

WA0775

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: Bean Cemetery

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Northern side of U. S. Highway 62

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Lincoln

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: Washington

code: AR 143

zip code: 72744

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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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.

Carlton A. Slater _____ 1-28-94
Signature of certifying official 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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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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): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

Current: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

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: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately 2.45

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>372210</u>	<u>3979000</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Part of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 30, Township 15 North, Range 32 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Washington County, Arkansas, being more particularly described as follows, to wit: Beginning at the Southeast Corner of said Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4); thence N 88°57'35" W, 150.76 feet; thence N 1°33'22" E, 150.62 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence N 88°57'35" W, 148.47 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence S 1°33'22" W, 150.62 feet on line with an existing pipe that is S 1°33'22" W, 110.92 feet; thence N 88°57'35" W, 222.76 feet; thence N 47°04'06" E, 712.82 feet; thence South 495 feet to the point of beginning and containing 2.45 acres, more or less.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property associated with the historic cemetery that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: January 27, 1994

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

Located directly to the north of U. S. Highway 62 near the eastern outskirts of Lincoln, the Bean Cemetery contains 251 known burials (those for which discernible headstone markers remain) surrounding the site of an associated Colored Methodist Episcopal Church and School, now demolished and replaced by a modern roadside picnic area. The extant historic headstones are largely of relatively simple design and of various types of stone. The nomination includes a total of approximately 2.45 acres and excludes the site of the demolished church, as it has been subdivided from the cemetery and developed into a public roadside picnic area.

Elaboration

The Bean Cemetery contains 251 known burials (those for which discernible headstone markers remain) surrounding the site of an associated Colored Methodist Episcopal Church and School, now demolished and replaced by a modern roadside picnic area. The extant historic headstones are largely of relatively simple design and of various types of stone. The nomination includes a total of approximately 2.45 acres and excludes the site of the demolished church, as it has been subdivided from the cemetery and developed into a public roadside picnic area.

The known burials in the Bean Cemetery include several veterans and even a man born into slavery. The death dates begin in 1874 and extend to the present.

Of the 251 known burials in the Bean Cemetery, 49 are non-historic, and have been determined so because the death dates do not fall within the historic period. Yet the entire cemetery is being included in this nomination as the Bean Cemetery continues to serve as an important cultural focal point for local residents of African-American descent who consider the entire cemetery an important historical and cultural link to their heritage.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1**Summary**

Criterion A, local significance

The Bean Cemetery is locally significant under Criterion A by virtue of its status as the best preserved historic resource directly associated with the post-Civil War black settlements established within the surrounding communities of Lincoln, Summers and Cane Hill. Though people of African descent had lived in this heavily agricultural area since before the Civil War - where they had largely lived as slaves -- virtually no other known historic resources associated with their settlement and occupation have survived. Families from these local communities have been burying their dead within this cemetery since at least 1874, the earliest recorded death date.

Elaboration

Though not commonly known as a slaveholding county, there existed many slaveholding plantations within the boundaries of Washington County before the Civil War. The area around Lincoln -- located approximately twenty miles southwest of Fayetteville, the county seat -- was particularly suited to agriculture as it is composed of relatively flat, rolling fields covered with rich, fertile soil. Cotton plantations thus prospered here, as they did in other parts of the state, though not in the same numbers; and it was common wisdom before the Civil War that cotton production always required a large slave workforce.

As was the case elsewhere in the state, those counties that possessed a large black population experienced little in the way of a mass exodus of former slaves and their families after the Civil War. Instead it was far more common for these former slave families to settle close to their familiar surroundings, and frequently in distinct communities that they often called "colonies." These families carried on farming, with some families owning small farms, and others working for white landowners as part of the same tenant system that prevailed in many of the state's eastern and southern counties. They lived in such western Washington County communities as Cincinnati, Summers, Cane Hill and Lincoln.

Like much of the rest of the state, the decision of whether or not to remain in a relatively isolated farming community in the late nineteenth century depended largely on whether or not the railroad ran a line through it; this, combined with the natural desire for community, resulted in some limited relocation of rural Washington County blacks during the last decades of the nineteenth century. In particular, blacks from such communities as Cincinnati moved eastward to Lincoln and Summers -- both of which were served by the railroad and could boast of small black communities. However, by far the largest and best organized black community in central Washington County was located at Cane Hill, where there had been a black community for some

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time and which had its own church and regular social functions. After the turn of the century, however, the attendant growth in such nearby railroad cities as Fayetteville and Springdale drew the younger generations away from their rural homes and began the gradual decline of these rural black communities.

