

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR 9-20-06

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 McCraw Cemetery
other names/site number PU2879

2. Location

street & number 300 yards east of 2101 Old Military Road not for publication
city or town Jacksonville vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 zip code 72076

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 Macchiusi 8/4/06
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:

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

McCraw Cemetery

Name of Property

Pulaski 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.)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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)

NO STYLE

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other Stone, Granite, and Marble.

Narrative Description

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

* McCraw Cemetery
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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

ART: funerary art

Period of Significance

1841-1956

Significant Dates

1841-1956

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:

Arkansas History Commission

* McCraw Cemetery
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .71 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 583431 3856891
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____

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 Written by Carolyn Kent; Edited by Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 5/28/2006
street & number 1600 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501.324.9874
city or town Little Rock state AR 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 Reed's Bridge Preservation Society
street & number 600 Lynx Lane telephone 501.833.0265
city or town Jacksonville state AR zip code 72076

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The McCraw Cemetery, which contains 37 marked graves and approximately 25 unmarked graves, is located southeast of Jacksonville, Pulaski County, Arkansas. The cemetery lies about 300 yards east of the Military Road Baptist Church on Arkansas Highway 294 (Military Road). The north and east boundaries of the cemetery is heavily wooded, and the south boundary is a fence from a neighboring property. A dirt road forms the west boundary. A large, old magnolia tree is centrally located on the west side of the cemetery and provides shade to most of the cemetery. Of the 37 marked burials, 14 are those of children under the age of ten. Several of the burials are those of early settlers who were active in the settlement and development of northern Pulaski County.

ELABORATION

The cemetery is probably the oldest existing cemetery in the area and covers .71 acres. The cemetery is located on the historic Old Military Road, southeast of Jacksonville in Pulaski County, Arkansas. There is no marker to designate the name of the cemetery or indicate where to turn for the cemetery, and the only landmark used to find the cemetery is the Military Road Baptist Church, along side of which is the dirt road off of which the cemetery is located. A large magnolia tree shades the cemetery and is located on the west edge of the cemetery. The north and east boundaries are formed by thick woods and the south boundary is a fence from a neighboring property. The dirt road makes up the west boundary. The concentration of graves is mainly in the center of the cemetery, where the Sutherlands and McCraws are buried. South of the concentration of graves are a series of depressions, with minimal evidence of marked burials. Located in the extreme southeast corner of the cemetery are two markers, one of which marks a historic burial. The marker is that of a member of the Supreme Royal Circle of Friends, and is identical to many markers in a near-by African American cemetery. The second of these two markers in the southeast corner dates to 1969. The remaining markers in this section are very worn and hard to read.

The cemetery is part of the homestead originally owned by Pleasant McCraw, who came into the area in the mid-1830s and settled the land. At one time McCraw also owned property west of the homestead, but tax records reveal that the land on which the cemetery is located was the home place. Unfortunately, no buildings associated with the home place are extant. After Pleasant McCraw died in 1851, his widow, Rebecca Sanders McCraw, maintained the property. She died sometime in the 1870s, and her son, William, lived on the homestead until it was conveyed to James Knox Polk Harbour, a Jacksonville merchant, on December 27, 1880. Harbour sold the property to Napoleon B. Trimble on November 4, 1882. Napoleon B. Trimble died in 1923 and is buried in the cemetery, as is his wife, Harriett, and their children, Harry and Ruth. Other burials in the cemetery are members of the Wood and Sutherland families.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The cemetery was abandoned for many years and became completely over-grown. Local citizens began to clean up the cemetery, shortly after it was discovered that no property owner was listed on the tax books. In 2001, a grant was obtained from Entergy to help fund the cleanup. The cemetery is now under the care and ownership of the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society.

Breakdown of Burials by Decade

1841 to 1849	1
1850 to 1859	4
1860 to 1869	0
1870 to 1879	2
1880 to 1889	5
1890 to 1899	5
1900 to 1909	8
1910 to 1919	3
1920 to 1929	1
1930 to 1939	6
1940 to 1949	1
1950 to 1959	0
1960 to 1969	1
1970 to 1979	0
1980 to 1989	0
1990 to 1999	0
2000 to 2006	0

Landscape Design

It does not appear that there is any planned landscape design in the cemetery. At the time it was established, the McCraw Cemetery was simply a small family cemetery located on the homestead, thus there was no need, or desire, to develop a landscape design plan. The different families, however, are all buried in what appears to be family lots, though these various small groups are not delineated by coping or any other method.

