

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Berry Cemetery

other name/site number Holy Resurrection Cemetery

### 2. Location

street & town 1431 W. Farm Rd. 74 N/A not for publication

city or town Ash Grove X vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Greene code 077 zip code 65604

### 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 forth 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.)

Mark A. Miles 9.27.04  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

- 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Berry Cemetery  
Name of Property

Greene County, MO  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**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 the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FUNERARY/cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rural Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other Limestone

**Narrative Description**

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Berry Cemetery  
Name of Property

Greene County, MO  
County and State

### 8. Description

#### 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.

#### Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE--BLACK

#### Period of Significance

1875-1920

#### Significant Dates

N/A

#### Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

#### 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** a birthplace or grave.
- 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.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

### 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:

Greene County Archives and Greene County Public Library

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Berry Cemetery  
Name of Property

Greene County, MO  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

### UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 4/4/6/8/4/0 4/1/3/0/7/8/0  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No.

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gail Emrie (also see continuation page)  
organization Greene County Historic Board date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number 8052 N. Devonwood telephone 417-833-4381  
city or town Fair Grove state MO zip code 65648

## 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

name/title Father Moses Berry  
street & number 1431 West Farm Road 74 telephone 417-751-2761  
city or town Ash Grove state MO zip code 65604

**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 listings. 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 20503.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Berry Cemetery  
Greene County, Missouri**

**Summary:** Established in 1875, the Berry Cemetery, 1431 W. Farm Road 74 near Ash Grove, Greene County, Missouri is a small rural African-American cemetery. Part of a larger farm, the cemetery is isolated and cannot be directly accessed from public roads or highways. The one-acre site, surrounded by a gated barbed wire fence, is on a rise overlooking a field and is bordered on three sides by woods. The cemetery itself is a level open green space with scattered evergreen and deciduous trees. The cemetery contains 48 marked graves ranging in date from 1875 to 1978. Marked graves are predominantly carved limestone, although other types of grave markings are present. Recent work on the site has cleared the area of brush and dead trees revealing a property that, while weathered and partially overgrown, retains a high degree of integrity.

**Elaboration:** The cemetery sits at the north edge of the forty-acre Berry farm. The farm has been in continuous ownership of the Berry family since c. 1875. The farm now consists of a 1920s's vintage house, a barn and a small stone outbuilding. The fields are now hayfields. The farm is approximately one mile west of Ash Grove, between town and the now abandoned Ash Grove Lime quarries and kilns. It remains surrounded by farmland and woods.

The gravestones are primarily of limestone. There are markers that are hand engraved and others that appear to have been professionally carved. One group of graves has thin limestone slabs standing on end outlining the grave plots. The Walls family group at the northeast corner of the cemetery has an unusual concrete birdbath shaped like a flower. Some graves are marked with fieldstone, while others remain unmarked. There are 48 marked graves of African Americans in the cemetery as well as what appear to be three burial mounds. Oral history reports these to be historic Native American burials. The rock mounds are aligned in rows with the other burials but have not been tested to validate the claim as Native American burials. All of the graves are aligned in rows north to south with burials to the east of the markers. It is possible that there are more graves in the uncleared brush to the north and east of the current fence line. The first marked grave is dated 1882.

The cemetery had been neglected for quite some time, but has had brush cleared and some dead or diseased trees removed. The tombstones themselves are in need of repair, as they have suffered the effects of acid rain and deterioration. Some headstones are broken. Despite the effects of time and neglect the cemetery retains its integrity. After inheriting the farm Father Moses Berry and his family began the work of clearing and opening the cemetery. It was at this time Farther Berry gave it the title of "Holy Resurrection Cemetery." (Father Berry also found photographs, artifacts and documents associated with the people buried in the cemetery stored in the house and barn on the property. Many of these can be viewed at the Afro-American Ozark Heritage Museum in Ash Grove.)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Berry Cemetery  
Greene County, Missouri**

On March 28, 1986, the Ozarks Genealogical Society presented a list of people known to be buried in the cemetery. The list can be seen below:

