, Fred married Sara A. Cohea, and Herbert married Ella Arkansas Cohea. After the death of Dora Dorman, Ernest then married Miss Jeanette Manly in 1917.⁵⁷

Dorman reported in 1937 that he carved by hand all of the stones he sold until 1932, when he started using a sand blaster and stencils.⁵⁸ An earlier advertisement from 1908 stated that his

⁴⁸ Burnett, “No Pompous Marble to Thy Name We Raise,” *Flashback*, 119.

⁴⁹ Neal, *History of Washington County Arkansas*, Shiloh Museum, 974. (Fred A., Ernest Henry, Herbert Warren, Cuthbert, Christopher, and Ronald)

⁵⁰ Burnett, “No Pompous Marble to Thy Name We Raise,” *Flashback*, 122.

⁵¹ *Ibid*, 141.

⁵² *Ibid*.

⁵³ *Ibid*, 119.

⁵⁴ “Washington County.” *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwestern Arkansas*. Chicago: Goodspeed, 1889. 265.

⁵⁵ “Changes, Failures, Ect.” *Monumental News*, volume 11, no. 1, Jan. 1899: 138. *Monumental News* was a trade magazine for the monument industry and would evolve into the official magazine for the American Monument Association.

⁵⁶ Burnett, “No Pompous Marble to Thy Name We Raise,” *Flashback*, 141.

⁵⁷ Neal, *History of Washington County Arkansas*, Shiloh Museum, 974.

⁵⁸ Clifton, “Monument Maker,” *Arkansas Gazette*.

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“pneumatic machinery makes prices the lowest.”⁵⁹ Mr. Dorman reported in an interview with Clifton Paisley of the *Arkansas Gazette* in 1937 that he “reckons that he has put up four-fifths of” the monuments in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.⁶⁰ To make his monuments, Dorman used stone from Vermont, Minnesota, Missouri, Georgia, Alabama, Oklahoma and other states as well as stone from his own quarry near Prairie Grove.⁶¹ Throughout his career, he carved headstones from sandstone, granite and marble with inscriptions in English, Latin, German and even Cherokee.⁶² Ernest Henry Dorman died on May 3rd, 1938 at the Elizabeth Hospital of Prairie Grove.⁶³ A monument for Ernest H. Dorman can be found north of the original section of the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section. However, Dorman’s actual burial place can be found beside the grave of his first wife at the Illinois Chapel Cemetery outside of Prairie Grove.

Statement of Significance

Generations of several important founding families are buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery. Rachel C. Marrs and Mary Ann Crawford, the two young girls with the oldest headstones in the cemetery, were both related to the Buchanan family. Descendants of the Buchanans still live in the area. Other pioneer families buried in the cemetery include Blakemore, Borden, Campbell, Carl, Carnahan, Carney, Cummings, Cunningham, Dearing, Edmiston, English, Hannah, Morton, Parks, Pittman, Pyeatt, Rogers, Shofner, Tilley, West, and Wilson.

As important evidence of the early settlement of Prairie Grove, the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the early settlement and continued development of the town of Prairie Grove. The cemetery is also being nominated under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, for collection of headstones featuring artistic carvings created by local and regional masons and stone carvers, including a large collection of carved headstones created by Ernest Henry Dorman of Prairie Grove, Arkansas. This property is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D**, as a cemetery. The period of significance for the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section, stretching from 1818 through 1938, encompasses the initial settlement of the surrounding area as well as the first large scale development of Prairie Grove during the early 20th century. It also encompasses the productive life of the local stone carver Ernest Henry Dorman, who continued to create headstones until his death in 1938.

⁵⁹ Abby Burnett, *Gone to the Grave: Burial Customs of the Arkansas Ozarks, 1850-1950*, Jackson, MS: U of Mississippi, 2014. 152-153.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ Photo of the Ernest Dorman quarry outside Prairie Grove c. 1902, Research files of the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, Springdale, Arkansas. Clifton, “Monument Maker,” *Arkansas Gazette*.

⁶² Clifton, “Monument Maker,” *Arkansas Gazette*.

⁶³ “Heart Attack Fatal To E. H. Dorman,” *Northwest Arkansas, Times* [Fayetteville] 4 May 1938, Classified sec.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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

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- Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Washington County, Arkansas, Court House and Archives
& the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WA1232

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2.2 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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	Easting: 380984.40	Northing: 3982063.47
B: Zone: 15	Easting: 381078.67	Northing: 3982062.87
C: Zone: 15	Easting: 381082.69	Northing: 3982142.09
D: Zone: 15	Easting: 381127.55	Northing: 3982139.84
E: Zone: 15	Easting: 381127.63	Northing: 3982150.06
F: Zone: 15	Easting: 380989.62	Northing: 3982155.04

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

A tract of land in Section 18, Township 15, Range 31, bounded by West Buchanan Street to the South, Kate Smith Street to the East, a paved cemetery access street to the north and a paved cemetery access street to the west. The eastern boundary lies along the original property line for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at the northwest corner of the intersection of Kate Smith Street and West Buchanan Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the original section of this cemetery.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Susan Parks-Spencer
organization: Washington County Historical Society
date: October 16, 2015

name/title: Callie Williams, National Register Historian (Form Edited By)
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500, Tower Building
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail calliew@arkansasheritage.org
telephone: 501-324-9880
date: October 16, 2015

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.)

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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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section

City or Vicinity: Prairie Grove

County: Washington

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Callie Williams, National Register Historian, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Date Photographed: May 13, 2014

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

1 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0001)
Cemetery overview, camera facing west.

2 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0002)
Cemetery overview, camera facing west.

3 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0003)
Cemetery overview, camera facing southwest.

4 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0004)
Cemetery overview, camera facing southeast.

5 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0005)
Cemetery overview, camera facing southeast.

6 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0006)
Large headstone with urn, camera facing southeast.

7 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0007)
Large headstones with urns, camera facing northeast.

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8 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0008)

Detail of gravestone, MAW 1849, camera facing east.

9 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0009)

Detail of gravestone, Crawford, camera facing east.

10 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0010)

Detail of stacked gravestones, camera facing east.

11 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0011)

Detail of gravestone, Josiah Doak, camera facing east.

12 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0012)

Detail of Josiah Doak gravestone, C. Brading, Mason, camera facing east.

