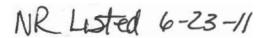
### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



### 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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property
historic name Saline Cemetery other names/site number DR0335
2 Yazatian
2. Location
street & number 0.3 miles south of the intersection of U.S. 278 and Allis Rd.
city or town Wilmar 🔀 vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Drew code 043 zip code 71675
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this important to 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property important does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title  In my opinion, the property important meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (Important sheet for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title  Date  State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that the property is:    entered in the National Register.   See continuation sheet     determined eligible for the     National Register.   See continuation sheet     determined not eligible for the     National Register     removed from the National     Register     other, (explain:)

Saline Cemetery		Drew County, Arkansas County and State		
Name of Property  5. Classification		County a	and State	
Ownership of Property Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)		
private public-local	building(s) district	Contributing	Noncontributing	
public-State	site	0	0	buildings
public-Federal	structure	1	0	sit <del>e</del> s
<b>—</b> .	object	0	0	structures
		0	1	objects
		1	1	Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		Number of Contribution in the National Register	ng resources previously er	listed
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instruc	tions)	
FUNERARY:cemetery		FUNERARY:cemetery		
	A COMPANY OF THE PROPERTY OF T			
7				
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instruc	tions)	
N/A		foundation N/A	dous)	
		walls N/A		
		roof N/A other STONE: granit	te. marhle	
		omor brown, grand	TARREST OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Saline Cemetery Name of Property	Drew County, Arkansas County and State	
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.)	Levels of Significance (local, state, national)  Local	
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ART: funerary art	
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.	Period of Significance 1878-1961	
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.)	Significant Dates 1878	
Property is:  A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.		
B. removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)	
<ul> <li>□ C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.</li> <li>□ D a cemetery.</li> </ul>	Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)	
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.		
F a commemorative property	Architect/Builder	
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.		
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)		
9. Major Bibliographical References		
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one of	or more continuation sheets.)	
Previous documentation on file (NPS):  preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register Previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark	Primary location of additional data:  State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other	
# recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  # recorded by Historic American Engineering  Record #	Name of repository: Johnson Family records	

		Drew C	ounty, Arkansas	
Name of Property	County and State			
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property S acres				
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
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Zone Easting Northing 2		Zone 4	Easting No	nnug
		=	See continuation sheet	
			see continuation speed	
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)				
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation silect.)				
Boundary Justification				
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title Virginia Claire Johnson; edited by Clint Pumphrey, Nation	al Region	er Historian		
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	n region	date	February 21, 2011	
street & number 323 Center St., 1500 Tower Building		telephone	(501) 324-9789	
		•		
city or town Little Rock	state	AR	zip code 72201	
Additional Documentation Submit the following terms with the completed form:				
Submit the following items with the completed form:				
Submit the following items with the completed form:  Continuation Sheets				
Submit the following items with the completed form:  Continuation Sheets	s location	1		
Submit the following items with the completed form:  Continuation Sheets  Maps  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's				
Submit the following items with the completed form:  Continuation Sheets  Maps			resources.	
Submit the following items with the completed form:  Continuation Sheets  Maps  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's  A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large			resources.	
Submit the following items with the completed form:  Continuation Sheets  Maps  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's  A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large series.			resources.	
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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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

'stimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, athering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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#### SUMMARY

Saline Cemetery is located in Drew County, Arkansas, near the now-defunct community of Allis. It stands 1.5 miles south of U.S. Highway 278 on the west side of Allis Rd., which intersects the highway approximately 5.5 miles west of Monticello. The nearest town is Wilmar, which is situated approximately 1.5 miles to the east-northeast. There are 106 burials marked with inscribed gravestones or fieldstones. Of the 96 marked with inscribed gravestones, 82 are considered historic. The remaining 14 burials marked by inscribed gravestones are considered non-historic.

Residents in the small community of Allis formed the Saline Associate Reform Presbyterian (ARP) Church in 1861, naming it for the Saline Creek located a few miles away. Ten years later burials began in the Saline Cemetery, which the ARP church minutes and family documentation indicate has always been known by that name. The cemetery grounds, which are on church property, have been maintained by the Davis family and their descendants since 1861. The earliest inscribed gravestone is that of Margaret Davis, who died in 1878. The most recent burial was in 2009, and there are no more available plots.

#### ELABORATION

The Saline Associate Reform Presbyterian Church and Saline Cemetery were established by pioneering families that traveled by wagons in 1860 from the Carolinas, Tennessee and Mississippi in search of a new life in the thick pine forest. The cemetery contains the graves of many members of these pioneering families.

### **Breakdown of Burials**

Saline Cemetery contains 106 total burials dating from 1878 to the present. However, only 96 of them are marked with inscribed gravestones. The remaining 10 burials are marked with simple fieldstones and are considered historic. These historic fieldstones, plus the historic inscribed gravestones (82), total 92, or 87% of the total burials.

### Contributing Burials by Decade (Inscribed Gravestones)

1871-1880: 4 1881-1890: 13 1891-1900: 17 1901-1910: 22 1911-1920: 11 1921-1930: 7 1931-1940: 7 1941-1950: 0

1951-1960:

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There are 82 historic burials marked by inscribed gravestones in Saline Cemetery. They account for about 77% of the total inscribed gravestones.

