OMB Control No. 1024-0018
expiration date 03/31/2026

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, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: _Cherry Cemetery_
Other names/site number: _Temperance Chapel Cemetery, Site #CV0052_
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: _East side of Mt. Elba Road, approximately ½ mile south of Mt. Elba Cutoff_
City or town: _Rison_ State: _Arkansas_ County: _Cleveland_
Not For Publication: [ ] Vicinity: [X]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___national ___statewide _X_local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_X_A ___B ___C ___D

Scott Kaufman 7-23-24

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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**

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 ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☐

District ☐

Site ☒

Structure ☐

Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
FUNERARY/Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
FUNERARY/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
_NO STYLE_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: _STONE, METAL_____

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 Cherry Cemetery is a small cemetery located on Mt. Elba Road south of Mt. Elba Cutoff in rural Cleveland County (See Photos #1-8). The cemetery is located approximately 5.5 miles south of Rison, the county seat of Cleveland County. The cemetery has approximately 40 marked burials that date from 1851 to 1924 and are located mainly in the eastern half of the cemetery. In addition, there are other graves for unknown people that are marked with either modern markers indicating "unknown" or with a government military marker. The graves in the cemetery are marked with gravestones employing a variety of materials, including stone, concrete, and metal. A couple of plots have metal fences, either comprised of commercially-produced wrought-iron fencing or chicken-wire fencing. A flag pole and a modern historic marker for the cemetery and the Methodist Church site are located near the road on the west side of the cemetery. The area around the cemetery is mainly undeveloped wooded land with a chicken farm located approximately ¼ mile to the southwest. The period of significance for the cemetery, 1851-1900, begins with the first marked burial and ends when the community of Mt. Elba had reached its peak. (Only three of the cemetery's burials occurred after 1900 when the community was declining.)

Narrative Description

The Cherry Cemetery is a small cemetery associated with the former Mt. Elba community in Cleveland County, Arkansas. The cemetery is located on Mt. Elba Road south of Mt. Elba Cutoff in rural Cleveland County, approximately 5.5 miles south of Rison, the county seat of

Cleveland County. The cemetery is located in a very rural area of the county with little development in the vicinity. The area around the cemetery is wooded undeveloped land, and the closest development to the cemetery is a chicken farm approximately ¼ mile southwest of the cemetery. The next closest development are some scattered residences more than ½ mile north of the cemetery.

The cemetery has approximately 40 marked burials that date from 1851 to 1924 and the marked burials are located mainly in the eastern half of the cemetery. In addition, there are other graves for unknown people that are marked with either modern markers indicating "unknown" (See Photo #9) or with a government military marker (See Photo #10). The graves in the cemetery are marked with gravestones employing a variety of materials, including stone, concrete, and metal. The markers in the Cherry Cemetery also utilize several kinds of iconography that were popular on funerary markers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including doves, open books, wreaths, clasped hands, angels, crowns, cities, urns, roses, lambs and hands pointing to Heaven. There are also two markers in the cemetery with the Masonic symbol on it.

Although most of the burials in the cemetery consists of individual markers, there are two family plots with fences around them (See Photos #11-12). The plots have metal fences, either comprised of commercially-produced wrought-iron fencing or chicken-wire fencing. A flag pole (See Photo #13) and a modern historic marker (See Photo #14) for the cemetery and the Methodist Church site are located near the road on the west side of the cemetery. The period of significance for the cemetery, 1851-1900, begins with the first marked burial and ends when the community of Mt. Elba had reached its peak. (Only three of the cemetery's burials occurred after 1900 when the community was declining.)

Setting:

The immediate setting of the Cherry Cemetery is grass with the graves scattered around the eastern half of the cemetery. There are also scattered trees in the cemetery. The area immediately around the cemetery is wooded and devoid of development. One chicken farm, located approximately ¼ mile southwest of the cemetery, is the closest development. A few scattered residences are also located approximately ½ mile north of the cemetery.

Breakdown of Burials:

The breakdown of burials in the Cherry Cemetery is as follows:

1851-1860 = 3
1861-1870 = 15
1871-1880 = 8
1881-1890 = 5
1891-1900 = 6
1901-1910 = 1
1911-1920 = 1
1921-1930 = 1
Unknown = There are several unknown burials, many of which are associated with the Battle of Mt. Elba during the Civil War. However, these burials all fall within the period of significance.

Marker Types:

The tombstones in the Cherry Cemetery are comprised of several different forms. Upright stones or varying heights and shapes and flat markers are by far the most common types in the cemetery. However, the most prominent marker in the cemetery, the McGehee family monument is constructed in the form of a tall obelisk (See Photos #15-16). It is also one of the only markers in the cemetery that is signed by its maker, which in this case is Follenius & Company of St. Louis, Missouri. Although the vast majority of the markers are granite or marble, there are a few concrete markers and one cast-iron marker in the cemetery as well (See Photos #17-18).