13 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0013)

Detail of gravestone, John C Ferguson, camera facing east.

14 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0014)

Detail of gravestone, Rhoda King, camera facing east.

15 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0015)

Detail of Rhoda King gravestone, P.B. Stone, camera facing east.

16 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0016)

Detail of gravestone, Mary L. Buchanan, camera facing east.

17 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0017)

Detail of gravestone, James Crawford, camera facing east.

18 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0018)

Detail of gravestone, large obelisk, camera facing east.

19 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0019)

Detail of large obelisk gravestone, John A. Buchanan, camera facing east.

20 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0020)

Detail of gravestones, 2 Henson grave markers, camera facing east.

21 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0021)

Detail of gravestones, signature of "M. W. Dorman.", camera facing east.

22 of 22: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0022)

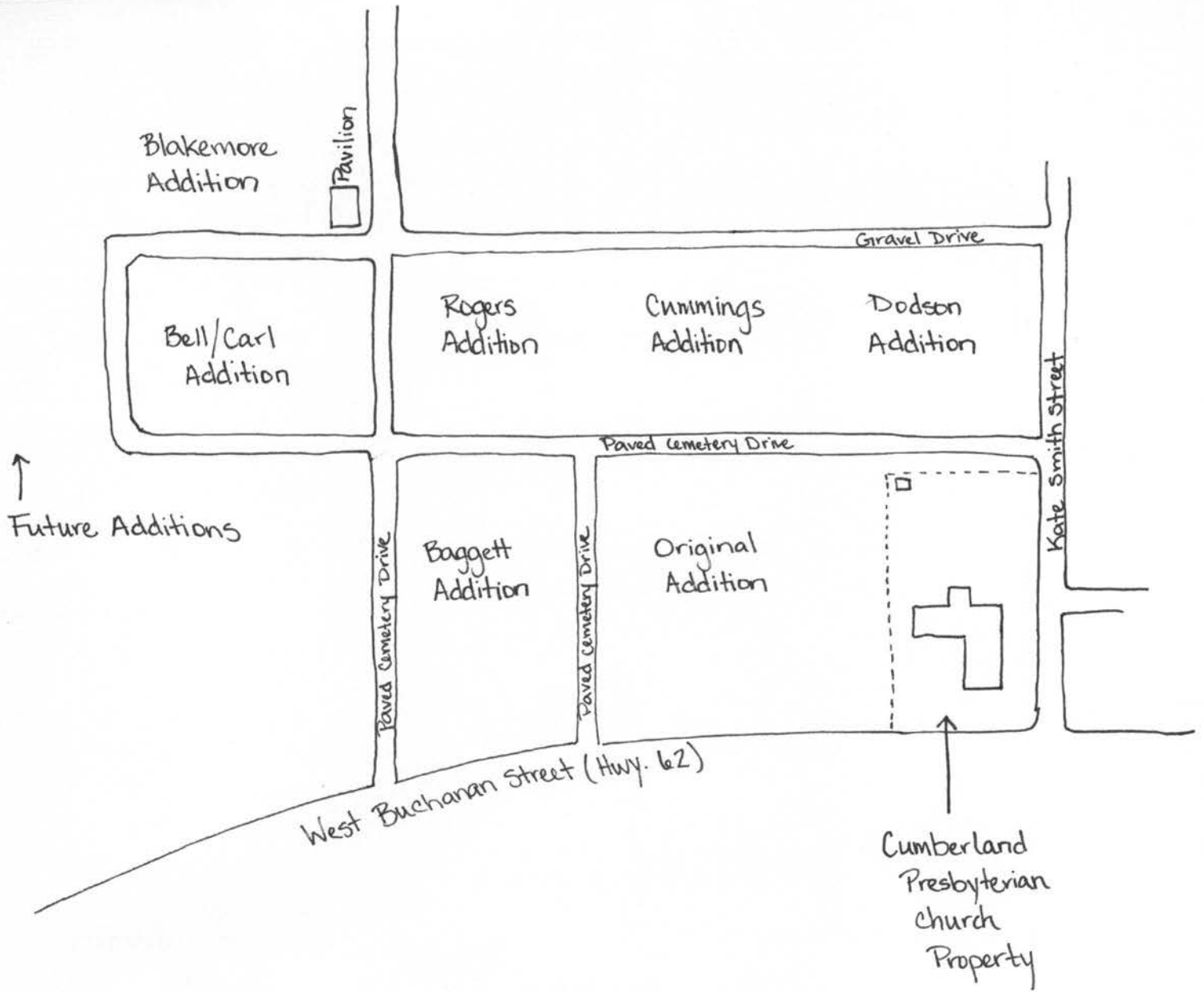
Detail of gravestones, signature of "Dorman & Braggs, Prairie Grove", camera facing east.

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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.



Prairie Grove Cemetery
 Prairie Grove, Washington County
 2015



Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section, Prairie Grove, Washington County, Arkansas



