OMB No. 1024-0018 NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8-86) NR LISTED nited States Department of the Interior National Park Service APR 06 2000 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES AHPP REGISTRATION FORM 1. Name of Property Historic Name: Maple Hill Cemetery Other Name/Site Number: (PH0290) 2. Location Street & Number: North Holly Street Not for Publication: N/A City/Town: Helena Vicinity: N/A State: AR County: Phillips Code: AR107 Zip Code: 72342 3. Classification Ownership of Property: private Category of Property: district Number of Resources within Property: Contributing Noncontributing buildings _____ sites structures

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

____ objects Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

1

Maple Hill Cemetery

Phillips Co., Arkansas County and State

Name of Property

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets

does not meet the National Register Criteria. ____ See continuation sheet

Signature of fertifying official

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property <u>meets</u> does not meet the National Register criteria. <u>See continuation sheet</u>.

signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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):

Date Signature of Keeper of Action

Phillips Co., Arkansas County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic, Eurorary

Historic: Funerary Current : Funerary Sub: Cemetery Sub: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: rural cemetery movement Other: 20th century cemetery design Beaux-Arts

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

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Maple Hill Cemetery, the largest cemetery in Helena, contains 37.10 acres and is located to the north of the city on the eastern side of Crowley's Ridge. Of these 37.10 acres 28.5 acres are included in the nomination. The boundary encompasses the historic sections of the cemetery in which the contributing features date from 1865 until 1950. Within the historic sections, the most prominent features date from the Victorian to early twentieth-century eras. Bordering the cemetery are Holly Street to the east, a residential neighborhood to the south, Magnolia Cemetery to the west and St. Mary Cemetery to the north. The surrounding cemeteries while historic, do not employ the same use of the landscape, nor do they contain equivalent numbers of high-styled monuments. Located within the nomination boundary is the Helena Confederate Cemetery (NR listed 5/3/96). Section 6 of the cemetery is not included within the nomination boundary, because it contains no burials to date.

Phillips Co., Arkansas County and State

Elaboration

Landscape Design

According to a Helena Weekly newspaper article dated 1976,

"Maple Hill cemetery has long been a spot that few tourists miss when visiting the area. The hillside setting, with the fine old magnolia trees extending down to the front gates, and the entranceway all combine to make it a place of beauty."

Drawing from the rural cemetery movement, Maple Hill Cemetery contains designed landscape features that contribute to a park-like atmosphere including the terracing of the hills, a wide variety of trees and other plantings, extensive concrete gutters and stairs, retaining walls, and concrete cemetery furniture. Although the cemetery lacks an actual watercourse, its spectacular views of the Mississippi River fulfil this criterion for rural cemetery design. However Maple Hill Cemetery breaks with the rural cemetery movement by using straight roads in the eastern sections of the cemetery and by keeping a strict grid burial pattern throughout the cemetery.

Entrance Gate and Fence

one enters the cemetery through ornate wrought iron gates attached to large granite posts. Mrs. E. E. Pillow gave the Pillow Memorial Gates, which were dedicated in May 1914. Above the gates is a wrought iron span with the inscription, "MAPLE HILL CEMETERY/ 1865," given in memory of Thomas E. Wooten in 1975. The date 1865 reflects to the founding date of the tract of land rather than the incorporation date of the Maple Hill Cemetery Company. A cast iron fence encloses the eastern and northern edges of the cemetery. A simple metal fence bounds the southern and western edges of the cemetery.

Enclosures

According to Tammie Trippe-Dillion in her preservation manual <u>Grave Concerns</u>, one difference between Northern and Southern states is the number of cemetery enclosures. It has been said that the further South one travels the more plot enclosures will be found in the local cemeteries. Within Maple Hill Cemetery, cast iron fences used to surround family lots are more common along the steeper hills, while copings and cradles of brick, concrete, and stone are used throughout the cemetery. The most elaborate cast iron fence is the one surrounding the Rightor lot. This Italianate fence features robust newel posts. In keeping with the Victorian traditions of iconography the gate contains a motif depicting a lamb resting under a weeping willow. The lamb is commonly associated with children and innocence, but in this case probably represents the Lamb of God meaning Jesus. The weeping willow symbolizes the sorrow the one feels over the loss of a loved one. So the gate acknowledges the sorrow over the death of loved ones while giving comfort with the idea that the deceased are now with Jesus.

Maple Hill Cemetery

Name of Property

Staircases and gutters

The soft soil and steep hills of Crowley's Ridge make stairs and a complex gutter system a necessity. Erosion is a problem, as is gaining access up hills where it is often hard to gain a firm foothold. Gutters line most of the roads and staircases in the cemetery. A map of the cemetery dated 1955 also denotes an underground gutter system running diagonal across Section 2. The most elaborated staircase in the cemetery is the Howard-McKenzie Memorial Steps. In 1932 Belle McKenzie donated the money to have impressive concrete steps constructed. The names "HOWARD-McKENZIE" are spelled in Mosaic tile and embedded in the concrete landings. Access is gained to the Howard-McKenzie Memorial Steps by two smaller sets of stairs climbing the first and second terraces of Section 1.