Iconography:[1]

The Cherry Cemetery contains markers that illustrate some of the common iconographic symbols of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These symbols are often symbolic of traits or characteristics that may have been exhibited by the person memorialized by the marker. Iconography exhibited in the Cherry Cemetery includes:

Doves – Doves are the most common animal seen on markers in cemeteries, and the most common pose for the dove is with the bird holding an olive branch. The dove often symbolizes peace and purity, and is found in the Bible in Genesis 8 and John 1. Examples of markers in the Cherry Cemetery that feature doves include the markers for Mrs. A. E. Cherry and William Cherry, Jane E. Attwood, and Mary C. May (See Photo #19).

Open Books – Open books on gravestones are often a way for the marker to convey the name of the deceased, although the device is not used in the Cherry Cemetery. However, open books are often symbolic of the human heart and the fact that its thoughts and feelings are often open to the world and to God. Markers in the Cherry Cemetery that use open books include the memorials for Artemece Wardlaw (See Photo #29), Louisa Bowlin, and Elizabeth A. Gallion.

Clasped Hands – Hands in a variety of poses are often exhibited on tombstones, including hands that are clasped together. Hands that appear to be shaking are often symbolic of matrimony, and often one hand features a masculine sleeve while the other often features a feminine sleeve. However, if the sleeves appear to be gender neutral, then the hands may symbolize a Heavenly welcome or an earthly farewell. In the Cherry Cemetery, clasped hands appear on the main McGehee Monument in the McGehee family plot as well as the marker for Olive A. Barnett, which was carved by J. R. Westbrook of Pine Bluff (See Photos #20-21).

Angels – Angels are one of the most often seen symbols in cemeteries, and the angel Gabriel is often the specific angel most often depicted (after generic angels). Angels are often messengers, and some angels in Islam take messages to Allah. The angel Gabriel was also a messenger,

[1] Information on the iconography and fraternal organizations that are represented in the cemetery is taken from: Keister, Douglas. *Stories In Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography.* New York: MJF Books, 2004.

announcing the birth of Jesus. Angels also give people comfort, hope, and even inspiration. The grave of Margarette R. Young, who died at the age of three, illustrates an angel (See Photo #22).

Crowns – Crowns often symbolize victory, leadership, and distinction, and they eventually became a symbol of royalty. Crowns also often denote attributes of saints, indicating that the saint was either a martyr or a member of royalty. The most popular crown depicted in Christianity is a crown of thorns. In Cherry Cemetery, a crown is depicted on the marker of Noble Attwood (See Photo #23).

City Mansions – City Mansions depicted on gravestones refer to John 14:2 which states, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." "House" really refers to a "city" which has many glorious mansions, and it is the source of depictions of city mansions. It indicates that a place is being prepared in Heaven for the deceased. The gravestone of Noble Attwood depicts a city mansion (See Photo #23).

Urns with Garland – The urn, especially one that was draped, was one of the most popular funerary symbol during the nineteenth century. Since an urn was often used for ashes, it was an interesting symbol to use during the nineteenth century, especially since cremation was a rare practice at the time. However, urns were often used as decorative devices, and the urn and the willow tree were two of the symbols used after the Revolutionary War to replace death's heads and soul effigies when symbolism began to have a softer air to it. The tombstone of Mrs. Mary Cherry illustrates an urn, which in this case is draped with a garland (See Photo #24).

Roses – In Christianity, the red rose has become a symbol of martyrdom while the white rose has become a symbol of purity. It is often believed that the rose in Paradise initially didn't have thorns, but got them later to remind man about his fall from grace. However, the rose's fragrance remained in order to remind man of Paradise. The Virgin Mary is sometimes referred to as the "rose without thorns" since it was believed that she was exempt from original sin. Cemeteries of the Victorian era often had roses on graves of women. The roses found in Cherry Cemetery also adorn graves of women, specifically Nellie May Wyatt (See Photo #25) and the Infant Daughter of George & Virginia Gray.

Lambs – Lambs are depicted in many different ways on gravestones. If the lamb is accompanied by a cross, banner, and halo, it often symbolizes the Lamb of God. Lambs may also be portrayed with other items, including shepherds' crooks, Chi-Rho crosses, and alpha/omega symbols. However, if the lamb is depicted by itself without other items, it is a symbol of innocence and it is often used on graves of children. In the Cherry Cemetery, a lamb is found on the grave of Dollie A. Harrison (See Photo #26) who was only two months old when she died.

Hands Pointing to Heaven – Hands pointing upward on a gravestone symbolize that the person's soul has risen to Heaven. In the Cherry Cemetery, the gravestones of James Roscius Attwood and George M. Gallion features hands pointing upward (See Photo #27).

Ladder – Ladders on tombstones often symbolize Jacob's ladder, which was a pathway between Heaven and earth, especially if it's ascending to clouds (or the heavens). Ladders can also symbolize Christ's Passion, since it was used to take Christ down from the cross. The McGehee Monument in the McGehee family plot features a ladder (See Photo #28).