Google earth

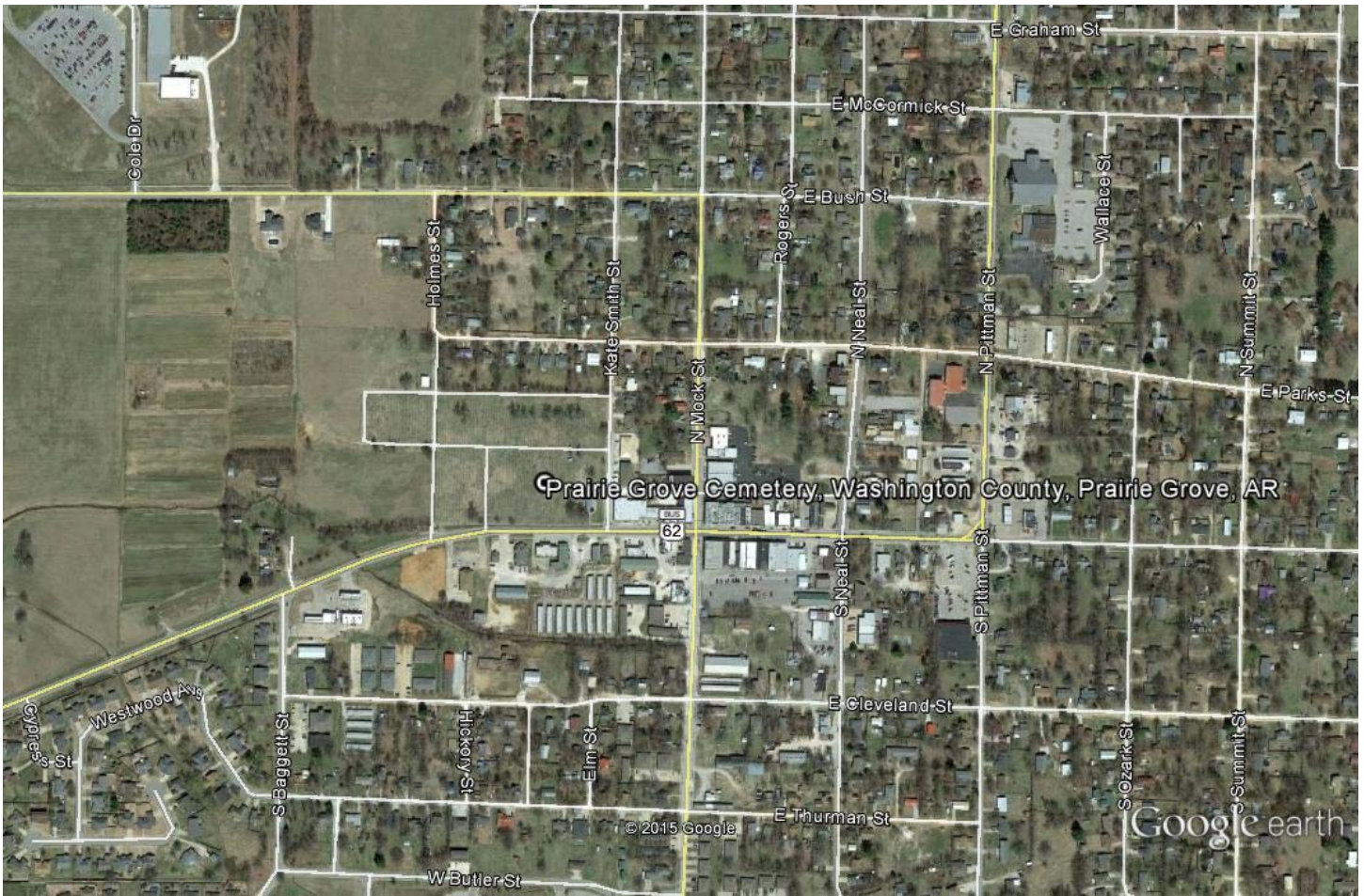


UTM

A:	Zone: 15	Easting: 380984.40	Northing: 3982063.47
B:	Zone: 15	Easting: 381078.67	Northing: 3982062.87
C:	Zone: 15	Easting: 381082.69	Northing: 3982142.09
D:	Zone: 15	Easting: 381127.55	Northing: 3982139.84
E:	Zone: 15	Easting: 381127.63	Northing: 3982150.06
F:	Zone: 15	Easting: 380989.62	Northing: 3982155.04

NAD 1983

Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section, Prairie Grove, Washington County, Arkansas



UTM

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F:	Zone: 15	Easting: 380989.62	Northing: 3982155.04

NAD 1983







COLE









WEST
DAS WEST
MAY 20 1874
MAY 27 1920

IN
MEMORY OF
AGNES WEST
Who was born
July 25, 1823
and died
Sep. 12, 1874

WEST
MAY





MEMORY OF
JOSIAH DOAK
son of
JOHN MOORE
died April the 11th 1845
aged 21 years
8 months

C. B. B. & Co. Inc.
MASSOIL

JOHN G. HERGENROTTER

1848

1916

68 Years

May he rest in peace

Rest in peace



JOHN W. KIN
 WHO DEPARTED
 THIS LIFE JANUARY
 8TH AD 1856.
 Aged 59 years 2 m
 1807
 1856



MARY L. BUCHANAN.

Born

March 19th. 1836.

Died

August 6th. 1855.

Gone,

But Not Lost.

W. B. SCOTT.

MEMORY OF
JAMES CRAWFORD
who was born Feb 29 1772
died Oct 10 1854
aged 82 years 7 months
and 10 days
The righteous shall be an
everlasting remembrance



WILLIAM C. ...
BORN
1823, 11.1 - 22
DIED
1891, 10.1 - 61

...
...

...
...

...

...

1880

1889

MICHAEL J. BUCHANAN

JOHN A. BUCHANAN

LOVE
ANNE
W
LIFE
ANNIE HENSON
BORN
JAN. 20. 1856
DIED
AUG. 26. 1928
HENSON

H. HENSON
BORN
DEC. 20. 1858
DIED
MAY 11. 1916
HENSON

M. W. DORTMAN.

NOV. DIED
SEPT. 23. 1884.

Asleep in Jesus.

1880

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 12/11/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/26/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000292

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1-8-2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Addressed Comments Regarding Criterion A
Also Added 'C', as further investigation uncovered the
Role of a local Stone Currier in providing distinctive
Markers & Funerary Art*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A & C

REVIEWER J. Gabbert DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

April 1, 2015



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

RE: Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section – Prairie Grove,
Washington County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. 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



Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program



323 Center Street, Suite 1500
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184
tdd: 711

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

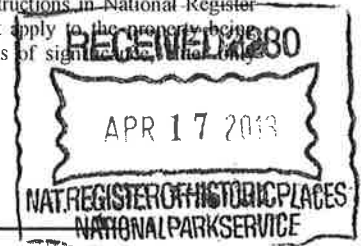
www.arkansaspreservation.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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, use the categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section

Other names/site number: WA1232

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: W end of downtown Prairie Grove on the W side of Kate Smith St, N side of Buchanan St (Hwy 62 W), and S of Parks St.

City or town: Prairie Grove State: AR County: Washington

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Stacy Hunt</u>	<u>4-3-15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section
Name of Property

Washington, Arkansas
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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

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

Returned

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

District

Site

Structure

Object

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section
Name of Property

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

Returned

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:

Other Stone: granite, sandstone

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Prairie Grove Cemetery is located next to Highway 62 West on the west side of downtown Prairie Grove. In the early 1800s settlers used this area to bury their dead, and the first recorded burial in 1818 is found on the north side of Highway 62 where the oldest cemetery sections are located. This first section of the cemetery measured a little over two and a half acres and was sold to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1838. Over the years, land was gradually added to the cemetery with the current size measuring thirteen acres. Many of the hand-carved sandstone and marble markers date from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There is no cemetery sign or main entrance.