Roads

According to the <u>Helena Weekly Clarion</u>, 12 May 1869, the arrangement of the terraces and roads are the work of Leon Archias, "who is famous for his taste." Leon Archias is noted in the minutes of the Evergreen Cemetery as Superintendent (a portion of this cemetery became the Maple Hill Cemetery in 1898). The grid streets radiate off the wide central drive, which is concrete and marked with the bronze letters "Hindman Drive" embedded near the entrance. The drive ends at the twenty-seven foot tall obelisk placed in memory of General Thomas G. Hindman, one of Helena's seven Civil War generals. Several of the roads are named for flowers, such as Jasmine, Violet, and Primrose. Other roads are dedicated to prominent individuals in the community such as Doughtie Avenue and Garland 'venue. The original dirt/gravel roads were upgraded to concrete in the 1930s .

Vegetation

An important feature of the cemetery is the wide variety of historic plantings. Although the cemetery's name gives the impression that maples play a large role in the planted landscape of the cemetery, this is not the case. It can be surmised that the maples died off and were not replaced, or perhaps the name was chosen for its sound. Most impressive are the large evergreen trees commonly associated with burial grounds including cedars, pines, and magnolias. Large deciduous trees are also found in the cemetery. A giant oak tree located by the Rightor Lot was at one time the largest oak in Arkansas. An enormous ginko tree is located near the southeast corner of the intersection of Hindman Drive and Jasmine Avenue. Examples of smaller trees found throughout the cemetery are dogwoods, holly trees, and boxwoods. Due to the soft and very fertile soil of the foothills of Crowley's Ridge perennial flowers and ground covers thrive in the cemetery and contribute to its the garden like atmosphere.

Cemetery Furniture

The concrete furniture found in the cemetery includes sets of benches, urns, bird baths and water fountains. The most prominent benches are located to the west (rear) of the Chapel. A pair of urns flanks either side of a small concrete and brick staircase leading to the Howard-McKenzie Memorial Staircase. The Women's Auxiliary to the Maple Hill Cemetery Association (formed in 1907) placed a water fountain in the Hanks lot just west of Jasmine Avenue as a memorial to Mrs. Hanks.

Grave Markers and Monuments

Maple Hill Cemetery features many outstanding grave markers and monuments that serve as excellent examples of funerary art. With one exception, the tomb markers face east. A revised grid pattern is necessary to compensate for the steep inclines of Crowley's Ridge. There are a wide variety of historic small grave markers found in the cemetery utilizing marble, limestone, and granite. Headstones and slab markers make up the majority of the headstones. Cradles surround many of the headstones. Obelisks, pulpit markers and ledgers are also quite common, as are Woodman of the World markers with their distinctive designs.

Ophelia Polk Moore Monument

The Ophelia Polk Moore Monument, c. 1891, is an excellent example of Victorian funerary art. The Muldoon B. and Company of Memphis is responsible for carving the piece. The monument is located north of Hindman Drive in Section 2A. The life-sized sculptured angel cradles a lyre with her proper right arm and with her proper left arm extends upwards to drops lilies onto the cross beside her. This is the only example in the cemetery of a pair of monuments that play such a connected role with each other. Not only does the monument reflect Victorian attitudes towards death in its imagery, but also in its epithet. A short epithet on its eastern side states, "IN THY CALM, THY DREAMLESS SLEEP, /GOD LED AN ANGEL BACK TO HEAVEN." On the southern side of the monument is a longer poem extolling the importance of morality and trust God. After her daughter's untimely death at the age of twenty-four, Naomi Moore founded a small orphanage in memory of her, the Ophelia Polk Moore Home.

Dr. Emile Overton Moore Monument

The Dr. Emile Overton Moore Monument is located on a hill near the north edge of Section 4 is one of the monuments that attracts tourists to the cemetery. Not only is it the only grave marker in the cemetery with a sculpture of a dog, but the events surrounding the person who is buried there and the stone itself are intriguing.

Dogs are a popular theme in Victorian art and sculpture. The sculpture features a realistic limestone carving of a seated hunting dog facing east and wearing a collar inscribed with the name "Pedro." The raised letters on the east and west elevations of the monument directly below the dog spell out the words "WAITING" and "FIDELITY" respectively, leading one to imagine the dog faithfully waiting for his murdered master to return home.

The c. 1893 marker was obviously changed at some point in the past. A newer rosecolored granite section was sandwiched between the limestone bases. A photograph taken in 1963 documented this change, though no source pinpoints the exact date. when the monument was altered. The granite is inscribed with the following epitaph: "HIS ERRORS WERE THE ERRORS OF A MAN/AND THEY STOOD OUT IN BOLD CONTRAST /WITH THE TIME SERVING, TWO-FACED/ HIPOCRITES WHO CONSPIRED TO HAVE HIM/ MURDERED." According to a 1989 magazine article, the grave marker was once considerably taller, and "... had many other strong words of accusation and evenge upon it." The person responsible for the death of Dr. Moore was Dr. C. Shinault who was Moore's competition for the medical practice in Helena. Dr.

