

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER MEMORIAL CEMETERY
Arkansas Highway #1
Rohwer
Desha County
Arkansas

HALS AR-4
HALS AR-4

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPE SURVEY

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER MEMORIAL CEMETERY (Nisei Camp Cemetery)

HALS NO. AR-4

Location: Rohwer Relocation Center
Arkansas Highway #1
Rohwer, Desha County, Arkansas
Lat: 33.766403 Long: -91.279972 (1982 War Memorial Monument, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84).

Present
Owner: Amanda Adcock Pambianchi Trust, McGehee, Arkansas

Present
Occupant: Not Applicable

Present Use: Cemetery

Significance: The Rohwer Relocation Center Memorial Cemetery in Rohwer, Arkansas is the most intact remnant of the former Rohwer Japanese-American internment camp, and as such it is the most powerful visible reminder of this difficult period of history. The Rohwer cemetery is also one of only three remaining cemeteries in the ten camps that were created during World War II to hold United States citizens and immigrants of Japanese descent (the other two are in Manzanar, California, and Granada, Colorado). Of these three, the cemetery at Rohwer is the largest and most artistically detailed, featuring monuments that were designed and built by internees to memorialize fellow internees who died both at the Center and while serving in the US Army during the war. It also serves as a resilient display of both Japanese cultural heritage and American patriotism, despite confinement by the country to which they pledged their allegiance.

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July 2012

PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historical Context:

Following Japan's devastating surprise attack on the American naval fleet at Pearl Harbor in the United States territory of Hawaii on December 7, 1941, many military and civilian authorities felt that the entire west coast was at risk of invasion. Japan's rapid military conquest of much of eastern Asia between 1936 and 1942 made its military forces seem unstoppable, and the successful attack on an American military base raised serious concerns about the loyalty of the ethnic

Japanese in the United States. These concerns peaked after the Ni'ihau Incident, in which a Japanese pilot involved in the attack on Pearl Harbor crash-landed on the Hawaiian island of Ni'ihau and was aided by three residents of Japanese descent.¹ In addition, during the weeks that followed Pearl Harbor, nearly every American ship leaving a west coast port was attacked by enemy submarines, leading American authorities to conclude that "shore-to-ship" communication was taking place.² These attacks, combined with a long standing mistrust of the Japanese immigrants in California, Oregon, and Washington, led officials to conclude that relocating persons of Japanese ancestry living in these states was in the nation's best interest. Although no acts of treason or sabotage had been reported, there was concern that strategic military areas on the West Coast could be compromised by nearby concentrations of people with Japanese ancestry.³

Despite objections from several military advisors and U.S. Attorney General Francis Biddle, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order #9066 on February 16, 1942.⁴ This order effectively gave United States Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson the authority to designate "military areas" at his discretion within the United States from which any or all persons may be excluded. After military areas had been established, the Japanese were strongly encouraged to voluntarily remove themselves from California, Oregon, and Washington. However, many did not have enough money to relocate, and those who did met opposition from residents and police forces of other states. This opposition forced President Roosevelt to sign Executive Order #9102 on March 18, 1942, creating the War Relocation Authority.

In the six months following President Roosevelt's order, nearly 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from their homes in California, western Oregon and Washington, and southern Arizona, and transported to assembly centers. These assembly centers were used as temporary holding facilities because the relocation program would have been seriously delayed if evacuation had to wait for the completion of the more permanent relocation centers. Ten inland relocation centers were established: Poston and Gila River in Arizona, Topaz in Utah, Granada in Colorado, Heart Mountain in Wyoming, Manzanar and Tule Lake in California, Minidoka in Idaho, and Jerome and Rohwer in Arkansas. Each site was chosen for its remoteness and access to rail lines.

The quarters within the relocation centers were not luxurious, but they provided adequate shelter and were far better than the conditions at the temporary assembly

¹ Beekman, Allan, "The Niihau Incident," Heritage Press of Pacific (1982).

² Vickers, Ruth Petway, "Japanese-American Relocation," The Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 10, No. 2 (1951): 168-176.

³ Arkansas Heritage, "National Historic Landmarks of Arkansas: Rohwer Relocation Center," The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, (circa 1992): 3.

⁴ Ibid., 7.

centers. Although these centers were “total institutions” in which the needs of the internees were under bureaucratic control, the WRA also took steps to provide some protection of constitutional rights.⁵ Internees that were American citizens continued to vote in the areas in which they were formerly residents. There was no censorship of incoming or outgoing mail. Freedom of religious worship was maintained. Open meetings were allowed and outspoken newspapers were published by the internees in most centers. A degree of self-government was also permitted, such as the election of block managers.⁶

The construction of the Rohwer Relocation Center began on July 31, 1942 under the supervision of director Ray D. Johnston. The site chosen for the center was a flat, swampy, partially wooded plot adjacent to the Missouri-Pacific Railroad in the southeast corner of Arkansas, less than a half mile north of the small farming community of Rohwer. By August the removal of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the west coast to assembly centers was complete, putting further stress on crews to complete construction of the relocation centers. Although much of the construction at the Rohwer Relocation Center was done by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, some major building contracts were given to the Linebarger-Senne Construction Company of Little Rock and other local contractors. 250 volunteer internees arrived on September 17, 1942 to assist in the completion of the center. Regular movement of internees to Rohwer began on September 23, before the center was completed, and continued until October 31, 1942, when the center’s population peaked at 8,475.⁷

The center’s layout consisted of 500 acres of wood-frame barracks, divided into blocks with twelve barracks per block. Each block also contained a mess hall, a laundry, and a combination bath/toilet building. With such a large population, the Rohwer Relocation Center became one of the largest agricultural communities in the state of Arkansas in a matter of weeks. Although vastly different, life inside the center operated as close to normal as possible. Everyone worked together to provide food, firewood, and other necessities for the center. Internees also gathered supplies in their spare time for hobbies such as artificial flower manufacturing and arrangement, landscape design and gardening, mural painting, theatrical set decoration and costume design, tool craftsmanship, wood carving, weaving, cabinetmaking and furniture manufacture (including decorative relief sculpture) and doll making.⁸

Initially, internees were confined to the camp except for work assignments on surrounding lands, including clearing forests, preparing fields, and planting crops.

⁵ Arkansas Heritage, “National Historic Landmarks of Arkansas: Rohwer Relocation Center,” The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, (circa 1992): 7.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 8.

⁷ Johnston, Ray D., “Personal Narrative of Ray D. Johnston,” Online Archive of California (1946).

⁸ Bearden, Russell, “Life Inside Arkansas’s Japanese-American Relocation Centers,” The Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 48, No. 2 (1989): 185.

Security gradually lessened, and by April of 1944 there was only one officer and thirteen guards for nearly eight thousand internees.⁹ The trend continued during the remaining year of the center, with occasional excursions permitted into the nearby towns of McGehee and Dermott and to a local Boy Scout camp on the banks of the Mississippi River.¹⁰ The closure of Rohwer and the other centers was announced January 31, 1945 in the Rohwer Outpost, the center's newsletter, with January 1, 1946 set as the closure date.¹¹ Evacuation of the camp began in the summer of 1945, with the first special seven-car train entirely for internees returning to California leaving July 26, 1945.¹² On November 30, 1945, after 1,170 days of operation, the Rohwer Relocation Center was closed by the War Relocation Authority. Upon their release, many former internees left the state. Some families returned to the West Coast to try to pick up where they had left off years before, but many moved to other parts of the country upon their release. Only a few families remained in Arkansas.