### **Contributing Fieldstones**

There are 10 historic burials marked by fieldstones in Saline Cemetery. They account for about 9% of the total inscribed gravestones.

### Non-Contributing Burials (Inscribed Gravestones)

There are 14 non-historic burials marked by inscribed gravestones in Saline Cemetery. They account for about 13% of the total inscribed gravestones.



Burials no longer occur in the cemetery because there are no remaining plots. Therefore, the National Register status of the cemetery should not be threatened in the future by the ratio of contributing to non-contributing burials.

### Landscape Design

The Saline Cemetery adjoins the old church yard, which lies to the east, between the cemetery and Allis Road. The entrance, also located on the east side of the graveyard, is marked by an arched wrought iron sign that reads, "Old Saline Cemetery," and was installed in 1965. The other three sides are bordered by forest. Inside the chain link fence, which surrounds the cemetery, the headstones are arranged in lines running north and south, and each of the markers faces east. There is a wrought iron fence enclosing a small rectangular plot in the southeast part of the cemetery, which was manufactured by Stewart Iron Works of Cincinnati, Ohio. The grounds are well-maintained; they are regularly mowed and some broken stones have been repaired.

#### Grave Markers and Monuments

The Saline Cemetery contains many beautiful monuments representing many types of funerary symbolism. Many of these markers, which are made of marble, granite, and concrete, are rectangular in shape with an arched or forward-sloping top. However, there are a few examples of small obelisks, as well as log-shaped monuments associated with the Woodmen of the World. Examples of funerary symbolism in the Saline Cemetery include the following headstones:

The grave of *Ida Belle Miller (1874-1898)* is marked with a marble tablet headstone cut from a template more elaborate than most stones in the cemetery. Under its decoratively arched top is a depiction of two hands that appear to be shaking, a symbol which represents a welcome into heaven or a farewell from Earth. Above and below this depiction an inscription reads, "We shall meet in the sweet bye and bye."

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Another symbol involving hands is on the grave of Samuel P. Davis (1858-1884). Here the hand of God extends downward from the clouds, holding the link of a broken chain which represents the end of a life. Above the hand an inscription reads, "To the memory of," referring to Mr. Davis.

The grave of *Tommie Morris* (1897-1906) features another common symbol. This small, rectangular marble monument has curved corners and is topped with a lamb. This feature commonly marks the graves of children, symbolizing their innocence. The inscription below the lamb reads, "Our loved one."

The monuments marking the graves of J.A. Johnson (1873-1900) and John W. Measel (1854-1913) are fine examples of tombstones erected by a popular organization, the Woodmen of the World (WOW). Founded by Joseph Cullen Root on June 6, 1890, WOW was primarily an insurance company that, until the 1920s, provided each of its members with a widely-recognized rustic-log gravestone. Like all WOW monuments, Johnson and Measel's markers display the Latin phrase, "Durn Tacet Clamet," which translates as "Though Silent, He Speaks," or, "Gone But Not Forgotten." The Woodmen of the World organization still exists today and boasts over 800,000 members, though its official name is now Woodmen to the World Life Insurance Society/Omaha Woodmen Life Insurance Society.

Other funerary symbols found in Saline Cemetery include birds, flowers, hands with a finger pointed down, hands holding a Bible, wheat, ivy, leaves, open and a closed Bibles, roses, lilies, tree stumps, and stars.

### INTEGRITY

Located on Allis Road south of U.S. Highway 278 in Drew County, the Saline Cemetery retains the rural setting it has had since the first burial in 1878. The nearest structure stands on the left side of the road a quarter mile from the cemetery. The unpainted wood structure with a large porch on the front belonged to Coleman and Ollie Davis who moved from Allis to Wilmar in 1903 after their first child was born. Though the church with which the cemetery was associated relocated to Wilmar in 1907, the cemetery remained open for burials until it reached capacity in 2009. The grounds of the cemetery continue to be well-maintained and most of the stones remain upright and legible. Those that have fallen over or broken have been repaired, though weathering has made the delicate engravings on some monuments difficult to read. Nevertheless, Saline Cemetery remains as a fine example of rural funerary art in Drew County.

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#### **SUMMARY**

Located in Allis, a now-defunct community in west-central Drew County, Saline Cemetery is a relatively small, well-maintained rural burial plot dating from 1878. It contains 106 markers, many of which feature funerary symbols common during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For this reason Saline Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance as a fine example of rural funerary art in Drew County. The cemetery is also being nominated under Criteria Consideration D for Cemeteries.

### **ELABORATION**

### **Town and County History**

Drew County lies on the edge of the Mississippi Alluvial Plain in southeast Arkansas. White settlement began in 1837 with the founding of Rough and Ready, a village once located within a mile of present-day Monticello. These people were attracted to the area by its rich agricultural land, which proved to be especially suitable for growing apples, peaches, pears, and tomatoes, as well as profitable stands of timber. In 1846 the state legislature created the county from parts of Bradley and Arkansas counties and named it for the contemporary governor of Arkansas Thomas Stevenson Drew. Portions of the county were removed and added to Ashley County in 1848, and parts of Desha County were added to Drew County in 1861 and 1873. The county's boundaries were finalized in 1873 when the boundary between Drew and Chicot counties was settled.