Yokum, Lewis Frank 1893-1966; Effie 1890-1967  
Reaves, Leo 1911-1978  
James, Charity 1842-1914  
Simmons, Enoch 1886-1900; Ralph 1885-1904; Jasper 1882-1908  
Berry, Millard 1920-1959; Della May 1891- 1917; Wm H. 1848-1917; Caroline 1850-1914;  
Hubert 1879-1904; Birtie 1882-1902; Sarah 1873-1894; Drucella  
Boone, Maria 5 Aug 1819- 19 Dec 1893  
Boyd, A.  
Herron, Susan V. 1860-1912  
Walls, J.A. & Vine; Joe; Bob; Chas.; Baby; Press  
Harvey, Maud Lee 1881-1924; Rev. H. 1851-1918; Sarah A. 1857-1906; Lulie E. 1876-1889;  
William E. 1883-1889  
Mason, John d. 1888  
Jones, R. S. 1854-1892  
Huddleston, Rachel A. 1821-1902  
Decks, Elizabeth d. 1905  
Perryman, Jocy Bell 1881-1882  
Oliver, Alma L. d. 1884  
Berry, Luther 1893-1951; Mamie 1889-1967; Frank b. 1876  
Allen, George  
Bray, John 1880-1958  
Carlock, Bobbie Darnell  
Danforth, Nelson b. 1851  
Ellison, Mollie b. 1865  
Murray, Fannie b. 1852  
Reaves, Cassie

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Berry Cemetery  
Greene County, Missouri**

**Summary:** Berry Cemetery, 1431 W. Farm Road 74 near Ash Grove, Greene County, Missouri, is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of ETHNIC HERITAGE-BLACK. It also meets Criterion Consideration D as a cemetery that derives its significance from its association with the lives and lifeways of the African-American community around Ash Grove. William H. Berry, a locally prominent African-American farmer, established the cemetery in 1875 for the burial of former "slaves, paupers and Indians."<sup>1</sup> The cemetery filled a pressing need for members of the small black community who were for many years barred from burial in the Ash Grove community cemetery. The development and use of the site follows the rise and fall of the African-American population which peaked in Greene County in the early 1900s and fell as many moved to other communities for jobs and better living conditions. It is now one of the only remaining reminders of the once thriving black community in and around Ash Grove. The period of significance for the site is 1875 to 1920, the year the cemetery was established to through the years of most heavy use. During this period the African-American community did not have the use of the white-only Ash Grove cemetery.

The cemetery is the one of the last remaining physical links to a community of African-Americans who lived in slavery, were freed and built a community in Ash Grove during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is associated with several significant African-Americans in the area. The Berry Cemetery has the potential of addition significant depth to the story of early settlers of Greene County.

**Elaboration:** Though a few white settlers had come to southwest Missouri in the 1820s, it wasn't until the 1830s that the Greene County began to gain significant population. This growth was headed by settlers such as Nathan Boone, son of Daniel Boone, who came to the area with his family and several slaves and settled north of what is now Ash Grove in 1837.

Ash Grove itself was little more than a hamlet with a store and smithy before the Civil War. Originally settled by Joseph Kimbrough who opened the store in 1853, the town wasn't incorporated until May of 1871. The community experienced a boom after the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Gulf railroad built a line through the town in the late 1870s. Ash Grove served as a regional trading center for parts of Polk, Lawrence, Dade and Cedar counties and was an important rail link to Springfield, the largest city in southwest Missouri.<sup>2</sup> The rail connection and natural resources of the area also promoted the development of the quarrying and cement manufacturing as a major industry. The town is best known for the Ash Grove Lime and Portland Cement Company that was founded as a result of the construction of the rail line. While blasting for the construction of a rail line, the quality of the local Burlington limestone was noted and a company formed to exploit the resource.

The opportunities created by the railroad and the developing industries brought with it a rise in

<sup>1</sup> Ozark Resource Center. Slaves, Indians and Paupers, the Restoration of Boone Township's Old Negro Cemetery. Ozarks African American Heritage Museum, Ash Grove, MO. 2002.

<sup>2</sup> R.I. Holcombe, ed. History of Greene County, Missouri. Perkins & Horn. 1883. Republished online at <http://thelibrary.springfield.missouri.org/loclist/history/holcombe/index.html>.

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**Berry Cemetery  
Greene County, Missouri**

the African-American population in and around Ash Grove. Though free and enslaved blacks had been among the earliest settlers of the area, the mass southern migration of the 1870s and opportunities to work and purchase land brought more to the area. By 1875, about 25% of Greene County's population was African-American.<sup>3</sup> Most settled in Springfield, but there were also settlements supporting churches and, in some cases, schools in Hartsville, Marshville, Ash Grove and other Greene County communities. Little is know of those who lived and worked in the county in the late 1800s, though they may have been fairly active, owning land and participating in local politics. As of 1890, African-Americans constituted 1/3 of the registered voters in the county.

