

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 Garden Point Cemetery
Other names/site number MS0278

2. Location

Street & number 4682 West State Highway 140 not for publication
city or town Etowah vicinity
State Arkansas code AR county Mississippi code 093 zip code 72428

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Catherine Marshall 4/6/06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Garden Point Cemetery
Name of Property

Mississippi County, Arkansas
County and State

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 count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

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)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A
roof N/A
other STONE: Marble, Granite
CONCRETE

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

c. 1890 - 1956

Significant Dates

c. 1890 - 1956

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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 or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Town Hall/Town of Etowah

Garden Point Cemetery
Name of Property

Mississippi County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>749890</u>	<u>3954253</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Charles McCollum/Mayor, Town of Etowah; Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian, AHPP
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date February 1, 2006
Street & number 1600 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9874
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

Name Town of Etowah
Street & number 4670 West State Highway 136 P.O. Box 113 telephone 870-531-2359
city or town Etowah state AR zip code 72428

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.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the 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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SUMMARY

The Garden Point Cemetery, located in Etowah, Mississippi County, Arkansas, at the junction of State Highway 140 and State Highway 136, is roughly five miles from the center of the Town of Etowah. Located on top of a natural ridge—one of the highest points of the delta flat lands of Mississippi County, Arkansas—the cemetery lies amongst agricultural fields. The Garden Point Cemetery is the burial site of many early settlers of Etowah, including many of the town founders, as well as early loggers and farmers who made their own unique contribution to the growth of Etowah in early 20th century.

Originally called Jackson's Island, The Town of Etowah was established in 1902 when the Post Office opened. Initially rejecting the name "Jackson's Island" due to the existence of a town named "Jackson" already established in Arkansas, the post office approved the settlement's new name of "Etowah."

According to local legend, the town was christened "Etowah" when a Native American rode through town on his horse, shouting "E to Wah." Though his meaning still remains unclear, the cry became the name of the new post office.

The original settlement, Jackson's Island, was named for Frank Jackson who was one of the first settlers in the area, and descendants of Frank Jackson are buried in Garden Point Cemetery. At the time of the town's settlement, logging ventures brought a lot of men and their families to the area. As logging ventures gained momentum in the area in the early 20th century, the private logging companies—the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company being the most well know of the bunch—needed a place to bury their deceased loggers, hired hands, and their family members. After the logging operations diminished and farming became a way of life in Etowah, the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company donated the cemetery to the community for public burial use.

While burials date as early as circa 1890, the oldest marked grave dates to 1903, and is that of Reddrick Henry Jackson, one of the town founders. There are 2119 total known burials in the cemetery, 913 of which are historic. There are also 367 unmarked burials in Garden Point Cemetery that took place during the historic period, for a total of 1280 (or 60%) historic burials.

A new section of the cemetery, which provides space for 233 burials, is located slightly southwest of the original cemetery, on the site where the Garden Point Methodist Church has previously been located. The church was removed in 1993, at which time the land upon which it sat was deeded to the Town of Etowah for use by Garden Point Cemetery. As a general rule of thumb, all new burials take place in this new section unless the burial is to take place in a family plot that was in existence prior to Etowah's incorporation in 1997.

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ELABORATION

The Garden Point Cemetery has been in existence since at least circa 1890—the year the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company first appeared in Etowah. The first marked burial dates to 1903, and is that of Reddrick Henry Jackson (1872-1903). The land upon which the cemetery rests was owned by the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company—one of the logging companies with interests in the town. As timber interests subsided in the area and the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company moved from Etowah, the company deeded the land to the Town of Etowah for use as a community cemetery. While owned by the timber company, its loggers, hired hands, and their family members were buried here. At the time the cemetery was established, burials were free of charge in the original 6.5 acres.

In addition to use by the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company, Garden Point Cemetery was used by the Town of Etowah in the early 1900s when several epidemics plagued the community. During the 1917 – 1918 flu epidemic people were frightened about the possibility of contagion, and families buried privately in the cemetery. According to information from family members and the Murphy Funeral Home, the funeral home supplied three railroad boxcars to surrounding communities in order to help supply and distribute caskets due to the increased need. In lottery form, people picked a number, and when their turn was called, they unloaded the needed caskets for their own family. As the flu epidemic took such a toll on the local population, the local newspapers refused to publish numbers of deaths when several people from one family died from the epidemic.

There are 2119 known burials in the cemetery, 913 of which are *marked and historic*. Additionally, there are 367 known, *but unmarked*, burials dating to the historic period. The number of historic graves may be larger, as the lumber company did not keep burial records for their employees.