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Name of Property

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Narrative Description

The Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section is located to the north of Highway 62, also known as West Buchanan Street in Prairie Grove, Arkansas. The cemetery sits to the northwest of the intersection of West Buchanan Street and Kate Smith Street. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church, built in 1887-1888, sits on the southeast corner of the cemetery, adjacent to Kate Smith Street and West Buchanan Street. This section of land is owned by the Arkansas Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and no burials are on this site. The north and west boundaries of the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section are paved cemetery roads, delineating this original section from other later additions to the cemetery.

Later, at an unknown date, the church donated over half of the western section of their property to the Prairie Grove Cemetery Association. The Cemetery Association, which was granted non-profit status in 1985, continues as the current owner of the cemetery and raises funds to help pay for its maintenance through sales of cemetery lots as well as donations.

The cemetery was expanded in 1900 with the Baggett Addition on the west side of the Original Addition. In chronological order, the next Additions were the Cummings Addition north of the Original Addition in 1917, the Dodson Addition north of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church property in 1958, the Rogers Addition north of the Cummings Addition in 1960, and the Loyd L. Baggett Addition west of the Original Addition in 1966.¹ In 1985, the Cemetery Association purchased 5½ acres northwest of the Prairie Grove Cemetery. This land was partitioned into four 20'x12' Additions. Only two of these Additions have been named. The Bell/Carl Addition is on the southeast corner, and the Blakemore Addition is on the northeast side. The southwest and northwest Additions are unnamed and not in use at this time.

The Prairie Grove Cemetery includes over 3,000 total burials (historic and non-historic for the entire cemetery, including all historic and new additions) and 20 documented burials with unknown locations. The entire cemetery includes a total of 1604 historic burials. The historic section, which is being nominated to the National Register, includes most of the historic burials found in the Prairie Grove Cemetery. The following is a list of approximate dates of historic burials by decade for the entire Prairie Grove Cemetery:

1818-1820: 1
1821-1830: 1
1831-1840: 10
1841-1850: 15
1851-1860: 40
1861-1870: 31
1871-1880: 48
1881-1890: 107
1891-1900: 85

¹ Refer to the sketch map of the cemetery, included in additional documentation.

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section

Washington, Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

1901-1910: 82
1911-1920: 176
1921-1930: 200
1931-1940: 178
1941-1950: 247
1951-1960: 251
1961-1964: 132

The historic section of the Prairie Grove Cemetery includes 852 interments, with possibly several unmarked burials. There are 106 non-historic burials and at least 745 historic burials. The following total burials by decade come from a survey made of the cemetery by members of the cemetery board in the last decade.

Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section Burials by Decade:

1818-1820: 1
1821-1830: 1
1831-1840: 8
1841-1850: 13
1851-1860: 38
1861-1870: 29
1871-1880: 53
1881-1890: 94
1891-1900: 61
1901-1910: 72
1911-1920: 91
1921-1930: 62
1931-1940: 57
1941-1950: 67
1951-1960: 47
1961-1964: 17

Historic Burials, marked but without dates: 34

Non-Historic Burials: 106

Returned

The Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section includes the oldest marked burials in the cemetery. These include the gravestones of Rachel C. Marrs (d.1818), Mary Ann Crawford (b.1822-d.1824) and Mary Percilla Inman (d.1831). This section also includes the graves of many early settlers of the area including Rev. Andrew "Uncle Buck" Buchanan and his family, along with Colonel James Preston Neal and others.

This cemetery includes several examples of nineteenth and early twentieth century iconography. Hand carved headstones made from marble and granite include floral motifs, gateways, archways, crosses, crowns and masonic symbols as well as others. The headstones range from small, fieldstone markers with no writing to large intricately carved or cast metal headstones. There are also several large obelisks headstones and several headstones with stone urns on high

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pillars. Many hand-carved marble and sandstone markers are found throughout the older Additions. Several of these headstones still bear maker's marks, including the names M. W. Dorman, John A. Buchanan, P. R. Stout, C. Brading, Morley & Co. (Fayetteville) and Park & McLintock (St. Louis). Inscriptions on some of the older monuments are almost unreadable due to age, and there are gravestones that are broken. There are several gravestones with the wood stump features of the Woodmen of the World's fraternal organization. Marble columns in the oldest Additions are visible from Highway 62. Field markers made of rock or stone mark unknown graves from the 1800s. These markers are scattered among the older Additions, and many have been hit by mowers or moved around by people throughout the years. In years past, there were numerous unmarked graves discovered throughout the Dodson Addition by the local funeral home workers as they were digging new graves. That section of the cemetery was eventually abandoned for others, since they were unable to find unoccupied plots. Unknown burials, once marked by now lost field stones may also still exist in the original addition of the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

A small structure, measuring 5' by 1'7" by 3'4" and made of native stone, is located in the Original Addition. This small feature was constructed by the local American Legion Post 146 during the 1980s and used as a base for a flagpole. It has deteriorated somewhat and is no longer in use. The Mrs. Joy Webb Memorial Pavilion was constructed in 2003 and is used for outdoor funeral or memorial services. It is named in honor of Prairie Grove resident Mrs. Joy Webb (1891-1976), who is buried in the cemetery. The Pavilion is located on the southeast corner of the Blakemore Addition and is thus not included within the boundaries of the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section.

There is no main cemetery sign or main entrance. Instead, there are five entryways leading into the cemetery: two from Highway 62 on the south side of the cemetery, two from Kate Smith Street on the cemetery's east side, and one entrance off of Parks Street in the northwest section. All are paved with the exception of the road that marks the northernmost entrance off of Kate Smith Street, whose boundary makes up the northern edge of the Rogers, Cummings, and Dodson Additions. The south side of the cemetery is bordered by a drainage ditch, which was constructed during 1941 by men employed through the United States Government's Works Progress Administration (WPA) New Deal program. Arkansas Highway Department trucks brought in native stone that was placed on the north wall of the ditch. A bridge spanning the drainage ditch on the southwest corner of the Baggett Addition was built as an entrance to the cemetery. Another entrance was later added west of that access point.

