NPS Form 10-900
**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Wolf Cemetery
Other names/site number: BA0096
Name of related multiple property listing: **N/A**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

## 2. Location

Street & number: Baxter CR 68
City or town: Norfork State: AR County: Baxter
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

**___national** **___statewide** **_x_local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

**_x_A** **___B** **___C** **___D**

Francis M McLevain Jan. 14, 2013

**Signature of certifying official/Title:** **Date**

**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

**Signature of commenting official:** **Date**

**Title :** **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

Wolf Cemetery
Name of Property

Baxter, Arkansas
County and State

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

for Edson H. Beall 3.13.13

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

| | |
|---|---|
| Private: | X |
| Public – Local | |
| Public – State | |
| Public – Federal | |

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

| | |
|---|---|
| Building(s) | |
| District | |
| Site | X |
| Structure | |
| Object | |

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| 20 | | objects |
| | 20 | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

**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.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Sandstone, concrete, marble, limestone

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

**Summary Paragraph**

**SUMMARY**

The Wolf Cemetery is located south of Norfork on the south side of Arkansas Highway 5 and approximately three miles south on Baxter County Road 68. The entrance to the cemetery is off CR 68 just after crossing the Missouri Pacific railroad tracks. The cemetery contains 23 marked graves with legible inscriptions of which 22 are historic. Approximately 75 unmarked field stones designate an undetermined number of burials.

No buildings are associated with the cemetery. The monuments for the marked burials are simple commercially-produced tablet-style markers in block, round or slant-shouldered forms except for three hand-crafted markers. Materials found in the cemetery are predominately

limestone and sandstone. A tri-partite granite stone erected in 2007 is located at the entrance to the burial ground.

## Narrative Description

## ELABORATION

The Wolf Cemetery is situated in the White River Valley of north Arkansas south of Norfork in Baxter County. Access to the cemetery is from Arkansas Highway 5 on Baxter County Road 68. The cemetery is situated on the first rise of a forested hill above a narrow stretch of bottom land bordering the north bank of the White River. Across the river the hills of the Ozark National Forest rise steeply. It was established in the 1820s as a family cemetery. No church or other building was ever associated with the cemetery and there are no other burial grounds in the near vicinity. The graves are oriented east to west in random arrangement. The majority of burials during the antebellum years were marked simply with fieldstones bearing no inscriptions. The earliest markers are hand-crafted from limestone and sandstone. The northern boundary of the cemetery is the right-of-way for the Missouri Pacific Railroad that also borders the access lane from CR 68. The east, south and west boundaries of the cemetery are enclosed with simple wire fencing attached to wood posts. Forested land adjoins the west boundary and beyond the railroad right-of-way to the north. The only residential property near the cemetery is a small circa 1950s farmstead that adjoins the east and south boundaries. The entrance to the cemetery is not gated and is identified by three circa 2007 granite memorial tablets approximately three feet tall standing upright on a single cement base. The center tablet is a replicated design of the earliest 1823 marked grave in the cemetery. The tablets on either side list the persons who are considered to be buried in the cemetery with identification of those who have marked gravestones.

The majority of burials during the antebellum years were marked simply with fieldstones bearing no inscriptions. The earliest markers are hand-crafted from limestone and sandstone. Markers reflecting mass-produced Victorian-era gravestone design are of simple tablet-style with square, rounded, or slanted-shoulders. There are no high-style markers in the cemetery. A few examples of cement coping and paving exist with no stones indicating that original markers are missing or buried beneath soil and grass. Only one late-twentieth century burial exists within the boundaries of the cemetery.

The iconography of the mass-produced markers is confined to commonly found symbols such as lambs commemorating the innocence of children and an open Bible held by an upraised hand symbolizing the human heart open to God.[1] Several markers bear symbols of fraternal organizations. It is possible that a number of the markers might have makers marks but these are not visible as most of the headstones are sunken or have been damaged.

***Breakdown of Marked Burials***
***Settlement Period***

1820-1829 = 1

1830-1839 = 0

1840-1849 = 1

***Total – 2***

***Victorian Period***

1850-1859 = 2

1860-1869 = 1

1870-1879 = 9

1880-1889 = 8

***Total – 20***

***Post-Victorian Period***

1980-1989 = 1

***Total - 1***

There are approximately 75 unmarked fieldstones in the Wolf Cemetery with no burial dates incised on them.

***Non-historic Objects***

The only non-historic objects in the Wolf Cemetery are the wire fencing on wood posts that surrounds the east, south, and west boundaries and a tri-partite granite marker erected in

[1] "Types and Explanations of Headstones," online article found at www.ncgenweb.us/cemetery/typeheadstones., accessed September 5, 2012.