As with most Arkansas counties, initial settlement was soon followed by the construction of churches. While the first services were held in private homes, early citizens constructed at least two churches before the legislature created Drew County in 1846. Reverend Milton Carr established the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church in 1843, making it the county's first religious congregation. Church members held services at the Vanlandingham home until the church was completed in 1845. The new house of worship, which was constructed from hand-hewn timbers, was located at Rock Springs, a small community in the northwest part of the county. Another of the early churches established in Drew County was a Baptist church located at Rough and Ready sometime before 1846. Built on a plot of land donated by James M. Touchstone and first served by Reverend Benaiah Carroll, the building was also used as the county court.

While the primary denominations in the early decades of the county were Baptist and Methodist, other congregations, including Cumberland Presbyterian, Associated Reformed Presbyterian (ARP), and Presbyterian, U.S., also had presence in Drew County. The Associated Reformed Presbyterians were particularly prominent among the county's Presbyterians; Reverend John Wilson established the first ARP

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church in all of eastern Arkansas at Monticello in 1855. Its charter members included several ARP families from Salem, Tennessee, who had settled at Relf's Bluff, a community 12 miles from Monticello. According to an ARP evangelist, the families' "spiritual hunger" necessitated the construction of a church at Monticello, which was completed in 1858. That same year the ARP leadership recognized that the commute to the new house of worship was too difficult for the families at Relf's Bluff, so they decided to build another church in that community.

Another ARP church was built at Allis, a small community in west central Drew County, located one mile east of present-day Wilmar. The earliest settlers in this area were the Nelson and Davis families who arrived around 1860. In fact, the original post office was named Nelson, after W.A. Nelson who settled a homesite at that location. The name had to be changed to Allis, however, when it was discovered that there was already a Nelson post office in Arkansas. The now-defunct community reached its peak when the Little Rock, Mississippi River, and Texas Railroad (Iron Mountain Railroad) laid tracks through the area sometime after the line's completion to Monticello in 1880. At the point where the railroad crossed the public road to Saline, railroad officials placed a sign that read, "ALLIS." Here, William Nelson placed his sawmill and built Nelson and Morris Mercantile. At one point in the late nineteenth century, Allis boasted a two-story school, John Couey's sawmill, a livery stable, Sloan Wright's blacksmith shop, a boarding house, Dr. R.R. Bond's drug store, and thirty-three dwellings. Local events included Friday night speeches, a concert at the end of school, and a communal Christmas tree during the holidays. Allis began its decline in 1890 when the Gates Lumber Company opened a large timber operation in nearby Wilmar.

#### Church and Cemetery History

The Saline Church and Cemetery was first conceived by the pioneer families that moved to the Saline area around 1860, including the Davises, the Morrises, the Nelsons, and the Wrights. In 1861 they presented a petition to the Arkansas Presbytery for permission to organize a church at Nelson, later known as Allis. The presbytery granted the petition and appointed Reverend J.H. Brown to assist in getting the church started. On October 10, 1861, Richard Wright, William Nelson, and Robert Davis bought five acres of land from Harvey Nelson for ten dollars, splitting the cost at \$3.33 each. They soon erected a log meeting house on the site by the roadside about one hundred yards north of where the Saline Cemetery is now located. The first elders of the church were W.M. McKinstry, W.A. Nelson, and R.A. Davis, and Reverend Joseph A. Dickson served as the first pastor from 1861 to 1866.

In 1873 the congregation replaced the log structure with a larger frame building in Allis, which was made of lumber from William Nelson's sawmill. The rectangular building with pine siding was painted white, except for the doors which were splattered with red and black to match the pulpit. The church had red carpet and four hanging lamps with crystal prisms dangling from a hand painted shade brought up the Mississippi from New Orleans. Men entered the left hand door and sat in the left pews. Women and girls entered the

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right hand door and sat in the pews to the right. Soon after the church built this second building they established the cemetery; the first burial occurred in 1878 with the passing of Margaret Davis.

The congregation moved once again in 1906, this time to Wilmar on land donated by J.T.D. Anderson and I.W. Bird. The new Wilmar ARP church joined the Presbyterian Church, U.S., in the winter of 1923. When membership fell to eight in 1973, the church finally disbanded and united with the First Presbyterian Church in Warren. Meanwhile, the original Saline Cemetery continued accepting burials until 2009 when all available plots were filled. Family members of the deceased formed the Saline Cemetery Association in 1965, which continues to maintain the grounds.

### The Robert Davis family

There are fourteen members of the Davis family buried at Saline Cemetery. Robert Davis married Margaret Asenath Nelson in 1837 in Mecklenburg, North Carolina, and moved the family by wagon to an area outside Oxford, Mississippi. They lived there for twenty years before departing for Arkansas around 1860 in an effort to remove themselves from the impending conflict of the Civil War. They traveled by wagon to the Allis area with several other families. Robert Davis became a cotton farmer and constructed a large horse-powered gin which he used to do ginning for the whole community. The Davis graves are close in proximity, mostly within the same row. Some of the tombstones have scroll work, one raised top marker with an open Bible (signifying a deceased teacher or minister), a closed Bible (divide work of God accomplishment), a hand with a finger pointing upward (the pathway to heaven), a cross (emblem of faith), a Conch shell (wisdom), a cluster of grapes on a vine (meaning of life), lilies (innocence and resurrection) and wheat (rebirth).