The cemetery is in good condition with well-maintained plots and markers. It is an active cemetery, with new plots being sold and used in the newer additions. New burials in the historic section are very limited, due to lack of space and the possibility of open spaces being occupied by unmarked historic burials. A few headstones have been broken over the years. Some of the earliest carved stone markers have worn away over time and some inscriptions have been lost.

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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

Returned

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section
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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1818-1964

Significant Dates

1818, First Burial

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

M. W. Dorman, Headstone Maker
John A. Buchanan, Headstone Maker
P. R. Stout, Headstone Maker
C. Brading, Headstone Maker
Morley & Co. (Fayetteville), Headstone Maker
Park & McIntock (St. Louis), Headstone Maker

Returned

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section

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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 Prairie Grove Cemetery is a historical landmark along the town's main street. Early settlers of Prairie Grove and the west Washington County area, including some of their present-day descendants, are buried in the cemetery. Several notable people in Prairie Grove's history, including its founder, are interred there. The handcrafted marble and granite headstones illustrate the designs often used to commemorate the deceased from the 1800s to early 1900s and feature work of local and regional craftsmen. As important evidence of the early settlement of Prairie Grove, the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the early settlement and continued development of the town of Prairie Grove. This property is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D**, as a cemetery.

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

The land now known as Washington County, Arkansas, was first home to Native American tribes such as the Osage and Cherokee. In 1793, the land that is now Washington County was part of Lovely's Purchase, named after Major William Lovely who bought the land from the Osage Indians in hope that it would serve as a boundary between the rival Osage, Cherokee, and white settlers.² In 1827, the legislators representing Arkansas territory established Lovely County, which included what is now Washington County. Almost exactly a year later, borders along Indian Territory were drawn up and Washington County was officially established.³

Pioneers of Washington County, mainly of European descent, established small communities in which they farmed the land.⁴ Mills were built along the creeks flowing through the countryside where many of the crops were processed. Settlers in the Prairie Grove area during the mid- to late 1800s used the rich soil near the Illinois River to help grow fruits and vegetables, including apples and strawberries. These two crops became an important part of the town's economy after the Ozark and Cherokee Central railroad opened a depot on the south side of town in 1901.⁵

² Matthew Bryan Kirkpatrick, Washington County Historical Society, "Washington County," The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, last modified June 28, 2013, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=813>.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ "Two Sermons Traded for Spring; Two Sermons Traded for 'Flowing Fountain of Clear, Cold Water,'" *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History 1888-1988*, 2.

⁵ Neva McMurry, "Frisco Railroad; Ozark and Cherokee Central Railroad Important Part of Prairie Grove History," *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History: 1888-1988* (Siloam Springs Printing: George and Essie Wiswell, 1988), 44.

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Several years later, a canning factory was built along the railroad track and tomatoes were added as another cash crop.⁶

Just before 1830, a hunter named Tom Wagon claimed land around the spring in present-day Mock Park in Prairie Grove.⁷ Soon after clearing his new land, Wagon traded his land claim to Reverend Andrew "Uncle Buck" Buchanan for two good sermons. Buchanan would eventually build the first church and school on his new land.⁸ In 1840, the first post office near present day Prairie Grove was established. This first post office was called Sweet Home. The first postmaster at Sweet Home was James Chestnut Pittman. He operated the post office until it closed in 1846. Eleven years later, in 1857, a second post office was opened under the name Ada. This post office was named after one of postmaster Archibald Borden's daughters. This structure survived the Civil War and the nearby Battle of Prairie Grove (Battlefield Park, NR 9.4.1970) largely intact, save for the numerous bullet holes.⁹

In 1871, Buchanan's stepson, James Preston Neal arrived in Washington County.¹⁰ He had inherited his late stepfather's land. Neal was planning to organize the town that Buchanan had started. In 1877, the town of Prairie Grove was formally laid out and the first sale of lots took place on March 24th.¹¹ By the end of the 1880s, a downtown area was growing just east of the modern Prairie Grove Cemetery along Buchanan Street. The first brick building in Prairie Grove was built in 1886.¹² This downtown area was ravaged by fires during the early 20th century. The town of Prairie Grove was incorporated in July of 1888. By the turn of the 20th century, the population of the town was over 500 people and the downtown area had several stores, a hotel, two newspapers and several professional offices, including several physicians and a telephone company.¹³

The Prairie Grove Cemetery, although used before the region was officially settled, became the main cemetery for the region. The cemetery has witnessed the growth of the surrounding community for nearly 200 years. The first owner of the cemetery property, known today as the "Original Addition" and which then included the church property, was Rev. Andrew "Uncle Buck" Buchanan and his wife, Sinai Buchanan. Rev. Buchanan and his wife sold a little over two and a half acres of land for \$25 to members of his Prairie Congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.¹⁴ Stipulations of the sale in the 1838 deed included the congregation's promise to construct a church, a school, and to use a portion of the land as a cemetery.

⁶ Neva McMurry, "Canning Factories," *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History: 1888-1988*, 34.

⁷ Susan Parks, "Prairie Grove (Washington County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, last modified December 14, 2011, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=1009>.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Southern Mercantile Building National Register Nomination 6.14.1990.

¹² "Prairie Grove (Washington County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Washington County, Arkansas Deed Record B-237, 238, September 21, 1838, Washington County, Arkansas Courthouse Archives.

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The cemetery was expanded in 1900 with the Baggett Addition on the west side of the Original Addition. In chronological order, the next Additions were the Cummings Addition north of the Original Addition in 1917, the Dodson Addition north of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church property in 1958, the Rogers Addition north of the Cummings Addition in 1960, and the Loyd L. Baggett Addition west of the Original Addition in 1966.¹⁵ In 1985, the Cemetery Association purchased 5½ acres northwest of the Prairie Grove Cemetery.¹⁶ This land was partitioned into four 20'x12' Additions. Only two of these Additions have been named. The Bell/Carl Addition is on the southeast corner, and the Blakemore Addition is on the northeast side. The southwest and northwest Additions are unnamed. These additions are for future expansion and are not in use at this time. The cemetery is still in use; however, new burials in the historic section are limited due to the lack of available space and the existence of unmarked historic burials.

Later, at an unknown date, the church donated over half of the western section of their property to the Prairie Grove Cemetery Association. The Cemetery Association, which was granted non-profit status in 1985, continues as the current owner of the cemetery and raises funds to help pay for its maintenance through sales of cemetery lots as well as donations.