2007 at the entrance to the cemetery. This marker features a round-shouldered monument replicating the historic marker of Maldred Wolf, the first marked stone with a death date of 1823. This marker is flanked by two square shouldered tablets that are inscribed with the names of the interred, divided into Territorial Period, 1820-1836, Pre-Civil War, 1836-1861 and Post-Civil War, 1861-1904. Each time period contains a listing of names of the corresponding interred and their death dates. Two asterisks (**) indicate unmarked burials recorded in family Bibles and obituaries.

***Landscape***

There is no intentional landscaping associated with the Wolf Cemetery. Existing features of the landscape are totally unplanned and natural resulting from decades of abandonment from circa 1910-1980. Decades-old deciduous trees have voluntarily grown within the bounds of the cemetery in an aberrant pattern. The absence of ornamentation and intentional plantings preserves the cultural context of a common rural yeoman family burial ground of the 19th century. The cemetery was cleared in the 1980s and is presently owned and maintained by the Wolf Cemetery Endowment Fund, established in 2007. [2]

**INTEGRITY**

The Wolf Cemetery was established in the 1820s during the European settlement period in the White River Valley of the Ozark Highlands. It is one of the earliest surviving cemeteries of this period in North Arkansas and the earliest extant cemetery in the area of Norfork, Baxter County, Arkansas. It served throughout the 19th century as a burial ground for the inter-related Wolf and Adams families who were among the earliest yeoman farmers to establish homesteads in the immediate vicinity. Like most rural southern yeoman families in the early 19th century, burials took place in graveyards established on homesteads as the population was yet too scattered for development of community graveyards. [3] The 1823 hand-crafted head and foot stones for Maldred Wolf, wife of regional political leader and merchant Major Jacob Wolf,

[2] The Wolf Cemetery Endowment Fund: Cemetery deed.
[3] John R. Stilgoe, "Common Landscape of America, 1580-1845," (Yale University Press: New Haven and London, 1982), 220.

provides context for the time period the cemetery was established. There are no other historic symbols of the 19th century settlement period remaining in the immediate vicinity of the Wolf Cemetery. Neighboring structures include a mid-to-late- 20th century small farm adjoining the cemetery on the east and south boundaries, tourist/recreational lodge and rental cabins, and a campground for recreational vehicles collectively known as Red's Landing. Historic names for the cemetery and surrounding vicinity have included Pleasant Run, Wolf-Adams Cemetery, Chastain Cemetery, and Herron, reflecting names for geographical features and/or changes in land ownership.[4]

The Wolf Cemetery is the oldest surviving cemetery surrounding the town of Norfork that represents the settlement period. The site of Norfork was initially established in 1824 as the town of Liberty and populated by the Wolf and Adams families and their descendants. Norfork is still the only incorporated town in the area. Support for the Wolf Cemetery as the earliest extant cemetery representing the area's settlement period comes from a survey of known cemeteries in the vicinity of present-day Norfork (historic Liberty) in Baxter County. Following is a listing of the area cemeteries with the earliest burial for each.

Source: *Arkansas Cemeteries: Baxter County Arkansas Cemetery*[5]

| **CEMETERY** | **EARLIEST BURIAL** |
|---|---|
| *Arkana* | *1891* |
| *Burnt School House* | *1884* |
| *Galatia* | *1883* |
| *Hutchison* | *1880* |
| *Lone Rock* | *1901* |
| *Lucy Martin* | *1911* |
| *Martin* | *1871* |
| *Martin Springs* | *1894* |
| *Norfork* | *1912* |

[4] ArkansasGravestones.org – "The Wolf Cemetery,"online article found at http://arkansasgravestones.org/cemetery.php?cemID=6378&pg=1
[5] "Arkansas Cemeteries: Baxter County Arkansas Cemetery, online article found at http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/-arcemete/baxter/baxter.htm.

*Wolf* (Herron) *1823*

## 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.)

[x] 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.)

[ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

[ ] B. Removed from its original location

[ ] C. A birthplace or grave

[x] D. A cemetery

[ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

[ ] F. A commemorative property

[ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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

**Period of Significance**
1823-1873

**Significant Dates**
1823, 1873

**Significant Person**
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**
N/A

**Architect/Builder**
N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

## SUMMARY

The Wolf Cemetery in the vicinity of Norfork is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A, Criteria Consideration D with local significance** for the role of the interred in the formation of the political and economic character of early 19th century Izard County. The Wolf Cemetery is the only known burial ground within the city limits of Norfork. The Martin Springs Cemetery is the closest but is located across the White River from the town, approximately two miles north of Wolf Cemetery. The three interments date from 2005 and 1894. As the earliest known burial ground the Wolf Cemetery is representative of the settlement period of Izard County, known as Baxter County since 1873. The Wolf Cemetery that originated in the 1820s as the burial ground for Wolf and Adams pioneering families in the hills of the White River Valley of the Ozark Highlands is now once again, under the private ownership of the descendants of the founders. In the earliest decades of its existence common fieldstones were acceptable markers for the deceased whose families lived nearby and understood where loved ones had been buried. Not until the improved transportation and increased population of the 1850s did commercially-produced gravestones become readily available to mark graves. Even then the families of this rural agricultural area chose humble markers of simple design. Extensive urban intrusion has never reached the isolated location of the Wolf Cemetery enabling it to retain a high degree of its 19th century integrity as a cultural statement of the settlement period.