After the closure of the Rohwer Relocation Center, the barracks and most other structures were auctioned off and removed from the site. Several buildings on the northwestern corner of the site were later repurposed for use by Desha County Schools. The land was sold and soon after most of it was converted to agricultural fields containing cotton, corn, soybeans, and rice. In the years that followed, the Rohwer Memorial Cemetery stood out as the only remnant of the center to retain some semblance of its historic character.

Physical History:

1940s: A total of 168 internees died while detained at the Rohwer Relocation Center, the majority of whom were elderly. With Buddhism being the predominant faith among the internees, most of the deceased were cremated at nearby funeral homes and their ashes returned to their families. For those who did not have family to make arrangements and also for those who preferred burial, the Rohwer Memorial Cemetery became their final resting place.

The cemetery was located at the perimeter of the relocation center. A story telling of the creation of the cemetery was told at a 1961 memorial service:

"The first burial here was of an infant. In the haste of forming this center of 9000 persons no one planned in advance for a cemetery. The baby died. Officials in haste had to get a plot dedicated for a burial spot. My job was another matter – how to get the grave dug. A call for volunteers brought out an editor, an attorney, a business man, all with soft hands. Weeds

⁹ Ibid., 180.

¹⁰ Anderson, William Cary. "Early Reaction in Arkansas." The Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 23, No. 3 (1964): 208-209.

¹¹ "WRA Director Meyer Visits," The Rohwer Outpost Vol. VI No. 11, January 31, 1945.

¹² "7 Car Special Scheduled July 26," The Rohwer Outpost Vol. VII No. 6, July 21, 1945.

*were above our heads. It was quite a tussle to get the tiny grave done. This was the beginning of this cemetery in this remote spot.*¹³

While a date was not included in this history, the birth and death of the infant was recorded in the center's internee-produced newsletter, *The Rohwer Outpost*. The article records the center's first birth on October 16, 1942.¹⁴ The baby, born to Mr. and Mrs. Fumio Masaki, only lived several hours. As indicated by the account above, the need for a cemetery was an afterthought and it does not appear on the original plan for the relocation center (see Figure 1).

Subsequent articles in *The Rohwer Outpost* highlight the gradual evolution of the cemetery, although there are many holes in the story. In November 1942 it was announced a landscape plan would be created by arts and crafts leader Adeline Lee and Berkeley landscape architect Tad Yoshimine for the entire center, with an initial emphasis on the cemetery and hospital grounds.¹⁵ Yoshimine is listed in subsequent articles as the supervisor of the landscape program.¹⁶ In February of 1943 an article announced that the WRA would fund costs associated with funerals, including cremation or burial, provided they met with certain stipulations (such as burials were to occur in the center's cemetery).¹⁷ The following month it was announced that "although no definite action has been taken as yet, the Social Welfare department will take responsibility of providing cement tombstones for graves in the Center cemetery."¹⁸ Concrete markers erected at the cemetery's entrance include "1943" in the inscriptions, indicating that this plan was implanted later that year. The next report on the cemetery to appear in *The Rohwer Outpost* occurs in April of 1943. This article describes the continuing efforts and plans of Yoshimine and his team, including planting gardens at the center's post office and administrative offices, constructing a new nursery "between the hospital wards," planting trees and shrubs in the cemetery, and constructing a road from block three directly south to the cemetery.¹⁹ Three subsequent articles published in 1943 record plans and efforts to install clear ground and plant lawn, flowers, shrubs, and trees in the cemetery.²⁰

¹³ Letter from Buford R. Connor, Superintendent of Desha Central Schools to Arkansas Governor Orval E. Faubus. May 30, 1966 – the speaker at the service was not identified in the letter. University of Arkansas Special Collections: *S7Sub2Box287Fldr6Itm01*.

¹⁴ "The Lord Giveth, The Lord Taketh," *The Rohwer Outpost*, Vol. I No. 2, October 28, 1942.

¹⁵ "Landscape Plan is Organized," *The Rohwer Outpost*, Vol. I No. 9, November 25, 1942.

¹⁶ For example, see "Landscapers Ask Tree Conservation," *The Rohwer Outpost*, Vol. I No. 13, December 9, 1942.

¹⁷ "WRA Contract Provides Arrangements for Funerals," *The Rohwer Outpost*, Vol. II No. 12, February 10, 1943.

¹⁸ "Tombstones to Honor Graves," *The Rohwer Outpost*, Vol. II No. 19, March 6, 1943.

¹⁹ "Gardens Planted Around Center Post Office and Administration Buildings," *The Rohwer Outpost*, Vol. II No. 27, April 3, 1943.

²⁰ See "Landscape Crew Given High Praise for Their Labor," *The Rohwer Outpost*, Vol. III No. 3, July 10, 1943; "Beautification of Cemetery," *The Rohwer Outpost*, Vol. III No. 26, September 29, 1943; and "Cemetery to Have Plants," *The Rohwer Outpost*, Vol. III No. 34, October 27, 1943.

Photographs taken in the summer of 1944 reveal the rustic character of a work in progress with readily available local materials (see Figures 2 through 4).²¹ The cemetery ground was mostly dirt, with some patches of lawn, small flower beds, and evergreen and deciduous shrubs. Small swales lined with logs provided drainage and demarcated the burial plots, which were accessed by narrow gravel paths. A gravel drive provided access to the cemetery from the camp to the north. A wood plank bridge crossed a large swale at the main entrance, which was secured with a wide wood picket gate and announced by two concrete entrance markers similar in design to the headstones. A fence of closely-spaced wood poles and wire formed the cemetery's boundary, which was also marked by an occasional tree. By this time the cemetery contained twenty-one (of the eventual twenty-four) headstones. They were made of concrete and were all of similar design. Three headstones marking graves of infants were slightly smaller than the rest. All headstones faced west and were located in the westernmost portion of the rectangular plot, leaving room for additional burials to the east. These photographs also depict a concrete bench to the north of the headstones.

In 1944 construction began on a large concrete monument commemorating all who died while at the center (including the many who were cremated rather than buried), located immediately east of the headstones.²² An inscription at the base of the obelisk proclaims "erected by the inhabitants of Rohwer Relocation Center, October 1944." The monument was dedicated on Sunday, June 24, 1945 in a service that featured both Buddhist and Christian speakers. The Rohwer Outpost article announcing the dedication identifies Koheiji Horizawa of block six as the designer and builder of the monument.²³ The article describes a lotus flower as the design inspiration for the monument, with a "tower" (or obelisk) rising from the center of a concrete blossom. It also lists the Reverend Hayashima as the author of one of the monuments inscriptions:

*To him who sleeps eternally here
a descendent of glorious Yamato
who came in his prime with hopes and ambitions heroic
to battle the fortunes of life,
peace and bliss be yours.*

The next edition of The Rohwer Outpost featured a full front-page sketch of the new monument (see Figure 5).²⁴ Figure 6 is a detail blowup of the earliest known photograph of the completed monument, probably taken in November 1945, just as the finishing touches were being made to the cemetery and the center was in

²¹ Three photographs taken by Hikaru Iwasaki and Charles E. Mace, June 16, 1944. UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library.