The most outstanding landscape feature of the cemetery is the Magnolia tree that must have been planted by either the McCraws or the Harbours, judging from the size of the tree. The tree shades most of the cemetery, with the exception of the extreme southern section.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Other historic plantings are found scattered throughout the cemetery—Yuccas, lilies, Jonquils—among them. These historic plantings are very visible beyond the southern boundary, into the yard of the trailer that sits a mere 100 feet south of the fence. At the time the McCraw Cemetery was surveyed by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, the lawn of the residence was not surveyed for any burial evidence, as the trailer and the yard are posted property.

Grave Markers and Monuments

All the graves are oriented east to west, with the markers facing west side. Although the grave markers seem to be rather random in placement, it is possible that they may have been in rows at one time. A neighbor mentioned that when the Entergy grant was awarded to help with cleanup, that many of the markers were broken, and the broken pieces were piled on the edge of the cemetery. While a pile of broken markers was not found, there are, scattered throughout the cemetery, various sized pieces of stone. Whether or not these stones are grave marker remnants is undetermined.

In the southeast section, which is believed to be the African-American section of the cemetery, there appears to be about six unmarked burials. The one marker in this section that is historic and legible is for a member of The Supreme Royal Circle of Friends of the World.

Many of the markers in the main section of the cemetery are very worn and hard to read, and some are broken and in need of repair. There are approximately 20 graves that are not identifiable, as the graves are either marked with field stones that have no inscription, or are simply not marked at all.

Of the known and marked graves, 14 are those of children age ten and under.

The earliest marker is that of Elizabeth Sander who died in 1841. The marker for Pleasant McCraw has a tree of life above his name on the face of the stone. His date of death (1851) is barely legible, as the marker is sinking below ground level. The largest marker in the cemetery is a double marker for Jas Henry Wood (1930) and his wife Amanda Wood (1937). In the same area of the Wood marker is a badly worn marker for Elzie Wood (1935) who served in the 2nd Arkansas Infantry Division, Spanish American War. The tallest marker in the cemetery is an obelisk with a four sided base. On each side of the base is the name of one of the grandchildren of Pleasant McCraw who died at an early age. This marker has been broken and repaired; however, the top is missing.

In the southeast section the marker of Maria Smith (1916) is a pulpit marker, with the inscription for The Supreme Royal Circle of Friends of the World on the top, slanted face of the marker. The face of her marker is inscribed with her name and the year she died (1916), and an inscription describing her as a faithful member of Forward March Circle 314. Her marker appears to be identical to many markers in a near-by African American cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

INTEGRITY

The McCraw Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in northeast Pulaski County, and interred here are several of the first settlers in the northern Pulaski County area that would become known as Jacksonville, Arkansas. The McCraw Cemetery retains all seven elements of integrity. Its location in the outskirts of Jacksonville, in a heavily wooded area that at one time served as Pleasant McCraw's homestead illustrates the elements of integrity of location, setting, and feeling. The element of association is very clear, with the marked burials of Pleasant McCraw and his family, John Knox Polk Harbour and his family, and Napoleon Trimble and his family, men and women who helped settle north Pulaski County, were actively involved with the construction of the Old Military Road, and offered provisions to the men and woman who were moved through the area in association with the Trail of Tears. The elements of design, materials and workmanship are evident with a simple visit to the cemetery. Situated a few hundred yards east of the Old Military Road, in a secluded area, one gets the sense that the McCraw Cemetery was established as a simple family cemetery, with the various families clustered in specific regions of the cemetery. The design and layout of the cemetery is the same as it was when first established over 165 years ago, and along with the materials of the grave markers, and the funerary art found in the various markers, has neither been altered nor replaced.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

Located in northern Pulaski County, in the rural outskirts of Jacksonville, Arkansas, the McCraw Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A**, as this cemetery is the final resting place of some of the first settlers of the area known today as Jacksonville. The cemetery is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as many of the grave stones contain good examples of mid-19th to mid-20th century funerary art. The cemetery is eligible for inclusion under **Criteria Consideration D for Cemeteries**.