## ELABORATION

*County and Town History*

Baxter County is part of the physiographic and geologic highland region known as the Ozark Plateau. The White River winds through rugged, forested hills of the southern part of the county creating fertile bottom lands in the flood plains along its banks. The area surrounding the convergence of the North Fork River with the White River in the central part of the county has a

unique history of multi-ethnic hunters in the 18th and early 19th centuries displaced by European yeoman farmers in the decades following the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. In 1818 - 1819 geographer, geologist, and ethnologist Henry Rowe Schoolcraft toured the White River Valley. In his journal he described a wilderness area that was scarcely populated except for isolated pockets along the river's edges. In mid-January 1819 he arrived at a trader's cabin located opposite the mouth of the North Fork River and recorded in his journal:

> *...Here were beautiful views for the landscape-painter...and advantageous situation for the man of business...Here, the innumerable streams...collected into two large and beautiful rivers, unite, and from this point forth to the Mississippi, form a river navigable to all seasons, for boats of the largest burden.*[6]

Before the end of that year the extensive Wolf and Adams families arrived in the White River Valley and began the process of transforming the wilderness.[7] Following open range practices for raising livestock, the deciduous nut trees of the forested hills provided mast for settlers' hogs while high, intermittent plateaus provided natural pastures for the cattle. In the early 1800s excess livestock and furs harvested from hunting the native wildlife were floated downriver on rafts to distant markets and sold for cash or bartered for supplies not produced locally. In addition the abundant springs assured plentiful fresh water for farmsteads.

The Wolf and Adams families started arriving in the area under the governmental jurisdiction of Lawrence County, Missouri Territory. With the creation of Arkansas Territory in 1819 the area became Lawrence County, Arkansas Territory. In 1820 the county designation had changed becoming Independence County. The county designation again changed when Izard County was created on October 27, 1825. That designation stood for nearly fifty years until the post-Civil War period when Baxter County was created on March 24, 1873. [8]

By 1830 the population of Izard County was 1,266 increasing by approximately 1,000 persons each decade until 1860 when the population grew to 7,215. Following the Civil War

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[6] Tommy Jameson, Joan L. Gould, "Jacob Wolf House: Historic Structure Report," (Southern Reprographics: Little Rock), 2004, 25-27.
[7] *Ibid*, 31.
[8] Susan Varno, "Izard County," Information accessed from The Encylopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net; Jane Andrewson, "Baxter County," Information accessed from The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net.

population declined slightly but by the time Baxter County was established it was on the rise once more. The first railroad in the area was constructed circa 1903. The Norfork Dam, dedicated in 1952 by President Harry S. Truman, transformed the North Fork River from the wilderness described by Schoolcraft in 1819 into an internationally recognized fishing and recreation area.[9]

The allied Wolf and Adams families of German and Scots-Irish ancestry arrived in the valley circa 1820 from Hopkins County, Kentucky. At the convergence of the North Fork River with the White, individual family units staked their claims on fertile bottom lands both north and south. Their arrival is documented in Missouri and Arkansas territorial records; even Kentucky court records and land deeds note their relocation. All were yeoman farmers. Within only a few years they found need to establish a dedicated burial site for their inter-related families. The Wolf Cemetery remained their primary burial ground for the remainder of the 19th century.

The Wolf and Adams families had formed an alliance as neighbors in Kentucky. During the early years in the White River Valley the two families inter-married. The founding families and their offspring would come to yield power and influence on area development as well as the broader Arkansas political arena.

One of the most senior members of the extensive Wolf - Adams connections arriving in the White River Valley was the elder Jacob Wolf (b.1740; d.1831) who was in his late-70s or early 80s. He had been a blacksmith in Salisbury, North Carolina, before moving west. Family histories state that he died in Izard County where he lived with his son Michael Wolf (b.1764; d.1831) and is buried at the Wolf Cemetery. A fieldstone carved with the initials "JW" in Wolf Cemetery is thought to be the site of his interment. There is no record of his wife's name or her burial site. Michael was trained by his father as a blacksmith, and was recognized as the leader of his family unit as it was on his land, in early 1820, that the family burial plot was established. Michael and his wife Mary Magdalena Catherine Hedrick Wolf (b.1770; d.1831), brought their thirteen children, ages 34 years to six years, with them to the White River. Michael farmed land on the river. Both Michael and Mary are buried in unmarked graves in the cemetery.