As is the case with much of the history of African-Americans in Greene County, little has been written of the community of blacks that settled in Ash Grove. One history notes that at one time there were three African-American churches in the town: a Baptist, Presbyterian and an A.M.E. congregation.<sup>5</sup> At least three buildings in Ash Grove were also used as schools for blacks. The Elm Spring school building housed African-American students prior to 1884, but the children were moved to a different building after that date. The first Ash Grove Colored school was likely built around that time and was used until a fire destroyed the building in the 1930s.<sup>6</sup> The school was rebuilt, but disbanded in 1939 due to low attendance and lack of state aid. After 1939, the school board moved the building for use as a band room and later a community meeting space. A private citizen later purchased the building for use as a garage. In 2000, Father Moses Berry moved the school to his farm in rural Greene County to save it from demolition.<sup>7</sup>

Some information about the community can be derived from the federal census. A small number of African-Americans were living in Boone Township (Ash Grove and surrounding area) when the 1870 census was taken. Of the 319 households in Boone Township in 1870, 10 families were counted as being black or mulatto. Some African-Americans are noted as living in white households, but most were establishing separate living quarters. Most of the black population is listed as coming from southeastern states such as Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia. One person, Fannie Murray, was born in Alabama. It is likely that most of those black families listed in the 1870 census had originally come to Southwest Missouri as slaves. Their location of birth in the southeast is consistent with the settlement patter of the area. The 1880 census shows little change in the African American population, though 21 of the total 385 households in the township were black or mulatto.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Katherine Lederer, Ph.D. Many Thousand Gone: Springfield's Lost Black History. Missouri Committee for the Humanities and the Gannett Foundation, 1986.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Allan Schmitt. Ash Grove, MO: Historic Sites and Points of Interest. n.p., 1984, p. 26.

<sup>6</sup> David L. Burton. A History of Rural Schools in Greene County, MO. Unpublished manuscript in the files of the Missouri State Historic Preservation office, 2000, p. 19.

<sup>7</sup> Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers, "Ash Grove Colored School." Missouri Historic Property Inventory Form, on file with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, 6/30/01.

<sup>8</sup> United States Census Office. Federal Census Records for Greene County, 1870 and 1880. Records on

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Berry Cemetery  
Greene County, Missouri**

After 1880, most of Ash Grove's male African-American population apparently worked for the Ash Grove Lime and Portland Cement Company (now Ash Grove Cement Company). The company opened in 1882 as the Ash Grove White Lime Association and operated a quarry and lime kilns in the general area for several decades. The 1900 census showed an increase in black and mulatto families in the area to 44 of 361 total households. A majority of men were listed as laborers in the limekilns. This trend continued as noted in the 1910 census. The African-American population fell after 1910 when Ash Grove Lime moved to Galloway, Missouri. Population declined further after the kilns moved out of Ash Grove in 1935. By this time, most of the black population had moved to find jobs or a better quality of life.

Though many of the African-Americans who lived in and around Ash Grove were laborers in local farms and at the limekilns, several families owned farms and other property in the area. It was these property-owning families that made up the core of the community and helped support its institutions.

One such family was the William H. and Caroline Berry family that owned a farm near Ash Grove. The first record of William is in the 1870 census in Boone Township (Greene County). He is listed as a twenty-one year old, male mulatto born in Arkansas. Unusual for his time, William is shown as having property worth \$150. It is believed he was free born and oral history reports that he "rode into Ash Grove driving a fancy matched team of Percheron horses with shiny, new, brass-studded driving harnesses."<sup>9</sup> His marriage to Caroline Boone was recorded in Cedar County, Missouri on November 25, 1872.<sup>10</sup> Their household is shown in the 1880 census with William as age 36 and born in Tennessee. Caroline's age is noted as 36 and born in Missouri. She was the daughter of Maria Boone, a slave of Nathan Boone.

William H. Berry gained deed to the forty-acre farm, including the acre dedicated to the cemetery, in 1881 from the Saint Louis and Dan Francisco Railway Company for \$300. The land has been passed through the descendants of William and Caroline Berry. When William died in 1917 the land was left to his heirs, Ellis, Frank, Luther, Della and Dillard (a grandson) Berry. The others purchased Dillard Berry's interest on June 14, 1917. Luther and Mamie White Berry remained on the farm until their deaths. Mamie died in 1967, leaving the property to her sons Lawrence, Fred and Charles Jr. Lawrence bought out the other two heirs for \$1 each and remained on the family farm until his death. He left the property to his nephew, Father Moses Berry, who recorded the deed in 1995.<sup>11</sup>

William H. Berry was a leader and man of substance in the African-American community

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file with the Greene County library, Ash Grove, MO.