The breakdown of the 913 *marked* historic burials with known dates is as follows:

1903 – 1910	12
1911 - 1920	41
1921 - 1930	85
1931 - 1940	275
1941 - 1950	305
1951 - 1956	195

The additional 367 known, *but unmarked*, burials are almost certainly from this era as well (c. 1890-1902), due to the locations of the graves amongst the other historic graves. As mentioned above, the number of historic burials may be larger, simply because the lumber company did not maintain burial records for their employees. This would make the total number of historic burials 1280, or 60%.

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The number of *marked*, non-historic burials in the cemetery from 1957 to the present equal 746 or 35%, with the following breakdown:

1957 - 1960	67
1961 - 1970	195
1971 - 1980	144
1981 - 1990	131
1991 - 2000	138
2001 - 2006	71

There are a total of 93 *unmarked*, but known, burials between 1957 and 2006, bringing the total of non-historic burials to 839, or 40%.

The Historic Section is now largely inactive and no new burials will take place in this section unless the family plot has been in existence prior to the Town of Etowah taking over management of the cemetery in 1997.

The new section of the Garden Point Cemetery was acquired after the Garden Point Methodist Church closed in 1993. The church buildings were removed and the property was deeded to the Town of Etowah by the church in 1997. The Caster Engineering Company plotted the new lots for this section, with space for 233 burial plots. At the present time these can be purchased by people of the community who wish to be buried at Garden Point Cemetery, but have no family in the old section.

Landscape Design

The entrance of the cemetery is marked with a seven-foot monument that names the cemetery and the date the cemetery was donated to the community as a public burial place, and a bell marker notes the site of the former Garden Point Methodist Church. The cemetery association also has placed a veterans' memorial monument at the entrance to the cemetery, and on this marker are the emblems of the four branches of the military. The cemetery is covered with large trees such as walnut, pecan, cypress, ash, oak and crepe myrtle and the two oldest trees, which are oak, are at the entrance to the cemetery. According to local legend, these trees are at least 100 years old.

The northern outer edge of the cemetery is lined with Leland Cypress trees and the southern edge is lined with Crepe Myrtles. The thoroughfare in the cemetery is somewhat shaped like a circular drive that allows visitors to start on the west end and drive through the middle of the cemetery to the east. A stone inscribed "CONSTRUCTED/BY/NATIONAL YOUTH/ADMINISTRATION/1941" refers to the construction of this circular drive.

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The Town of Etowah is responsible for year-round upkeep of the cemetery.

Grave Markers and Monuments

The cemetery is filled with unique and old headstones, and there are several stones of interest. Several of the Jackson family monuments are large in scale, and are very prominent in the cemetery. Both Andrew Stonewall Jackson (1877-1937) and Elmira Jackson (1873-1935) have white marble pedestal tomb-vaulted roof monuments, while R. H. Jackson (1872-190) has a white marble pulpit marker. Nervial Griffin (1865-1910) also has a white marble pulpit marker, as does Myrtle Wilmoth (1893-1914). The monument of Elvin Jackson (1909-1918) is a white marble pedestal tomb-urn on top. There are also a couple of Woodmen of the World monuments in the cemetery, among them being the markers of James Patterson (1873-1919) and Fred L. Rounsavall (1881-1934). Alma Butler (1906-1932) has an interesting monument—made of marble, the marker is a die on base that is capped with a wooden cross, and at the base of the cross is a dove. The die is incised to give the appearance of rough cut field stone. Lillian Jeffre (1924-1924) has a very simple, concrete, handmade tab in socket marker. Spread throughout the cemetery are numerous examples of simple tab in socket, die on base, and plaque markers, and an abundance of plain tombstones with segmented, rectangular, and pointed arches.

About 130 veterans are recorded as buried in the cemetery, among them being one Civil War Veteran and one Spanish American Veteran. There are also several World War I & II soldiers buried there. These veteran graves are marked with government-issue monuments. Each Memorial Day there is a special service in the cemetery honoring all veterans buried at Garden Point.

INTEGRITY

Garden Point Cemetery is the final resting place for the early settlers of the Town of Etowah, and is significant to the history of Etowah. Among the men and women buried in Garden Point are numerous town founders, early businessmen, farmers, military servicemen, and early loggers and their family members. As such, the cemetery retains integrity of feeling and association. The cemetery is located on a natural ridge that allows for a pleasant vista of both surrounding and distant farmlands, thus the cemetery retains integrity of location, setting and design. The monuments and markers found in Garden Point Cemetery are all in relatively good condition, with no signs of vandalism, allowing the cemetery to exhibit wonderful integrity of workmanship and materials.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Garden Point Cemetery contains roughly 2119, of which 913 are marked and pre-date 1956. There are an additional 367 unmarked graves dating from the historic period, based on their location amongst the historic burials, bringing the number of historic burials to 1280, or 60%. Although there are recorded

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burials of 60% before 1956 and 40% after the historic period, there are considerably more historic burials than have been recorded. The earliest burials were un-marked and no records exist at funeral homes or newspapers for verification of these burials. Also, the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company did not keep record of interments related to their employees that occurred at the cemetery.