[9] Varno, Andrewson.

The White River Valley was part of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. The original General Land Office surveys were still under way by United States government surveyors during the 1820s. Until these surveys were completed lands could not be patented (deeded by the government) to individuals. From 1821 to 1831 men of the Wolf and Adams families took part in this vital process. In 1828 Michael Wolf (b.1809; d.1847), son of the senior Michael Wolf, served as a chain-carrier for surveys of several of the townships in the immediate area of his home and the Wolf Cemetery.[10] Lorenzo Dow Wolf (b.1811; d.1857), son of the senior Michael, inherited his father's homestead and in 1835 received a patent on the land where it was located in Section 3, Township 17 North, and Range 12 West. Michael and Lorenzo's graves are unmarked.[11]

The Cherokee Treaty of 1817 reserved the land opposite Michael Wolf's settlement on the White River for various Indian tribes that the U. S. government was pressuring to move westward from tribal lands east of the Mississippi River. Groups of Cherokee, Shawnees, Delaware, and other smaller Indian tribes occupied this land until they were again moved further west beyond the western territorial boundary of Arkansas in 1828.[12] As soon as the land on the opposite bank of the White River became available for white settlement, several of the Adams families established farmsteads on the fertile bottom lands. Peter F. Adams, (b. 1806; d. 1857), married to Michael and Catherine Wolf's daughter Lucinda, (b. 1809; d. 1857), was established on the western bank early enough for his fields to be documented by government surveyors on the 1829 General Land Office Survey for Section 31, Township 18 North, and Range 12 West. Peter and his wife Lucinda lie in unmarked graves. John Adams (b. 1796; d. 1840), who was married to Mary Ann Wolf Adams, (b. 1790; d. 1860), another of Michael and Catherine Wolf's daughters, patented land in Section 19, Township 18 North, and Range 12 West. Following John's death in 1840, Mary Ann Wolf Adams became the first woman in what became Baxter County to patent land under her own name when she expanded land holdings in 1859 in the

[10] Jameson and Gould, 44.
[11] "The Wolf Cemetery," accessed online at http://arkansasgravestones.org/cemetery.php?cemID=6378&pg=1; United States land patent for Lorenzo Dow Wolf, 1835, U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records, accessed online at http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/.
[12] Jameson and Gould, 31, 42.

neighboring Section 18, same township and range. John's tombstone is a commercial Gothic arch marker but Mary Ann's grave is unmarked.[13]

Major Jacob Wolf (b. 1786; d. 1863), became the most noted of Michael and Catherine's children. In every decade of the 19th century there have been numerous Jacobs among the Wolf kin. Since 1825 use of the title of Major has helped to distinguish the Jacob Wolf who was appointed by Governor George Izard as Major of the 7th Regiment of the Arkansas Territorial Militia. Probably never knowing of Schoolcraft's prediction that the mouth of the North Fork River was an *advantageous situation for the man of business*, here Major Wolf established one of the most extensive trading posts on the upper White River which was responsible, in a great part, for his notoriety.

Major Wolf's nephew M. H. Wolf recorded in 1912 that Jacob settled on the south side of the White River in 1820 about a mile below his father Michael, on whose land the Wolf cemetery was established. The Major's arrival corresponded with the relocation of a group of Shawnee and Delaware Indians who occupied land on the 1817 Cherokee Treaty lands along the White River. In 1915 Jacob's son Joseph M. Wolf wrote that his father:

> *... did a great deal of work for the Indians, making tomahawks, butcher knives, and arrowheads, for which he took in payment pelts, dried venison, and wild honey, which he shipped to New Orleans, by means of the old flat boat. On these trips, he would take with him a keel boat, and have it at the mouth of the White river. The goods he took in exchange for his products were brought to the mouth of the White River by steamboat, and then put on the keel boat. From thence, the boat was poled up the river to the mouth of the North Fork where he established a trading post.*[14]

In 1824 Wolf filed for a land patent at the mouth of the North Fork River, north of his father's land. Here he founded the town of Liberty where he established his blacksmith and carpentry shops, kept a store, and owned the ferries across both the White and North Fork

[13] United States land patent for John Adams, 1835, United States land patent for Mary Adams, 1859, U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records, accessed online at http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/.
[14] Jameson and Gould, 31-38.

Rivers. His dwelling house became the temporary seat of justice for the embryonic Izard County created on October 27, 1825.