<sup>9</sup> Ozark Resource Center.

<sup>10</sup> Greene County Archives and Record Center. Bulletin Number forty Five: Black Families of the Oxarks, Vol. 1 and II. Springfield, MO.

<sup>11</sup> Greene County Department of Records and Deeds. Deed Record Books 41, 275, 283, 1475, and 2448. Greene County Courthouse, Springfield, MO.

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**Berry Cemetery**  
**Greene County, Missouri**

around Ash Grove. As a leader and land owner, he saw the need of a dedicated burial ground for African-Americans in his area. Around 1875, Berry set aside an acre of land on his farm for the burial of [former] "slaves, paupers and Indians." None of these groups were permitted burial in the Ash Grove Cemetery.

The creation of a dedicated burial site for African Americans in the late 1800s and early 1900s appears to be a rare occurrence in Greene County. Before the Civil War, most enslaved blacks were buried, often in unmarked graves, on the property owner's land. One such plot is documented on the Nathan Boone homestead outside of Ash Grove. Some predominantly white church congregations also set aside a portion of their rural cemeteries for the interment of African-Americans. The Danforth Church in Nogo, for example, set aside a small section of its cemetery for African-Americans. African-American burials can also be found in church cemeteries in Cave Springs and Mt. Zion.<sup>12</sup> The Berry Cemetery, appears to be one of a very few and possibly only, cemetery set aside for and by African-Americans in Greene County in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The Berry Cemetery lies off the main road within the forty acres William H. Berry farmed. Commonly African-American cemeteries in rural areas are in remote locations on less fertile land. At the time of its creation William Berry was one of the few blacks that owned land in the area. The acre of land used as a cemetery was deeded over as a public cemetery by William H. and Caroline Berry on 24 May 1910. The trustees of the cemetery were H. Harvey, Sip Ellison, and J.F. Murray.

There are approximately 50 marked graves in the cemetery, and likely several unmarked plots. The markers range from fieldstones laid on the graves to professional carved, though modest, headstones. The earliest marked grave belongs to Jocy Bell Perryman (1881-1882), infant daughter of B. and M.A. Perryman. Other graves with markers from the 1880s include those of Alma Oliver (an infant), John Mason (aged 51), and Lulie and William Harvey (children of Rev. Harvey). Fifteen marked graves are those of people born before 1865 and were likely to have been slaves. There are also three mounds that, according to family history, are Indian gravesites.

The cemetery represents a cross-section of the African-American population in and around Ash Grove at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and followed the rise and decline of the population levels in the area. After the Civil War, the black community around Ash Grove had limited options for burying the dead. The city's cemetery was whites-only as were many family and church cemeteries in the area. Berry's donation of land for a cemetery filled the void and was used by the community for just over 100 years. Though the last burial did not occur until 1978, the use of the cemetery fell drastically after 1910 when a major employer of African-American labor, Ash Grove Lime, moved much of its operations from the city. The cemetery use peaked between 1900 and 1910. Only one burial occurred in the 1920s, that of Maude Harvey, and

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<sup>12</sup> Lederer, n.p.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Berry Cemetery  
Greene County, Missouri**

none are recorded in the 1930s. There were nine burials found that dated from 1947 to 1978. These later burials are primarily descendants of William H. Berry.

The surnames on grave markers in the cemetery represent common laborers as well as prominent leaders in the African-American community around Ash Grove. Four names, in particular, stand out as leaders in the community: William H. Berry, farmer and landowner; Reverend H. Harvey, minister; and farmers Sip Ellison and J.F. Murray. All of these men are buried in the cemetery or have family members interred there. Rev. Harvey was the minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Ash Grove<sup>13</sup> and Sip Ellison was a trustee of the Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Harvey, Ellison and Murray were also trustees for the cemetery after it went public in 1910.

Oral as well as written documentation highlight some of the lives of people buried in Berry Cemetery. Mother Charity James, who is buried next to the Simmons family, was born in 1842 as a slave. According to Father Moses Berry, family tradition is that she was a worker on the Underground Railroad in another part of the country. She lived Ash Grove with her sons who worked in the limekilns.