Keller Hilliard Davis was 23 months old when he died in 1906. His brother Grier had been born five days earlier. His mother, Ollie, was too weak to attend the funeral so his father, Coleman, carried his little blue casket in their buggy drawn by Dolly the horse to the cemetery for burial. His monument is sandstone. It is rectangular on a base with his name Keller in large block letters etched on the top of the stone. The sides are scrolls and two stalks of wheat are etched between the scrolls. His inscription reads, "Little time on earth he spent till God for him his angel sent."

Ada Dell Davis was seventeen months old when she became ill with black measles and died. The disease infected the community and her Uncle Sam Davis also died from the disease. He and Ada Dell died the same day--May 24, 1884. Her rectangular marker has a diamond point and is engraved with a rose bud stem and leaves that form a circle on the upper front center of the stone.

Lois Young Davis died at the age of five when her family was stricken with fever. She is buried next to Keller Hilliard Davis, her nephew. Her stone is identical to his--rectangular in shape with scrolls carved on



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the upper sides. The grave markers also depict a lamb lying down next to a staff and a sprig of wheat. Above the lamb is a star shining in the sky. Lois's name is etched in large block letters on the top of the stone. The inscription at the lower portion of the stone reads, "The Lord is My Shepherd."

### The Spence family

William Tyler Spence was born and raised in Mississippi and attended the Shiloh ARP church near Oxford. He graduated from the University of Mississippi before coming to Wilmar to be the headmaster of Beauvior College at the turn of the century. Mr. Spence and his wife buried six children in the Saline Cemetery in 1901, 1902, 1903, 1905 and 1906. One large pulpit marker is inscribed with the children's names, birth dates and death dates. Using a single marker to chronicle the passing of an entire family was a common practice at the time.



### The Morris family

Ten members of the Morris family are found in the cemetery. Lula May Morris Collins' headstone has no date of birth or death. Tommy Morris was nine years old when he died, and his grave marker is topped with a lamb signifying innocence. Anna Dell Morris was the daughter of Z.T. and Amanda Morris. She was seventeen when she died; her marker is adorned with a single rose bud carved within a circle. An inscription on the lower part of the stone describes that her family will meet her again: "Blooming in heaven our darling one has gone before to greet us on the blissful shore. To be with the angels so bright and fair, the last farewell friends meet me there."

### The Murry family

M. A. Murry's first wife was Sarah Agnes Murry who died in 1902. His second wife was Mary Roseanna Murry who died in 1907. Both monuments are identical, rectangular stones with arched tops. On the center upper portion of the stone is engraved, "Wife's Grave," then lists the wife's name, birth date and death date. On the lower portion is the inscription, "She was an affectionate wife, a fond mother and a friend to all."

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in Allis, a now-defunct community in west-central Drew County, Saline Cemetery is a relatively small, well-maintained rural burial plot dating from 1871. It contains 106 markers, many of which feature funerary symbols common during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For this reason Saline Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance as a fine example of rural funerary art in Drew County. The cemetery is also being nominated under Criteria Consideration D for Cemeteries.

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Roster of Saline Cemetery, County Clerk's Office, Monticello Courthouse.

Saline ARP Church minutes, 1892-1906.

Saline Church Bible used at the Saline ARP Church, 1861-1906.

Tooley, Joe. History of the Willmar Presbyterian Church 1861-1974.

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Name of Property	County and State

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### **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Drew County Assessor's Office Parcel #001-09572-000-E.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The above boundary includes all land historically associated with the Saline Associated Reform Presbyterian Church and the Saline Cemetery.