²² An undated photograph shows the Obelisk Monument under construction, viewed from the east on the diagonal gravel path that cut through the cemetery. Japanese American National Museum (97.292.15G Monument construction in Rohwer Memorial Cemetery, Rohwer, Arkansas, ca. 1944, Walter Muramoto Collection).

²³ "Monument Dedication Tomorrow Morning," The Rohwer Outpost Vol. VI No. 52, June 23, 1945.

²⁴ The Rohwer Outpost Vol. VI No. 53, June 27, 1945.

the process of closing. While the photograph is in black and white, distinctly contrasting surfaces suggest the monument may have been painted. It is ornately decorated with floral patterns and features Japanese and English inscriptions as well as artwork symbolic to both Japanese and American cultures.

A second large monument, commemorating young men from the center who lost their lives while serving in Europe in the Army's 100th Battalion and the 442nd Combat Team, was dedicated on Sunday, November 4, 1945. The Rohwer Relocator, which replaced The Rohwer Outpost as the center's newsletter in July of 1945, again lists Koheiji Horisawa (sic) as the designer, but also lists Harry Fujioka as Horisawa's assistant.²⁵ The monument was sponsored by the center's chapter of the nonprofit United Service Organizations (USO). The center's Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management, Edward B. Moulton, authored the inscription on the east (rear) elevation of the monument:

In memory of our sons who sacrificed their lives in the service of their country. They fought for freedom. They died that the world might have peace.

The photograph depicted in Figure 7 was likely taken during the dedication ceremony on November 4, featuring center directors, USO representatives, active servicemen, and family members posing in front of the new monument.

Numerous other changes were made to the cemetery in 1945 as the internees prepared to leave the center. Many of these changes replaced the more ephemeral materials depicted in the 1944 photographs with longer lasting ones. The wood and wire fence was replaced with a barbed wire fence strung on metal "T" posts, which were then covered with a cast-in-place concrete post. An inscription of "October 4th, 1945" in the base of one of these posts near the northeast corner of the cemetery dates the installation. Many of the gravel walks were replaced with concrete, as were the log curbs.

The best record of the completed cemetery can be seen in Figure 8, which was likely taken in November 1945, the last month of the center's operation. Details observed in this photograph include the wooden entrance bridge, the gravel access road (which was not replaced with concrete), two small buildings near the southeast corner of the cemetery (possibly used for storage of maintenance tools and construction materials), a gravel path cutting a diagonal line through the cemetery to the shacks, a mown lawn in the northern and eastern sections of the cemetery, and many shrubs and flowers. Large shrubs are planted in a row along the diagonal path. The only large trees near the cemetery are on its south border,

²⁵ "Monument to be Dedicated Sunday," Rohwer Relocator Vol. I No. 27, November 2, 1945. There are several variations of the designers' names; for example, an inscription of the north side of the monument lists K Horisawa and K Fujioka as the engineers.

but several newly planted trees can be seen near the east boundary fence. It is difficult to determine whether there are additional small trees, but according to an account given in 1994 the internees planted flowering cherry trees in the cemetery before they left.²⁶ It is not known how many, or where, trees were planted.

The foreground of the photograph depicted previously in Figure 7 reveals gravel remained between the newly installed concrete walks around the headstones, while mounds of bare earth marked the location of the coffin behind each headstone. No gates are evident on the gate posts.

1950s: The one-and-a-half decades that followed the closing of the center were marred by vandalism in the cemetery. The obelisk monument suffered the most, with severe damage to the concrete urns, finials, and flower petals.²⁷ Unfortunately, the internees' plea "*May the people of Arkansas keep in beauty and reverence forever this ground where our bodies sleep*" inscribed on the north side of the monument was not heeded by at least some of the permanent residents. Many of the changes during this period, however, were simply due to neglect and both growth and death of plant materials. Little was done to maintain the cemetery, and over a short time it became overgrown with tall grasses, brush, and trees. A short article was published in the Arkansas Democrat Magazine in December 1955 discussed the cemetery conditions:

*In one corner of the camp is the cemetery. Briars and weeds hide many of the concrete monuments, which were fashioned by the artisans of the community. Almost weekly some former residents return, and they are surprised to see that few traces of their former home remain. Occasionally one of the farmers who has purchased some of the camp property comes across a reminder of the past – patches of flowers, which testify to the Japanese love of beauty.*²⁸

Little documentation from this period beyond the article has been discovered. The cemetery and the center seem to have been forgotten by some, but as the next decade of history reveals, both were in the minds and hearts of former internees and center directors.

1960s: Though the cemetery was lost in obscurity during the 1950s, the 1960s became a time of remembrance. The early 1960s saw the first movement to preserve the cemetery. One of the key contributors in this effort was Joseph B. Hunter, a

²⁶ Untitled clipped article from Times News, March 23, 1994. Courtesy of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Rosalie Santine Gould – Mabel Jamison Vogel Collection (Box 6, File 7 "Images of Rohwer Cemetery and Camp Drawing").

²⁷ Photographs dated October 9, 1961 reveal that most of the vandalism still evident in 2012 had occurred by this time. See Arkansas History Commission (ECD2282-1, World War II, Japanese relocation center at Rohwer, Ark., 10/9/61 [Monuments, view 1] [graphic]).

²⁸ Herrington, Gene. "Rohwer Vanishes Into the Buckshot." Arkansas Democrat Magazine, December 4, 1955: 6-7.

former assistant director at the center, and it is through his letters that we learn of the steps that were taken to restore and maintain the cemetery. Hunter wrote that in 1959 he began to contact various departments in the Federal Government to try to preserve the cemetery, in part due to the many former internees who frequently contacted him to discover what had become of the center and the cemetery.²⁹ He was unable to gain Federal support, but he was at least able to get the landowner to clear the overgrown brush that had taken over the cemetery. It is likely that in the owner's efforts to grade the site the mounds behind the headstones were leveled. Hunter writes:

*Mr. Robert Adcock of McGehee, who now owns the farm in which the cemetery is located, had the woods and brush cleared off the entire cemetery area and the low places filled in. Five men worked nine hours in doing this. Money to pay these laborers came ultimately from some Japanese who had been residents of the Rohwer Center. Some of these former residents, both in Chicago and in California are eager to assist in any way possible in beautifying that lonely acre and in giving it appropriate care.*³⁰

Hunter was also able to convince the American Legion Department of Arkansas to sponsor the preservation and care of the cemetery. Through this sponsorship it appears the American Legion hoped to bring the cemetery into the National Park Service and to make it a "national shrine."³¹

The 1960s featured several memorial services that brought former internees and directors, Arkansans, and officials in state, federal, and Japanese government positions to the cemetery. Services were held in 1961, 1966, and 1969, and they were typically preceded with increased care and physical improvements to the cemetery.

The first ceremony was held October 15, 1961. It included Buddhist and Christian services and featured a color guard from the American Legion Post 1183 of Chicago (see Figure 9). A set of eight photographs taken during the summer of 1961 capture some of the preparations made for this event.³² A black metal sign with white lettering and an arrow was installed along Highway 1, directing visitors to a newly constructed entrance road. The road crossed the railroad tracks at an existing farm access point, then jogged to the north before continuing west

²⁹ Letter from Joseph B. Hunter, former Assistant Director of the Rohwer Relocation Center, to Loyd McDermott; May 8, 1961. University of Arkansas Special Collections: SAR4ACHRBox30Fldr307Itm02.