Nelson Danforth, also buried in the cemetery, was the son of a femal slave and a free, half-blooded Cherokee. His parents came to southwest Missouri with slave-owner Erskine Danforth in the 1830s. Nelson was born on Danforth's farm east of Springfield in 1851. In 1936, at the age of 85, he gave an interview as part of the WPA slave narrative documentation project. The interview gives an account of his life on the Danforth farm. During the Civil War, Nelson went to Texas with Jim Danforth, Erskine's oldest son, who "was not inclined to the Confederacy and slavery." After the war Nelson met the Frank Frazier family with home he returned to Ash Grove.<sup>14</sup>

Frank Lewis "Fireball" Yokum and his wife are two of the later burials. Mr. Yokum was a soldier during WWI, played a season with the Kansas City Monarchs baseball team, and returned to Ash Grove to raise his family. The Monarchs played in the Negro League, but also played exhibition games with white professional All Star teams. During the year Yokum played with the Monarchs, the team barnstormed through Missouri playing local teams, including those in Springfield and Joplin.<sup>15</sup>

Berry Cemetery is also the final resting place of Maria Boone and Caroline Boone Berry. The mother and daughter were slaves of the Nathan Boone family. Nathan, son of Daniel Boone, was an early settler near Ash Grove and is well known for his distinguished military career.

<sup>13</sup> Black Families of the Ozarks.

<sup>14</sup> Mabel E. Meeler. "Slave Narratives from the Rawick Papers," 1936. Found online at the University of Missouri-St. Louis Thomas Jefferson Library Reference Department. [www.umsli.edu/services/library/blacstudies/danforth.htm](http://www.umsli.edu/services/library/blacstudies/danforth.htm). Accessed on October 24, 2002.

<sup>15</sup> Janet Bruce. The Kansas City Monarchs: Champions of Black Baseball, University Press of Kansas. 1985.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Berry Cemetery**  
**Greene County, Missouri**

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Caroline was the wife of William H. Berry who established the cemetery in 1875.

These are just a few of the lives and stories represented by the Berry Cemetery. The cemetery is the only remaining physical link to the community of African-Americans that lived, worked and built a community around Ash Grove. The church buildings are gone and schools have been moved or demolished. The descendents of the Berry's have dedicated themselves to preserving the cemetery and documenting the rich heritage of their family and the community that the cemetery served.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 9

**Berry Cemetery  
Greene County, Missouri**

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- Greene county Archives and Records Office of the County Clerk. Index of Springfield Land office 1833- 1892. Archives and Records Office, Springfield, MO.
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- Ozarks Genealogical Society. Greene County Cemeteries Volume II. Springfield, MO, 1988.
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 10

**Berry Cemetery**  
**Greene County, Missouri**

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United States Census Office. Federal Census Records for Greene County 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910. Records on file at the Greene County Library, Ash Grove, MO.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10, 11 and photos Page 11

**Berry Cemetery  
Greene County, Missouri**

### LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Berry Cemetery- Northwest corner of Northeast ¼ of Northwest ¼ Section 20, Township 30N<sup>th</sup>, Range 24 West, and thence run south 300 feet then east 517 feet for a place of beginning. Then south 208 17/100 feet, then east 20817/100 feet, then north 208 17/100 feet to the place of beginning containing in all one acre. (Greene County Dept. of Records and Deeds, Book #275)

### JUSTIFICATION

The legal description was taken from a warranty deed in Book 275 Page 590 in which William and Caroline Berry sold the property of one acre for a public cemetery to H. Harvey, Sip Ellison and J. F. Murray Trustees on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, 1910. (Greene County Dept. of Records and Deeds)

### 11: Prepared by:

Editing and revisions to text were made by:

Tiffany Patterson, National Register Coordinator  
Missouri State Historic Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65109