Fraternal Organizations:

Masons – The most common identifying feature on gravestones of Masons are the square and compass. Inside the square and compass is a letter "G" which some sources indicate stands for Geometry and other sources indicate stands for God. The use of the square and compass represents the interaction between mind and matter and also refers to the "progression from the material to the intellectual to the spiritual." Some Masonic gravestones also use the all-seeing eye, which is often accompanied by rays of light, and it is an ancient symbol for God. Examples of Masonic burials in the Cherry Cemetery include the grave of Robert H.J. Wardlaw (See Photo #29) and the cast-iron marker, which has lost its nameplate (See Photo #18).

Military Veterans Markers:

The Cherry Cemetery has three markers that are government-issued military gravestones. Two gravestones are for individual people, William Russell Wyatt (See Photo #10), from Company D of the 14th Tennessee Cavalry, and John S. Cash (See Photo #30), a Private in Company D of the 2nd Arkansas Cavalry during the Civil War. The third marker commemorates many unknown soldiers who were buried in the cemetery after being killed during the Battle of Mt. Elba on March 30, 1864 (See Photo #31).

Enclosures:

The Cherry Cemetery contains two family plots with enclosures. The McGehee family plot has the more elaborate enclosure, which is an iron fence manufactured by the Pullis Brothers of St. Louis, Missouri, a company incorporated in 1839 (See Photos #12 and 32-33).[2] The fence consists of four main horizontal bars with the bottom two bars connected by a string of quatrefoils. The upper bars are connected by arrow-topped uprights that are two different heights. The corner posts are topped with foliate finials and has shafts that have spiral fluting. The shafts are resting on, and topped with, cubic blocks.

The Cash family plot also has an enclosure, although it is much simpler than the fencing used around the McGehee family plot (See Photo #11). The Cash family plot enclosure consists of simple pipe corner posts and horizontal pipes that connect the tops of the corner posts. Decorative chicken wire is attached to the pipe framework to enclose the plot.

Makers/Carvers:

Follenius & Co., St. Louis, MO – The McGehee Family monument is one of the only markers in the Cherry Cemetery that has an identified maker, which is Follenius & Company (See Photos #15-16). Reinhold Follenius was born on May 15, 1839, in Warren County, Missouri, to Paul and Maria (Muench) Follenius. In 1864, he married Lena Westernhagen in Milwaukee,

[2] Information on the Pullis Brothers. Found at: https://lafayettesquarearchives.com/1878-iron-men-the-pullis-brothers/.

Wisconsin. Follenius began to learn the granite and marble work trade at the age of 16 in St. Louis, and he worked in the trade at various locations in the Mississippi River Valley. After 1865, however, Follenius was in business for himself and worked in St. Louis where he limited his business to cemetery work. In addition to his business, Follenius was a director of the German Mutual Life Insurance Company and a member of the Liederkranz A.F.&A.M.[3]

Historic Marker:

The Cherry Cemetery contains a historic marker near the road on the west side of the cemetery that was erected in 1976 as part of the U.S. Bicentennial (See Photo #14). The marker consists of a metal tablet with the history on top of a metal pole. The marker commemorates the history of the cemetery and the Methodist Church South building that used to also be at the site.

Integrity:

The Cherry Cemetery retains a high level of integrity regarding all seven qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The location, design, and setting of the cemetery have remained unchanged, with the exception of the installation of a few new markers on old graves, since the last burial occurred in 1924. The materials and workmanship used in creating the funerary art during the period of significance is still very much in evidence today. Even with the addition of modem funerary art, the feeling and viewshed of an historic cemetery is uninterrupted. The historic funerary art outnumbers the modern art in every instance in the cemetery. The viewshed is also uninterrupted as the color and size of the modem monuments is relative to the historic monuments. Despite its age, the cemetery is in excellent condition and is well maintained. The cemetery has been fortunate that it has not suffered any major damage due to vandalism given its rural location.

[3] Leonard, John W., ed. *The Book of St. Louisans*. St. Louis: The St. Louis Republic, 1906, p. 196.

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.)

- [X] 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
- [X] 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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance
1851-1900

Significant Dates
N/A

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

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 Cherry Cemetery on Mt. Elba Road in the Rison vicinity of Cleveland County, Arkansas, is being nominated under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its associations with the Mt. Elba community and early settlement in the area. The earliest marked burial in the Cherry Cemetery is that of Mary Cherry who died on May 16, 1851, which was only four years after a post office was established in Mt. Elba. Of the 40 marked burials in the Cherry Cemetery, the majority of them occurred before 1880, and only three marked burials occurred after 1900. In fact, many of the unmarked burials occurred during the 1860s, specifically after the Battle of Mt. Elba during the Civil War. The burials that occurred in the Cherry Cemetery reflect the rise and fall of the community, and today the Cherry Cemetery is the only resource left that is associated with the nineteenth-century history of Mt. Elba when the area was settled. The cemetery is also being nominated to the National Register under **Criteria Consideration D: Cemeteries** as a cemetery that derives its significance for its associations with historic events. The period of significance for the cemetery is 1851-1900, which begins with the first marked burial and ends when the community of Mt. Elba reached its peak.