³⁰ Ibid. See also the letter from Buford R. Connor, Superintendent of Desha Central Schools to Arkansas Governor Orval E. Faubus. May 30, 1966. University of Arkansas Special Collections: S7Sub2Box287Fldr6Itm01.

³¹ Ibid.

³² October 9, 1961 photographs by Ernie Deane, Arkansas History Commission Archives. See (ECD2282-4 and ECD2282-5, World War II, Japanese relocation center at Rohwer, Ark., 10/9/61 [Sign for Memorial Cemetery, view 1 and view 2] [graphic]) for sign installation photographs.

to the cemetery (see Figures 10a and b). Photographs of the cemetery show vegetation, much of which appears recently brush-hogged, had grown up through the gravel around the headstones and in the entrance road and diagonal path.³³

In 1965 a letter accompanied by another set of photographs was sent by Buford R. Connor, Superintendent of Desha Central Schools to Arkansas Governor Orval E. Faubus. The package was sent at the bequest of the Consul General Okuda from Japan, who was inquiring about the poor condition of the cemetery, and it contains Connor's plea to raise state or federal funds to help maintain the site.³⁴ The letter recounts local efforts to clear and grade the cemetery in 1959 and preparations made for the 1961 memorial service. The photographs show the cemetery was mown, with traces of the diagonal path visible, but no gravel can be seen in the path, drive, or around the headstones. The flag on the east elevation of the Tank Monument is painted, but no other surfaces on the monuments, headstones, or fenceposts appear to be painted (see Figures 11a though d).

No ornamental plantings from the 1940s are evident in the aforementioned photographs. In April of 1967 two former internees returned to the cemetery and planted five flowering cherry trees.³⁵

The final memorial service of the 1960s was held November 30, 1969, to rededicate the cemetery and the Tank Monument.³⁶ The service drew in former internees and center directors, several hundred Arkansans, and Bunroku Yoshino, the first minister of the embassy of Japan in Washington D.C. The group gathered at Desha County High School, which contained some of the original relocation center structures, to pay tribute to Rohwer Center internees who died in the war and while being held at the center. The service concluded at the Rohwer Memorial Cemetery, where Mike Masaoka, the Washington representative of the Japanese American Citizens League, spoke and Arkansas Lieutenant Governor Maurice Lee "Footsie" Britt placed wreaths on the monuments, followed by a twenty-one gun salute provided by the American Legion.³⁷

1970s: The pace of public commemorations slowed in the 1970s. The most significant step taken during this decade in terms of acknowledgment and raising public awareness was the listing of the cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places on July 30, 1974.

³³ See Arkansas History Commission (ECD2282-3, ECD0974-2, ECD2282-1, ECD2282-2: World War II, Japanese relocation center at Rohwer, Ark., 10/9/61).

³⁴ Letter from Buford R. Connor, Superintendent of Desha Central Schools to Arkansas Governor Orval E. Faubus. May 30, 1966. University of Arkansas Special Collections:S7Sub2Box287Fldr6ltm01.

³⁵ Jordan, Wayne. "Five Cherry Trees Planted at Rohwer by Former Inmates." *Arkansas Gazette* 11 April 1967: 1.

³⁶ "Old Prison Site Set for Japanese Memorial," *Delta Democrat Times*, Greenville, Mississippi, 28 November 1969. See also "Vets Dedicate Memorial," *Delta Democrat Times*, Greenville, Mississippi, 1 December 1969.

³⁷ "Vets dedicate memorial." *Delta Democrat Times* 1 December 1969: 2.

The evolution of the cemetery during the 1970s lacks clarity, but there are clues that indicate several significant changes likely occurred during this decade. Color photographs document the changes; they are undated but appear to be from the early 1980s (see Figures 12a & b).³⁸ One of the most noticeable changes is the large crape myrtles planted between the concrete posts of the cemetery's perimeter. At some point between 1966 and the taking of these images the barbed wire in the cemetery's perimeter fence was removed and replaced with the crape myrtles. It is not known if this was done as part of a commemorative event or if it was simply the act of an individual or group attempting to beautify the cemetery. One possibility is that they were planted in the mid-1970s by elderly Arkansans employed through Green Thumb. Project Green Thumb was a federally funded program with the aim of completing community service projects while providing employment opportunities for senior citizens in economically deprived rural areas. Arkansas was the first state to implement the program in 1965. In 1973 the state of Arkansas developed its own spin-off program called the Arkansas' Older Worker Community Service Program. The non-profit organization Arkansas Green Thumb, Inc. was awarded the contract to administer the state program. One of the early projects taken on by this program was a "restoration" of the cemetery. Both the exact date of the project and the scope of the work are unclear, but the project is briefly mentioned in a newspaper article dated December 20, 1975.³⁹ Given the nature of other projects completed by the organization, which often included planting trees along roads, building picnic shelters in city parks, and general "landscaping and upkeep," it is quite possible the "restoration" project included replacing the barbed wire with crape myrtles.⁴⁰

The aforementioned color photographs also capture two other changes that occurred during this period. The first is that a flagpole was installed on the lawn just west of, and centered between, the two large monuments. The second change may have been part of a new maintenance and/or beautification strategy, in which the concrete headstones and fenceposts were painted white, and the lettering on the headstones was highlighted with black paint. The east elevation of the tablet on the Tank Monument was also painted white. The American flag inscribed on this elevation was painted red, white, and blue, while the flag's pole and the star on top of the monument were painted gold. The unit numbers on the east elevation of the tank's base were also painted black. The practice of painting at

³⁸ There are two sets of images from different photographers, but both appear to date to c. 1982. The first set is of four images from the California State University, Sacramento. Library. Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives (JC17:353, ark:/13030/kt7s202114; JC17:355, ark:/13030/kt2f59q0dq; JC17:366, ark:/13030/kt3779q17m; and JC17:368, ark:/13030/kt4779q1q5). Two images show the historic portion of the cemetery, while the other two show the new granite memorial installed in early 1982 – the same vehicles can be seen in several of these images. The second set of images (Figures 12a & b) also only features the historic portion of the cemetery, but the similarity in condition of the headstones and crape myrtles to the aforementioned set, as well as the crowd of visitors, suggests the images may have been taken during the dedication of the new monument on May 30, 1982.

³⁹ Ogilvie, Craig. "Green Thumb Leaves Indelible Imprint." *Northwest Arkansas Times* 20 December 1975.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

least some portions of the monuments may date back to the 1940s, but these photographs depict the first known instance of painting the headstones and fenceposts. If the photographs do date to the early 1980s, it is again possible that this practice can be attributed to the Arkansas' Older Worker Community Service Program and Arkansas Green Thumb, Inc., as they were responsible for the cemetery's maintenance from at least 1980 to 1982.⁴¹

1980s: The drive for recognition of the historic significance of the former internment center and the need to maintain and preserve the cemetery at Rohwer continued through the 1980s. The most significant physical change to the cemetery resulting from these efforts was celebrated May 30, 1982, when a new granite monument topped with a bronze eagle was dedicated. The new monument, located on a concrete pad to the east of the two original monuments, was a project taken on by Sam Yada, the only former Rohwer internee to remain long-term in Arkansas. Yada feared that the original monuments would be lost in the near future and he began a fundraising drive to install a new monument that would be a lasting tribute to internees who died in the Rohwer Relocation Center and while serving during World War II.⁴² Guests in attendance at the dedication ceremony included Arkansas Governor Frank White, former Governor Faubus, Senator Pryor, Congressman Bethune, and JAACL representative Mike Masaoka, among others. A letter written by President Reagan for the occasion was read to those in attendance.