Shinault shot Dr. Moore as the result of a dispute over a patient. According to local newspaper articles dated 18 February 1893, and 25 February 1893, Shinault was acquitted for the murder, because he shot in self-defense and immediately turned himself in to the sheriff.

Coolidge Monument

The largest monument in the Maple Hill Cemetery is the Coolidge Monument. Henry P. Coolidge chose the location of his family lot, because was the point of highest elevation in Section 3 of the cemetery. For that reason, the lot has one of the best views of the Mississippi River. Coolidge was one of the original owners of the tract of land deeded to the cemetery. The Italian marble sculpture is very finely executed, and the base of the monument is signed McMuldoon and Company. The monument is composed of a massive square base and octagonal column that stand 21 feet high with a life-sized sculpture of Henry P. Coolidge on the top. The figure is realistically dressed in a coat, shirt, vest, pants and boots typical of the era. The figure is standing in a slight contrapposto with his proper left foot slightly forward and resting his proper left hand on a box column.

Buildings Located in Maple Hill Cemetery

Richard C. Burke Chapel

uilt in 1919 with funds from Mrs. R.C. Burke and Ben H. Lucy, the Richard C. urke Chapel exhibits a truncated Greek cross plan and a design that is characteristic of a simplified Beaux-Arts design. The chapel, which is now undergoing restoration, is located near the northwestern edge of Section 2 on Jasmine Avenue.

The one-story brick building has a flat roof with limestone parapet and cornice, and rests on a limestone foundation. Access is gained to the entrance on the front (eastern) elevation by climbing eight concrete stairs. The entry contains a double-leaf wooden door topped by a cornice with dentil molding, which is supported by S-shaped brackets enhanced with acanthus leaves. A simple molded concrete architrave completes the entryway. To the right of the entry is a bronze dedication plaque. Embedded in the lower southeastern corner of the chapel is a limestone cornerstone. The nine beautiful stain-glass memorial windows that grace the west, south, and north elevations of the chapel will be . reinstalled after restoration is completed.

A caretakers house was once located near the southeastern corner of the cemetery at the end of Jasmine Avenue. According to local residents, the residence was demolished about twenty years ago. A small gate in the front decorative cast iron fence marks the placement of the house.

Integrity

Maple Hill Cemetery contains approximately 4,252 marked graves. Of these marked raves, 54% date to before 1951 and contribute to the nomination. Also included within the boundaries of the nomination is a small chapel. The chapel maintains

____ 7

its integrity of setting, design, materials, workmanship, location, and association with the cemetery and further contributes to the integrity of the cemetery. Vandalism to the cemetery has been relatively minor and the cemetery is well maintained. The early workmanship of the cemetery is still evident in the landscape design, architecture, and monuments. The location of the Maple Hill Cemetery was once part of a larger cemetery known as the Evergreen Cemetery. The other cemetery (Magnolia Cemetery) formed from the division Evergreen Cemetery was designated for use by African Americans, and therefore the two cemeteries were always treated as separate. Within the nomination's boundary only 46% of the monuments are non-contributing. Most these are small block or plaque markers scattered throughout the cemetery and do not detract from the historic monuments. Section 6 of the cemetery is not included within the nomination boundary, because it contains no burials to date.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: <u>local</u>.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

riteria Considerations (Exceptions): D

Areas of Significance:

Landscape Architecture Art Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1865 - 1950

Significant Dates: 1865, 1901

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Leon Archias, landscape design

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

Summary

The Maple Hill Cemetery is locally significant under Criterion C for its wide assortment of grave markers, and cemetery design. Especially significant are its actorian-era and early twentieth-century funerary sculptures, small Beaux-Arts.

chapel and landscape design, the combination of which is unparalleled in Helena. Thus, it meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration D.

Elaboration

Crowley's Ridge, named for the pioneer settler Benjamin Crowley, runs for onehundred-and-fifty miles north from Helena. The ridge varies in height from twohundred-and-fifty feet to five hundred feet above sea level and dips down briefly near Marianna. The ridge is only twelve miles across at its widest point. Although local tradition speculates that the great New Madrid Earthquake of 1811-1812 created the ridge, the ridge was actually created when the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers deepened their valleys during the Pleistocene Epoch leaving the ridge as a sliver of land between river channels. When the Mississippi altered its course, new patterns were created and Crowley's Ridge remained. The ridge is composed of oceanic sediments and river sand and gravel. The river sediments on the ridge were in turn buried by fine silt called "loess".