### PHOTO LOG

Photographer: J.D. Slaughter

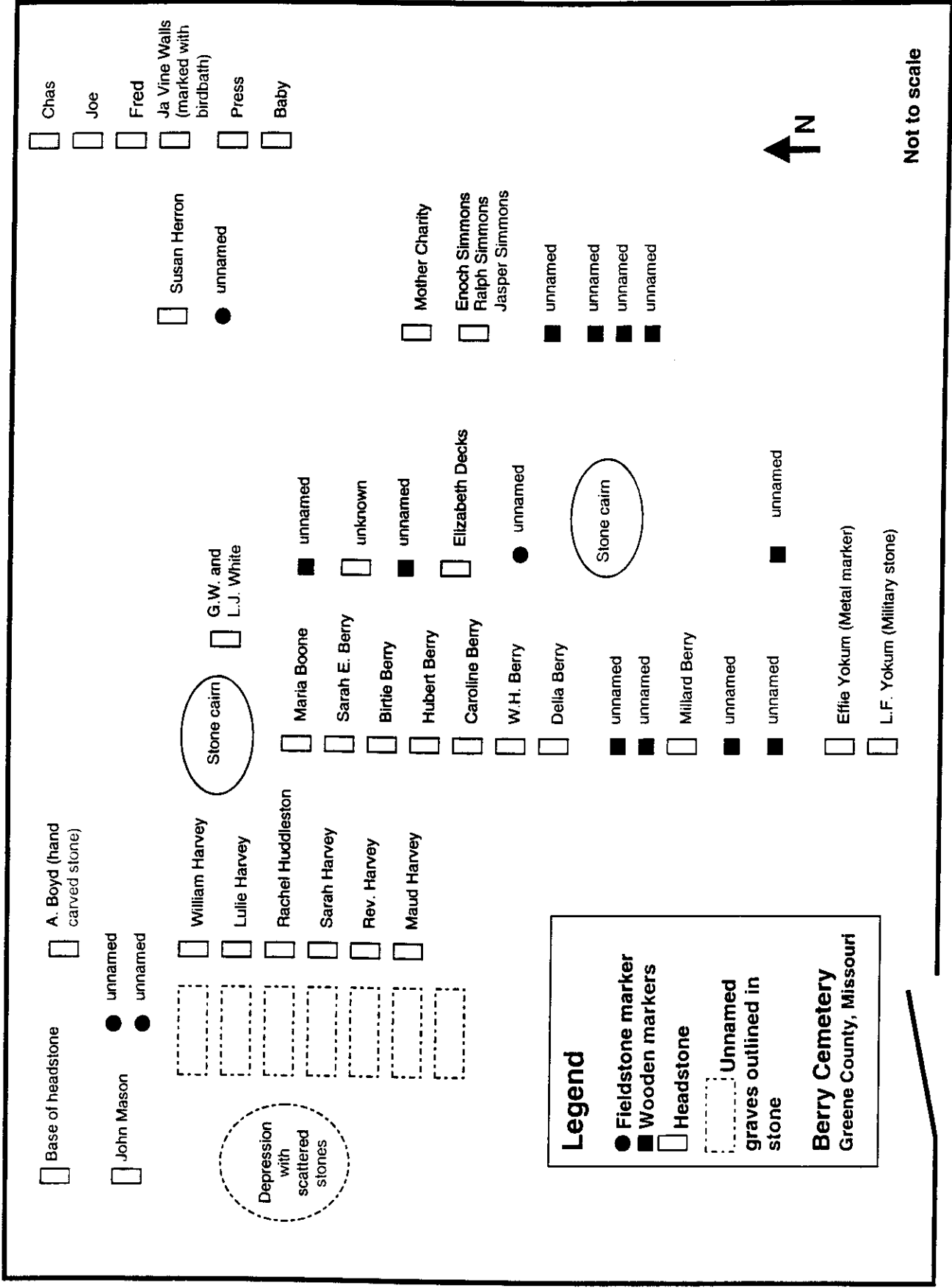
Date of Photos: October 17, 2002

Location of Negatives: Gail Emrie, 8052 N. Devonwood Lane, Fair Grove, MO 65648.

1. View of cemetery from gate looking northeast.
2. Stone burial mound, looking toward northeast.
3. Berry family markers.
4. Marker for Maria Boone, slave of Nathan Boone.
5. Grave with thin stone slabs outlining grave.
6. Marker of Caroline Boone Berry, wife of William H. Berry
7. Marker of William H. Berry.
8. Harvey family graves with stone mound in background.
9. Concrete birdbath in Walls family area.
10. Marker of Lewis Frank Yokum.

220'

195'



Base of headstone  
 John Mason  
 A. Boyd (hand carved stone)  
 William Harvey  
 Lullie Harvey  
 Rachel Huddleston  
 Sarah Harvey  
 Rev. Harvey  
 Maud Harvey

Depression with scattered stones

Stone cairn

G.W. and L.J. White

Maria Boone

Sarah E. Berry

Birtie Berry

Hubert Berry

Caroline Berry

W.H. Berry

Della Berry

unnamed

unnamed

Millard Berry

unnamed

unnamed

unnamed

Effie Yokum (Metal marker)

L.F. Yokum (Military stone)

Susan Herron

unnamed

Mother Charity

Enoch Simmons

Ralph Simmons

Jasper Simmons

unnamed

unnamed

unnamed

unnamed

Elizabeth Decks

unnamed

Stone cairn

Chas

Joe

Fred

Ja Vine Walls (marked with birdbath)