1990s: In the 1990s, recognition and preservation efforts continued to build on the momentum and gains made in the 1980s. Like the 1980s, some of these efforts led to physical changes in the cemetery.

Concern about the deteriorating condition of the cemetery in the 1980s led to the creation of a proposal for the Rohwer Restoration Project, prepared by Michael Hoshiko and submitted by George Sakaguchi of the Japanese American Citizens League on January 6, 1990.⁴³ The stated purposes of the project were to “preserve and protect the last few remaining artifacts of the events that occurred at the Rohwer and Jerome Relocation Camps, and to bring up to consciousness the significance of the historical event as symbolized by the cemetery at Rohwer.”⁴⁴ Photographs taken for the report and for a National Historic Landmark application taken in May 1990 reveal deteriorating monuments and peeling paint on the headstones and fenceposts (Figures 13a & b – later images do not show fresh

⁴¹ According to an account given by former McGehee, Arkansas mayor Rosalie Gould, recorded in Salyers, Abbie Lynn. *The internment of memory: Forgetting and remembering the Japanese American World War II experience*. 2009.

⁴² “New Memorial for Rohwer Center.” The Hawaii Herald, April 6, 1982.

⁴³ Hoshiko, Michael. *Rohwer Restoration Project Proposal*, January 6, 1990. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Rosalie Santine Gould – Mabel Jamison Vogel Collection, box 10 folder 11.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

paint, so it appears this practice was discontinued).⁴⁵ The project's completion (or at least partial completion) in the spring of 1992 was celebrated with a dedication ceremony held on May 22.

While the focus of the Rohwer Restoration Project was the stabilization of the two large monuments, the concrete pad surrounding the monuments was also replaced. Rather than removing the broken pieces of the old slab from the site, some were placed in piles at the site's perimeter, while others were used to create a makeshift walk leading to the flagpole from the west. These pieces appear to have simply been set on top of the lawn and over sections of two narrow north/south sidewalks that were built in 1945.⁴⁶ The elevation of the new pad was several inches lower than the old one, which meant that rather than being flush with the surrounding curbs and allowing water to drain from the site in the original swales, rainwater would collect around the monuments and form a shallow pool until it eventually evaporated. Like many of the past attempts to stabilize and beautify the cemetery, the plan was well-intentioned but execution of the plan created additional challenges and changes to the historic character.

On July 6, 1992, the Rohwer Relocation Center Cemetery was designated a National Historic Landmark. On July 10, 1993, a new granite monument containing bronze plaque announcing the designation was dedicated. It was placed east of and in line with the monument installed in 1982. Another change that occurred about the same time, and possibly in conjunction with, the site's designation as a historic landmark was the shift in the entry point on Highway 1 160' to the north. This eliminated the need to jog north once crossing the railroad tracks. The brown road signs with white lettering that today direct both northbound and southbound travelers on Highway 1 to the cemetery were also likely installed at this time.

On March 19, 1994, seventeen flowering cherry trees (*Prunus serrulata* 'Kwanzan') were planted under the direction of George Sakaguchi, George Yada, Mrs. Sam Yada, and Clark Dixon, Director of Arkansas Post.⁴⁷ A birds-eye aerial rendering, likely created as part of the proposal for the planting, shows the trees

⁴⁵ Images taken for the Rohwer Relocation Center Memorial Cemetery National Historic Landmark application in May, 1990, University of Arkansas Little Rock. See also imagery included in the Rohwer Restoration Project.

⁴⁶ See images taken during the Rohwer Restoration Project and the subsequent dedication ceremony in the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Rosalie Santine Gould – Mabel Jamison Vogel Collection, boxes 20 through 22.

⁴⁷ Untitled clipped article from Times News, March 23, 1994. Courtesy of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Rosalie Santine Gould – Mabel Jamison Vogel Collection (Box 6, File 7 "Images of Rohwer Cemetery and Camp Drawing").

arranged in a grid in the large lawn east of the monuments.⁴⁸ At the time of the planting, it appears only two cherry trees from earlier plantings remained.⁴⁹

2000s: In January of 2003 the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) Public History program launched “Life Interrupted,” a website that tells the stories of the Rohwer and Jerome Relocation Centers in Arkansas. This was followed in 2004 with exhibits, a conference, and a documentary with the assistance of various grants and partnerships. A Conditions Assessment Report for the Rohwer Memorial Cemetery was also completed in 2004 for UALR by Witsell Evans Rasco Architects/Planners and 1:1:6 Technologies Incorporated. The report detailed the existing conditions of the monuments and headstones and made recommendations for treatment.

In 2009 the National Park Service began administering grants through Japanese American Confinement Sites, a grant program established by Congress that will allocate up to \$38 million for the ten former relocation centers “to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair, and acquire historic confinement sites in order that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from these sites.”⁵⁰ Several grants have been secured for various projects concerning the Rohwer Relocation Center, including a \$250,000 grant awarded in 2011 for the restoration of the cemetery’s monuments. This grant, spearheaded by UALR, was made possible in part by the in-kind donation of services to compile this HALS report. At the time of the report’s completion in June, 2012, the restoration of the monuments is under way.

PART II: PHYSICAL INFORMATION

Landscape Character & Integrity Summary:

The Rohwer Relocation Center Memorial Cemetery is located on the outskirts of the small agricultural town of Rohwer, Arkansas, about one-hundred ten miles southeast of Little Rock. The cemetery sits on what was once the southern boundary of a 500 acre World War II-era Japanese-American relocation center. Following the close of the center in 1945 the buildings were removed and most of the land was converted to agricultural fields. Little of the center remains, but the cemetery, in contrast, retains some of its original character due to the fact that all historic concrete site elements remain, including monuments, headstones, entrance markers, bench, and fenceposts. However, this character is in jeopardy

⁴⁸ The rendering was likely created as part of the proposal for the planting of 17 flowering cherry trees that was completed on March 19, 1994. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Rosalie Santine Gould – Mabel Jamison Vogel Collection (Box 6, File 19 “Rohwer Model”).

⁴⁹ See images taken during the Rohwer Restoration Project and the subsequent dedication ceremony in the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Rosalie Santine Gould – Mabel Jamison Vogel Collection, boxes 20 through 22.

⁵⁰ “Japanese American Confinement Sites Preservation.” National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior, n. d. Web. May 2012. <http://www.nps.gov/hps/hpg/JACS/index.html>.

due to physical degradation of these objects.⁵¹ Over the years there have also been numerous changes, including both removals and additions, which have compromised site integrity.

Significant removals, or losses, at the cemetery since 1945 include:

- the barbed wire in the perimeter fence;
- a wooden bridge over the large swale at the north entrance;
- the gravel drive at the north entrance;
- a diagonal gravel path that cut from the northwest corner to the southeast corner and the drainage swale associated with it;
- two small buildings at the southeast corner;
- gravel between the concrete walks at the headstones;
- earthen mounds behind each of the headstones;
- ornamental plantings, including trees, shrubs, and flower beds;
- a small concrete bridge over a swale connecting a concrete sidewalk to the concrete pad at the monuments;
- concrete finials on another small concrete bridge (north of the one mentioned above);
- concrete finials, urns, ornamentation and surface detail on the obelisk monument.