The first men and women who were buried in Garden Point Cemetery were the loggers and hired hands, and their families, of the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company, one of the more prominent logging companies established in Etowah around the turn of the 20th century. At that time, this part of the delta was full of trees ripe for logging operations. After the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company logging operations diminished in the area, and the company's need for a cemetery ceased, the cemetery was donated to the Town of Etowah for use as a public cemetery. In addition to the above mentioned men and women interred in Garden Point Cemetery are the farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs who became the founders and first settlers of the Town of Etowah.

The monuments and markers at Garden Point are in excellent condition, with minimal or no signs of vandalism. All apparent stone damage can be attributed to weathering and the elements, such as engravings being worn down, sunken and leaning markers and monuments, and lichen cover. The cemetery grounds are well maintained by the Town of Etowah

The original section is now largely inactive and no new burials will take place in this section unless the family plot has been in existence prior to the Town of Etowah taking over management of the cemetery in 1997.

The new section of the Garden Point Cemetery was acquired after the Garden Point Methodist Church closed in 1993. The church buildings were removed and the property was deeded to the Town of Etowah by the church in 1997. The Caster Engineering Company plotted the new lots for this section, with space for 233 burial plots. At the present time these can be purchased by people of the community who wish to be buried at Garden Point Cemetery, but have no family in the original section.

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SUMMARY

Garden Point Cemetery is being nominated with **local significance** to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its association with the lives of persons significant to the settlement and development of Etowah, Mississippi County, Arkansas, and the immediate surrounding area. Garden Point Cemetery has recorded the history—including the timber ventures and agricultural past—of the area through the many significant burials of the early important settlers, loggers, businessmen, farmers, entrepreneurs, and military servicemen. Garden Point is also significant under **Criteria Consideration D** for cemeteries.

ELABORATION

Town and County History

Borne out of Crittenden and Phillips counties, Mississippi County was established by the Territorial Legislature on November 1, 1833. Early European settlers were hunters and trappers or small subsistence farmers. Because its topography and environment did not encourage immediate widespread settlement; nor did the state government have the means or the inclination to improve conditions, the population of Mississippi County grew very slowly. In the 1800s, like many other Delta counties, Mississippi County was swampy and insect infested; humid in the summer and cold and damp in the winter; and home to wild animals including bears and panthers. The county generally lacked the attractions other areas of the state had to offer. It had a history of natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, and in fact, the first of the three large quakes that became known as the New Madrid earthquake of 1811-1812 occurred near the present town of Blytheville, which is roughly 20 miles northeast of Etowah. The eastern border of the county was the untamed Mississippi River where river overflows were annual events. The roads that existed were frequently impassable and there was no railroads making transportation difficult, therefore the Mississippi River was the county's lifeline.

What the area did have to offer was thousands of acres of virgin hardwood timber and amazingly fertile alluvial soil. The last decade of the nineteenth century saw national expansion and a nationwide building boom. A number of northern lumber companies saw the opportunity to expand and acquired, mainly through land grants, large tracts of timber throughout the south. One of these companies was the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company, which was originally based in Kansas City, Missouri. The Memphis, Tennessee, office established the Etowah operation.

Originally called Jackson's Island, the Town of Etowah was established in 1902 when the Post Office opened. Initially rejecting the name "Jackson's Island" due to the existence of a town named "Jackson" already established in Arkansas, the post office approved the settlement's new name of "Etowah." According to local legend, the town was christened "Etowah" when a Native American rode through town on

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his horse, shouting "E to Wah." Though his meaning still remains unclear, the cry became the name of the new post office.

The original settlement, Jackson's Island, was named for Frank Jackson who was one of the first settlers in the area. Descendants of Frank Jackson are buried in Garden Point Cemetery. At the time of the town's settlement, logging ventures brought a lot of men and their families to the area. As logging ventures gained momentum in the area in the early 20th century, the private logging companies—the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company being the most well known of the bunch locally—needed a place to bury their deceased loggers, hired hands, and their family members. After the logging operations diminished and farming became a way of life in Etowah, the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company donated the cemetery to the community for public burial use. Etowah was not the only town in Mississippi County to gain a cemetery from the lumber company. On August 12, 1910, the city of Marked Tree purchased, for \$300, four acres from Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company to be used as a cemetery.

Cemetery History

Located on top of a natural ridge, the Garden Point Cemetery has been in existence since at least c. 1890—the year the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company first appeared in Etowah. The vast majority of the first men and women who were buried in Garden Point Cemetery were the loggers and hired hands, and their families, of the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company, one of the more prominent logging companies established in Etowah around the turn of the 20th century. At that time, this part of the delta was full of trees ripe for logging operations. After the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company logging operations diminished in the area, and the company's need for a cemetery ceased, the cemetery was donated to the Town of Etowah for use as a public cemetery. In addition to the above mentioned men and women interred in Garden Point Cemetery are the farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs who became the founders and first settlers of the Town of Etowah.