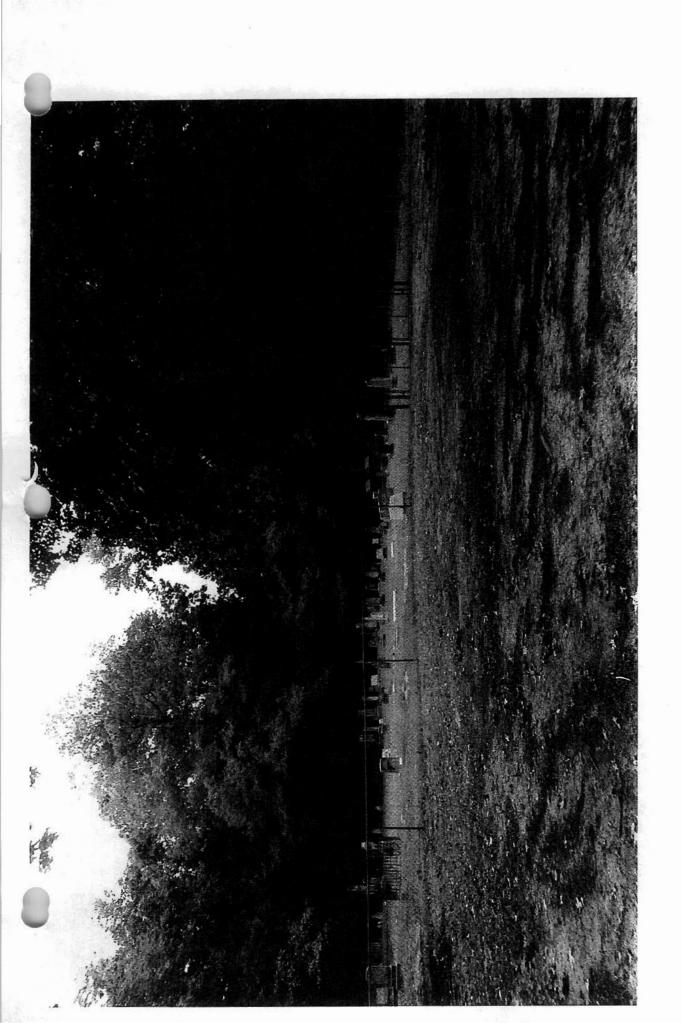
CHAIN-LINK FENCE-3 10 WROUGHT - IRON FENCE 5 GATE + SIGN

Saline Cemetery Wilmar vic., Drew County, Arkansas



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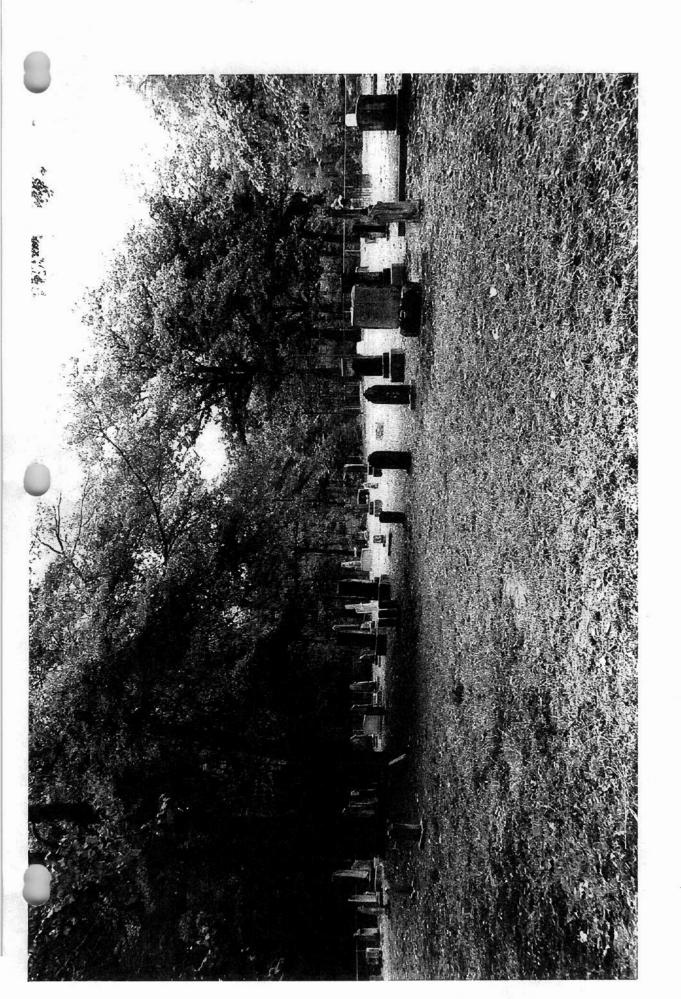