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

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

What is now called Cleveland County was formed on April 17, 1873, by an act of the Arkansas legislature. Originally, it was called Dorsey County and named after Stephen W. Dorsey, a chairman of the Republican county and state committees and a U.S. Senator. However, the name of the county was changed to Cleveland County in 1885 in honor of then President Grover Cleveland. In its early years, much of the land was heavily timbered so there were lumber mills throughout the county and only a small portion of it was under cultivation with cotton and corn being the principal crops.[4]

The area of the state where the Cherry Cemetery is was unsettled in 1839 when David H. Burr created his map, *Map of Mississippi, Louisiana & Arkansas exhibiting post offices, post roads, canals, rail roads, &c.* The closest settlements to the location were the settlement of Hudgens and the city of Pine Bluff, both to the northeast in Jefferson County.[5] However, by 1854, Mt. Elba, on the Saline River, appeared on maps of the area, and it was connected to Pine Bluff by a road that also went through the settlement of Lehi, not too far north of the Jefferson County line.[6]

[4] *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890, p. 592.

[5] Burr, David H. *Map of Mississippi, Louisiana & Arkansas exhibiting post offices, post roads, canals, rail roads, &c.* London: J. Arrowsmith, 1839. In the Library of Congress Railroad Map Collection. Found at: https://www.loc.gov/collections/railroad-maps-1828-to-1900/about-this-collection/.

[6] *Colton's railroad & township map of Arkansas compiled from the U.S. Surveys and other authentic sources*. New York: Shall, D. F., 1854. In the Library of Congress Railroad Map Collection. Found at: https://www.loc.gov/collections/railroad-maps-1828-to-1900/about-this-collection/.

The community of Mt. Elba, which was located approximately two miles south of the Cherry Cemetery, and was the closest community to the cemetery, had its post office established in 1847 when the area was still part of Bradley County. Joseph M. Meriwether was appointed postmaster of Mt. Elba on September 16, 1847. Just two years prior to the establishment of the post office, in January 1845, the Bradley County Court considered an application for a license from Simeon Goodwin to operate a ferry across the Saline River at a place that was commonly known as Marks Landing. Also in 1847, John Van Allen and William H. Cummings applied for a grocery license, and they also received a license to sell "spirituous liquor" at Mt. Elba. From 1846 until 1848, J. M. Meriwether served as the Bradley County Judge, and he had also developed a large plantation on the Saline River. It consisted of several hundred acres of land and Meriwether also had approximately 50 slaves. Even though the ferry was known over the next few years as Meriwether's Ferry, the location on the river retained the name Mt. Elba.[7]

By 1860, Robert and John Cherry owned the Cherry Brother's store and the Cherry Cemetery was named after the family. Also, by 1860 Mt. Elba had evolved into a center of communication in the area. Roads led from Mt. Elba to Pine Bluff, Monticello, Warren, and Camden, among other places, and farming had become the most common occupation in the area. The most successful farmers n the area at the time included J. M. Meriwether with 43 slaves, N. V. Barnett with 40 slaves, M. T. McGehee with 50 slaves, and Thomas W. Chowning, also with approximately 50 slaves. The only other industry in the area at the time was a steam sawmill that employed approximately five people. Annually, the mill produced approximately 600,000 board feet of lumber.[8]

When the Civil War ended in 1865, Mt. Elba had suffered like many other areas of the state. Although the local plantations had suffered tremendous setbacks, the community did work on reestablishing itself. By 1870, the post office had reopened and the ferry was also rebuilt. In addition, the Masonic Lodge, Moore Lodge No. 96, which had been organized on November 6, 1856, had begun meeting again by 1866. Although the post office was ultimately discontinued on February 8, 1875, with Florence Cherry and Robert Cherry serving as the last two postmasters, the ferry lasted into the early twentieth century. However, the construction of the railroad and the roads and bridges across the Saline River led to its eventual decline.[9]

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[7] Baker, Russell P. *Arkansas Post Offices From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory, 1832-1990.* Little Rock: Arkansas Genealogical Society, Inc., 2006, pp. 132 and 163, and Cleveland County Historical Society. *Cleveland County Arkansas: Our History and Heritage*. Volume 1. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 2006, pp. 37-38.

[8] Baker, Russell P. *Arkansas Post Offices From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory, 1832-1990.* Little Rock: Arkansas Genealogical Society, Inc., 2006, pp. 132 and 163, and Cleveland County Historical Society. *Cleveland County Arkansas: Our History and Heritage*. Volume 1. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 2006, pp. 37-38.

[9] Baker, Russell P. *Arkansas Post Offices From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory, 1832-1990.* Little Rock: Arkansas Genealogical Society, Inc., 2006, pp. 132 and 163, and Cleveland County Historical Society. *Cleveland County Arkansas: Our History and Heritage*. Volume 1. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 2006, pp. 37-38.