The oldest known grave is that of Reddrick Henry Jackson (b. 7-15-1872, d. 8-27-1903). The next oldest graves are that of John William Carter (b. 8-8-1888, d. 5-28-1904), Susie F. Carter (b. 7-1-1895, d. 8-29-1904), and William Aaron Smith (b. 1847, d. 4-26-1909). Several people were buried in 1910, including B. F. Comstock (b. 1849, d. 1910), Nurvial Griffin (b. 1865, d. 1910), Ellen V. Smith (b. 1861, d. 1910), and Mary Talitha Stewart (b. 7-8-1885, d. 4-2-1910).

Many of these earliest burials are of people associated with the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company, and not much information is known about these men and women, as the logging company did not keep records of the burials, nor did they closely record the lives of the people associated with the company. It can be assumed that the majority of the people listed above either worked for the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company as loggers or hired hands, or were married to the men who worked for the logging company.

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A sign announcing Garden Point Cemetery is located at the front of the cemetery, close to the southwest corner of the cemetery. The seven-foot monument notes the date Garden Point was given to the Town of Etowah as a public burial ground. A monument to veterans is also located at the entrance, and is decorated with the emblems of the different branches of military. Two 100-plus year old oak trees are also located at the entrance of Garden Point.

A new section exists slightly southwest of the original six and a half acres, and was deeded to the Town of Etowah in 1997. Located on this small plot of land was the Garden Point Methodist Church, which closed its doors in 1993. After Etowah took ownership of the land, an additional 233 plots were laid out, and are available for purchase by people who wish to be buried in the cemetery, but who do not have family plots in the original section.

Located at the junction of Arkansas Highways 140 and 136, on top of a natural ridge—one of the highest points of the delta flat lands of Mississippi County, Arkansas—the cemetery is surrounded by agricultural fields, and is just five miles from the center of the Town of Etowah.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SELECTED PERSONS BURIED IN GARDEN POINT CEMETERY

Amos Chambers (b. 1869, d. 1938)

Amos Chambers was married to Janie R. Chambers (b. 1874, d. 1939), and together, they homesteaded in the Etowah area around 1900. Amos' sister-in-law, Emma Victoria Chambers (b. 1-23-1875, d. 10-8-1952) was also an early settler in the Etowah area. The Chambers migrated to Etowah from Memphis, Tennessee, at a time when farm land was cheap and the ground was very fertile for cotton farming. Part of their homestead lies just east of the cemetery.

William Henry Davidson (b. 11-3-1861, d. 6-1-1949)

William Henry Davidson was an early pioneer to this area and arrived from Hohenwald, Tennessee, to settle in Etowah in 1885. Known locally as Captain Davidson and "Uncle Will," he was proprietor of a saw and gristmill, and was a landowner, farmer, cotton buyer, and merchant. He and many of his descendants and relatives are buried in Garden Point Cemetery. Land for the first school was given to the people of Etowah by William H. Davidson. The business enterprises of Davidson offered opportunity and drew many young men seeking a future to the sparsely populated and wilderness surrounding the newly settled Town of Etowah.

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Dr. J. L. Holleman (1886-1939)

A physician and farmer, J. L. Holleman was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and received his medical degree in North Carolina. As a local doctor, Holleman offered free medical services to the people of Etowah. He is also a Spanish-American War veteran, and although his burial in Garden Point has been verified, the location of his grave has not.

The Jackson Family

Etowah was originally known as Jackson's Island, named by Frank Jackson. Parts of the Jackson family lands were acquired by land grants. Some notable members of the Jackson family buried in the cemetery are:

Alec Cole Jackson (b. 4-2-1876, d. 5-23-1951)

Alec Jackson was a blacksmith. He was born in Waynesboro County, Tennessee.

John Calvin Jackson (b. 3-22-1845, d. 9-20-1916)

J. C. Jackson was an early settler in the area, and was also a blacksmith. Around 1900, he moved to Etowah from Waynesboro County, Tennessee.

Mary Jackson (b. 9-8-1831, d. 9-14-1913)

Mary Jackson was the wife of John Calvin Jackson.