Significant additions to the cemetery since 1945 include:

- a granite National Historic Landmark monument (1993);
- a concrete rubble walk (1992);
- a concrete pad at the base of the historic monuments that is several inches lower than the original, creating drainage problems (1992);
- a granite monument to internees who died while at the Rohwer Center and while serving in the Army in World War II (1982);
- crape myrtles between the concrete fenceposts (where there was once barbed wire – 1970s);
- a flagpole (1970s);
- other trees and shrubs at the periphery (many volunteered, others planted at various times since the 1950s).

In many cases these changes were done with good intentions and may be appropriate additions to a typical cemetery, but together these alterations combine to create a character that is only partially reflective of the original internment camp cemetery. For example, the crape myrtles at the perimeter create a beautiful seasonal display and also serve to visually separate the cemetery from the surrounding agricultural fields, but the original decision to encompass a peaceful

⁵¹ This report does not contain a detailed assessment of the conditions of the concrete monuments and headstones – see the 2004 Condition Assessment Report by WER Architects/Planning and 1:1:6 Technologies Incorporated in the University of Arkansas Little Rock, “Life Interrupted” collection.

cemetery with barbed wire in 1945, at a point when the relocation center is about to close, seems to be a very deliberate statement by the designers. Ornamental plantings were plentiful within the cemetery in 1945, and possibly even included crape myrtles along the diagonal path (as seen previously in Figure 8), but the cemetery itself was encompassed by a distinct, barbed-wire barrier. On the other hand, the barbed wire may just be an example of the resourcefulness of the internees who were striving to create a place of permanence with limited means and materials. In either case, however, the replacement of the barbed wire with crape myrtles results in a partial loss of the overall story. While the story of interment can still be told at the cemetery, the ability to do so has been partially compromised with the accumulated changes over time.

The Cemetery Site:

The Rohwer Cemetery is located on a flat, rectangular plot that is approximately six tenths of an acre in size. The site's geomorphic character is a direct result of its location on the Mississippi River floodplain. The soils of the floodplain contain high quantities of both silt and loam. The high quantity of silt and loam in the soil, combined with the flat topography, causes the site to drain poorly and often results in standing water on the site following rain events. Over the period of the site's history swales have been built in the cemetery and along the access road in an attempt to help facilitate drainage.

The cemetery is accessed from Arkansas Highway 1, which parallels the north/south running railroad line that was once used to transport the internees. The entrance is marked on the north and the south by contemporary brown metal road signs with white lettering. A two-sided black metal sign with white lettering and an arrow, installed in 1961 and severely faded from years of exposure, is positioned approximately 140' south of the entrance (marking the entrance that was created in the early 1960s). Upon turning west onto the gravel entrance road, visitors cross over the abandoned railroad tracks. The tracks sit atop a bed that is elevated several feet, making it the highest elevation in the vicinity. This berm and its densely wooded slopes create a visual barrier for the cemetery and former center site from Highway 1. They also create gateway which becomes an important part of the entry sequence for visitors.

From the top of the rail bed a panoramic view is afforded to the west, revealing a grove of trees containing the cemetery in the distance. It is surrounded on all sides by flat cotton fields (Figure 14). The grove, consisting of both native and non-native species, continues west of the cemetery to form an area approximately two acres in size. The unimproved gravel entrance road leads due west from the tracks a quarter of a mile to the perimeter boundary of the cemetery. A small parking or turning area, large enough for two cars, juts off to the south, while the drive itself bends around the northeast corner of the cemetery and continues west past the cemetery and grove, gradually reverting to a simple dirt field-access road.

The cemetery is bordered on four sides by cast-in-place concrete posts interspersed with large crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*) and an occasional rose of sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*). Several large oaks and elms on the east and south boundaries, along with the grove to the west, strengthen the sense of enclosure and privacy in the cemetery. The cemetery is accessed through gaps between the posts and vegetation on the east boundary. Visitors pass through a large, open lawn to two contemporary granite monuments, both of which face east (Figure 15). The historic monuments and headstones all face west, so the visitor arrives at the rear of the cemetery, rather than coming through the historic main entrance at the northwest corner.

Designated circulation in the cemetery consists of concrete walks and pads in the vicinity of the monuments and headstones. The concrete sidewalks were installed in 1945, and all are in a badly deteriorated condition with many cracks, heaves, and surface spalling. There is also a makeshift path made of concrete rubble that leads to the flagpole (Figure 16). It appears this path was created in the early 1990s when the concrete pad around the historic monuments was replaced. Additional piles of concrete rubble are located on the south boundary fence. The new concrete pad at the monuments is several inches lower than the original. As a result, water does not drain away from the monuments and a pool is formed after every rain event (Figure 17). The new pad is already broken, and the poor drainage poses a threat to the structural integrity of the monuments.

Concrete curbs border the eastern, western, and southern sides of the portion of the cemetery containing the headstones. On the eastern and western sides the curbs combine with swales to facilitate drainage to the north. In several instances the curbs have broken and heaved. A large oak tree south of the headstones has caused significant damage to the curb. Four small, simple concrete bridges provide access over the swales at various points, as indicated on the accompanying plan. The bridge that leads to the obelisk monument from the west contains circular scars indicating where six concrete finials once existed, three on the north side and three on the south. The finials were broken when the obelisk monument was vandalized in the late 1940s or 1950s.

Small-scale Elements:

Historic elements in the Rohwer Memorial Cemetery include two large monuments, twenty-four headstones, two entrance markers, sixty-six fenceposts, and a bench, all of which are made of concrete. Another historic concrete headstone lies 160' to the west of the west boundary fence. All of these elements have been detailed in the drawings that accompany this report. Non-contributing (non-historic) elements include two granite memorials and a flagpole.

The monument to the north is the Monument to the Rohwer Deceased (or Obelisk Monument) that commemorates the 168 internees who died while at the Center. The monument was designed and built by Koheiji Horizawa and dedicated on

Sunday, June 24, 1945. The pedestal of this monument consists of a four-tiered square adorned with delicate carvings and concrete urns and finials, most of which have been broken. A large cast-concrete lotus flower rests on top of the pedestal, out of which rises an obelisk. Many flower's petals have also been broken. The obelisk contains different inscriptions on all four elevations in both Japanese and English. The monument also features decorative patterns and detailed carvings of common Japanese cultural and religious symbols, including a lotus flower, a turtle, a heron, Mt. Fuji, a rising sun, a *mitsudomoe* (a three-part swirl resembling a yin-yang symbol), all on the obelisk, and *shimenawa* with *shide* (a rice straw rope strung with paper ribbons, used to demarcate sacred space), on the sides of the third tier of the base. American symbols can also be found on the monument, including stars, an eagle with a shield, and an eagle poised for flight on the sphere atop the obelisk.

The second large monument is a memorial to internees at Rohwer who enlisted in the American Army and served in the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (or Tank Monument). The monument was designed and built by Koheiji Horizawa and his assistant Harry Fujioka, and was dedicated on November 4, 1945. The concrete base of the monument is styled after the lower portion of a tank, complete with caterpillar tracks. The west elevation (front) of the tank features a United States shield and the two numbers of the units in which the soldiers served. A tall concrete tablet sits on the tank base. The west elevation of the tablet lists the names and ranks of the soldiers and the country in which they died beneath an eagle, while the east elevation contains a painted relief of an American flag and an inscription to the memory of deceased soldiers. The northern elevation of the tablet features a grandfather clock with Japanese characters that are now mostly illegible. The southern elevation of the tablet displays dates of the deceased and a wreath framing a lone star near the top. A concrete star crowns the top of the tablet.