Press

Baby

**Legend**

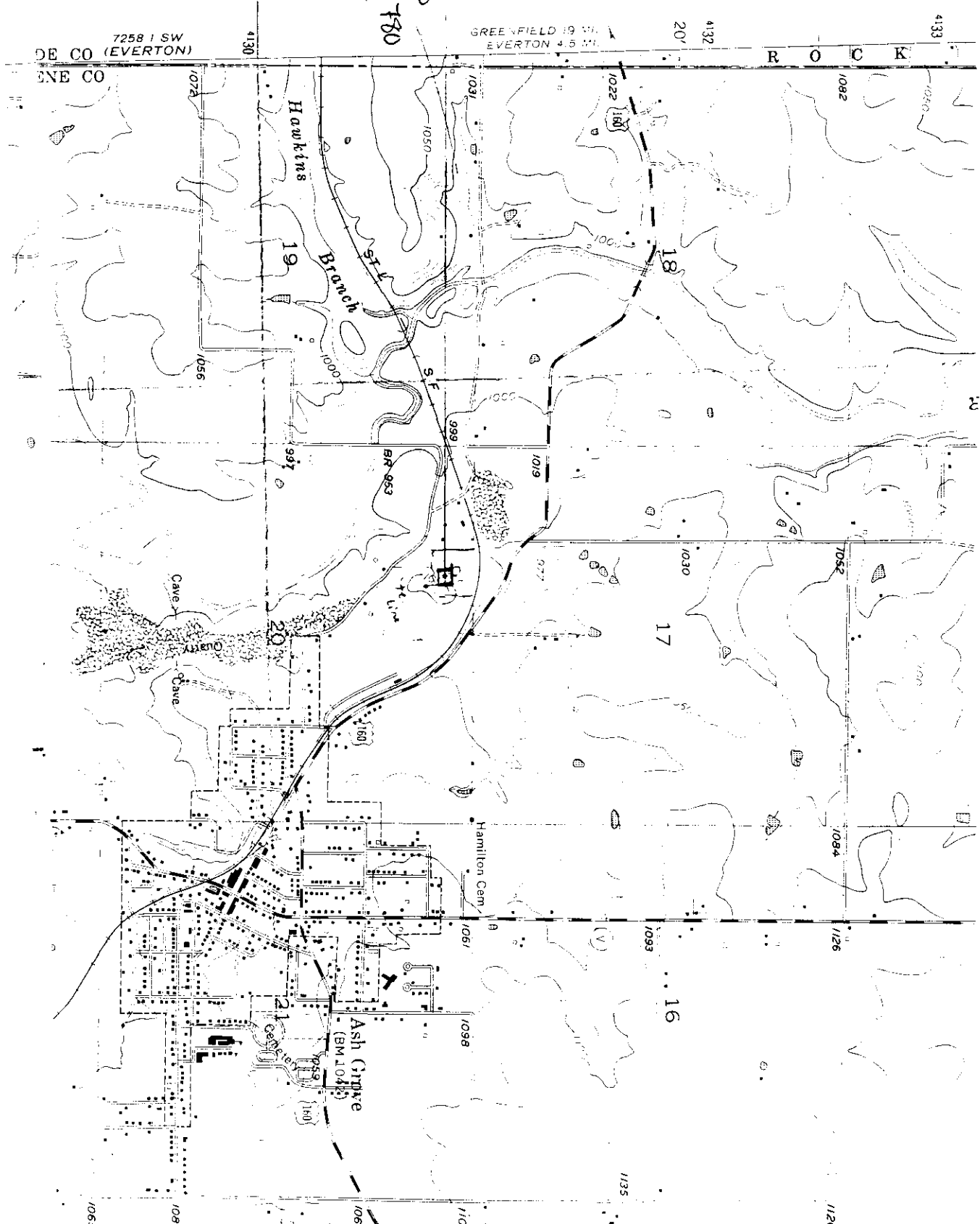
- Fieldstone marker
- Wooden markers
- Headstone
- ⋯ Unnamed graves outlined in stone

**Berry Cemetery**  
Greene County, Missouri



Not to scale

Berry Cemetery  
Ash Grove vicinity  
Greene County, Mo  
15/446 (S&W) / 4130 780



@ 195' to Jena →

1030'

↑  
NORTH

BERRY CEMETERY

- HEADSTONE
- WOODEN POST MARKER
- ✚ WOODEN CROSS
- FIELDSTONE MARKER
- FOOTSTONE

10'  
—

Photo 1 →



NOTE:  
 2 HEADSTONES  
 JOCY BELL PERRYMAN,  
 ALMA OLIVER, plus 2  
 FOOTSTONES LEANING  
 AGAINST REV. HARVEY'S  
 STONE

DEPRESSION  
 WITH  
 SCATTERED  
 STONES

ONE INCH BY EIGHTEEN  
 INCH SLABS OUTLINE  
 GRAVES WEST OF  
 HARVEY GRAVES.  
 NO NAMES.