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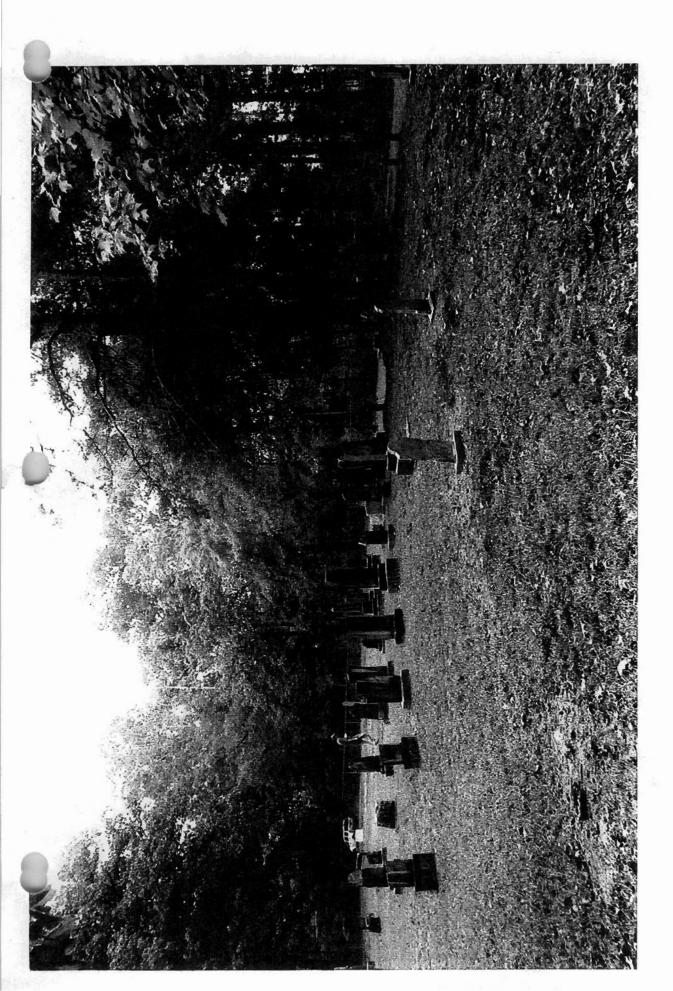
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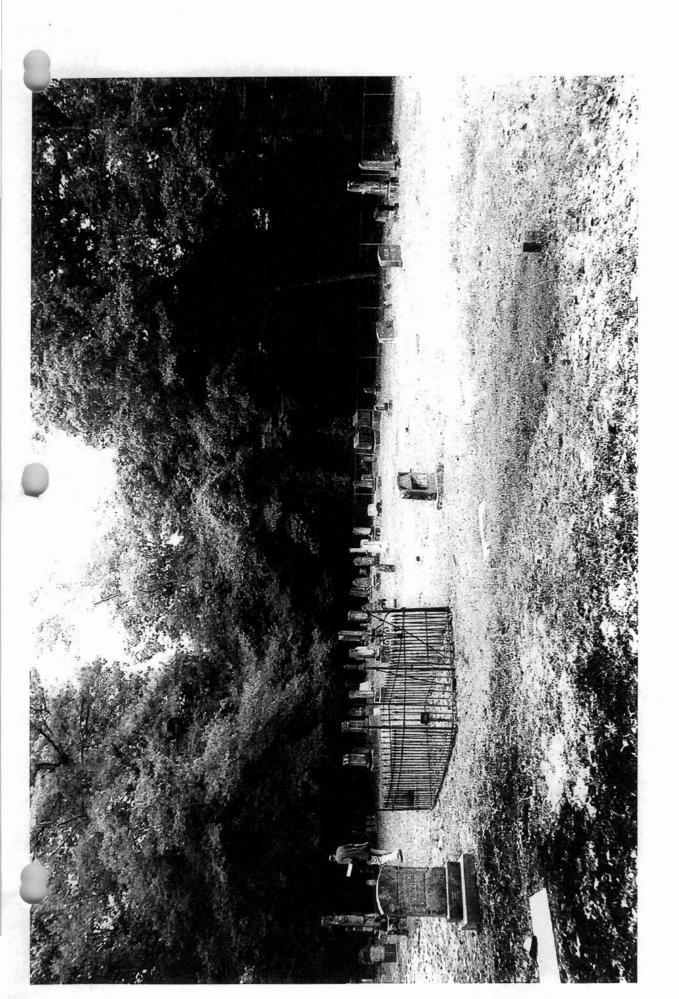
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