The loess, formed farther north by glaciers grinding rocks into "flour" and was carried south by glacial melt water during the Pleistocene Epoch and then blown by wind from the floodplain of the rivers onto Crowley's Ridge, thereby increasing the ridge's elevation. In Helena the loess supports steep picturesque hills separated by deep hollows.

nillips County was formed 1 May 1820, and was named for Sylvanus Phillips and his daughter Helena who settled south of the mouth of the St. Francis River in 1797. Phillips had emigrated from North Carolina. Ten miles below the mouth of the St. Francis, the might Mississippi River swings within four hundred yards of the south end of Crowley's Ridge. Already settled in the area were several families including William Patterson, William B. R. Hornor, Nicholas Rightor and Fleetwood Hanks.

It was in 1815 that Phillips moved to the site of Helena. He, Nicholas Rightor and William Russell designed a town complete with alleys and school districts. Phillips chose the name of his daughter as the name of the town. Helena was named the county seat of Phillips County in 1830 and was incorporated in 1833. While hunting and fishing were the primary occupations, the area was filled with fertile land producing fine hardwood trees. Lumber soon became the leading industry. In 1880, when the railroads came to the area the lumber industry flourished. Soon much of the land was cleared for lucrative farming operations.

The Civil War interrupted Helena's growth. Federal troops occupied the town for over a year before a bloody and futile attempt of the Confederates to retake their town took place on 4 July 1863.

In 1863, after shells and gunfire from the Battle of Helena destroyed Helena's cemetery (located west of town) called Grave Yard Hill, the buried were moved to private property. Later, the bodies were again re-interred in the newly incorporated Evergreen Cemetery in 1865. Approximately seventy-five graves in he part of Evergreen Cemetery now called Maple Hill Cemetery have headstones with a date prior to 1865. The oldest known death date is 1827 and is inscribed

9

on the headstone of John H. Clary. The marker is located near the center of the cemetery in Section 2A. According to the Twin City Tribune, 11 July 1979, one of the monuments moved from the old cemetery was pierced by rifle fire during the Civil War battle. The marker is located in Section 3.

The Evergreen Cemetery Company was incorporated on 31, 1870. The seventy-three acres of land for the cemetery was purchased from Henry P. and Eliza Coolidge, Henry C. and Bettie Rightor, and Albertis and Fannie Wilkins. The cemetery was divided roughly in half by a fence, with the section on the western side of the fence was for African Americans and the section on the eastern side of the fence was for whites.

According to Goodspeed, "Evergreen Cemetery, owned by a company of that name, lies at a proper distance north of the city, but is only partially fenced and is not kept in a neat and proper condition, the stock at large being allowed to overrun it." The records show that in December 1898, the Evergreen Cemetery Company sold to Maple Hill Cemetery Company all of the 37.1 acres lying east of the dividing fence. This was done to settle a case, in litigation, pending in Chancery Court. Since this time the name Maple Hill Cemetery has been used. In April 1899, Evergreen Cemetery deeded to Magnolia Cemetery the 35.9 acres of land lying west of the fence. Maple Hill Cemetery and Magnolia Cemetery were both officially incorporated in May 1901. The Magnolia Cemetery is not being nominated at this time, because of vast differences in grave markers and landscape design.

Today, Maple Hill Cemetery is well maintained, and has regular opening and closing times for visitors. Twenty-five percent of the purchase price of every lot is invested in the Maple Hill Cemetery Trust Fund for the preservation of the cemetery. Although still an active cemetery, the majority of future burials will be in Section 6 of the cemetery, outside the nomination's boundary, and will not impact the cemetery's historic integrity.

Significance

Maple Hill Cemetery is arguably the single best example among Helena's cemeteries in terms of picturesque landscape design, the simplified Beaux-Arts chapel, and high-styled monuments. For these reasons, the cemetery is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance (with Criteria Consideration D) to the National Register of Historic Places.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"A Point of Interest on the Helena Historic Tour." Southwestern Bell Corporation Update, 1989, 53.

Phillips Co., Arkansas

County and State

Crowley's Ridge Parkway Coordinating Committee and Arkansas State University. Crowley's Ridge Parkway; Corridor Management Plan December 1997.

Dougan, Michael B. Arkansas Odyssey: The Saga of Arkansas from Prehistoric Times to Present. Little Rock: Rose Publishing Company, 1993.

Griffin F. O. "Cemeteries and Their Value to History." Phillips County Historical Quarterly 3 (March 1965): 15-18.

Helena Weekly Clarion, 12 May 1869.

Helena World, 4 July 1907.

Helena World, 28 Feb 1917.

Helena World, 14 January 1976.

Hornor, Albert A. "Charles Richard Shinault, M.D." Phillips County Historical Quarterly 7 (September 1969): 6-9.

Kirkman, Dale P. "A Brief History of Maple Hill Cemetery." Phillips County Historical Quarterly 3 (September 1964): 21-26.

Maple Hill Cemetery Company. Minutes of the Meetings of the Board of Directors.

