NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National

Register.

# ational 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 Ephesus Cemetery other names/site number NE0166 2. Location street & number 1/4 mile north of Emmet, on US Highway 67 not for publication Emmet **vicinity** city or town Arkansas code AR Nevada 099 71835 state county code zip code 3.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.) P.C Signature of certifying official/Title 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 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action I hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet

Ephesus Cemetery

Name of Property

Nevada County, Arkansas

County 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	<ul><li>building(s)</li><li>district</li></ul>	Contributing	Noncontributing	
public-State	🖂 site	0	0	buildings
public-Federal	structure	1	0	sites
	object	0	0	structure
		0	2	objects
		1	2	Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register		
N/A		N/A		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		
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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

#### 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria** ark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property or National Register listing.)

$\boxtimes$	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.

#### 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 #

#### Nevada County, Arkansas County and State

Levels of Significance (local, state, national) Local

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

**Period of Significance** 1876 - 1959

**Significant Dates** 1876 (first marked burial)

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

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked) N/A

#### Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: (if you select "Other" above) Library of Congress; Arkansas Genealogical Society

Ephesus Cemetery	Nevada County, Arkansas		
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Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)			
Boundary Justification			
Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)			
1. Form Prepared By			
1. Form Trepared By			
ame/title Gene and Frances Ross; Edited by Sarah Jampole Ma	arks/Survey Historian		
rganization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	date September 16, 2008		
reet & number 323 Center Street, Ste. 1600	telephone 501.324.9874		
ity or town Little Rock	state Arkansas zip code 72201		
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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.)

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, iministrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork eductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

Ephesus Cemetery is located <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile north of Emmet, Nevada County, Arkansas, on U.S. Highway 67. There are 68 marked, historic graves, with an additional six graves that are marked with names but no legible dates. In total, there are six marked, non-historic graves. Furthermore, there are 27 unmarked (no names, no dates) graves in Ephesus Cemetery that are commonly believed by the community to be historic; however, since this cannot be proven, these 27 graves will be henceforth known as "unknown" until proven otherwise.

Located roughly 60 feet to the south of the cemetery is the now-defunct Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church, which was once very active and a vital part of the Emmet community and surrounding area. The original church building was demolished and rebuilt sometime in the 1940s, and the newer church building is sheathed in asbestos siding. The current windows are metal-frame, two-over-two. A front entrance is centered on the east façade, and a rear door is left of center on the west façade. The church building, due to tegrity issues, and its lack of associated history with the cemetery within the recent past, is not being considered for, or nominated to, the National Register. Unfortunately, due to the lack of a congregation (the last two living members of the congregation passed away within the current decade), the church is no longer active. Within the past decade, the 1940s church building was deeded over to the care of a private Emmet citizen who rents out the building for private parties and other non-religious celebrations and functions, thus the building no longer serves any religious purpose of the past, nor does it bear any resemblance—ethereal or otherwise—to its historical past.

The first marked burial is November 6, 1876, and is that of the infant daughter of J. L. and Elizabeth McGough. The last burial occurred on December 9, 2005. It is uncertain how long the land has been used as a cemetery, but the deed for the church, school, and cemetery was dated January 3, 1860, which would be around 150 years ago.

The cemetery's name was derived from the name of the close-by church. A new chain-link fence encloses the cemetery on three sides, while the fourth side is bordered by a thick growth of trees and bushes. A sign has been placed at the front of the cemetery, a few feet within the chain-link fence for easy identification from US Highway 67. Though the exact date of the sign's erection is not known, it is non-historic signage.

#### ELABORATION

### THE EPHESUS CEMETERY

besus Cemetery rests several yards to the north of the Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church, from which the cemetery derives its name. The cemetery contains the graves of the earliest families who attended the church and settled in the community and surrounding area of Emmet, as well as descendants of these pioneering families. There were very few burials in Ephesus during its first

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decade of establishment; however, as Emmet became more populated, and the congregation of Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church grew, so did the number of burials in the cemetery. After 1960, when the church's congregation saw a sharp decline in numbers, a decline in burials in Ephesus Cemetery was also seen. Shortly after the turn of the new century, the last two living members of the Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church congregation passed away, and the cemetery has not seen any burials since. At the time of this nomination (2008), it is not known if future burials will take place in Ephesus Cemetery, though it is thought highly unlikely such an event will occur. Even if a handful of burials were to occur in Ephesus Cemetery over the years, the cemetery will still retain a high ration of contributing to non-contributing burials, as only 8% of the burials are considered non-contributing.

The monuments in the cemetery reflect the different eras that span the life of the cemetery. They run the gamut from a couple of homemade stones and two brick and concrete vaults to the numerous typical 19<sup>th</sup> century commercially-made tombstones to a few modern commercial monuments. It is clear, too, that many aves are unmarked. Stones have been lost to neglect, careless mowing, and vandalism. Depressions in the ground scattered throughout the cemetery are indicative of the more than two dozen unmarked graves.