ELABORATION

Town and County History

The first settlers to move into the portion of Arkansas Territory that was northeast Pulaski County came during the winter of 1820/21. This group consisted of Jacob Gray, his brother Sharred Gray, and Jacob's seven children. Four of his daughters were married, and their spouses and children came with them. After the group began to settle, Jacob's son, Samson, became the dominant figure in the settlement and the family group developed a thriving community.

The lack of a road linking Little Rock with Memphis, Tennessee, was a major problem for the territorial population, and the Gray settlement was a frequent stopping place for travelers. In 1824, the United States Congress passed an Act to authorize the surveying of a road that would link Memphis and Little Rock. In 1825, the *Arkansas Gazette* announced that the road was to be built by contracts and not by federal troops, as was first announced. An army quartermaster was to let contracts and supervise construction. Samson joined into partnership with various Little Rock businessmen, and they assisted with the construction of the road and bridges in what was then Pulaski County, and now comprises some areas of Lonoke County. Samson also got contracts for mail service in 1827, and started a mail and passenger stage in 1832. Although the road was built by private contracts, the road was still called a military road because the United States Government appropriated the funds and over saw the construction.

The Memphis to Little Rock military road, which closely approximates Arkansas Highway 294 (Military Road) in Pulaski County, became a major transportation route and soon began to draw people to settle along the route in the 1830s. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 provided for the removal of Native American Tribes along the road. The first groups were the Choctaws beginning in the winter of 1831/32, followed by Creek and Chickasaw removals over the next six years. The government made improvements to the road to accommodate the removal operations.

Pleasant McCraw moved into the area in the mid 1830s and settled about three miles east of the Gray settlement along the military road. McCraw was on the tax books in Pulaski County for the first time in 1836, for the property that included the homestead and the cemetery. On December 14, 1838, McCraw sold 80 ¼

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

bushels of corn at \$1 per bushel and 1,878 bundles of fodder at \$.62 ½ per dozen to the Bell party of Cherokee that were removing to Indian Territory along the Memphis to Little Rock Military Road. McCraw continued to farm his home place and in 1850 was listed with eight slaves. After his death his widow continued to farm the property and in 1862, Rebecca McCraw paid taxes on the property and three slaves, two horses, and four cattle. On August 27, 1863, Federal troop movements during the Civil War passed along the Military Road, and were at the McCraw house as the Federal troops advanced towards Little Rock.

In the late 1860s, an area about five miles northwest of the McCraw property was under development in preparation for the building of the Cairo-Fulton Railroad, and the focus of settlement and business development in north Pulaski County shifted away from the area where McCraw had settled to the proposed railroad right-of-way. Businesses quickly sprang up along the surveyed railroad right-of-way, and Nicholas Jackson granted a right-of-way to the railroad in 1870, on the condition that the railroad establishes a depot near land that Jackson owned. Jackson had a town plat made and began to sell lots, and the settlement flourished into the Town of Jacksonville. One of the early merchants was John Knox Polk Harbour, who acquired ownership of McCraw's homestead in 1880. Census records list Harbour as a grocery merchant, but he is said to have run a saloon while the railroad was being built. While Harbour is not buried in the McCraw Cemetery but his infant son, Johnny, was buried there in 1871. In 1882, Harbour sold the farmstead Napoleon B. Trimble, who was a school director in the area by 1890, with the census recording his occupation as a farmer.