The location of the first grave in the Prairie Grove Cemetery is not known. Chunks of field stone served as grave markers and are scattered throughout the older Additions. Some are broken, and others have disappeared. The oldest recorded grave in the cemetery is of a five year-old girl, Rachel C. Marrs, who died in 1818. The second oldest documented burial was of another child, Mary Ann Crawford (1822-1824). Until recently, Tennessee resident Mary Percilla Inman was thought to have been the first person buried in Prairie Grove. Miss Inman was visiting relatives in nearby Cane Hill when she became ill and died in 1831. Before her death, she asked to be buried in the beautiful valley she had traveled through on her way to Cane Hill. The Prairie Grove Cemetery Association in 1941 placed a commemorative marble headstone at her grave with the inscription, "First Grave in Prairie Grove." When the Marrs and Crawford markers were discovered a short time ago, the Inman grave became the third oldest recorded interment in the cemetery.

Several people buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery played a large part in the town's history, including:

Andrew Buchanan (1792-1857):

In 1824, Tennessee native and Kentucky resident, Andrew Buchanan (1792-1857), became a candidate for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church ministry.¹⁷ Five years later, Rev. Buchanan and his family left Kentucky for Arkansas. While visiting his brothers in Cane Hill, Rev.

¹⁵ Refer to the sketch map of the cemetery, included in additional documentation.

¹⁶ Luginbuel Funeral Home, "Prairie Grove Cemetery," accessed April 28, 2014, <http://assets.luginbuel.com/cemeteries/prairie-grove-cemetery-prairie-grove-ar/documents/Plot%20Description.pdf>.

¹⁷ B. W. McDonold, *History of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church* (4th ed., Nashville: Board of Publication of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 1889), accessed March 30, 2014, <http://www.cumberland.org/hfpc/mcdonold/>.

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Buchanan heard of a fertile valley with a bountiful spring several miles to the east. Arriving at the spring he found a settler, Tom Wagon, who had already laid claim to the land. However, Wagon agreed to a trade with Uncle Buck in exchange for two sermons. Sometime afterwards, Rev. Buchanan organized the Prairie Congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, as well as a school. On September 21, 1838, Andrew Buchanan and his wife, Sinai Buchanan (1797-1883), sold a little over two and a half acres of land for \$25 to representatives of the Prairie Congregation for the “use and benefits of a place for the worship of God[,] for teaching school, and for a burying ground for all peoples who may wish to rites [sic] their dead there.”¹⁸ Sometime later, over half of the property’s west side was donated to the Prairie Grove Cemetery Association. This section is part of the Original Addition and is where Andrew and Sinai Buchanan are buried. Highway 62 on the south side of the cemetery is Buchanan Street, named after Andrew Buchanan’s family.

Colonel James Preston Neal (1820-1896):

Colonel Neal, who is buried in the Original Addition near his mother Sinai Buchanan and stepfather, Rev. Andrew Buchanan, was the founder of Prairie Grove. Neal, a lawyer, was a veteran of the Mexican-American War in the late 1840s and mayor of Fayetteville, Arkansas, from 1851-1854. At the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, Neal joined the Confederate forces and was made “an elector” and voted for Jefferson Davis as president of the Confederacy. He also helped provide Confederate forces with much-needed supplies.¹⁹ In 1875, four years after moving to his stepfather’s Prairie Grove farm, Neal decided to establish a town. A plat for the downtown area was drawn up, and Neal opened the first “merchandising” business. He also served as postmaster from the early 1870s until his resignation in 1887.²⁰

Nancy Morton Staples (1831-1921):

Nancy Staples was born in Prairie Grove and experienced many hardships during the Civil War. Mrs. Staples taught school as well as a Sunday school class. After war was declared, bushwhackers and other lawless men began roaming the hills. So, Mrs. Staples moved her students to a barn loft. Immediately after the Battle of Prairie Grove she attended to the needs of wounded soldiers on the battlefield until they were taken to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church or other makeshift hospitals in the area.²¹ To protect the dead soldiers from wild hogs that wandered the countryside, she and other local women constructed wood fences around the stack of corpses. Later, bushwhackers invaded her ailing father’s house and began burning his feet with a hot poker in an attempt to force him to tell where he had hidden his money. Mrs. Staples, who was at the house, grabbed the poker, seriously burning her hands.²² She was later given an honorary membership to the United Daughters of the Confederacy’s Prairie Grove Chapter.

¹⁸ Washington County, Arkansas Deed Record B-237, 238, September 21, 1838, Washington County, Arkansas Courthouse Archives.

¹⁹ “Death of Col. J.P. Neal,” *Fayetteville Weekly Democrat*, January 9, 1896, 2.

²⁰ “Col. James P. Neal (From *Goodspeed History of 1889*), *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History: 1888-1988*, 81.

²¹ “Mrs. Nancy Staples Dead Aged Ninety Years,” *Prairie Grove Herald*, April 7, 1921, 2.

²² *Ibid.*

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section

Washington, Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

Ernest Henry Dorman (1859-1938):

Mr. Dorman owned and operated the Dorman Monument Works just east of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Dorman was born in England and immigrated with his family to Fayetteville, Arkansas, as a young boy.²³ He began training as a monument maker at age 19 and later opened his own business in Fayetteville, where he stayed until 1886 when he moved to Prairie Grove. His gravestones were hand-carved with a hammer and chisel until 1932 when he began using a sand blaster.²⁴ Dorman has many hand-carved headstones in the Prairie Grove Cemetery, as well as other cemeteries in the region. Besides English, Dorman also inscribed tombstones in Latin, German, and Cherokee. The sandstone he used was mined from a quarry he owned in the community of Mountain Gap, located east of Prairie Grove.²⁵ Mr. Dorman is buried in the area north of the Original Addition in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

James Frank Holmes (1876-1947):

Mr. Holmes was a Georgia lawyer who moved to Prairie Grove in 1931. A year later, he was elected mayor of Prairie Grove and served in that position until 1941. During his tenure as mayor, Mr. Holmes helped organize the construction of the city's water and sewer systems.²⁶ He was also instrumental in starting a public library for Prairie Grove residents.²⁷ In 1941 he left the mayor's office to serve in the Arkansas House of Representatives for several years.