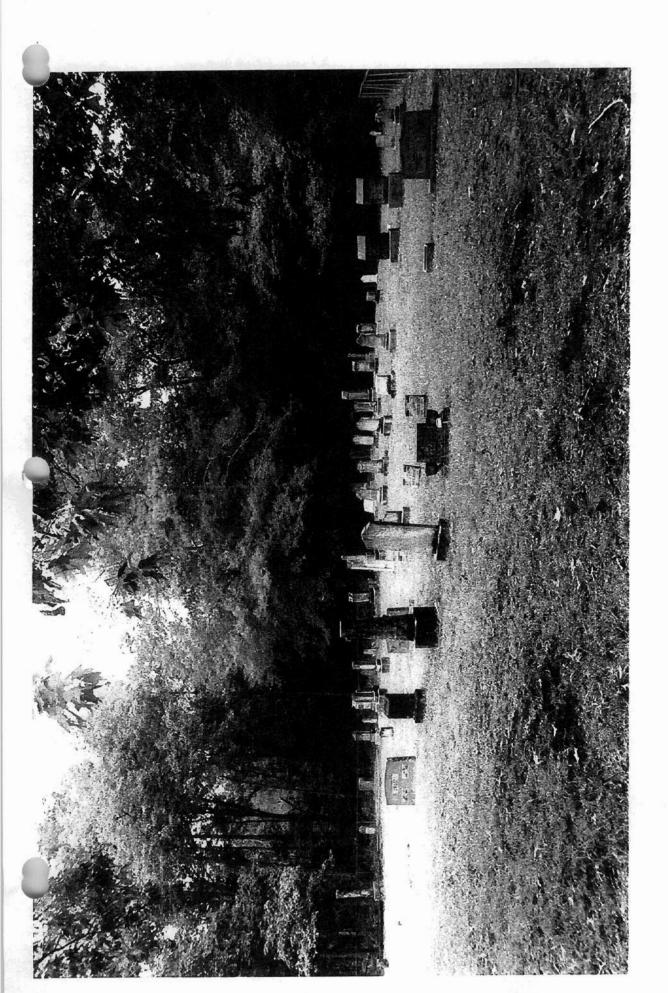
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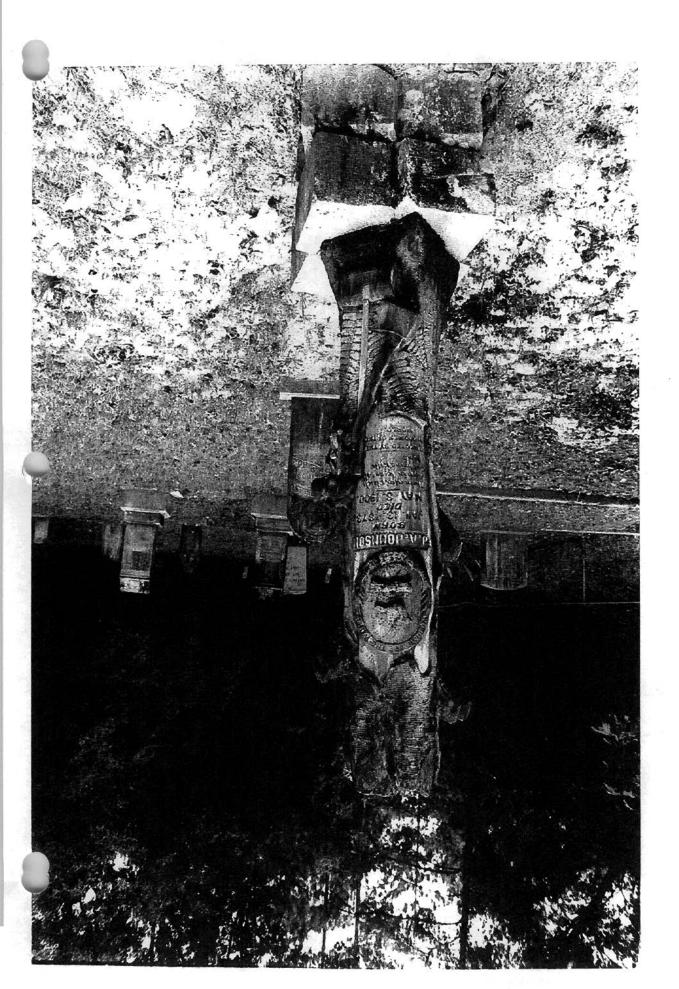
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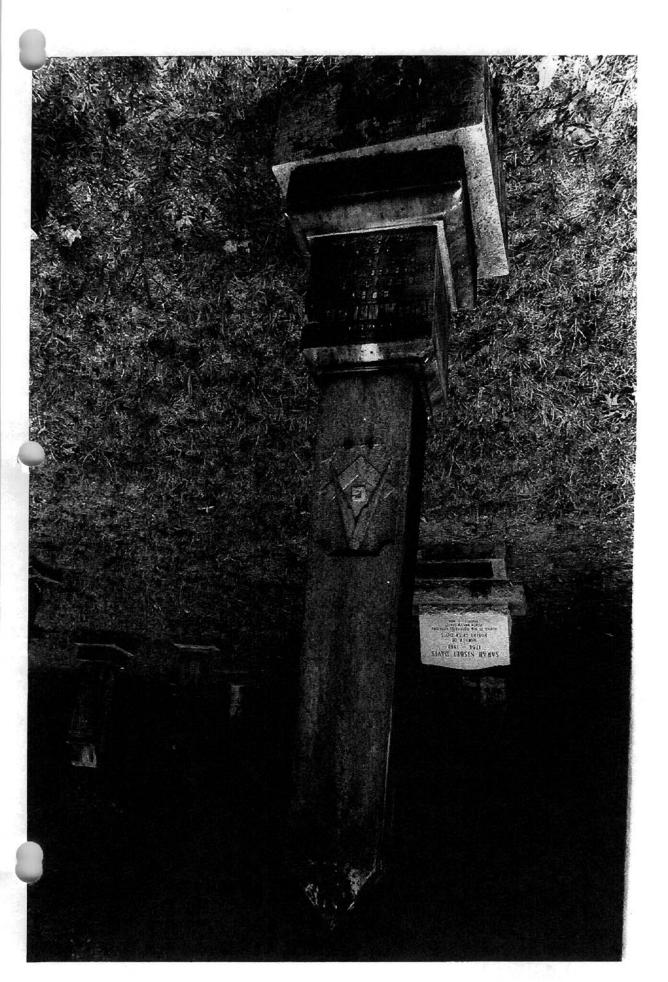