Before this fairly consistent pattern of black relocation to the Cane Hill/Summers/Lincoln occurred, black families buried their dead locally, either in private cemeteries or small community cemeteries. With the onset of this relocation, however, the Bean Cemetery soon became known as the main community cemetery for the local black population. The land, originally owned by John Wesley and Eliza Bean and located adjacent to the Frisco Railroad right of way, was granted by him for the construction of a church and associated cemetery, though he and his family retained actual ownership until the land was formally deeded by his heirs in 1915 (they are both buried within). The extant burial markers within indicate death dates from 1874 to the present, and thus reveal that the cemetery has in fact been actively used by the local black community since that time. Recent burials reveal also that it remains in use today.

The Bean Cemetery is the extant historic resource most directly associated with the history of these central and western Washington County rural black communities and their vanishing heritage, and is, in fact, the *only* known such resource. Their legacy, and indeed their very existence, is tied to the preservation of this important historical and cultural site. By virtue of these associations the Bean Cemetery is eligible under Criterion A.

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National Register of Historic Places

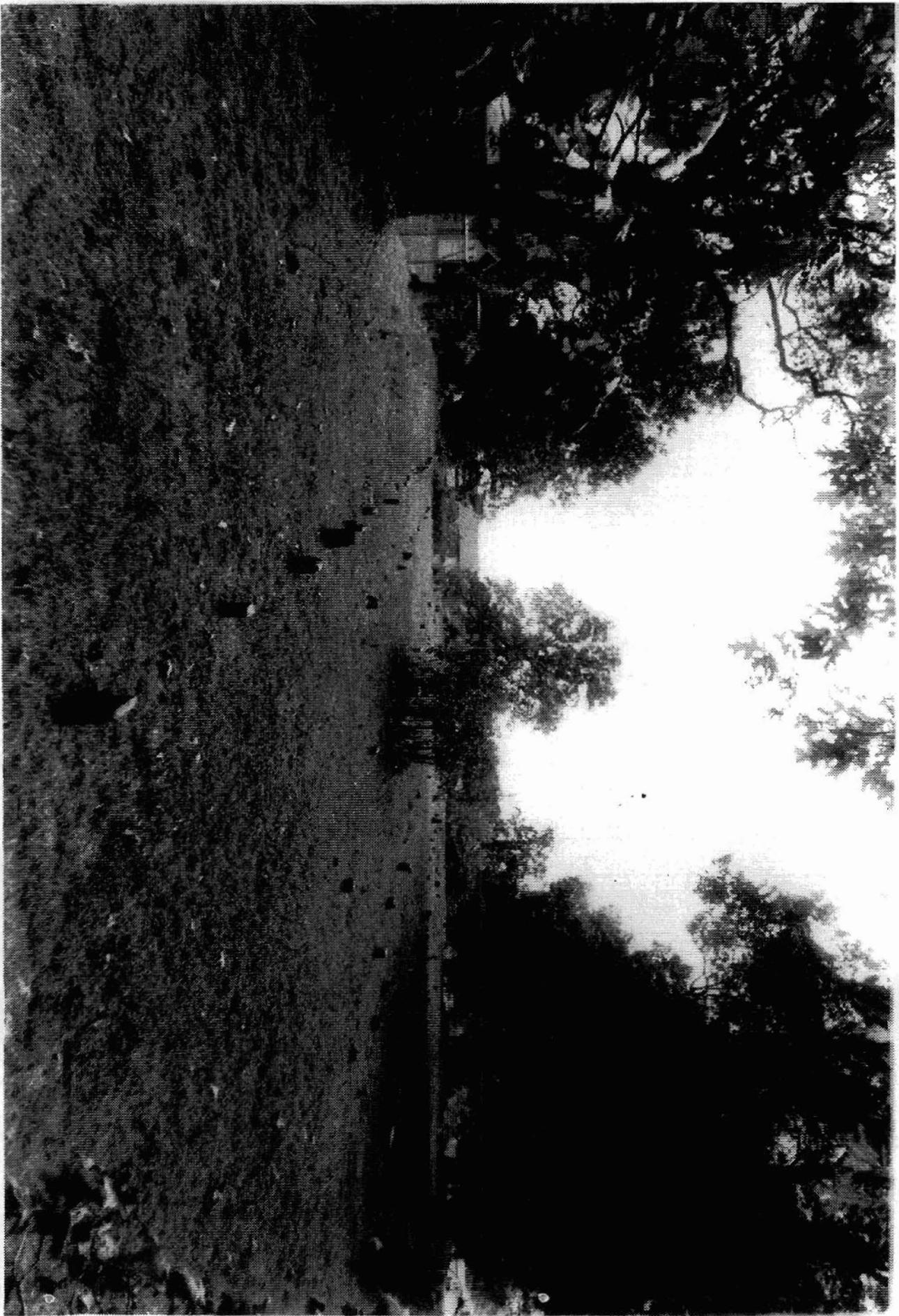
Continuation Sheet

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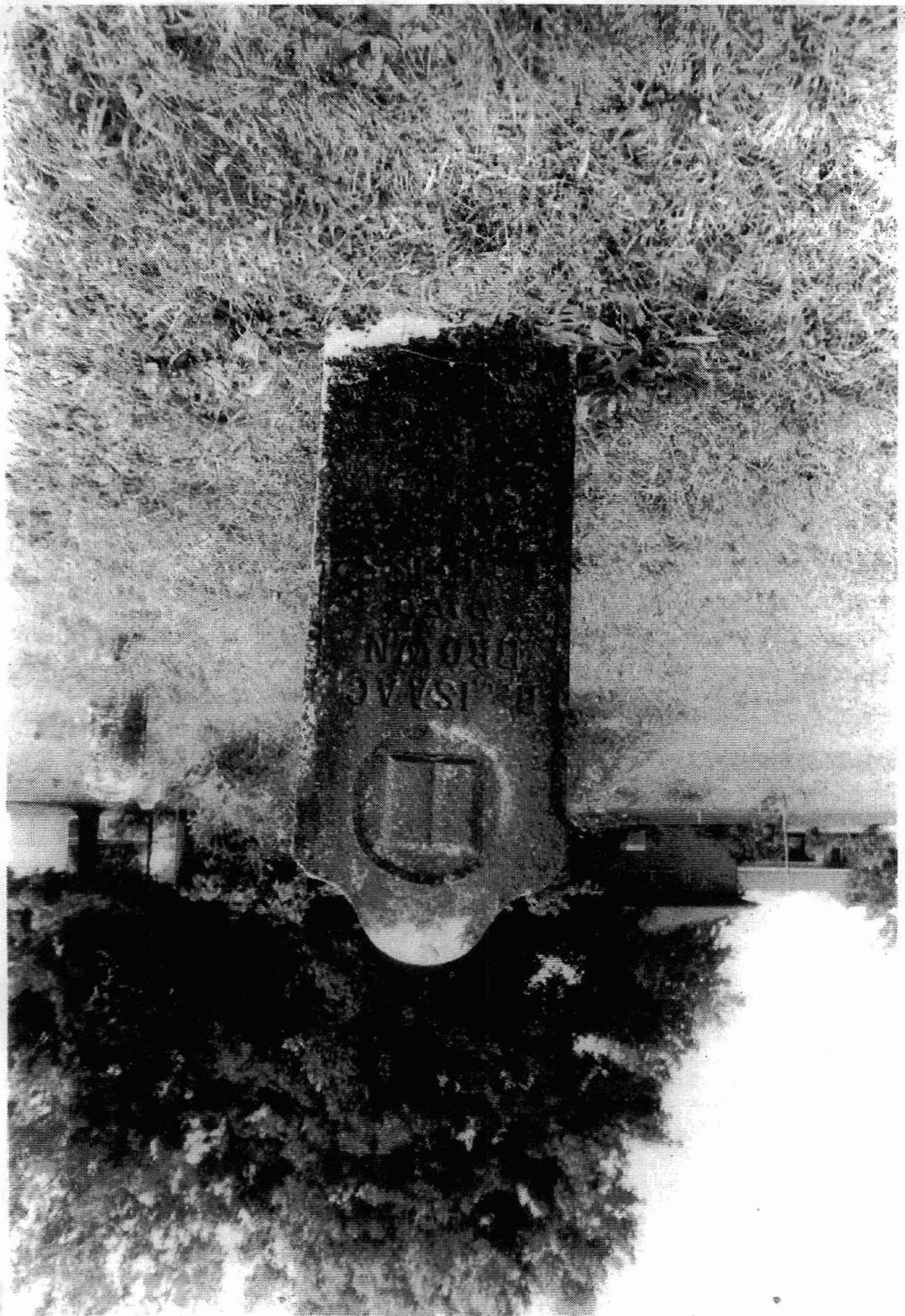
Bibliography