In the cemetery there are 27 unmarked graves without markers of any kind. There are an additional six marked burials that occurred most likely between 1870 and 1950, with markers with legible names, but no decipherable dates.

The trees in the cemetery signify how long the cemetery has been in existence. There is an old cedar tree that has weathered the years in the northeast corner of the cemetery, under which one of the homemade concrete markers with a 1959 burial date is ensnarled. The cemetery is lined with large oak and pine trees on the west side, which provides a nice afternoon shade. In the spring, iris and daffodils appear, and a nandina bush produces red berries in the fall.

# Breakdown of Burials by Decade

### Contributing

1876 to 1879—2 1880 to 1889—8 1890 to 1899—11 1900 to 1909—8 1910 to 1919—8 20 to 1929—7 1930 to 1939—9 1940 to 1949—8 1950 to 1959—7

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There are an additional six marked graves that most likely took place between 1870 and 1959 that are marked but without readable dates.

# Non-Contributing

The non-contributing, marked burials count is six, (or 8%) of the burials in the cemetery.

1960 to 1969—3 1970 to 1979—0 1980 to 1989—0 1990 to 1999—1 2000 to 2008—2

nknown—27, although it is generally assumed in the community that these burials are historic.

Very few burials have occurred in the Ephesus Cemetery during its non-historic years (post-1959), as is evident in the small number of burials that have taken place during the past few decades. There should be little change in the historic to non-historic burial ratio as to not impact the cemetery's National Register listing. A majority of the people buried in the cemetery had ties to the Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church; however, since the church is no longer active, it is highly unlikely that any more burials will occur. In the last decade there have been two burials in Ephesus Cemetery, and they were the last two living members of the church.

# Landscape Design

The Ephesus Cemetery is located at the northern edge of Emmet, Nevada County, in Southwest Arkansas, on Highway 67, which is a well traveled paved road that served as the main highway across the country before the era of interstate. There is a gravel driveway between the church and cemetery to provide access to the cemetery; however, no roads lead into the cemetery.

The cemetery does not show any evidence of thoughtful plan in its landscape or burial design, although the graves are in orderly rows. There is an area of approximately one-half acre at the back of the cemetery that is overgrown trees and bushes, and if there was the desire in the future, this area could be developed for additional grave sites. A few trees dot the landscape, the most notable of which is a cedar, while bulky pine

d oak trees line the rear portion of the cemetery. In the spring and summer months, daffodil and iris appear, while a nandina bush displays its beautiful red berries in the fall.

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A chain-link fence encloses three sides of the cemetery, while the fourth side is bordered by the overgrowth of trees and bushes. The cemetery is maintained from donations and financial interest from the perpetual care association, and is regularly mowed and trimmed by members of the perpetual care association.

# **Grave Markers and Monuments**

Ephesus Cemetery contains a wide variety of grave markers and monuments from simple fieldstones to modestly impressive commercially produced modern monuments. The markers almost uniformly face east. Most are upright or were meant to stand upright. Some marble 19<sup>th</sup> century markers have fallen and lie flat on the ground. The surviving markers at Ephesus point toward a community of moderate means with none of the elaborate statuary or cradling found in cemeteries of the same period in the bigger towns.

The iconography found in Ephesus Cemetery is somewhat common in regards to what is found in Arkansas ating to the same time period. However, unlike most cemeteries in Arkansas dating back to the 1870s, the iconography in Ephesus is in good condition, is easy to view, and still retains an extensive amount of bas-relief detail.

Typical decorative motifs found in Ephesus are: Arch (The victory of life); Column supporting the roof (Commemoration); Dove ascending to Heaven (Innocence, purity, and spirituality, transporting the soul to Heaven); Flowers (Symbolizing remembrance and humility); Gates of Heaven (Departure from life/Entrance into Heaven); Ivy (Friendship); Open Bible (Revealed in the word of God); Palm leaves (Peace); Torch lit (Life eternal); and Weeping Willow (Grief, sorrow, Nature's lament for the departed soul).

The monument forms and materials themselves are varied, if not typical of the time period. Made mostly of marble and granite, the forms include: Pedestal tomb-Urn on top; Die on base; Pulpit marker; Plaque marker; Pointed arch, tab in socket; Basket arch, tab in socket; Lawn style; Segmental arch, die on base; Pedestal tomb-Vaulted roof. Doubtless, a few markers have been lost to carelessness and neglect, while others are broken and in need of repair and preservation. Two of the most unusual monuments are the double marker-semicircular arch, tab in socket, and the brick vault, constructed of running bond and covered in concrete. Though there is no name on the vault, the maker did leave an inscription:

Built by M. M. Marshall, DVM of Prescott, Ark. 3-3-1910

The tomb is located close to the center of the cemetery, and is in deteriorated condition.