The Supreme Royal Circle of Friends of the World, an African-American fraternal organization, was organized in Helena, Arkansas, in 1909 by Richard A. Williams. The fee for joining was \$2.50 which included a medical examination. In 1910, a chapter of the Royal Circle was formed in Jacksonville. The Jacksonville chapter was called the Forward March Circle 314. The Jacksonville Royal Circle built a lodge, and many members of the Jacksonville African-American community belonged to the Forward March Circle 314 of the Royal Circle of Friends of the World. Maria Smith, who is buried at the McCraw Cemetery, was a member of the Royal Circle and her tombstone has the distinctive symbol of the majestic lion and the letters RCF inscribed on the top of her tombstone. Many other members of the Forward March Circle 314 are buried in the Johnson Cemetery that is east of the McCraw Cemetery along Arkansas Highway 294 (Military Road).

Cemetery History

In the 1830s, Pleasant McCraw made his home on the property where the McCraw Cemetery is located, and homesteaded the land until his death in 1851. After McCraw's death, his widow, Elizabeth Sanders McCraw, maintained the property. Upon her death in the 1870s, and her son, William, homesteaded the land until December 27, 1880, when he conveyed the property to J. K. P. Harbour. Harbour sold the property to Napoleon B. Trimble on November 4, 1882, and he retained ownership until his death in 1923. The last burials in the main section are for members of the Wood and Sutherland families. The cemetery was abandoned and unkempt for many years. The cemetery currently is under the care and ownership of the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

SELECTED BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THOSE BURIED AT MCCRAW CEMETERY

Pleasant McCraw (1808-1851)

Born in South Carolina March 15, 1808, he married Rebecca Sanders of South Carolina about 1829. He moved to Pulaski County, Arkansas, about 1834. He settled on land in northeast Pulaski County and developed a farming operation. He was a slave owner and in the 1850 census, had a listed property value of \$2,570. He and Rebecca were the parents of nine children. He died on October 1, 1851.

Napoleon B. Trimble (1842-1923)

Born in 1842, he and his wife, Harriet, purchased the McCraw homestead property in 1882. He was a farmer, and also served on the county school board. N. B. Trimble died in 1923, and is buried in the cemetery, along with his wife, Harriett, and their children, Harry and Ruth.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McCraw Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in northeast Pulaski County, Arkansas. The first people buried in the cemetery were members of the pioneering McCraw family, who early in the 1830s, helped settle the area. During the time the family lived in the area, they witnessed many important events in Arkansas history, including the construction of a military road that linked Memphis, Tennessee, with Little Rock, Arkansas, and the removal of various Native American Indian tribes along the military road. The family, it is noted, even sold supplies to a party of Cherokee that traveled the road in 1838. In addition to these events, the McCraw homestead was witness to the passing of Federal troops during the summer of 1863. Later burials in the cemetery are those of people whose contributions to the area as merchants, farmers, and educators helped contribute to the growth and development of northern Pulaski County. As a result, the McCraw Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance**. The cemetery is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as an early Arkansas cemetery with good examples of mid-19th to mid-20th century funerary art. The cemetery is also eligible for nomination under **Criteria Consideration D**: as a cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Arkansan Creates African-American Organization," Old State House Museum, Fall 1997.

Census records 1840 thru 1880, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, AR.

Deas, Lt. Edward, Subsistence Voucher to Pleasant McCraw, RG 217, National Archives, Washington D. C.

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Docker, Nancy, "Cleanup begins at pre-Civil War cemetery," *The Leader*, Jan. 16, 2002.

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Little, Carolyn Yancey, "Samson Gray and the Bayou Meto Settlement," *The Pulaski County Historical Review*, Little Rock, Spring 1984.

Martinet, Tom C and David V. Brannon, Inventory of the McCraw cemetery, February 6, 1996.

Obituary of Pleasant McCraw, *Arkansas Gazette*, October 3, 1851.

Pulaski County Tax records 1836, 1862, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, AR.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of the west half of the east half of the northwest quarter of section 33, township 3 north, range 10 west, commencing at the northwest corner W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW; thence south 360' to the point of beginning; then east 141'; thence south 220'; thence west 141'; thence north 220' to the point of beginning. Containing .71 acres. Pulaski County, AR.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

7831 (NW)
(OLMSTEAD)