Today, as noted in *Cleveland County Arkansas: Our History and Heritage*, however, "the only things left to remind us that Mt. Elba played an important role in the early history of our county are the traces of the levees built by slaves for Judge J. M. Meriwether's plantation, the Cherry Cemetery where Temperance Chapel Church and near where the Cherry Store once stood, and a granite stone commemorating the Battle of Mt. Elba."[10]

Although Mary Cherry was the first person known to have been buried in the Cherry Cemetery when she was buried in May 1851 (See Photo #24), the cemetery wasn't officially established until three years later in 1854. On June 13, 1854, Madison Tate McGehee and his wife, Lucy Cosby McGehee, sold four acres of land to the trustees of the Temperance Chapel Methodist Church South for $40. A two-story building was already on the land when it was sold and the McGehees specified that the first floor of the building would be used by the Methodist Church while the upper floor would be used by the Masonic lodge and any Temperance Association. The remainder of the four acres of land was to be used for a public cemetery.[11]

The rest of the 1850s and especially the 1860s and 1870s were the peak decades for burials at the Cherry Cemetery when a total of 25 burials with markers occurred. Many burials that weren't marked also occurred in 1864 in relation to the Civil War battle that occurred at Mt. Elba.

The Battle of Mt. Elba, which is called Actions at Mt. Elba by some sources, occurred on March 30, 1864, when members of the Confederate cavalry attacked Union soldiers who were guarding a bridge over the Saline River. At the same time, other Union soldiers were going after a Confederate supply column at Long View in Ashley County. The goal of the action was to throw off Confederate operations and hopefully prevent attacks on Pine Bluff.[12]

The Union soldiers arrived at Mt. Elba on March 28th and they removed the advance Confederate soldiers and also constructed a pontoon bridge across the Saline River. On March 29th, Lieutenant Samuel B. Marks stayed at Mt. Elba while Colonel Powell Clayton left to engage with the Confederate troops south of Mt. Elba. Marks' forces stayed on the north side of the Saline River to protect the bridge. On March 30th, a scouting party returned to Mt. Elba and reported that a large number of Confederate cavalry were approaching. The Confederate troops were driven back and Clayton's men charged across the bridge and pursued the Confederates for approximately five miles to Big Creek, and eventually Clayton's troops went as far as Centerville, approximately ten miles from Mt. Elba before they stopped their pursuit.[13]

The result of the Battle of Mt. Elba was that the Union forces disrupted operations to the south of Pine Bluff while Major General Frederick Steele and his forces advanced south from Little Rock. The losses suffered at Mt. Elba consisted of two Union soldiers killed and two missing Union

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[10] Cleveland County Historical Society. *Cleveland County Arkansas: Our History and Heritage*. Volume 1. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 2006, p. 38.
[11] Information on the Temperance Chapel Cemetery Historic Marker at the Cherry Cemetery, 1976.
[12] Christ, Mark K. "Action at Mt. Elba." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.* Found at: https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/action-at-mount-elba-522/.
[13] Christ, Mark K. "Action at Mt. Elba." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.* Found at: https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/action-at-mount-elba-522/.

soldiers along with an estimated thirty-five Confederates killed, fifty-five Confederates wounded and forty Confederates captured.[14]

However, after 1880, burials in the Cherry Cemetery weren't as numerous with only eleven burials occurring between 1881 and 1900. Burials in the cemetery dropped off even further after the turn of the twentieth century with only three burials occurring after 1900, and it likely is a direct reflection of the decline of the community of Mt. Elba. In fact, after the post office closed in Mt. Elba in 1915, only two subsequent burials occurred, that of Jonas G. Gallion in 1916 and that of Noble Attwood in 1924.

Below are biographical entries for some of the people buried in the Cherry Cemetery.

Curtis B. Attwood (April 11, 1846 – May 2, 1904, See Photo #34) – Curtis Attwood was a farmer and real estate dealer, and he was born in the Newberry District of South Carolina in 1846 to Captain R. F. and Jane (Clark) Attwood. Curtis was the eldest of six sons and one daughter born to R. F. and Jane. He was educated in the common schools of the Newberry area until January 1861 when he entered Furman University. However, after only a month of study, he enlisted in Company A, Sixteenth South Carolina Volunteer Infantry. He served in Company A for about two years in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Mississippi before he transferred to Company C of the Nineteenth South Carolina Cavalry until the end of the war. Curtis came to Arkansas with his parents and served as the Cleveland County Assessor from 1873 until 1880. Attwood was also a Mason and was a member of the Royal Arch Chapter at Kingsland. By the late 1880s he owned approximately 2,500 acres of land.[15]

Captain Roscius Finch "R. F." Attwood (April 15, 1817 – November 2, 1867, See Photos #35-36) – R. F. Attwood was born on April 25, 1817, in Newberry, South Carolina, to Dr. Curtis Burke Attwood and Judith Finch Attwood. On July 11, 1843, he married **Jane Elizabeth Clarke (June 25, 1825 – April 30, 1900)**. By 1860, he owned 1,100 acres and 41 slaves and had established himself as a farmer and planter. In addition, Attwood was a prominent banker and a stockholder in the Greenville & Charleston Railroad, and he also served in two South Carolina regiments during the Civil War. After the end of the Civil War, in the fall of 1865, the family moved to Smith Township in what was then Bradley County and settled a few miles north of Mt. Elba. He died at his home on November 2, 1867. After his death, his wife Jane educated their children and, after her home burned c.1885, she moved to New Edinburg. During President Harrison's administration, she as appointed as the Postmistress at New Edinburg, a position that she held for eight years. She died in New Edinburg on April 30, 1900.[16]