In 1826 Wolf was appointed postmaster of Liberty and was elected to the General Assembly of Territory of Arkansas. During the 1827 session he introduced the bill that extended the western boundary of Izard to the outskirts of present-day Fayetteville. In 1829, while representing Izard County in the General Assembly, Jacob Wolf was instrumental in having the town of Liberty designated as the permanent seat of justice for the county. He donated land for the courthouse and won the bid to construct it. Circa 1829 he constructed a two-story log house with a central breezeway on the first level, often referred to in vernacular terms as a 'dogtrot,' to serve as the first Izard County Courthouse. The large upper-level room extending over the breezeway served as the courtroom. Judges and lawyers traveled from distant parts of the territory to regularly appear at the scheduled court sessions. The lower-level housed the county clerk's office.[15] Today it stands as Arkansas's oldest public structure. It was restored in 2002 with funding provided by a 1999 Courthouse Restoration Grant from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.[16]

Major Wolf, left with five children ages 6 – 14 years after his first wife Maldred (spelled Mildred in some sources), died in 1823, quickly remarried on January 8, 1824, to Elizabeth Lantz (b.1800; d.1846), widow of Jesse H. Sanders of Batesville. Elizabeth's family was known to be acquainted with a prosperous mercantile family by the name of Acheson with several business interests in the area of Wheeling, Washington County, Virginia (now West Virginia). On January 4, 1831, young John Acheson, a member of this merchant family, arrived at Batesville (south of Liberty) on the steamboat *Waverly*, with a load of merchandise destined for Major Wolf.[17] The *Waverly* was the first steamboat to ascend as far up the White River as Batesville as shortly thereafter Major Wolf's son, William M. Wolf, (b. 1812; d. 1852), captained the first steamboat to arrive at his father's landing at the mouth of the North Fork River. Wolf's Landing became a noted steamboat stop and Wolf prospered. William prospered

[15] *Ibid*, 39-51.
[16] *Ibid*, 88.
[17] Marion S. Craig and George E. Lankford, eds., "Letters From a Steamboat Passenger," *The Independence County Chronicle*, (October, 1994 – January, 1995), 11-12.

as well and became the first merchant in Buffalo (present-day Buffalo City) and Yellville. William's grave is among those unmarked fieldstones in the cemetery.

In 1833 Major Wolf used his position in the General Assembly to leverage for a road to be constructed through Izard County. It was an extension of the Military Road from Jackson, then seat of justice for Lawrence County, passing through Liberty on a course to the western boundary of Arkansas. It was authorized by the U. S. Congress in 1834 and constructed soon after bringing travelers not only to the courthouse but also to his store and ferries. During the 1830s a number of road divisions were built across Arkansas with U.S. government funding preparing the way for the mass removal of Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole Indians from the southern states west across the Mississippi River to the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma). In 1838 one contingency of approximately 1200 men, women, and children led by Cherokee sub-chief John Benge crossed the White River at a fording place above the mouth of the North Fork River. A small splinter group from the Benge contingency had taken a route through Batesville crossing the North Fork River east of Liberty. There is no record of the Benge group coming directly into Liberty but Wolf had influenced a government road initiative to his advantage. The various routes of removal have collectively come to be called the "Trail of Tears."

When the Izard County seat of justice was relocated to Athens in 1836 ownership of the log dogtrot that had served as the Izard County Courthouse reverted back to Wolf. It became known thereafter as the Jacob Wolf House. After several name changes the town that Jacob built eventually became known as Norfork, the name it bears presently.

Major Wolf continued to prosper throughout the 1850s but the Civil War brought hard times for the Wolf and Adams families as it did for most Arkansans. In April of 1862, Federal troops under the command of General Samuel R. Curtis were stationed at nearby Salem, Fulton County. From that vantage point Curtis issued orders to destroy mills, ferries, and other means of support for area residents. "Wolf's Ferry" was among the ordered targets. According to family tradition the Major was taken prisoner for physically resisting the takeover of his home and detained for several months in Batesville.

Major Jacob Wolf's body was buried, according to family accounts, in the same family cemetery on Pleasant Run where his first wife Maldred Meredith Wolf (b.1786; d.1823), and his second wife Elizabeth Lantz Sanders Wolf (b.1800; d.1846), were buried. Maldred's grave is the earliest marked grave in the Wolf Cemetery. A heart, symbolic of devotion and love, is carved on the rounded head of the rustic stone above a barely visible inscription of vernacular lettering stating:

*MALDRED WOLF*
*WAS BORN APRIL 29 1786*
*DEPARTED THIS EARTH*

The remainder of the inscription is buried beneath the soil or has broken off. The footstone for her grave site indicates her date of death as 1823, which corresponds with family records. Both the headstone and footstone are made out of limestone. Like the Major's, Elizabeth's burial is unmarked. His third wife, Cynthia Hardin Shipp, who he married in 1848, remarried and relocated after Wolf's death. By three wives Major Jacob Wolf had 14 children.[18]