Generations of families are buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery. Rachel C. Marrs and Mary Ann Crawford, the two young girls with the oldest headstones in the cemetery, were both related to the Buchanan family. Descendants of the Buchanans still live in the area. Other pioneer families buried in the cemetery include Blakenore, Borden, Campbell, Carl, Carnahan, Carney, Cummings, Cunningham, Dearing, Edmiston, English, Hannah, Morton, Parks, Pittman, Pyeatt, Rogers, Shofner, Tilley, West, and Wilson.

Early settlers of Prairie Grove and the west Washington County area, including some of their present-day descendants, are buried in the cemetery. Several notable people in Prairie Grove's history, including its founder, are interred there. The handcrafted marble and granite headstones illustrate the designs often used to commemorate the deceased from the 1800s to early 1900s and feature work of local and regional craftsmen. As important evidence of the early settlement of Prairie Grove, the Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the early settlement and continued development of the town of Prairie Grove. This property is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration D**, as a cemetery.

²³ "Monument Maker Has Unique Career; Has Seen Many Changes in His Profession," *Prairie Grove Enterprise*, March 4, 1937, p.1.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ "Davidson Lawn Displays Family Artifacts," in *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History: 1888-1988*, 12.

²⁶ "J. Frank Holmes," in *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History: 1888-1988*, 90.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section
Name of Property

Washington, Arkansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Matthew Bryan Kirkpatrick, Washington County Historical Society, "Washington County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, last modified June 28, 2013, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=813>.

Luginbuel, Loyd Wayne. Interview with Susan Parks-Spencer. Personal interview. Prairie Grove, Arkansas, June 9, 2014.

"Marble Stone Marks First Grave in Prairie Grove Cemetery." *Prairie Grove Enterprise*, July 1, 1941.

B. W. McDonold, *History of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church* (4th ed., Nashville: Board of Publication of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 1889), accessed March 30, 2014, <http://www.cumberland.org/hfcpc/mcdonold/>.

Neva McMurry, "Frisco Railroad; Ozark and Cherokee Central Railroad Important Part of Prairie Grove History," *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History: 1888-1988* (Siloam Springs Printing: George and Essie Wiswell, 1988), 44.

Susan Parks, "Prairie Grove (Washington County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, last modified December 14, 2011, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=1009>.

Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History: 1888-1988. Siloam Springs Printing: George and Essie Wiswell, 1988.

"Prairie Grove Cemetery." In *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History: 1888-1988*. Siloam Springs Printing: George and Essie Wiswell, 1988.

"Prairie Grove Cemetery." Luginbuel Funeral Home. Accessed April 28, 2014. <http://assets.luginbuel.com/cemeteries/prairie-grove-cemetery-prairie-grove-ar/documents//Plot%20Description.pdf>.

"Two Sermons Traded for Spring." *Prairie Grove, Arkansas Centennial History 1888-1988*. Siloam Springs Printing: George and Essie Wiswell, 1988.

Washington County, Arkansas Deed Record B-237, 238, September 21, 1838, Washington County, Arkansas Courthouse Archives.

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section
Name of Property

Washington, Arkansas
County and State

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: Washington County, Arkansas Court House and Archives
& the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WA1232

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.2 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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

Or

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section
Name of Property

Washington, Arkansas
County and State

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

A: Zone: 15	Easting: 380984.40	Northing: 3982063.47
B: Zone: 15	Easting: 381078.67	Northing: 3982062.87
C: Zone: 15	Easting: 381082.69	Northing: 3982142.09
D: Zone: 15	Easting: 381127.55	Northing: 3982139.84
E: Zone: 15	Easting: 381127.63	Northing: 3982150.06
F: Zone: 15	Easting: 380989.62	Northing: 3982155.04

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

A tract of land in Section 18, Township 15, Range 31, bounded by West Buchanan Street to the South, Kate Smith Street to the East, a paved cemetery access street to the north and a paved cemetery access street to the west. The eastern boundary lies along the original property line for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at the northwest corner of the intersection of Kate Smith Street and West Buchanan Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this cemetery.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Susan Parks-Spencer
organization: Washington County Historical Society
date: February 2, 2015

name/title: Callie Williams, National Register Historian (Form Edited By)
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500, Tower Building
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail: calliew@arkansasheritage.org
telephone: 501-324-9880
date: February, 9 2015

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section
Name of Property

Washington, Arkansas
County and State

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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section

City or Vicinity: Prairie Grove

County: Washington

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Callie Williams, National Register Historian, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Date Photographed: May 13, 2014

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

1 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0001)
Cemetery overview, camera facing west.

2 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0002)
Cemetery overview, camera facing west.

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section
Name of Property

Washington, Arkansas
County and State

- 3 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0003)
Cemetery overview, camera facing southwest.
- 4 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0004)
Cemetery overview, camera facing southeast.
- 5 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0005)
Cemetery overview, camera facing southeast.
- 6 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0006)
Large headstone with urn, camera facing southeast.
- 7 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0007)
Large headstones with urns, camera facing northeast.
- 8 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0008)
Detail of gravestone, MAW 1849, camera facing east.
- 9 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0009)
Detail of gravestone, Crawford, camera facing east.
- 10 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0010)
Detail of stacked gravestones, camera facing east.
- 11 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0011)
Detail of gravestone, Josiah Doak, camera facing east.
- 12 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0012)
Detail of Josiah Doak gravestone, C. Brading, Mason, camera facing east.
- 13 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0013)
Detail of gravestone, John C Ferguson, camera facing east.
- 14 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0014)
Detail of gravestone, Rhoda King, camera facing east.
- 15 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0015)
Detail of Rhoda King gravestone, P.B. Stone, camera facing east.
- 16 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0016)
Detail of gravestone, Mary L. Buchanan, camera facing east.
- 17 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0017)
Detail of gravestone, James Crawford, camera facing east.

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section
Name of Property

Washington, Arkansas
County and State

18 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0018)
Detail of gravestone, large obelisk, camera facing east.

19 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0019)
Detail of large obelisk gravestone, John A. Buchanan, camera facing east.

20 of 20: (AR_WashingtonCounty_PrairieGrove_PrairieGroveCemetery_0020)
Detail of gravestones, 2 Henson grave markers, camera facing east.

Returned

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.

Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section, Prairie Grove, Washington County, Arkansas



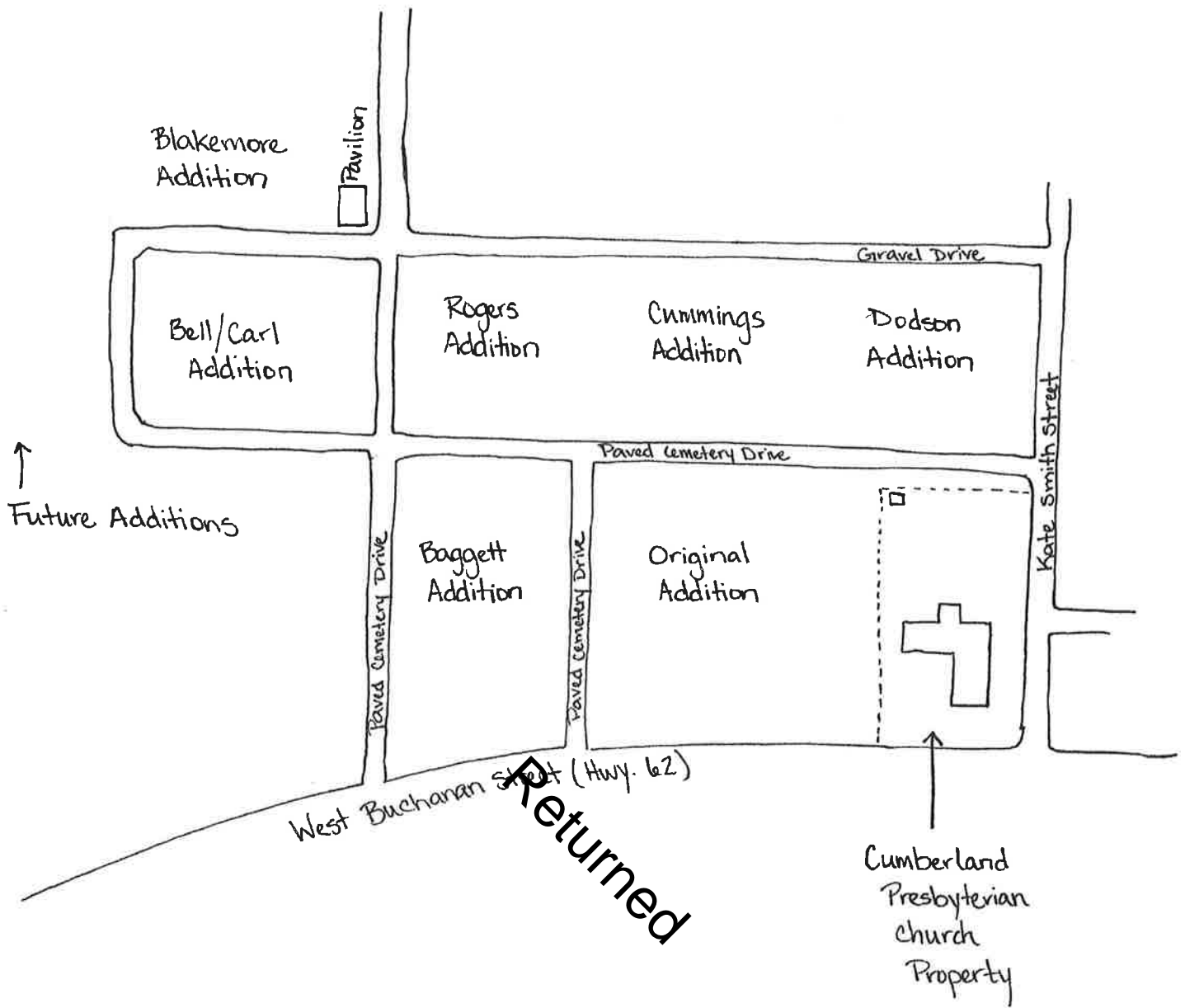
Google earth



UTM

A:	Zone: 15	Easting: 380984.40	Northing: 3982063.47
B:	Zone: 15	Easting: 381078.67	Northing: 3982062.87
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E:	Zone: 15	Easting: 381127.63	Northing: 3982150.06
F:	Zone: 15	Easting: 380989.62	Northing: 3982155.04

NAD 1983



Prairie Grove Cemetery
 Prairie Grove, Washington County
 2015



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 4/17/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/08/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/26/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/02/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000292

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5-29-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See comments

RECOM./CRITERIA *Return*

REVIEWER *[Signature]*

DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____

DATE *[Signature]*

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section, Washington
County, AR

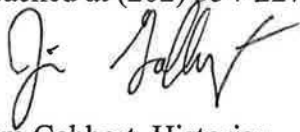
Reference Number: 15000292

Reason for Return

The Prairie Grove Cemetery, Historic Section nomination is being returned for technical and substantive revision. The nomination claims significance under Criterion A, EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT with a period of significance of 1818-1964. The nomination claims local significance “for its association with the early settlement and continued development of the town of Prairie Grove.” However, the nomination provides no context on this continued development and does not explain why a cemetery is the better representative of the maturing of the community that, for example, the buildings and structures that coincide with this development. Exploration and settlement as areas of significance, and as applied to cemeteries, typically is used to represent an area that was once settled but whose settlement pattern may no longer be evident; or it could represent the earliest period of settlement in an area, where there are few or no extant resources to reflect that period. This nomination does not provide any information about the current Prairie Grove and what extant resources there might be, or might have been, that represent the early settlement of the town. The nomination offers a history of the town and a description of some of the persons buried within the cemetery, but does not address the root question: “how does this property represent the historic settlement of the community?” Please revisit the context statement and provide a more reasoned explanation of why this section of the cemetery is a significant representation of Prairie Grove’s settlement and development, and in doing so, please consider more critically the period of significance for the property.

Please indicate on the site map the boundaries of the proposed area to be listed.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this nomination and hope that you find these comments useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (202) 354-2275 or email at <James_Gabbert@nps.gov>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Gabbert". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jim Gabbert, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
6/02/2015



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

December 2, 2015

RECEIVED 2280

DEC 11 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

RE: Prairie Grove Cemetery Historic Section, Prairie Grove,
Washington County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process. This nomination is a resubmittal (Reference Number 15000292).

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

-
- Arkansas Arts Council
 -
 - Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
 -
 - Delta Cultural Center
 -
 - Historic Arkansas Museum
 -
 - Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
 -
 - Old State House Museum
-



Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program



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