John Reuben Cash (1814 – December 8, 1880, See Photos #37-38) – The plot for Ruben Cash also includes his wife, **Pheletia White Taylor Cash (1819 – 1900)**, and two daughters, **Nancy**

[14] Christ, Mark K. "Action at Mt. Elba." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.* Found at: https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/action-at-mount-elba-522/.
[15] *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890, p. 598.
[16] Cleveland County Historical Society. *Cleveland County Arkansas: Our History and Heritage*. Volume 1. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 2006, pp. 61-62.

Elizabeth Cash (1838 – 1880) and **Louisa Rebecca Cash (1861 – January 10, 1882)**. Ruben and Pheletia married on February 11, 1836, and their first eight children were born in Elbert County, Georgia. The family moved west from Georgia in 1849 so that they could obtain some of the free land that the State of Arkansas was giving away. After they arrived in Dorsey County (later Cleveland County), four more children were born to the couple. One of these children, William Henry Cash, was the grandfather of music legend Johnny Cash.[17]

Madison Tate McGehee (October 20, 1808 – March 17, 1879, See Photo #39) – Madison Tate McGehee is noted in the *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas* as an early settler in Cleveland County. McGehee married Lucy Cosby Meriwether in Georgia on May 14, 1835. From Georgia they moved to Mississippi and then to Arkansas, and they arrived in Arkansas approximately 1848. They had eight known children. By 1860, McGehee had 3,500 acres having a value of $60,000. McGehee also served as the initial Treasurer for Cleveland County in 1873 and 1874. In addition, McGehee's house was used as the first courthouse for Cleveland County. The *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas* notes that "The county seat was located at Toledo, July 7, and the county purchased the residence in that village of M. T. McGehee, for a court-house, and remodeled it for such use. It was a large well-arranged frame building, the ground floor providing accommodations for the several county officials, while the court-room was above."[18]

Captain Valentine Meriwether McGehee (October 16, 1841 – November 14, 1876, See Photo #40) – Captain Valentine Meriwether McGehee was the son of Madison Tate McGehee, and he was the first prosecuting attorney for Cleveland County. He served in the Civil War, as did his brother, **Charles Edward McGehee (April 26, 1836 – April 19, 1862, See Photo #39)**, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Shiloh.[19]

Although the last marked burial in the Cherry Cemetery occurred in 1924, the Cherry Cemetery has been well maintained and is regularly mowed. The importance of the cemetery was also recognized in 1976 when the Cleveland County Bicentennial Committee erected an historic marker at the cemetery that relates the history of the cemetery and the Temperance Chapel Methodist Church South that used to stand on the site. Today, the cemetery is the last remaining resource associated with early settlement in the Mt. Elba area and it is a significant early resource in Cleveland County.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

When it came to early settlement in Cleveland County during the nineteenth century, the area around Mt. Elba was one of the earliest areas to be settled. With respect to the Mt. Elba area, the

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[17] Cleveland County Historical Society. *Cleveland County Arkansas: Our History and Heritage*. Volume 1. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 2006, p. 108. Pheletia Cash was also known as Jane, and was also sometimes called Mary.

[18] *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890, pp. 592, 594, and 596, and Cleveland County Historical Society. *Cleveland County Arkansas: Our History and Heritage*. Volume 1. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 2006, p. 281.

[19] *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890, p. 595.

community of Mt. Elba was the earliest community in the vicinity when its post office was established in 1847, although it was originally in Bradley County. (It did not become part of Cleveland County until the county's establishment in 1873.) The next nearest historic community to Mt. Elba, Lehi, which was originally in Jefferson County before Cleveland County's creation, did not have its post office established until 1850.[20] However, nothing remains of the Lehi community today.

The only other cemetery in the vicinity of the Cherry Cemetery is the Liberty Hill Cemetery, which is located approximately .75 miles to the northeast of the Cherry Cemetery. It is likely that there were residents of the Mt. Elba community buried at the Liberty Hill Cemetery. However, when compared to the Cherry Cemetery, the Liberty Hill Cemetery, which is an African-American cemetery, was established later in the nineteenth century and is still being used today, meaning that it doesn't retain the integrity that the Cherry Cemetery retains.

The Cherry Cemetery on Mt. Elba Road in the Rison vicinity of Cleveland County, Arkansas, is being nominated under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its associations with the Mt. Elba community and early settlement in the area. The earliest marked burial in the Cherry Cemetery is that of Mary Cherry who died on May 16, 1851, which was only four years after a post office was established in Mt. Elba. Of the 40 marked burials in the Cherry Cemetery, the majority of them occurred before 1880, and only three marked burials occurred after 1900. In fact, many of the unmarked burials occurred during the 1860s, specifically after the Battle of Mt. Elba during the Civil War. The burials that occurred in the Cherry Cemetery reflect the rise and fall of the community, and today the Cherry Cemetery is the only resource left that is associated with the nineteenth-century history of Mt. Elba when the area was settled. The cemetery is also being nominated to the National Register under **Criteria Consideration D: Cemeteries** as a cemetery that derives its significance for its associations with historic events. The period of significance for the cemetery is 1851-1900, which begins with the first marked burial and ends when the community of Mt. Elba reached its peak.