Inlike many cemeteries in Southwest Arkansas, or in fact, the entire state, Ephesus does not exhibit any coping, ironwork, or fencing, which may, in fact, be seen as a unique characteristic in this cemetery.

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# **Family plots**

The cemetery was not organized in organized, sectioned-off, family plots, but family members *were* buried together in small groupings which resulted in family plots being formed. Some family names found in Ephesus Cemetery include: Adams, Billue, Hipp, Landers, McGough, Matthews, Moore, Queen, and Young.

# **NON-CONTRIBUTING OBJECTS**

There are two non-contributing objects located within the boundaries of the Ephesus Cemetery, those being the chain-link fence and the sign identifying the cemetery for passersby on US Highway 67. Though the exact dates these two objects were added to the grounds of the cemetery are not known, oral history asserts they are both no older than 20 years.

# INTEGRITY

Zphesus Cemetery is the final resting place for the earliest settlers of the Town of Emmet, and surrounding area—men and women who were also some of the earliest settlers along the Hempstead-Nevada County line. The cemetery is significant to the history of Nevada County, and serves as the only extant resources that retains integrity associated with the history of Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church in Emmet, and as such, retain integrity of location. Persons interred at Ephesus Cemetery include the founders of Emmet, politicians, justices of the peace, businessmen, teachers, entrepreneurs, farmers, military servicemen, and other early members of the community, and as such, retain integrity of association, feeling and setting. Ephesus Cemetery has experienced several acts of carelessness and neglect over the years and there has been some further deterioration of the markers and monuments due to erosion caused by weather and time; however, there is a revived effort to maintain, preserve and care for the cemetery—its landscape and grave markers. Ephesus Cemetery continues to exhibit good examples of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century workmanship in funerary art, architecture and landscape design, and continues to retain integrity of materials, design and workmanship.

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### SUMMARY

Located in northern Nevada County, in the vicinity of the rural town of Emmet, Arkansas, the Ephesus Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A**, for the cemetery's association with the early exploration and settlement of Emmet. The cemetery is eligible for inclusion in the National Register under **Criteria Consideration D** for **Cemeteries**.

### ELABORATION

# Town and County History

The western portion of Nevada County was carved out of Hempstead County when Nevada was formed in 1871. The post office was established in the vicinity of the Nevada/Hempstead county line that same year. the time the post office was established, it was known as *Burkville*. According to the *Arkansas Post Office Directory* of 1988, the early name of *Burkville* was changed to *Emmet* in 1874, after the Cairo & Fulton Railroad was built through the region.

The Cairo & Fulton Railroad was completed to Emmet on August 12, 1873, and the first freight train ran on that date. It later became the St. Louis Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, now the Union-Pacific Railroad. The railroad has been instrumental, not only in the development of the Town of Emmet, but also in the development of Nevada County.

Emmet, located seven and a half miles southwest of Prescott (the county seat), is a railroad town that was surveyed and platted out in 1873, by Emmet Elgin, an Irish employee of the railroad. A few years later, another man with the last name Elgin, Robert Francis Elgin, an employee of the Cairo & Fulton Railroad, who assisted with the surveys of the Nevada County towns of Boughton and Prescott, became the first depot agent in Emmet and later the first postmaster. Robert Elgin died in Emmet in 1937, though it is not known where he is interred.

Two-thirds of the town—and the portion of the town containing Ephesus Cemetery—lies in Nevada County, and one-third lies in Hempstead County. Emmet was incorporated on May 5, 1883. By 1920, the town recorded a population of 420. It has remained a small town since its inception, and as of the 2006 Census, Emmet's population has only increased to 506 people.

1884, the incorporated town of Emmet contained such local businesses as a steam saw mill, two churches, d a school. Fruit and vegetables were shipped on the Southern & Pacific Railroad, and the town's population was quite small—but viable—at 150.

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Polk's Arkansas State Gazetter and Business Directories listed the following businesses in Emmet from around the same year (1888):

Barton W.G. & Co. General Store Frederick Chambers, Poultry Breeder Emmet Farmer's Club, Dr. John E. Snell, President, J. G. Gillespie, Physician John P. Holmes, Methodist Episcopal Reverend Charles E. Jenkinson, Carpenter G. W. L. Kanawah, Nurseryman G. W. Logan, Methodist Episcopal Reverend John L. McGough, Saw Mill Owner & Operator S. McSwain, Hotel Owner & Operator James W. Neill, Justice of the Peace Oscar Phillips, Town Marshall Stainton & McSwain, General Store Charles H. Titus, Real Estate Miss E. van Valkenburg, Teacher

According to Goodspeed's 1890 Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas, Emmet contains:

A water-power flouring-mill, 2 general stores, a grocery, hotel, 2 churches, a district school, post office, railroad depot, express office, etc., and a population of about 200.