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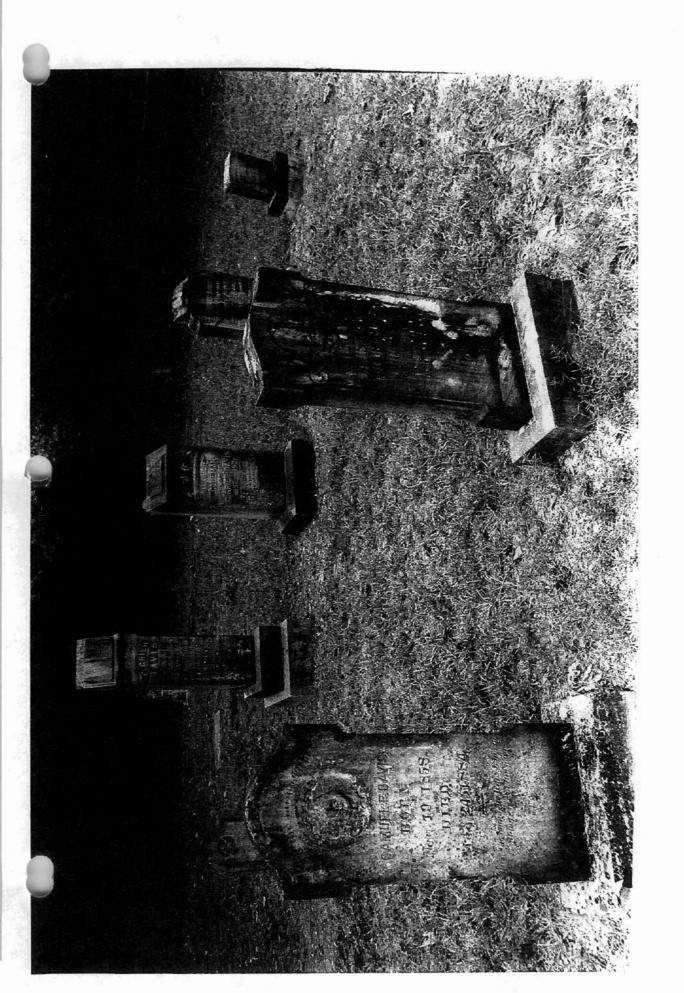
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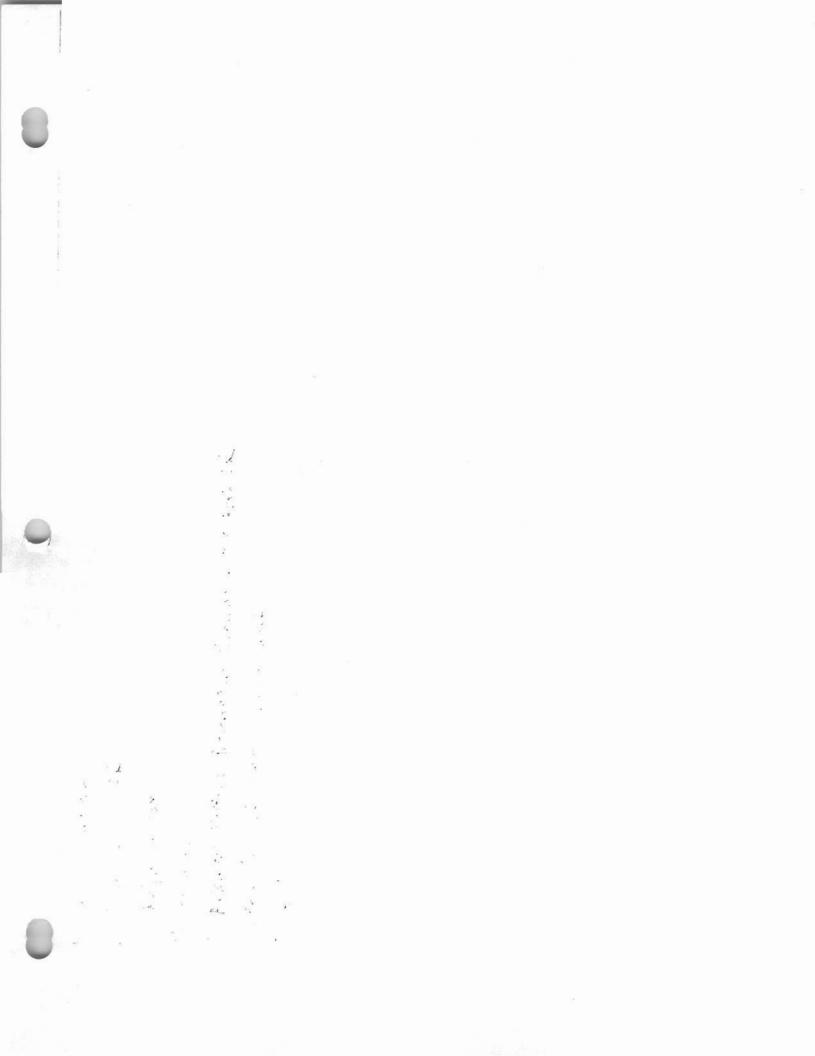
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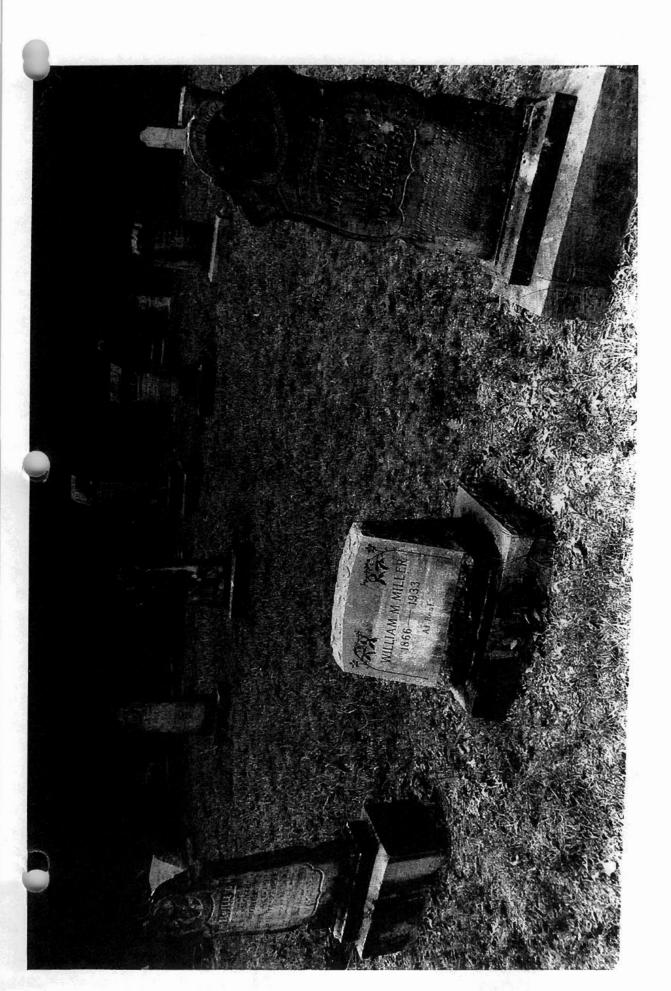
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