Reddrick Henry Jackson (b. 7-15-1872, d. 8-27-1903)

R. H. Jackson is the first marked burial in Garden Point. He migrated to Etowah from Waynesboro County, Tennessee.

Other Jackson family members interred at Garden Point include:

Andrew Stonewall Jackson (b. 1877, d. 12-2-1937)

Dorthula Jackson (b. 1865, d. 1944)

James Samuel Jackson (b. 7-2-1879, d. 3-14-1947)

Peter W. "Pink" Jackson (b. 11-30-1879, d. 2-23-1950)

Harding J. Medows (b. 8-24-1878, d. 10-26-1956)

H. J. Medows, a leading citizen in the town of Etowah and a lifelong resident, arrived in the early 1900s, shortly after the turn of the century, after much persuading by his brother-in-law, Willie Ray. (Ray, who is buried in Hornersville, Missouri, was a nationally known personality made famous through his work with the Sells Brothers Circus Menagerie and Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. He was married to Jennie, Medows' sister. After his circus career, Major Ray became even better known as Buster Brown, and with his dog, Tige, worked for the Brown Shoe Company as a living trademark) Ray wished to invest his money in real

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estate, and decided to build a large store in the town of Etowah. Medows agreed to move to Etowah and manage the store for him. Medows remained in Etowah for the rest of his life, and was a moving force in the town. In 1919, during the time when many roads and bridges were built in this rural area, he was a Commissioner of Etowah Road District #3. He was an important and knowledgeable farmer. His descendants still own the farm.

Perry Henry Morris (b. 9-27-1889, d. 7-1-1952)

Hazel Morris Ragland (b. 1-6-1916, d. 8-10-1943)

Leroy Edwin "Chick" Ragland (b. 10-4-1896, d. 2-20-1951)

In 1935, electricity came to Etowah, with it came the Morris and Ragland families. Perry and Laura Morris, along with their daughter, Hazel, and son-in-law, "Chick" Ragland, had traveled the vaudeville circuit for over 20 years, and were ready to settle down. Having traveled by train, and later with their own traveling tent shows, they arrived with their brand of entertainment for the newly built theater in Etowah. This colorful and talented musical family added greatly to life in this rural community. They entertained the population with silent movies, talkies, live shows, and dances. Laura Morris, who died in 1984 and is also buried in Garden Point Cemetery, would in later years delight the community when she would dress in full make-up and revive her comedy routine from her vaudeville days as "Sis Hopkins."

James Patterson (b. 1-20-1873, d. 7-17-1919)

James Patterson was the constable for the Little River Township, which Etowah was a part, around 1908. Mississippi County Records show he was paid \$30 for Beaver Pelts in 1908 by the County.

John Thomas Sharp (b. 6-20-1862, d. 1-14-1937)

J. T. Sharp was an early settler in the community.

Augustus Marion Smith (b. 2-20-1846, d. 4-12-1930)

Family lore holds that in Stoddard County, Tennessee, where A. M. Smith originally lived, a troop of Confederate Calvary passed through the area, and he followed them though he was very young. His family sought him for years, and finally the family was reunited after 40 years. A. M. Smith was an early settler, logger, farmer, and active participant in the life of the growing Etowah community. His descendants and family members continue to contribute to its betterment. Many relatives are also buried in the Garden Point Cemetery along with A. M. Smith. His wife, Ellen V. Smith (1891-1910), is also buried at Garden Point.

Mildred Walker (b. 4-12-1891, d. 5-11-1950)

Mildred Walker was an early settler in Etowah, living in a log cabin on the Davidson-Sisco farm by 1910. Local lore holds that she was a cook for the loggers with the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company, and this is how she met her husband, Byron Walker (b. 07-14-181, d. 09-09-1967). Their son, Alvin Walker (b. 07-07-21, d. 01-25-1945), is also buried at Garden Point. He was killed in the Philippines during WWII.

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Leroy James Wildy (b. 10-22-1919, d. 10-6-1948)

Leroy Wildy was a son of Edward Wildy (b. 4-26-1892, d. 9-6-1985) and was the Wildy Farm Manager. The E. S. Wildy Barn is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR 01/15/2004). Leroy was killed on a backhoe when the backhoe got tangled in electrical lines during farming season. Ed Wildy and his wife, Alvinia Schnieder Wildy (b. 4-19-1892, d. 7-12-1981) arrived by wagon from Illinois in 1914 to take possession of owner absentee farmland previously purchased by Ed's father. Ed bought the land from his father, and remained to raise his family. He was active in the affairs of the community as he was a Director in the Etowah School and a Commissioner in the Etowah Road Improvement District. Both he and his wife were active in the local School Improvement Association, a forerunner of the PTA.

Robert Henry Wilmoth (b. 3-27-1878, d. 7-26-1966)

Bob Wilmoth arrived in the Etowah community in 1897. He worked in timber for the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company, which at the time was clearing large tracts of land in the area. He became a farmer, merchant, cotton buyer, and had his own logging operation as well. He built several commercial buildings in Etowah and encouraged many new businesses to locate in Etowah. In 1935 electricity came to the town, and he was then able to build a theater and dance hall, both greatly welcomed as a respite from the harsh work of the time. Wilmoth served as assistant to the first postmaster, Marion Jackson (who, it is believed, is buried in Garden Point Cemetery, and is one of the unmarked graves), when the Etowah Post Office was established in 1902. A community leader, Wilmoth served as director on the Etowah School Board, and was President of the Etowah Gin Company for many years.