By the early years of the twentieth century the Wolf Cemetery had ceased to be active with its last historic burial occurring in 1904. That burial, in an unmarked grave, was of Attie Laffoon (b.1880; d.1904). Her obituary indicated she died of typhoid fever.[19]

Over the course of its history, the Wolf Cemetery has been known as the Wolf-Adams Cemetery, Chastain Cemetery, Pleasant Run Cemetery, and Herron Cemetery. A stipulation of the 2007 deed to the Wolf Cemetery Endowment Fund established that the "said tract shall be named The Wolf Cemetery." [20]

Prior to the 1980s the Wolf Cemetery was totally over-grown with underbrush and weeds. Over the course of its existence it had been part of a pasture where cattle had stepped on and broken many of the stones. Local residents of Norfork and family descendants rehabilitated the cemetery.

[18] Jameson and Gould, 61-78.
[19] "The Wolf Cemetery."
[20] Wolf Cemetery deed, The Wolf Cemetery Endowment Fund.

***Funerary Architecture***

The majority of burials in the Wolf Cemetery during the antebellum years are denoted simply with unmarked fieldstones. A small number of the fieldstones reveal some hand-carved lettering but time and damage from past use of the cemetery as a cattle pasture have taken their toll and inscriptions have become illegible. Professionally-produced grave markers would not be readily available for decades to come when the cemetery was established in the 1820s. Local stonemasons generally did not possess the skills to craft elaborate grave markers. In addition, early residents were generally cash-poor. These same conditions existed throughout the migratory path of pioneering settlers resulting in the very practice seen for the earliest burials in the Wolf Cemetery, namely marking graves with simple fieldstones. For generations families passed along the locations where loved ones had been buried.

In spite of Major Jacob Wolf's prominence in Arkansas's settlement history, his grave is considered to be in an unmarked location in the Wolf Cemetery. Two hand-crafted grave markers establish the significance of the early origins of the Wolf Cemetery. The headstone for Maldred Wolf, the first wife of Major Jacob Wolf who died in 1823, marks the earliest burial in this cemetery. The second hand-carved headstone marks the 1840 burial of John Adams. It is fabricated from sandstone with outer layers that have eroded and delaminated. Attempts to repair the stone have reconstructed a sufficient degree of the lettering to determine the name of John Adams with his birth date of August 23, 1796, and death date of March 2, 1840. His marked burial from the early statehood period and Maldred Wolf's from the territorial period provide the evidence for the early origins of the cemetery.

Only after access to the area via steamboats and improved roadways developed did the commercially-produced Victorian form in decorative art and funerary architecture (covering the period 1837 to 1901) begin to appear in the Wolf Cemetery. Only modest forms of funerary art are represented in this 19th century rural cemetery. Iconography is confined to commonly found symbols such as a reclining lamb of God on the tablet-shaped gravestone of infant Nancy E. Herron (born and died 1877). The same lamb symbolizing innocence is found on the gravestones of Lucy Jenkins (b. 1882; d. 1884), and Ida Adell Luther (b.1872; d. 1878). A dove symbolizing

purity and peace adorns the tablet-style gravestone of Eliza J. Thomas (b.1859; d.1887). The gravestone for Fannie J. Miller (b.1835; d. 1884), features a hand holding an open Bible.

Several post-Civil War gravestones in the Wolf Cemetery feature symbols of Masonic and Independent Order of Odd Fellows fraternal organizations. Numerous members of the Wolf and Adams families were known to have been Freemasons. Masons had a strong presence in the upper White River Valley throughout the 19th century. The commercial-produced gravestones of David K. Finley (b.1842; d.1878), Azariah T. Wolf (b.1844; d.1871), John A. Mos (b.1819; d.1871), and Jacob M. Wolf (b.1838; d.1870), bear Masonic symbols indicating their membership in the fraternal organization of Freemasonry. A hand-carved gravestone for Jacob Wolf (b.1844; d.1872), reveals a hand-carved Masonic symbol. The commercially-produced gravestone of George W. Culp (b.1858; d.1882), is engraved with three linked chains, a symbol of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wolf Cemetery is the earliest extant cemetery representing the settlement period for Izard County, Arkansas. This fact has been confirmed through a survey of known burials in the county. The town of Norfork was initially established in 1824 by Major Jacob Wolf under the name of Liberty. The allied Wolf and Adams families buried in the Wolf Cemetery arrived in the area of the confluence of the White River with the North Fork River circa 1820. The pioneering settlers of these two families formed the agricultural and political growth and development of the region and state. They participated in the original land surveys conducted by the United States General Land Office and were the first male and female patentees of the land. Major Jacob Wolf was a member of the associated Wolf families and he greatly influenced the early establishment of Izard County (parent of Baxter County) when he constructed the county's first territorial courthouse circa 1829 that stands presently in the town of Norfork as the state's oldest public structure and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He was responsible for bringing the first government-sponsored roadways to the area (Military Road) and the first steamboats that contributed to the regional economic development. The Wolf Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A, Criteria**