Trippe-Dillon, Tammie, "Grave Concerns, A Preservation Manual for Historic Cemeteries in Arkansas." Little Rock: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1999.

Twin City Tribune, 11 July 1979.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- _ Other state agency
- _ Federal agency
- _ Local government
- University

Other -- Specify Repository: Maple Hill Cemetery Association, Helena

Phillips Co., Arkansas County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 28.5 acres.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the southeastern end of the Maple Hill Cemetery cast iron fence and its connection point with a chain-link fence, proceed westerly along the edge of the chain-link fence for a distance of approximately 1200 feet to a point formed by its intersection with a section of fence running perpendicular to the aforementioned fence; thence proceed northerly along the fence approximately 75 feet to a point formed by a diagonal line running from the end of the fence to the southwestern edge of Confederate Blvd., thence proceed northeasterly along said line a distance of approximately 80 feet; thence proceed along the western edge of Confederate Blvd. following its contours for a distance of approximately 1000 feet to a point formed by its intersection

th the 721000 UTM easting coordinate; thence proceed northeasterly along a magonal line for a distance of approximately 400 feet to a point formed by the edge of the northern fence of Maple Hill Cemetery which parallels the 3825000 UTM northing coordinate; thence proceed easterly for a distance of approximately 520 feet to a point formed by the intersection of the fence with the cast iron eastern boundary fence; thence proceed southerly for a distance of approximately 1285 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains all the property historically associated with the Maple Hill Cemetery that retains its integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

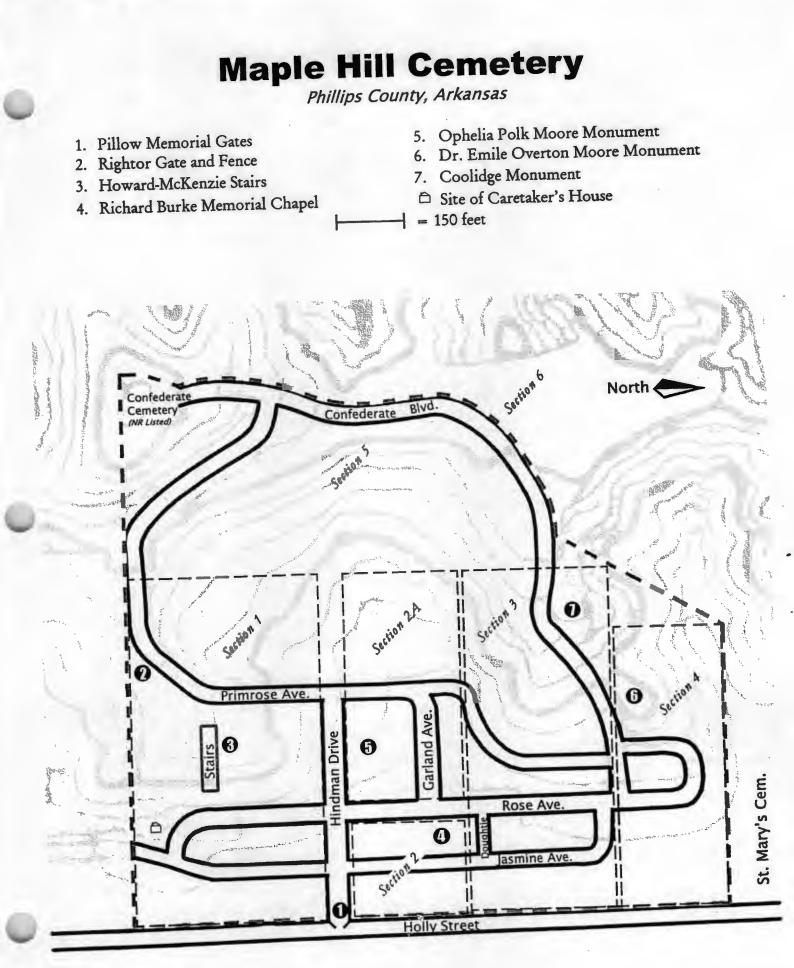
Name/Title: Amy Bennett, Survey Historian