James Nelson Woodruff (b. 11-31-1872, d. 4-8-1956)

James Nelson Woodruff moved to Etowah from Brown County, Indiana, and made his livelihood working as a logger and farmer. He also served the community by helping the townspeople obtain land grants and then filing the deed paperwork in Osceola, the Mississippi County seat, even though he did not have a formal background in legal work. It is assumed that, because he migrated from a northern state, he was able to read and write, and was generally better-educated than a vast number of the people living in Etowah at the time.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At the time Garden Point Cemetery was established, the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company—a logging and land company that was established in the heavily timbered lands of the delta surrounding the newly settled Town of Etowah—owned the cemetery and the neighboring land, and as such, the majority of the first people buried in this cemetery are associated with the logging company. This company, and many others of type, thrived and succeeded as long as the timberland allowed, but when the logging ventures and opportunities diminished and the Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company ceased to operate in Etowah, the company deeded the cemetery to the Town of Etowah for use as a public cemetery in 1926.

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It is interesting to note that many of the people buried in Garden Point Cemetery were first loggers, and then farmers. The reason behind this is simple: The Chapman & Dewey Lumber Company would clear the timber off the land, and then a subsidiary of the company, the Chapman & Dewey Land Company would farm (sharecrop) the land for two to three years while the lumber company continued to completely clear the land of timber. Once the timber was completely exhausted from a particular piece of land, that land was then sold to the sharecropper who worked the land.

As such, many early settlers of the Town of Etowah are loggers, and are buried in Garden Point Cemetery. Among these men and women are many of the original town founders, landowners, and business people—farmers, merchants, entertainers, and entrepreneurs—as well as many of their mothers, fathers, siblings and descendants. Countless people buried in this cemetery assisted with the development of the Town of Etowah, and numerous descendants of these families are still living in Etowah today.

It is important to mention that many burials during the historic period are unmarked, with the potential of unmarked burials being much higher than the 367 noted. This is due largely in part to the numerous private burials that occurred—and burial spots being selected at random, where the earth appeared untouched. Because burials were a free of charge service, no records were kept in the early years. This is especially true during the 1917-1918 flu epidemics that swept through Etowah. Because of the great number of people who died because of the epidemics, the newspapers ceased reporting the number of deaths, concerned that the population at large would become even more depressed by the increasing death toll.

A wonderful record of the town's past, Garden Point Cemetery—located in Etowah, Mississippi County, Arkansas—is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the early settlement of Etowah. It is eligible for inclusion under **Criteria Consideration D** as a cemetery.

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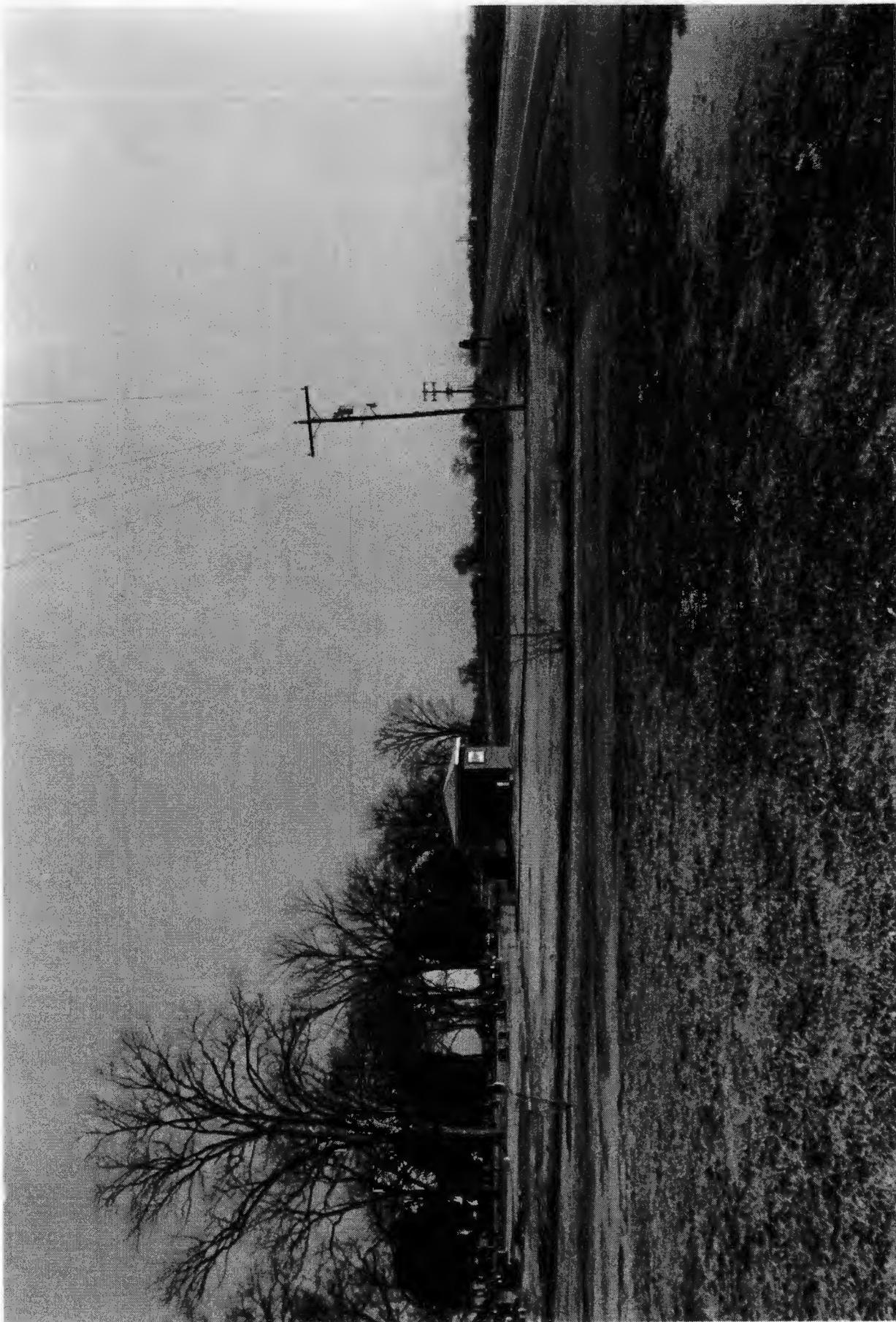
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

