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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR LISTED

DEC 6 1996

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

RF-3158

1. Name of Property

historic name: Oak Hill Mausoleum

other name/site number: Oak Hill Chapel

2. Location

street & number: Oak Hill Cemetery

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Siloam Springs

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Benton code: AR 007 zip code: 72761

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Buildin

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing      Noncontributing

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

Oak Hill Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Benton County, AR  
County and State

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Benton County, Arkansas

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**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn H. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

10-14-96  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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**5. National Park Service Certification**

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

Oak Hill Mausoleum

Name of Property

Benton County, AR

County and State

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current: RELIGION Sub: Religious facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Neoclassical  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Stone roof Asphalt  
walls Stone other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance. \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Summary**

Constructed in 1916 within the boundaries of the Oak Hill Cemetery, the Oak Hill Mausoleum is a single-story, granite and marble masonry funerary building designed in a heavy, Neoclassical idiom common for such construction throughout the United States during the first decades of the twentieth century. Its flat roof and symmetrical plan are complimented by the low, horizontal massing and symmetrical fenestration.

**Elaboration**

Constructed in 1916 within the boundaries of the Oak Hill Cemetery, the Oak Hill Mausoleum is a single-story, granite and marble masonry funerary building designed in a heavy, Neoclassical idiom common for such construction throughout the United States during the first decades of the twentieth century. Its flat roof and symmetrical plan are complimented by the low, horizontal massing and symmetrical fenestration.

The eastern or front facade is completely symmetrical, as are all four sides of the exterior. The taller central section is flanked by a pair of lower wings that contained the original seventy-two crypts (since removed). The central, double-leaf entrance is ornamented with a simple surround and the wall above is fenestrated with three rectangular openings for stained glass. The flanking pilasters are decorated with central, projecting thin panels near the stepped-back cornice and projecting stone stoops that flank the entrance. The flanking wings are decorated with cornerblocks containing incised paterae that feature a stylized flower blossom.

The northern, southern and western elevations are all simpler, with the sloping water table and descending stone quoins being the only detail of note. Stained-glass clerestory window openings are placed into the wall of the raised central section on the northern and southern sides, and two large stained-glass windows are placed symmetrically in the western or rear wall. A single stone chimney rises above the parapet on the western wall.

The interior is largely finished in marble, though the upper level is covered with plaster decorated with delicate stenciling. The only significant alteration to the building has occurred on the interior, consisting entirely of the removal of the original burials within the flanking sections. Once removed, the entrances to these crypt areas were covered with wallboard.

Oak Hill Mausoleum

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Benton County, AR

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1916 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: 1916 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: Barnhardt, W. C. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet.

**Summary**

Criterion C, local significance

The Oak Hill Mausoleum was constructed by the Southwestern Mausoleum Company in 1916 near the center of the Oak Hill Cemetery in Siloam Springs. Its heavy stone masonry construction and Neoclassical style are uncommon in

Western Benton County, and mausoleums in general are not common in Arkansas. Because of its status as a rather elaborate and relatively unaltered example of the Neoclassical idiom, it is being nominated under Criterion C.

### **Elaboration**

The Oak Hill Cemetery remains Siloam Springs' oldest burial ground, with burials dating as far back as 1875, when this community was known as Hico. Today the cemetery contains approximately 9,500 total burials, with about 2,400 being over fifty years old. The Oak Hill Mausoleum stands roughly in the center of the cemetery, easily dominating this open, hilltop site.

Built in March of 1916, the Oak Hill Mausoleum was constructed by the Southwestern Mausoleum Company of Little Rock and designed by a W. C. Barnhardt who worked for this company. Financed by a group of interested local citizens led by a Mr. F. A. Clapp, the mausoleum was originally designed to contain a total of seventy-two burials. It served this function for many years, until the structure itself became so deteriorated that the burials had to be removed and re-interred in the surrounding cemetery. The city then wanted to demolish the building, but a local fundraising effort led by Mr. Charles Morrison raised enough money to restore and preserve this important building. It now serves the community as a chapel.

The Oak Hill Mausoleum remains an outstanding example of the heavy, monolithic Neoclassical style that was common for such funerary structures in the early twentieth century in America. Its massive horizontality, unswerving symmetry and heavy stone construction all recall Classical architecture, and particularly that of ancient Greece. Funerary structures of this quality are not common in northwest Arkansas, and the fact that this particular building was threatened with neglect and demolition only to be preserved by a local, grass roots effort is also noteworthy. Thus the physical integrity and architectural significance of the Oak Hill Mausoleum combine to elevate this historic building to eligibility for the National Register under Criterion C with local significance.

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### **9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Information provided by Mr. Charles Morrison, Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Oak Hill Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Benton County, AR  
County and State

Oak Hill Cemetery Deed, on file at Benton County Courthouse, Bentonville, Arkansas.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- \_\_\_ Other state agency
- \_\_\_ Federal agency
- \_\_\_ Local government
- \_\_\_ University
- \_\_\_ Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>359670</u>	<u>4005700</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

An area defined by a rectangle the northeast corner of which is located approximately 10' northeast of the northeast corner of the mausoleum and the southwest corner of which is located approximately 10' to the southwest of

Oak Hill Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Benton County, AR  
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the southwest corner of the mausoleum.

Boundary Justification:             See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes only the property immediately surrounding the mausoleum, due solely to the close proximity of several non-associated marked burials.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title:            Kenneth Story, National Register/Survey Coordinator

Organization:        Arkansas Historic Preservation Program    Date: 10/11/96

Street & Number:    323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town:        Little Rock                      State: AR        Zip: 72201