**Consideration D** with local significance as a representation of the settlement era of Izard (now Baxter), County.

The Wolf Cemetery was established in the early 1820s as a rural family burial ground south of the town of Norfork (historic Liberty). It is the earliest known cemetery in the city limits of Norfork and the interred were responsible for shaping that area of Izard County. Its early origins are confirmed by two hand-crafted gravestones from 1823 and 1840. Its Victorian-era monuments appear only following improved transportation to the area. The cemetery ceased to be active at the end of the nineteenth century. It is presently devoid of intentional landscaping and shaded only by the sporadic placement of volunteer trees. The cemetery is surrounded by agricultural fields and forested hillsides thereby maintaining a high-degree of integrity of a nineteenth century rural family cemetery.

Only one contemporary burial exists within the confines of the cemetery and that is of the late-twentieth century owner of the land who deeded the property to the descendants of the original Wolf and Adams families buried there.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Andrewson, Jane. "Baxter County." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net.

"Arkansas Cemeteries: Baxter County Arkansas Cemetery." Online article found at http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/-arcemete/baxter/baxter.htm.

Craig, Marion S. and George Lankford, eds. "Letters From a Steamboat Passenger." *The Independence County Chronicle.* (October, 1994-January, 1995).

Jameson, Tommy, and Joan L. Gould. "Jacob Wolf House: Historic Structure Report." (Southern Reprographics: Little Rock, 2004).

Stilgoe, John R. "Common Landscape of America, 1580-1845." (Yale University Press: New Haven and London, 1982).

"Types and Explanations of Headstones." Online article found at www.ncgenweb.us/cemetery/typeheadstones.

United States land patent for Lorenzo Dow Wolf. U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records, 1835. Online article found at http://www.glorecords.blm.gov.

United States land patent for John Adams. United States land patent for Mary Adams. U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records, 1859. Online article found at http://www.glorecords.blm.gov.

Varno, Susan. "Izard County." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net.

"Wolf Cemetery, The." Online article found at http://wwwarkansasgravestones.org/cemetery.php?cemID=6378&pg=1.

Wolf Cemetery Endowment Fund. Cemetery deed.

**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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

**Primary location of additional data:**

__x__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** _____

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.44

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.16199 Longitude: -92.25769
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

**Or**
**UTM References**
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 566829 | Northing: 4002316 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

A part of Lots 38 and 39 of Sharp's White River Acres, 5th Addition, Baxter County, Arkansas. Beginning at the NW corner of said Lot 38, thence S 19 degrees 25'E, 712.1 feet along the Westerly line of Lot 38 to the Southerly R/W line of the MOPAC Railroad; thence N 71 degrees 27' E, 193.8 feet along the Southerly R/W of said R/R to the true point of the beginning; thence S 18 degrees 33'E, 100.0 feet; thence S 71 degrees, 27'W, 192.3 feet; thence N 19 degrees 25'W, 100 feet to Southerly R/W line of the MOPAC Railroad; Thence N 71 degrees 27'E, 193.8 feet along said R/W line to the true point of beginning; containing 0.44 acres more or less.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries contain all the property within the Wolf Cemetery that retains historic integrity.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Holly Hope
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

street & number: 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail holly@arkansasheritage.org.
telephone: 501 324-9148
date: 01/11/13

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County: State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of ___.

**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.460 et seq.).
**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Wolf Cemetery, Baxter County Road 68, Norfork**

UTM NAD 83 Zone 15
566829 E
4002316 N

N

**Wolf Cemetery, Baxter County Road 68, Norfork**

UTM NAD 83 Zone 15
566829 E
4002316 N

N

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter Co, AR
Holly Hope
9/05/12
AHPP
View from E
#1

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter Co AR
Holly Hope
9/05/12
AHPP
View from SE
#2

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter, AR
Holly Hope
9/5/12
AHPP
View from SW
#3

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter, AR
Holly Hope
9/5/12
AHPP
View from SW
# 4

AZRIAH T WOLF
WIFE OF
NANCY E. WOLF
BORN
FEB 2 1844
DIED
DEC 4 1871

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter, AR
Holly Hope
09/05/12
AHPP
View from W
#5

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter, AR
Holly Hope
9/5/12
AHPP
View from S
# 6

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter, AR
Holly Hope
9/5/12
AHPP
View from W
#7