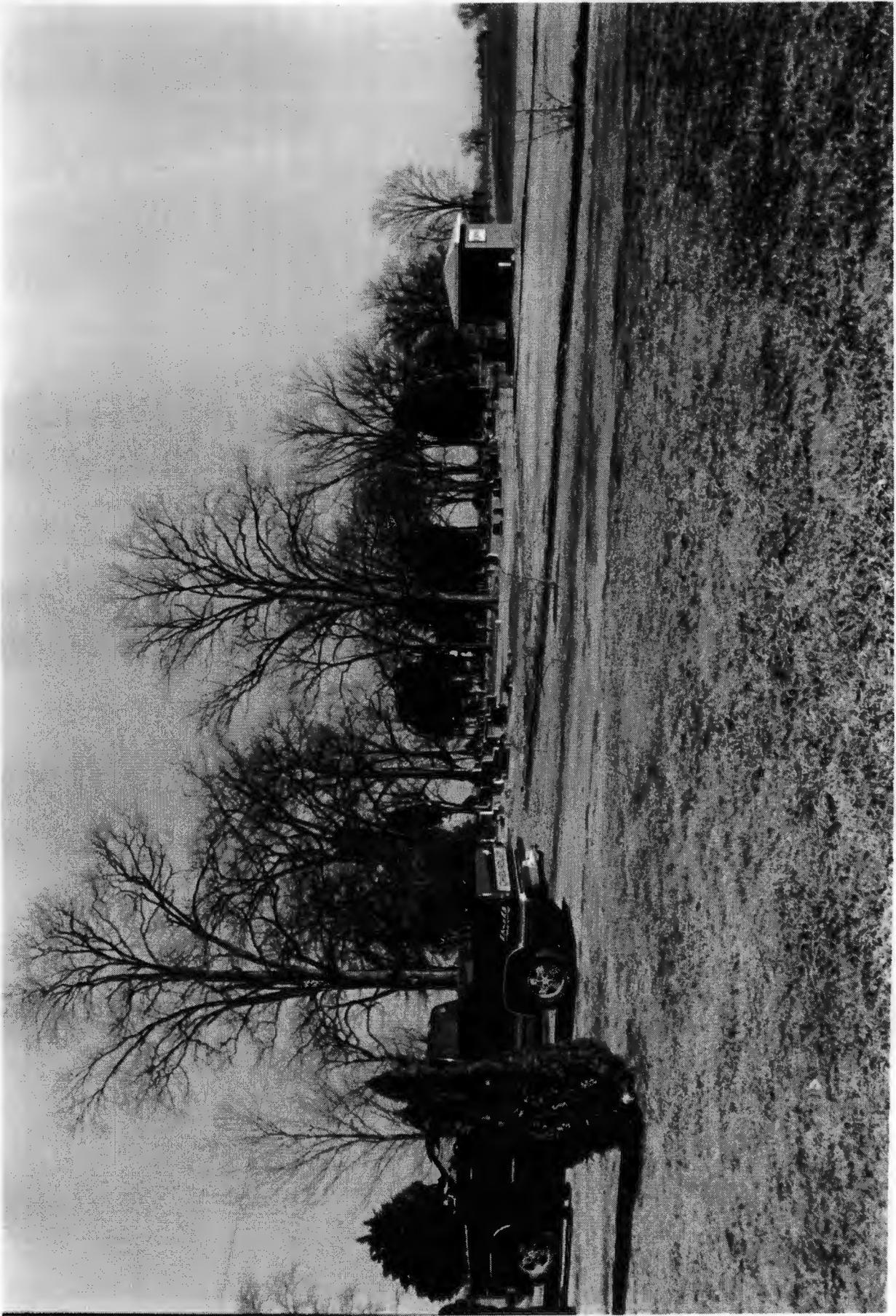
Seven and one-half acres lying in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 Section 33, Township 13 North, Range 8 East.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all land historically associated with the Garden Point Cemetery.