Information provided by Mr. Ulon Fae Barnes, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Shiloh Museum, *History of Washington County, Arkansas*, (Springdale: 1989)



BEAN CEMETERY
LINCOLN, WASHINGTON CO, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ROLLNER
OCTOBER, 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP
VIEW FROM NORTH



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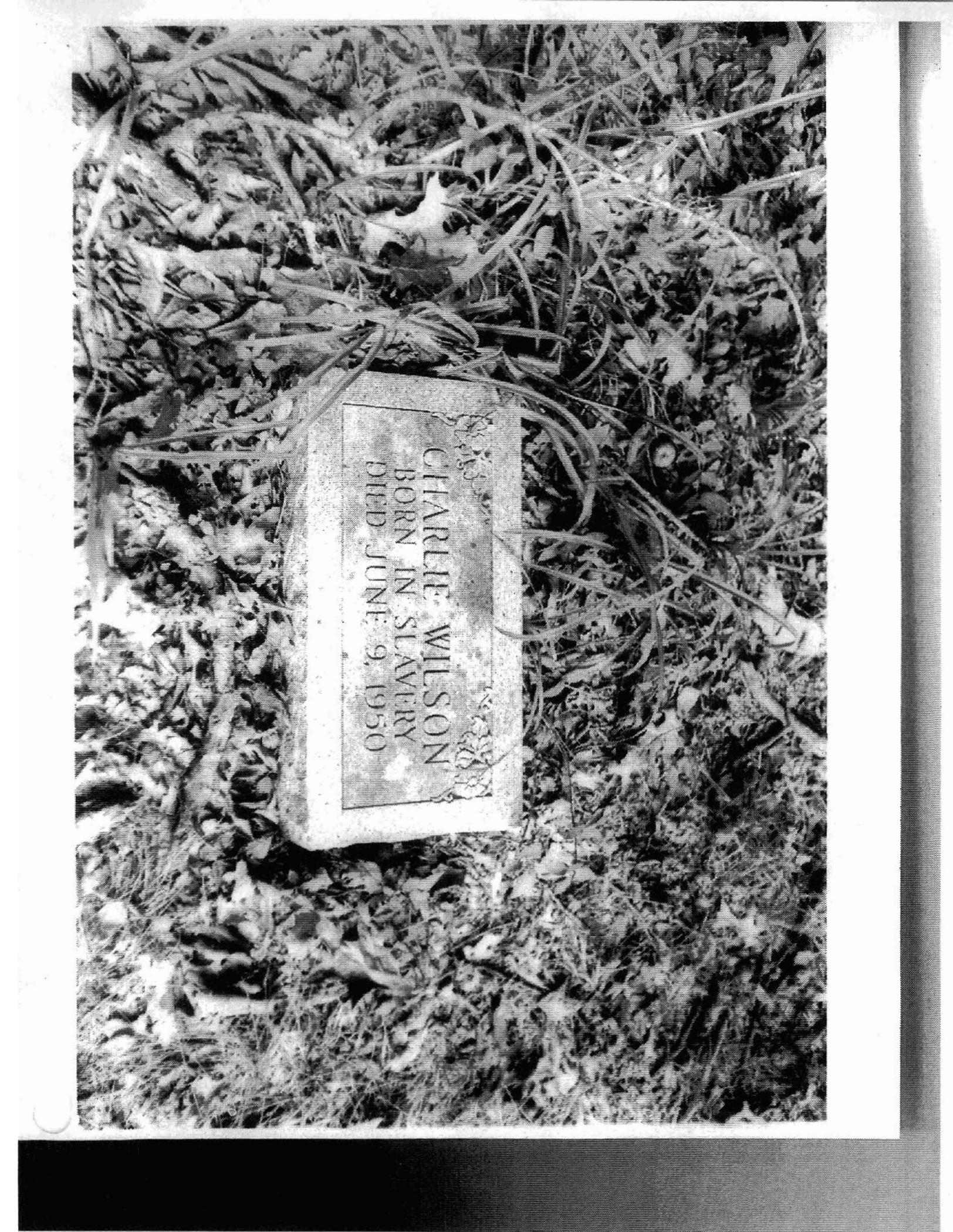
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DEAN CEMETERY
LINCOLN, WASHINGTON Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
OCTOBER, 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP
DETAIL OF GRAVE MARKER