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter, AR
Holly Hope
9/5/12
AHPP
View from W
#8

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter, AR
Holly Hope
9/5/12
AHPP
View from N
#9

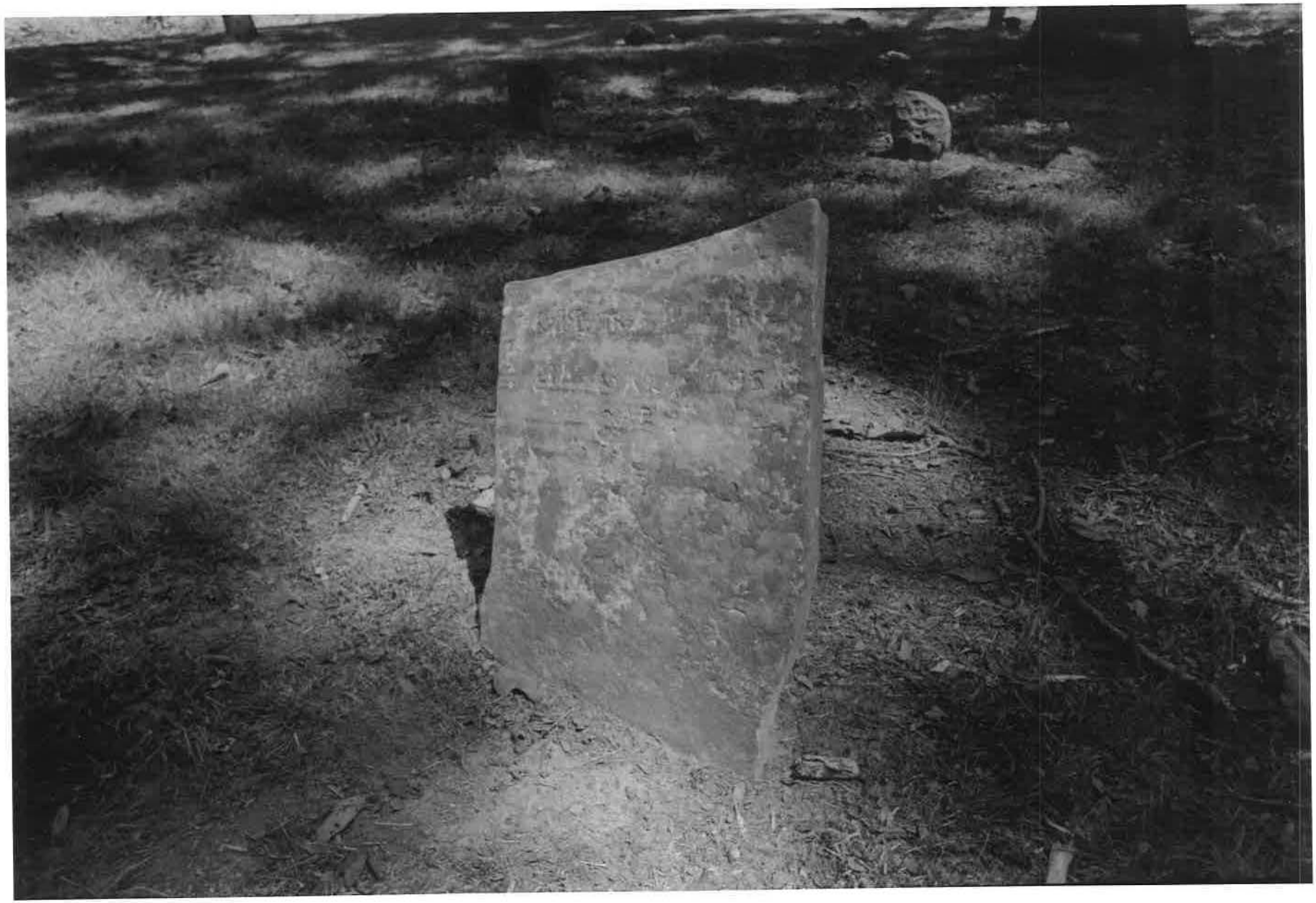
TERRITORIAL PERIOD 1820 - 1830
PRE-CIVIL WAR 1830 - 1861
MALDRED WOLF
1786 - 1823

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter, AR
Holly Hope
9/5/12
AHPP
View from N
#10

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter, AR
Holly Hope
9/5/12
AHPP
View from W
#11

1823

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter, AR
Holly Hope
9/5/12
AHPP
View from E
#12



Wolf Cemetery
Baxter, AR
Holly Hope
9/5/12
AHPP
View from W
# 13

HUSBAND OF
FRANCES J. HOE

Wolf Cemetery
Baxter, AR
Holly Hope
9/5/12
AHPP
View from W
#15