The twenty-four concrete headstones are all of a similar design and consistent orientation, facing west. The typical headstone consists of a trapezoidal tablet placed on a rectangular plinth, with a scalloped concrete flower holder positioned at the front of the plinth. The top of the face of the typical headstone is decorated with a band containing a floral pattern, under which is inscribed a symbol that indicates whether the deceased was Buddhist (a flower) or Christian (a cross). The deceased internee's name and birth and death dates are positioned within a rectangle beneath the symbol. One of the headstones does not contain a name or dates, but upon close inspection traces of a name can be detected. The deceased's remains may have been moved to another location when the relocation center closed, and the inscriptions were filled in. Among the headstones there are three type variations. For consistency with the 2004 Condition Assessment Report, this report classifies them as Types A, B, and C. Types A and B are the same approximate size, but in Type A the flower holder was created in the same pour as the base, while in Type B the flower holder was a separate pour. There are three

Type C headstones in the southwest corner of the cemetery. They are similar in design but small, as they were designed for infants. These markers were placed much more closely together than the adult markers.

A small concrete headstone is located at the base of a tree in the grove 160' west of the west boundary fence (Figure 18a). The headstone is engraved with what appears to be a dog and the word "Papy," followed by "Aug. 1942." The consensus among later accounts and reports is that this is a memorial to a pet dog, but the date poses a problem as internees did not arrive at the center until September of that year. Given the design similarities between this headstone and the others in the cemetery, one possible explanation is that the dog belonged to an internee who had to leave it behind. The headstone may have been made and erected by the internee after arrival at the camp. It should be noted that during field reconnaissance in January 2012 for this report two local residents used this grove for pistol practice, shooting at a target just short of the "Papy" headstone. Judging from the bullet scars seen in Figure 18b, the headstone narrowly avoided damage. Worn grass and dirt tracks indicates vehicles are frequently driven into the grove, possibly for the purpose of target shooting.

The historic main entrance in the northwest corner of cemetery is flanked by 2 cast concrete trapezoidal tablets placed on rectangular plinths. Both tablets contain the inscription "*Rohwer Center Cemetery 1943.*" Between the tablets are two concrete gate posts, connected on the ground by a concrete threshold. Wire loops protruding from the posts appear to at one point have held some type of gate. No period photographs of the gates are known to exist. A second gateway of similar proportions is located due south in the southern boundary, while a third, small gateway is positioned near the southeast corner in the eastern boundary.

The cemetery perimeter is marked by sixty-six concrete posts. Through the close inspection of a dislodged concrete post it is believed that the concrete was cast over an existing barbed wire fence that was constructed using common steel "T" posts.⁵² In the post inspected, part of a broken "T" posts protruded from the concrete, while the remaining segment remained in the ground. Three small holes on two sides of the concrete posts, some with wire protruding, show where the barbed wire was once strung. Some posts exhibit a very thin concrete ridge running along two sides of each concrete post, which may be the result of a thin gap between the wooden forms that was left for the barbed wire to pass through. A date in the concrete base of one of the posts near the northeast corner of the cemetery indicates this fence was installed in October of 1945, just before the center closed. Residual paint and brush marks from the late 1970s and 1980s can still be seen on some of the posts. The barbed wire fence between the concrete

⁵² Field reconnaissance conducted by LARC 5053 students and faculty of the University of Arkansas Department of Landscape Architecture, January 26-28, 2012.

posts was removed sometime between the late 1960s and the 1970s, but there are still remnant wires protruding from some of the posts.

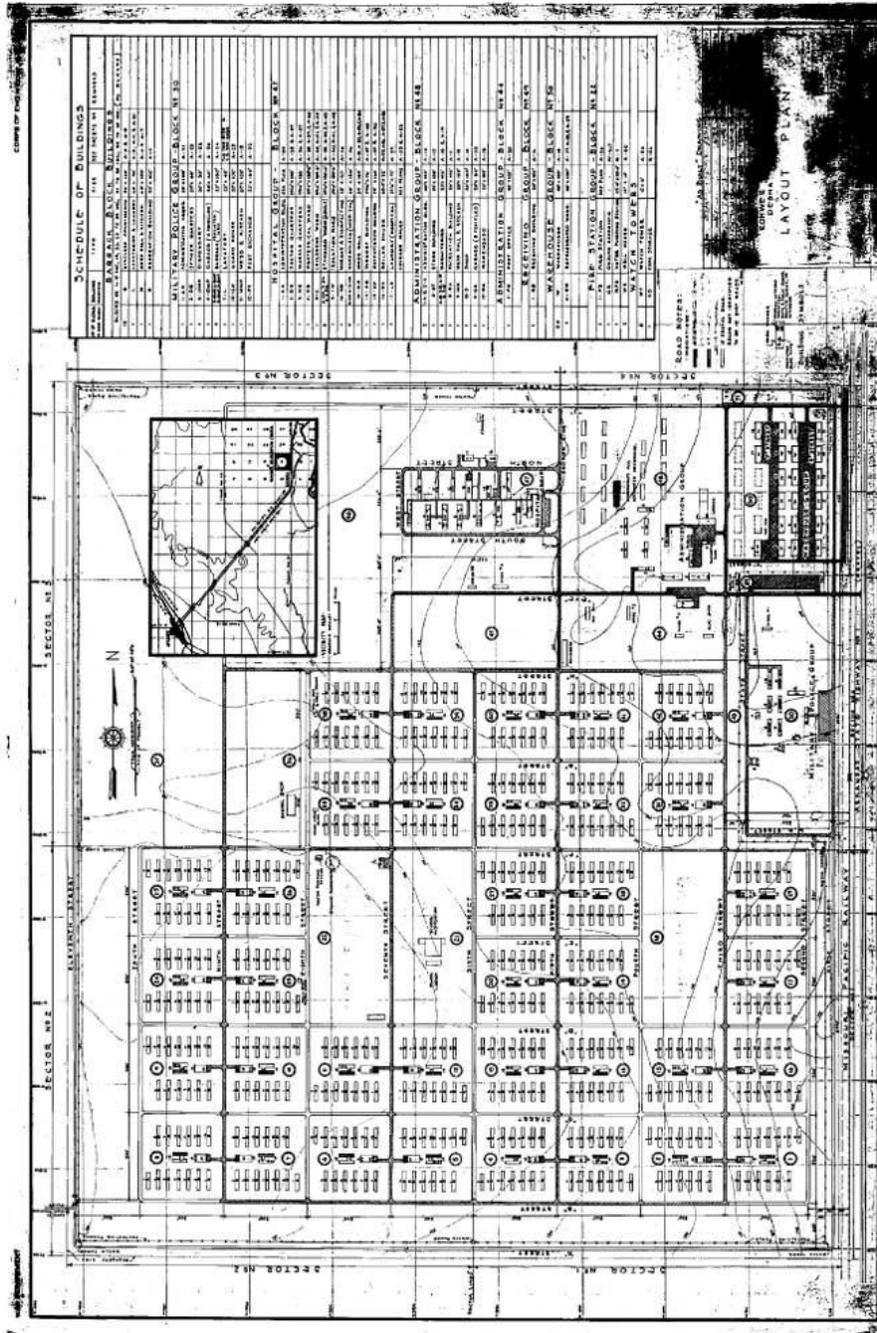
A cast concrete bench is located southeast of the Tank Monument, although the seat of the bench is lying on the ground near the two legs (two cracks have formed on either end of the seat, which could be a reason why it is no longer located on its base). The seat is engraved with a sun and a mountain resembling Mt. Fuji, flanked by floral patterns that are similar to ones found on the second tier of the Obelisk Monument.⁵³ It should be noted that historic photographs reveal the bench was constructed prior to the Obelisk Monument.