Photo 5 →

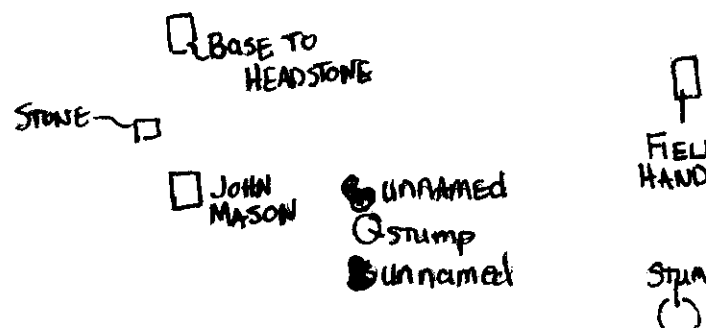
Photo 3

Photo 2

FENCE

gate

- 220' - TO FENCE



NOTE:

2 HEADSTONES, JOEY BELL PERRYMAN, ALMA OLIVER, PLUS 2 FOOTSTONES LEANING AGAINST REV. HARVEY'S STONE

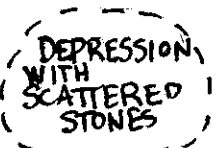
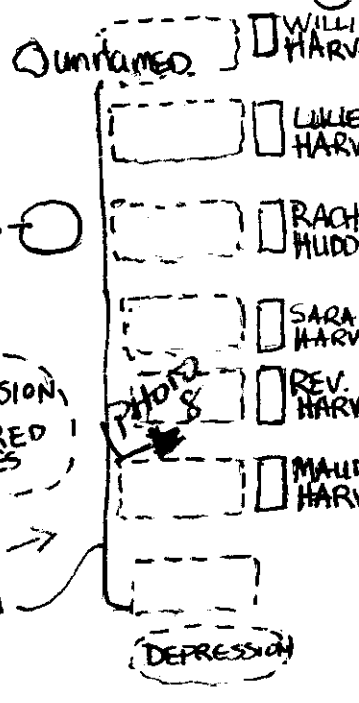


Photo 5 →

ONE INCH BY EIGHTEEN INCH SLABS OUTLINE GRAVES WEST OF HARVEY GRAVES. NO NAMES.



@ 195' to gene →

↑ NORTH

BERRY CEMETERY

- HEADSTONE
- WOODEN POST MARKER
- ✚ WOODEN CROSS
- FIELD STONE MARKER
- FOOTSTONE

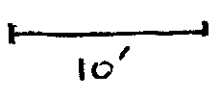


Photo 1 →

Photo 2 →



Fence

- 220' - TO EC...

1.30'

Stump  
(DEPRESSION)  
STONE ENGRAVED  
ABOVE

Bird Bath →  
SUSAN HERRON  
CHAS  
JOE  
FRED  
JA VINE WALLS  
PRESS  
BABY  
TREE

● unnamed

STONE DEPRESSION  
STONE CAIRN

Photo →  
MARIA BOONE  
SARAHE BERRY  
GW. LJ. WHITE

● unnamed  
ILLEGIBLE  
● unnamed

BIRTIE BERRY TREE  
HUBERT BERRY  
CAROLINE BOONE BERRY  
TREE

ELIZABETH DECKS  
● unnamed  
FOOTSTONE R.S.

MOTHER CHARITY  
FOOTSTONE E.S.  
ENOCH SIMMONS  
RALPH SIMMONS  
JASPER SIMMONS

TREE

WH BERRY  
DEIA BERRY

● unnamed  
● unnamed  
● unnamed

TREE  
STONE CAIRN

● unnamed

● unnamed  
● unnamed  
MILLARD BERRY  
● unnamed  
● unnamed

● unnamed

PORTABLE STORAGE BUILDING

EFFIE YOKUM (metal marker)  
L.F. YOKUM (military stone)

KDJ 1971998

G. EMERIE

Stone









WILLIAM  
BROWN

born  
Aug. 5, 1819  
died  
Dec. 19, 1899





CAROLINE M. WIFE OF  
W. H. BERRY  
AUG. 25, 1850  
SEPT. 8, 1914



IN MEMORY OF

W. H. & C. BERRY

DECEASED

1860

W. H. & C. BERRY

1860

1860

1860

1860

1860

1860