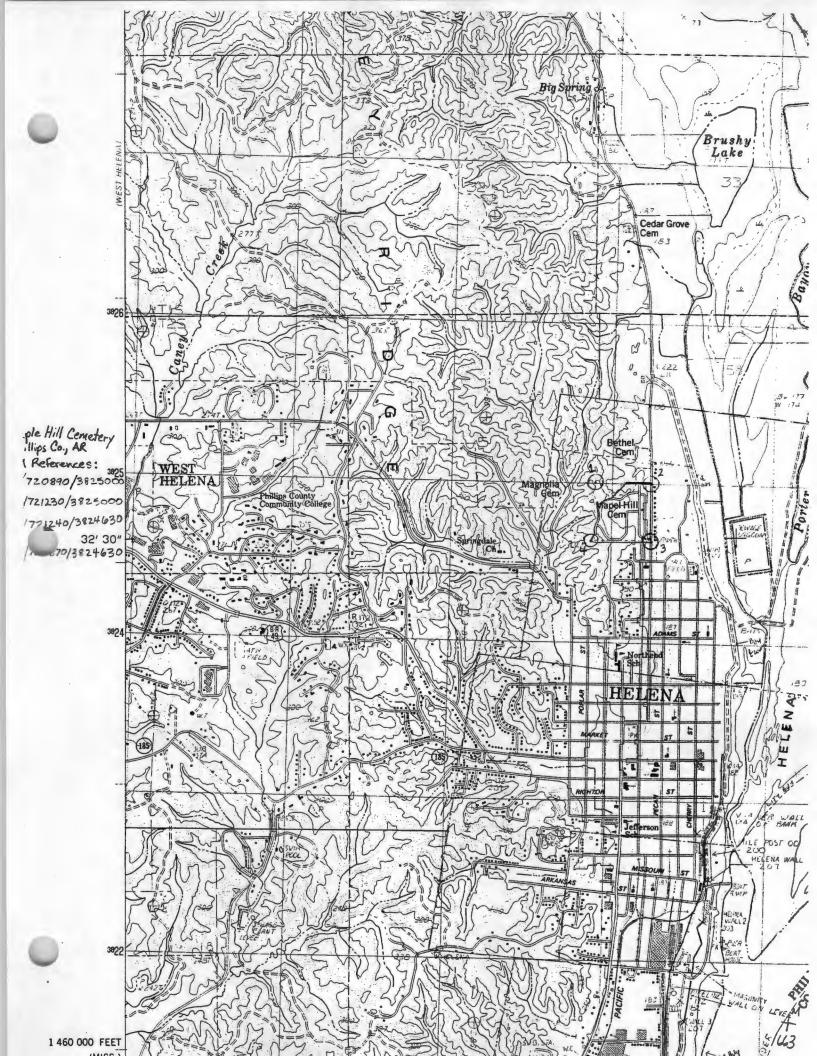
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 2/14/00

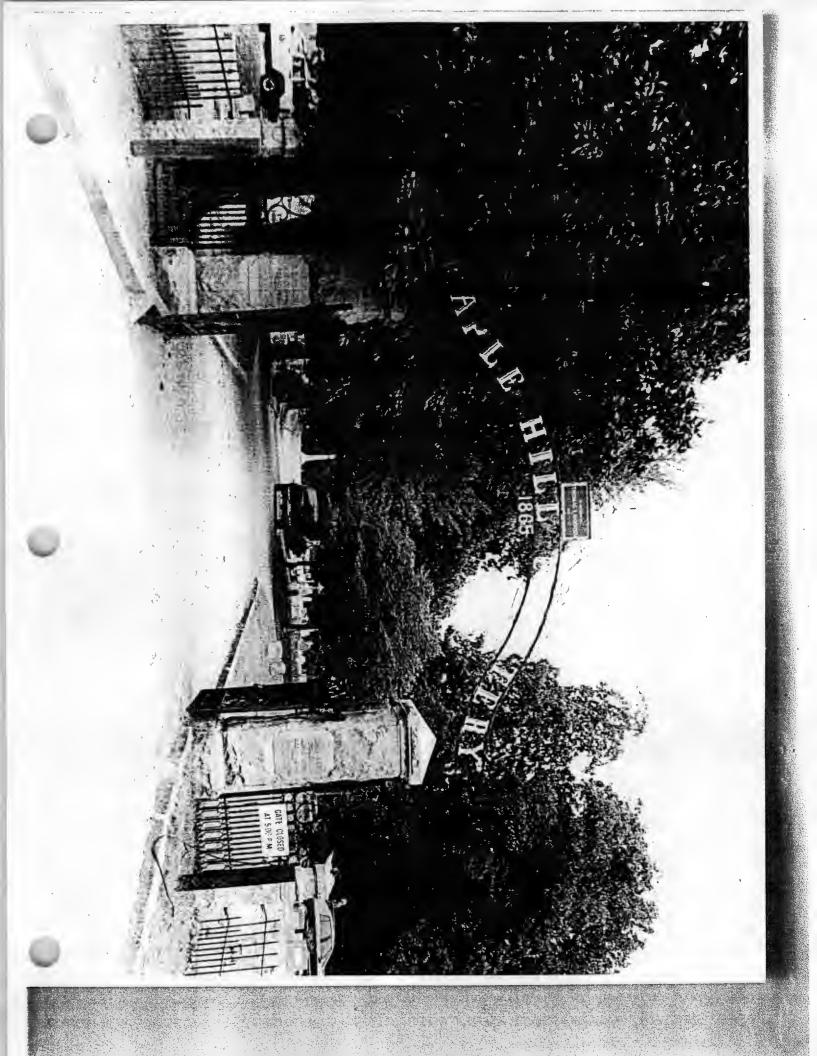
Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