[20] Baker, Russell P. *Arkansas Post Offices From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory, 1832-1990.* Little Rock: Arkansas Genealogical Society, Inc., 2006, p. 110.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

Burr, David H. *Map of Mississippi, Louisiana & Arkansas exhibiting post offices, post roads, canals, rail roads, &c.* London: J. Arrowsmith, 1839. In the Library of Congress Railroad Map Collection. Found at: https://www.loc.gov/collections/railroad-maps-1828-to-1900/about-this-collection/.

Christ, Mark K. "Action at Mt. Elba." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.* Found at: https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/action-at-mount-elba-522/.

Cleveland County Historical Society. *Cleveland County Arkansas: Our History and Heritage*. Volume 1. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 2006.

Colton's railroad & township map of Arkansas compiled from the U.S. Surveys and other authentic sources. New York: Shall, D. F., 1854. In the Library of Congress Railroad Map Collection. Found at: https://www.loc.gov/collections/railroad-maps-1828-to-1900/about-this-collection/.

Information on the Pullis Brothers. Found at: https://lafayettesquarearchives.com/1878-iron-men-the-pullis-brothers/.

Information on the Temperance Chapel Cemetery Historic Marker at the Cherry Cemetery, 1976.

Keister, Douglas. *Stories In Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography.* New York: MJF Books, 2004.

Leonard, John W., ed. *The Book of St. Louisans*. St. Louis: The St. Louis Republic, 1906.

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 # _____

Cherry Cemetery
Name of Property

Cleveland County, Arkansas
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _CV0052_____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _Approximately 1.5 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 [X] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15	Easting: 577870	Northing: 3749572
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

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

Beginning at UTM Point #1 at 15/577832/3749599, proceed northeasterly for 250 feet to UTM Point #2 at 15/577906/3749610, thence proceed southeasterly for 245 feet to UTM Point #3 at 15/577845/3749530, thence proceed southwesterly for 265 feet to UTM Point #4 at 15/577845/3749530, thence proceed northwesterly for 230 feet to the point of beginning. See Figure #1.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes all of the land historically associated with the Cherry Cemetery.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 1100 North Street
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail: ralph.wilcox@arkansas.gov
telephone: (501) 324-9787
date: February 20, 2024

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.

Cherry Cemetery
Name of Property

Cleveland County, Arkansas
County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: Cherry Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Rison vic.

County: Cleveland County State: Arkansas

Photographer: Ralph S. Wilcox

Date Photographed: May 1, 2024

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

1 of _40_. View of the Cherry Cemetery, looking southeast.

2 of _40_. View of the Cherry Cemetery, looking east.

3 of _40_. View of the Cherry Cemetery, looking northeast.

4 of _40_. View of the Cherry Cemetery, looking north.

5 of _40_. View of the Cherry Cemetery, looking northwest.

6 of _40_. View of the Cherry Cemetery, looking west.

7 of _40_. View of the Cherry Cemetery, looking southwest.

8 of _40_. View of the Cherry Cemetery, looking south.

9 of _40_. View of one of the moder unknown grave markers, looking east.

10 of _40_. View of the U.S. Government military marker for Russell Wyatt, looking east.

11 of _40_. View of the Cash Family Plot, looking east.

12 of _40_. View of the McGehee Family Plot, looking northeast.

13 of _40_. View of the cemetery's flag pole, looking east.

14 of _40_. View of the cemetery's historic maker, looking northeast.

15 of _40_. View of the McGehee Family marker, looking northeast.

16 of 40. Detail view of the maker's signature on the McGehee Family marker, looking northeast.

17 of 40. View of the original concrete markers for Nancy Elizabeth Cash and Louisa Rebecca Cash, looking east.

18 of 40. View of the cast-iron grave marker, looking west.

19 of 40. View of the marker for Mary C. May, illustrating a dove, looking southwest.

20 of 40. View of the marker for Olive A. Barnett, illustrating clasped hands, looking southwest.

21 of 40. Detail view of the maker's signature on the Olive A. Barnett marker, looking southwest.

22 of 40. View of the marker for Margarette R. Young, illustrating an angel, looking southwest.

23 of 40. View of the marker for Noble Attwood, illustrating a crown and a City Mansion, looking east.

24 of 40. View of the marker for Mary Cherry, illustrating an urn draped with garland, looking northeast.

25 of 40. View of the marker for Nellie May Wyatt, illustrating a rose, looking east.

26 of 40. View of the marker for Dollie A. Harrison, illustrating a lamb, looking west.

27 of 40. View of the marker for George M. Gallion, illustrating a hand pointing to Heaven, looking southwest.