Sitting some 60 feet to the south of the cemetery is the Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church, which was established in 1860, in order for the early settlers in the area to have a place to worship. An old daguerreotype of Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church shows a large congregation in front of the church, indicating the church was very active in the early days of its history, and many of the settlers of Emmet are assumed to have attended the church. Unfortunately, the last two members of the church's congregation passed away within the past decade, and were buried in the Ephesus Cemetery. Thusly, the Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church is no longer an active church.

# **Cemetery History**

The Ephesus Cemetery was formed for the purpose of burial of the members and families of the Ephesus imitive Baptist Church. The church was organized in 1860, and the first marked burial occurred on November 6, 1876, and is that of the infant daughter of J. L. and Elizabeth McGough, who are themselves both buried in Ephesus Cemetery.

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The future plans for the cemetery is that it will be maintained (*meaning*: lawn care and other maintenance as needed), and future burials will be dependent upon the need of those interested in the cemetery; however, in the foreseeable future, the interest in burials in Ephesus Cemetery is little to none.

# SELECTED BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THOSE BURIED IN THE EPHESUS CEMETERY

# W. T. Byrd (dates unknown)

He was a Confederate Soldier and the only notation on the stone is his name, Co. C. 7<sup>th</sup> La. Inf. C.S.A.

# Benjamin Luke Landers (1828-1905)

He was one of the early preachers of the Ephesus Primitive Baptist Church in Emmet. The Primitive Baptist Conference met at Ephesus in May, 1871, and at this time Benjamin Luke Landers was ordained in the Ministry. In 1874, the church chose Benjamin Luke Landers as their pastor.

# Senjamin Young Landers (1895-1923)

He served in the U.S. Army during World War I, and was killed in the Philippines on May 15, 1923.

### Charlie A. Landers (1863-1948)

He served as mayor of the City of Emmet from 1910 to 1912. He also owned a hotel in Emmet, which was instrumental to the town's growth by providing a place for visitors to stay. As mayor, he helped insure the longevity of the town through continued, though small, population growth.

### John L. McGough (1847-1884)

He was among the first to homestead land in Emmet. He also owned a saw mill, and was Justice of the Peace in 1892. As owner of one of the saw mills in town, he was able to provide much-needed jobs to the town's population, and as Justice of the Peace, he was able to provide leadership and law enforcement.

### William Young (1833-1910)

He traveled by ship to the United States from Holbeach, England, to Rochester, New York, and received his Certificate of Citizenship, United States of America, on November 21, 1882. He brought with him his wife, Hannah J. Young, his son, John H. Young, and daughter, Mary Jane Young. Mary Jane Young married Robert Landers, and John H. Young married Lydia T. Landers, and all the above family is buried in Ephesus Cemetery.

# STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An important record of Emmet's past, the Ephesus Cemetery is the final resting place for many early settlers and pioneering families of the Town of Emmet and northern Nevada County. Buried in the Ephesus Cemetery are many of the original town founders, landowners and business people—early merchants,

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politicians, and servicemen—as well as many of their mothers, fathers, siblings and descendents. Many of the people buried in this cemetery assisted with the incorporation and development of the Town of Emmet, and contributed greatly to the settlement pattern of northern Nevada County, and several descendants of these families are still living in Nevada County today. The Ephesus Cemetery, located in the vicinity of Emmet in northern Nevada County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for the cemetery's association with the early exploration and settlement of Emmet and northern Nevada County. The cemetery is eligible for inclusion in the National Register under **Criteria Consideration D** for **Cemeteries**.

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# **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **Books and Documents**

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- Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890. [Reprinted Easley, SC: Southern Historical Publishing, Co., 1978.]
- Biographical History of Primitive or Old School Baptist Ministers of the United State. Entered According to Act of Congress in the year 1909 by R. H. Pittman in the Office of the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

*rtificate of Citizenship*. United States of America. State of New York, Monroe County, Edward A. Frost, Clerk, dated November 21, 1882.

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### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Deed is located in Hempstead County, Book Q, Pages 124-125, and Dated January 3, 1860, and reads in part: Beginning at a tree about twenty feet NE of the Ballyhealy School House well turning South to the County Road and thence West with said road till the said two lines form the two sides of a quadrilateral (sic) comprising an area of about an acre," which is used for the cemetery "the field notes of which are recorded in the books of the County Surveyor, situated in the SW quarter of Section 3, Township 12 South, Range 23 West."

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The above boundary includes all land historically associated with the Ephesus Cemetery.



