Tity or Town: Little Rock

State: AR ZIP: 72201



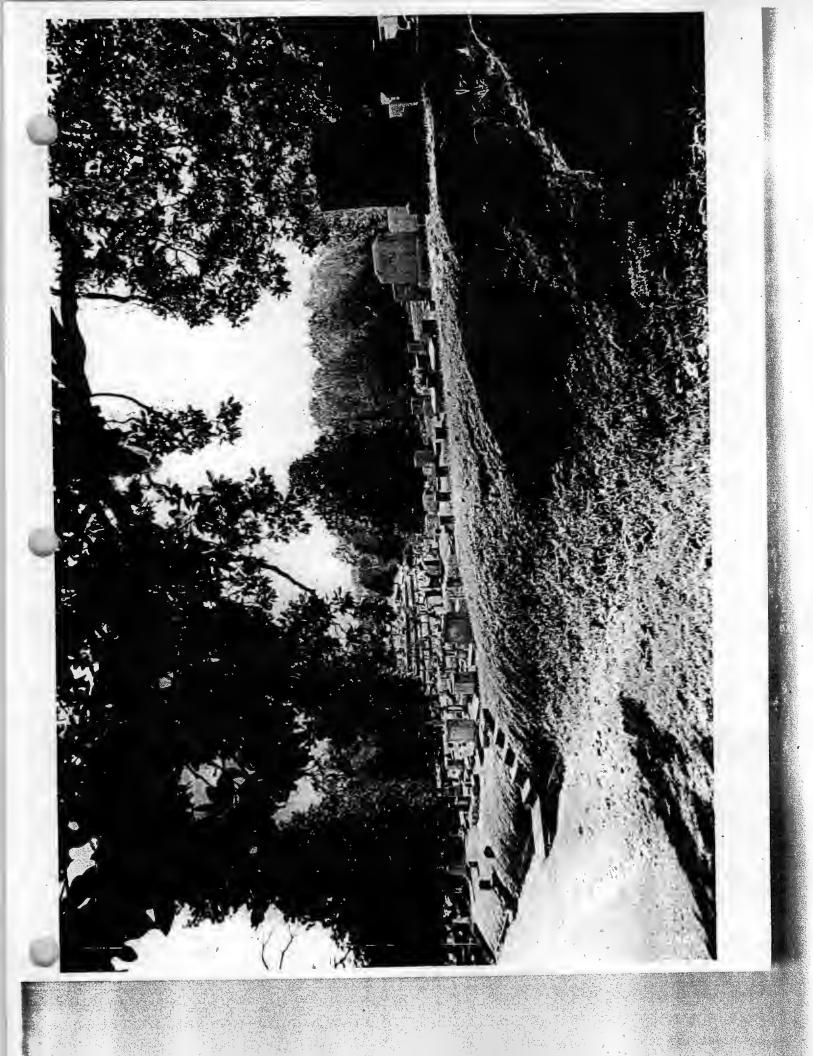




View of Cates eastern elevation looking west (1) on map Mullips County, AR. Amy Bennett November 1999 AHPP



Maple Hit inclose The Constant BA Menument and chape on left of Thirds Menument and chape on left of



Maple Hill Cemetery Ohillips Courty MR Any Benne 1 Any Benne 1 Any Benne 1 Any Benne 1 AND AND New of cemetery looking southinest from Section 3 Jasmine Avenue



liew of Iongrifie Memoria Mague Posing west on Dought & Avenue. a get a rest of a rest To atter for



Maple Hill Cometery Any Bennett November, 1999 AHPP New I Kighter Sate and Fonce and Saturd





ew of Coolidge Monument northern and astern elevations, looking southwest Naple Hill Smeters Hilligs aur . AK my Bun t Vovember, 1999 7) on map ddH, 「「「「「「「「」」」」