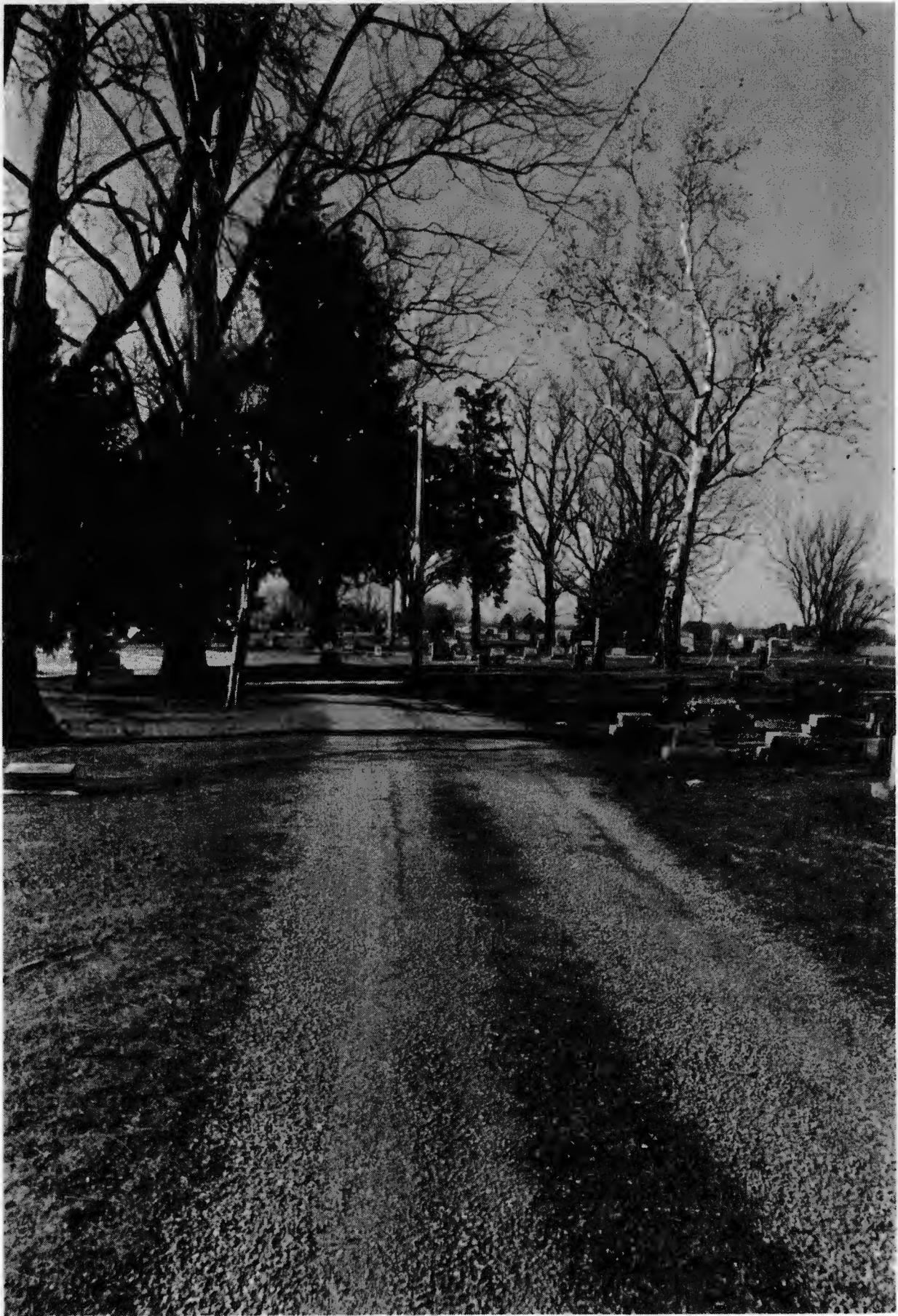
















Garden Point Community
 Garden Point, Mississippi
 UTM REFERENCE:
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