CHARLIE WILSON
BORN IN SLAVERY
DIED JUNE 9, 1950

BEAN CEMETERY

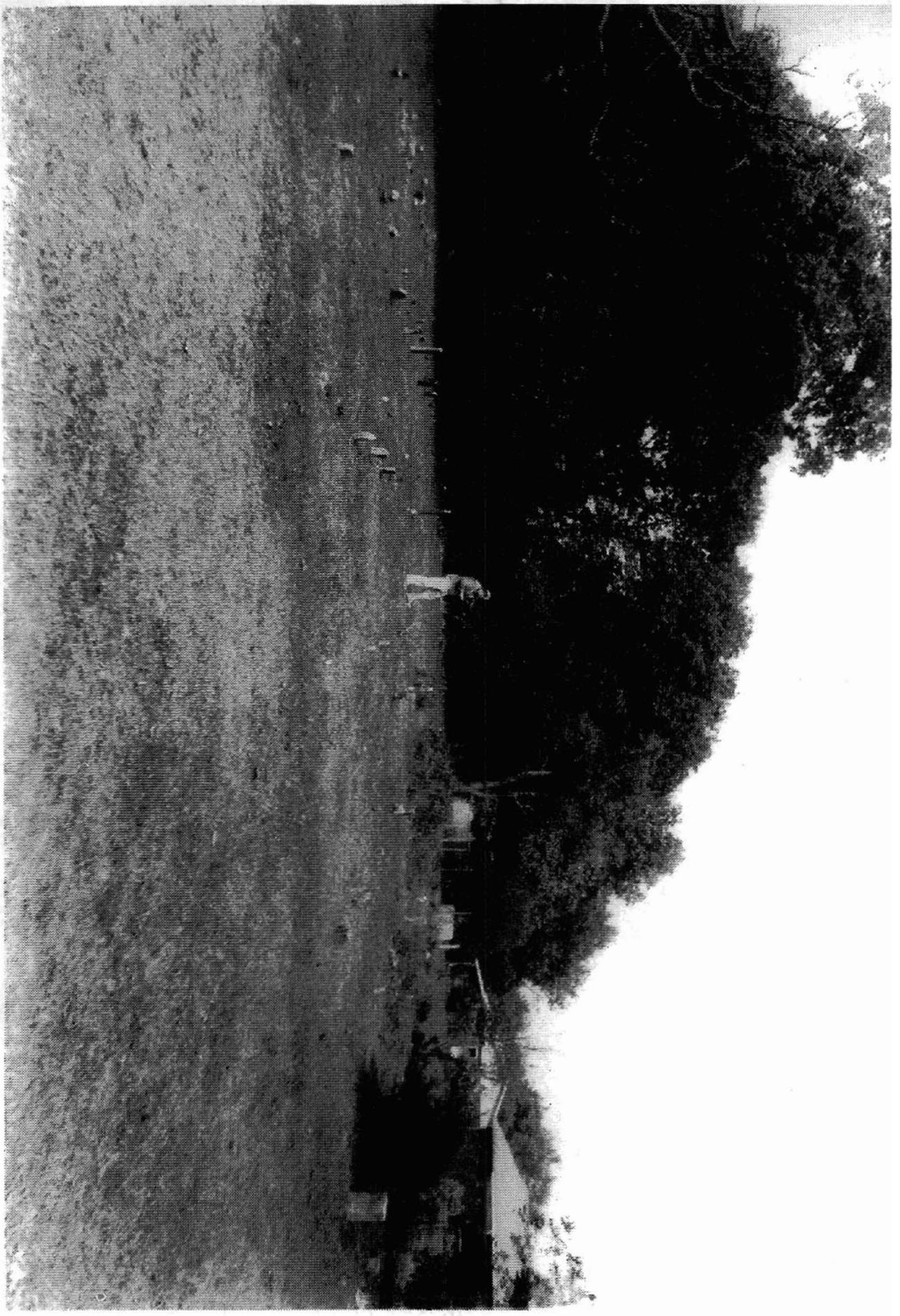
LINCOLN, WASHINGTON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHERED BY P. ZOLLNER

OCTOBER, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

DETAIL OF GRAVE MARKER



BEAN CEMETERY
LINCOLN, WASHINGTON CO., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