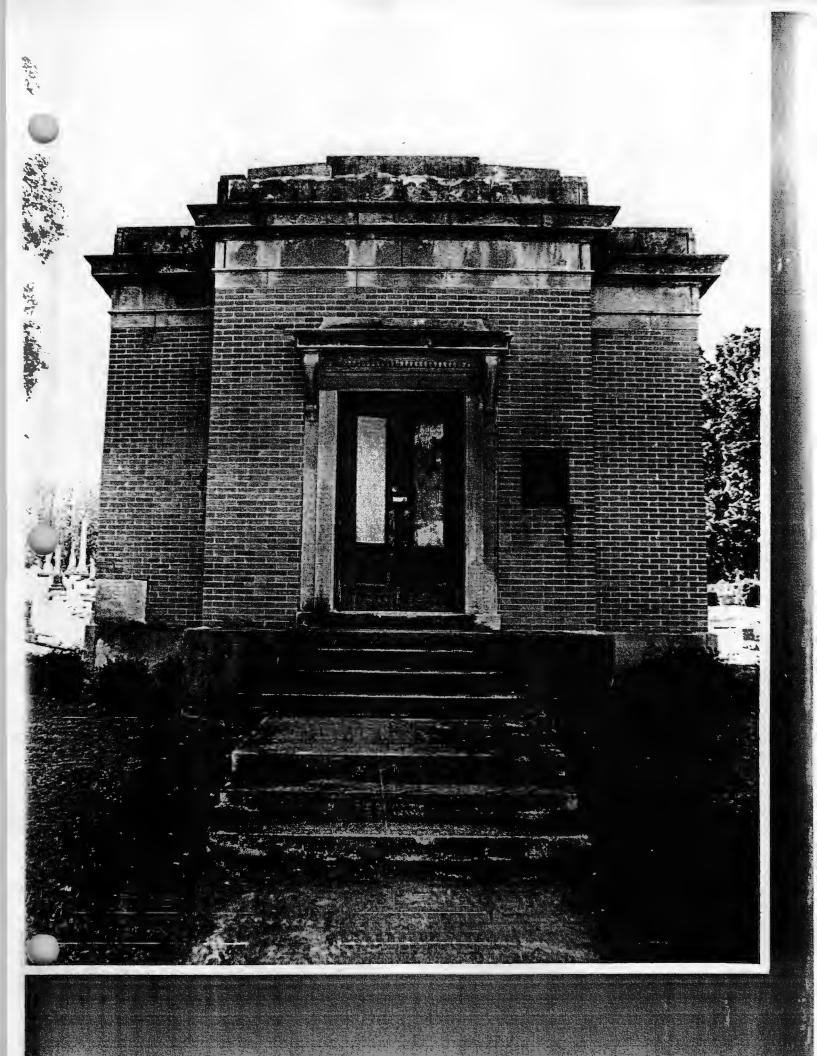


Million Burker Marine Marin and Action Splicing Palk Moore Marin and South and east elevations, looking north Northwest

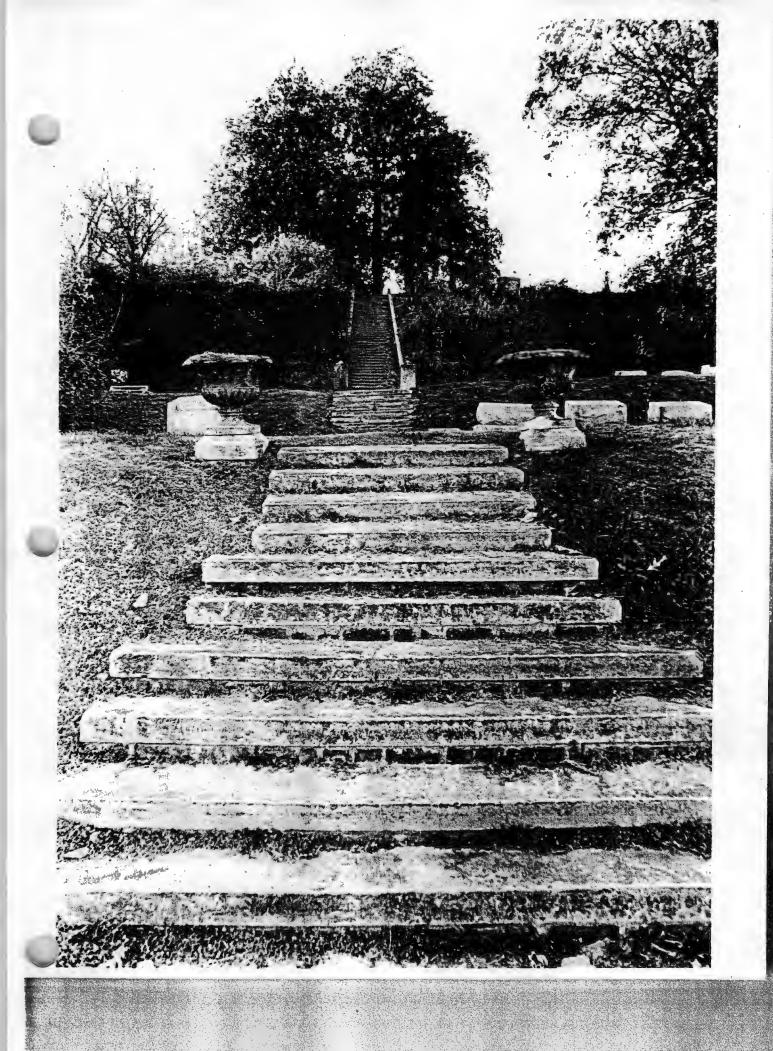
Klapsur 11 3. high



May to the conservery They Benneth, AR May Bennet May Bennet View of Dr. Moore Monument easier, elevation looking northwest. (6) on map



(4) on map View of Richard Burke Chapel eastern facade locking west. Section 2 P. .. Mapk I II interv Bucke Chapes Anny 1 7 6 1



南京などのような

November age November age November age November age New of Arward - McKenzie Memorial Steps looking weet from lower terrace. (3) SMMAP MW shere