28 of 40. Detail view of the iconography on the McGehee Family marker, illustrating a ladder, looking east.

29 of 40. View of the markers for Robert H. J. Wardlaw, illustrating a Masonic emblem, and Artemece Wardlaw, illustrating an open book, looking northeast.

30 of 40. View of the U.S. Government military marker for John S. Cash, looking east.

31 of 40. View of the U.S. Government military marker for the soldiers lost in the Battle of Mt. Elba.

32 of 40. Detail view of the enclosure surrounding the McGehee Family plot, looking

west.

33 of _40_. View of the enclosure surrounding the McGehee Family plot, looking southwest.

34 of _40_. View of the marker for Curtis B. Attwood, looking east.

35 of _40_. View of the replacement marker for Roscius F. Attwood, looking east.

36 of _40_. View of the original marker for Roscius F. Attwood, looking east.

37 of _40_. View of the replacement marker for Reuben and Pheletia (Jane) Cash, looking northeast.

38 of _40_. View of the original marker for Reuben and Pheletia (Jane) Cash, looking southwest.

39 of _40_. Detail view of the McGehee Family monument showing Charles Edward McGehee and Madison Tate McGehee, looking northwest.

40 of _40_. View of the marker for Captain Valentine, Meriwether McGehee, looking southwest.

Figure 1: National Register Boundary for the Cherry Cemetery.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

|---------375 feet---------|

Cherry Cemetery
Rison vic., Cleveland County, Arkansas

UTM: 15 577870E 3749572N

↑
North

|--------1069 feet---------|

Cherry Cemetery
Rison vic., Cleveland County, Arkansas

UTM: 15 577870E 3749572N

↑
North

1↘
8↓
↙7
34-36→
23→
↙19
↙22
122
13→
↙20-21
←18
14↗
28→
↙40
←32
15-16↗
↖39
↙33
←6
29↗
12↗
25→
10→
←26
2→
31→
24↗
11, 17→
↙38
37↗
30→
9→
↖5
4↑
3↗
Image © 2024 Airbus
Google Earth
Cherry Cemetery
Rison vic., Cleveland County, AR
1→ = Photo Location and Direction
= National Register Boundary
↑
North
86 ft

UNKNOWN
KNOWN ONLY TO GOD

WM. RUSSELL WYATT
CO D
11 TENN CAV
C S A

CASH
PHELETIA
1819
1900
REUBEN
1814

TEMPERANCE CHAPEL CEMETERY
AND SITE OF
A METHODIST CHURCH SOUTH
Madison Tate McGehee and his wife Lucy Cosby McGehee sold this 4 acres of land on June 13, 1854 for forty dollars to the trustees of Temperance Chapel Methodist Church South. The trustees were S. Treadwell, S. Mathew, C. A. Standfield, C. Varnell and Thomas Chowning. A two story building was on this property at the time of purchase. The McGehee's specified the use of the lower floor by the dist Church and the upper floor to be used by the Masonic Fraternity and any Temperance Association. The remainder of the land was to be used as a public burying ground.
CLEVELAND COUNTY BICENTENNIAL - 1976

F. O'Herin & Co.
St. Louis

LOUISA REBECCA CASH
BORN 1862, MT. ELBA, AR
DIED JAN. 10, 1882

OLIVE
WIFE OF
DIED

NOBLE
ATTWOOD
BORN
DEC. 2. 1857
DIED
OCT 1. 1924
Only sleeping

In memory of
NELLIE MAY
DAU. OF
Wm. R. & C. L.
WYATT.
BORN
Feb 20, 1876.
DIED
Jun 3, 1888.

DOLLIE

BORN
DIED

C
H
F

ARTEMESE
WARDLAW
DIED
AUG. 15. 1891.
ROBERT H. J.
WARDLAW.
BORN
APR. 1. 1810.
DIED
DEC. 16. 1863.
His memory is blessed

PVT
JOHN S CASH
CO D
2ND ARK CAV
CSA
1840
UNKNOWN

MANY
UNKNOWN SOLDIERS
CSA
WHO DIED DURING THE
BATTLE OF MT. ELBA
MARCH 30, 1864
ARE BURIED HERE
HISTORIANS
DOYLE TAYLOR
KENNETH HENSLEY

CURTIS E.
ATTWOOD
Born Apr. 11. 1846.
Died May 2. 1904.
J. E. A.

ROSCIUS F. ATTWOOD
BORN APR 1817
DIED NOV 1857
SON OF
C. B. AND J. ATTWOOD
2006
EDGAR COUNTY

CASH
PHELETIA
1819
1900
REUBEN
1814
DEC. 8, 1880

CHARLES EDWARD
BORN
April 26, 1836.
EATHERWETHER
BORN
Oct. 16, 1841.
MADISON T. MCGEHEE
BORN
Dec. 20, 1807.
DIED
Mar. 11, 1885.

CAPT.
V. MERRIWETHER McCRAE
DIED
NOV. 14. 1876.
A hero in battle, a gentleman
in peace, a kind husband
and devoted father.
The Master willed it.