OCTOBER, 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP
VIEW FROM SOUTH

FELIZY BEAN
NOV. 10. 1836
MAR. 23. 1909

BEAN CEMETERY

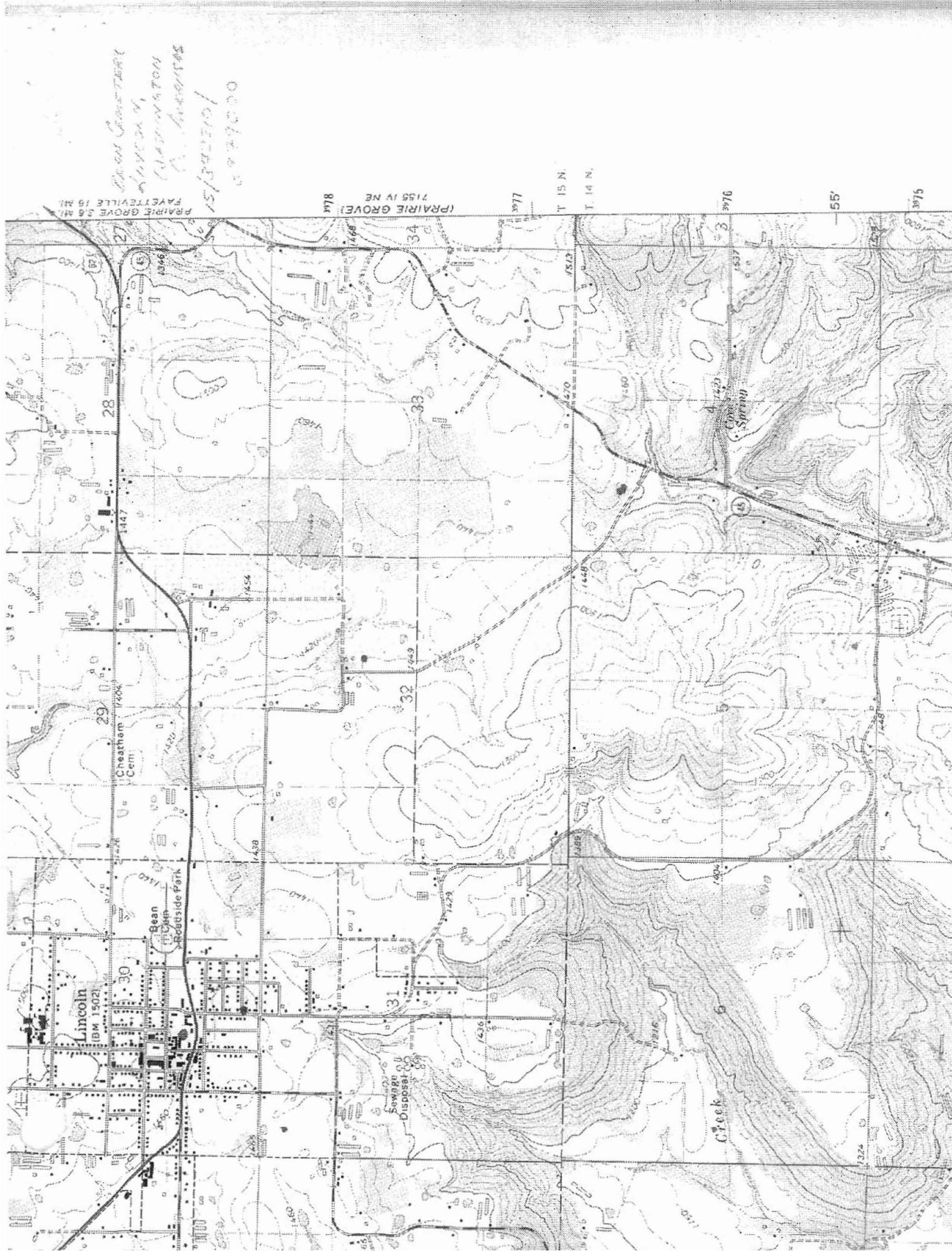
LINCOLN, WASHINGTON CO., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHER BY P. ZOLLNER

OCTOBER, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP

DETAIL OF GRAVE MARKER



*Prairie Grove
Cheatham,
Fayetteville
10/27/51*

*10/27/51
15/3770/00*

PRAIRIE GROVE 36 MI
FAYETTEVILLE 19 MI

(PRAIRIE GROVE)
7155 IV NE

T. 15 N.
T. 14 N.

376

55'

375

Lincoln
BM 1502

Cheatham
Cem

Bean
Cem
Roadside Park

Sewage
Disposal

Creek

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