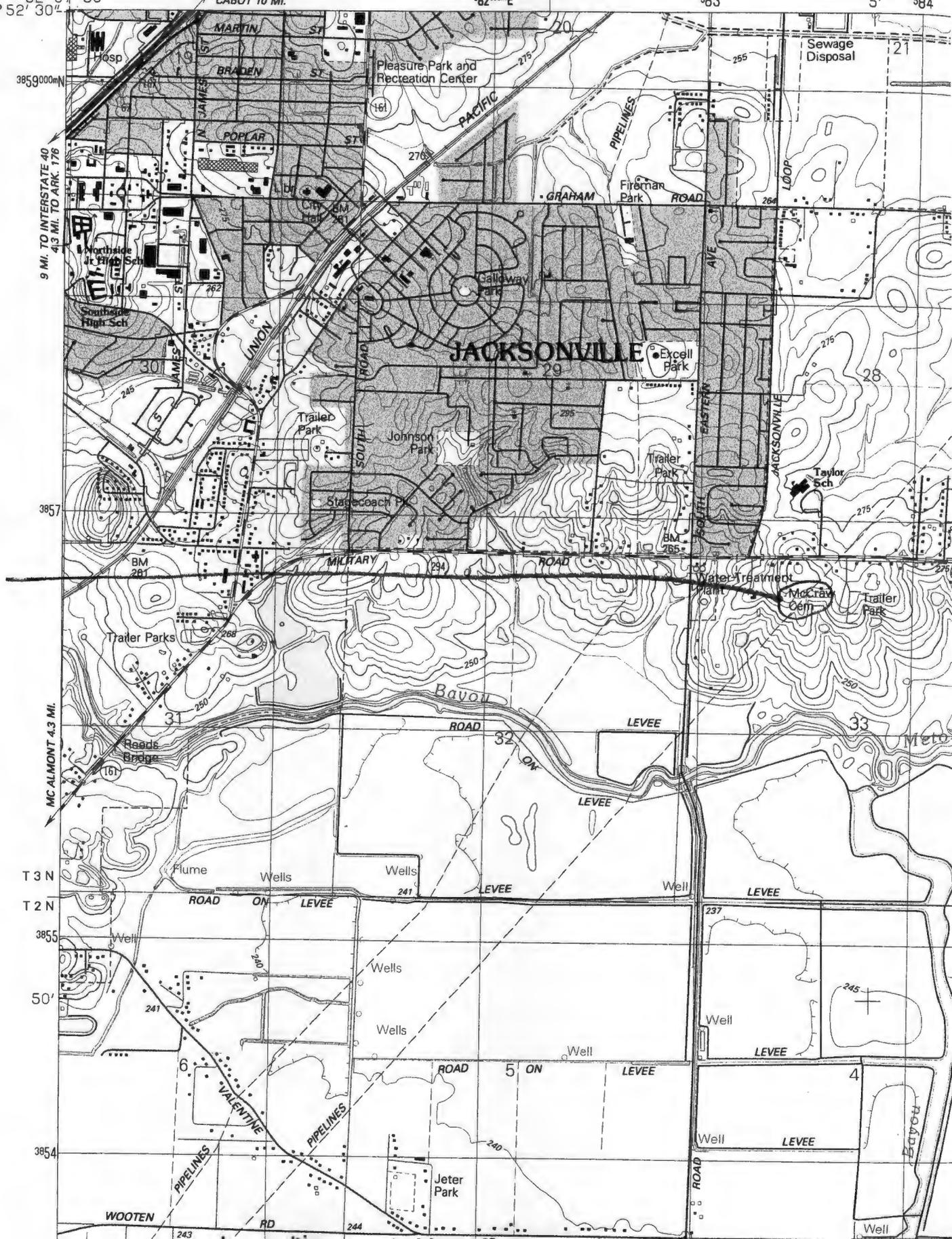
92° 07' 30"
34° 52' 30"

SEARCY 37 MI.
CABOT 10 MI.

1620000E

583

5' 584



McCravy cemetery
Jacksonville, Pulaski Co, Arkansas
UTM: 15/583431/385069

9 MI. TO INTERSTATE 40
4.3 MI. TO ARK. 176

MC ALMONT 4.3 MI.

T 3 N

T 2 N

3855

50'

3854

WOOTEN RD

243

244

ROAD

Well