Non-historic small-scale elements include two granite monuments and a flagpole. The monuments were installed east of the historic monuments and face east. A six-tiered granite monument was installed as a “replacement memorial” for both of the historic concrete monuments in 1982 through an effort led by former internee Sam Yada. Following Yada’s death in 1991 his name and an explanation of his efforts to preserve the Rohwer Cemetery were memorialized through a new engraving on the south side the monument. The monument was originally topped with a cast bronze eagle, which has since been removed or stolen. The second non-historic monument was installed in 1993 and consists of a simple, rectangular granite pier on a concrete pad. A bronze plaque affixed to the front (east elevation) of the monument recognizes the Rohwer Cemetery as a National Historic Landmark. The flagpole holds an American flag and sits in the lawn on the west side of the concrete pad containing the two historic monuments, centered between them. The pole first appears in photographs from the late 1970s/early 1980s, but it could date as early as the late 1960s.

⁵³ Bench details were revealed by photogrammetry conducted by staff members of the University of Arkansas Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies during the field reconnaissance visit, January 26-28, 2012.

PART III: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Plans and photographs referenced in the report as Figures:



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Figure 2: View of the main cemetery entrance from the north in 1944, with the picket gate and post-and-rail fence (which was replaced in October 1945). The entrance markers, bench, and twenty-one of the eventual twenty-four headstones have been installed by this time (Charles E. Mace, June 16, 1944). Courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley (War Relocation Authority Photographs of Japanese-American Evacuation and Resettlement Series 10: Rohwer, Volume 28, Section D, WRA no. H-496).



Figure 3: Detail of the cemetery headstones in 1944. Cedar logs serve as curbs to mark plot boundaries and retain gravel. Note the mounded earth behind each headstone (Charles E. Mace, June 16, 1944). Courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley (War Relocation Authority Photographs of Japanese-American Evacuation and Resettlement Series 10: Rohwer, Volume 28, Section D, WRA no. H-497).



Figure 4: A young internee stands on a gravel drive at the graves of three infants located in the southwest corner of the cemetery in 1944. The log curb was replaced by concrete in 1945. Residential barracks of the camp can be seen in the background (Hikaru Iwasaki, June 16, 1944). Courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley (War Relocation Authority Photographs of Japanese-American Evacuation and Resettlement Series 10: Rohwer, Volume 28, Section D, WRA no. I-238).



Figure 5: The front page of The Rohwer Outpost featured this full-page sketch of the Obelisk Monument in the issue that came out after the monument's dedication. (The Rohwer Outpost Vol. VI No. 53, June 27, 1945). Courtesy of the Library of Congress (Library of Congress microfilm, Reel No. 3, Shelf No. Np 2452).



Figure 6: A view from the northwest of the completed Obelisk Monument, c. November, 1945. Note the contrasting surfaces, which may indicate paint. None of the concrete finials on the monument's base or on the bridge seen to the lower right of the monument are intact today. This image also shows the barbed wire fence with concrete posts, plant materials, gravel paths, and two small buildings behind the monument in the southeast corner of the cemetery (detail of undated photograph, photographer unknown). Courtesy of the University of Arkansas Little Rock, Center for Arkansas History and Culture (ualr-ms-0250_db01_20_15).



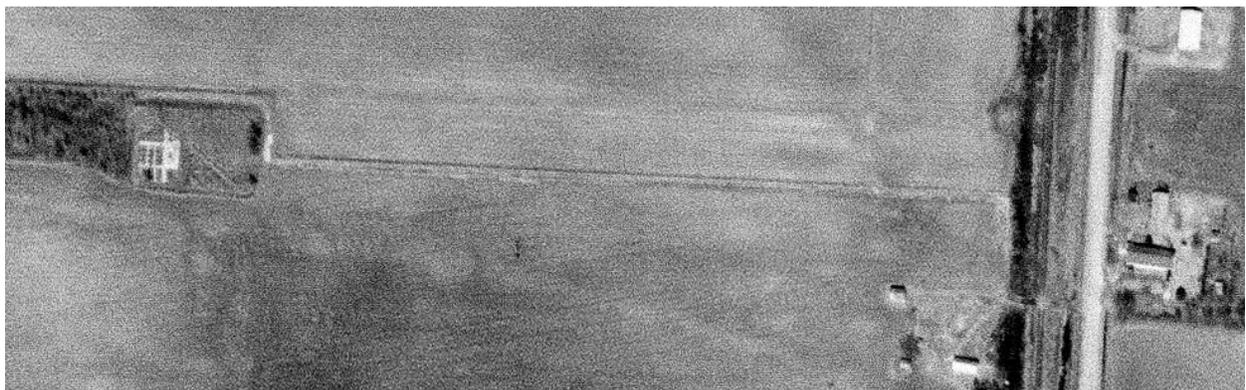
Figure 7: Photograph likely taken during the dedication of the Tank Monument, c. October 20, 1945. Note the gravel between the headstones, the concrete walk, and earth mounds behind the headstones (photographer unknown, c. October 20, 1945). Courtesy of the University of Arkansas Little Rock, Center for Arkansas History and Culture (ualr-ms-0250_db01_20_18).



Figure 8: Cemetery overview from the northwest that documents the character and condition of the completed cemetery near the relocation center's closure in November, 1945. The wood entrance bridge crossing the swale on the left leads to the residential blocks (photographer unknown, c. October 1945). Courtesy of the University of Arkansas Little Rock, Center for Arkansas History and Culture (ualr-ms-0250_db01_20_15).



Figure 9: Photograph of the color guard from the American Legion Post 1183 of Chicago at a ceremony held October 15, 1961. Courtesy of Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville (Arkansas Council on Human Relations Records (MS Ar4), Box 30, Folder 307).



Figures 10a & 10b: Details of a 1966 aerial photograph showing the cemetery access road that was constructed in 1961. Sidewalks and the swale of the diagonal path are discernible in the cemetery, as is the block layout in the former internment camp to the north of the cemetery. The community of Rohwer is located south of the cemetery. (March 1, 1966). Courtesy of U. S. Geological Survey (AR1VBIL00010003).



Figures 11a through 11d, clockwise from top left: Photographs sent with a letter from Buford R. Connor, Superintendent of Desha Central Schools to Arkansas Governor Orval E. Faubus. May 30, 1966. Figure 11a shows the swale of the former gravel diagonal path in the foreground. Figure 11d clearly shows the flag on the east elevation of the tank was painted at this time, but no other elements appear to be painted. Also of note – the flagpole and the crape myrtles have not been installed. Courtesy of Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville (Orval Eugene Faubus Papers Collection MF F27 301 S7 Sub2 Box 287 Folder 6 Item 01).



Figures 12a & 12b: Two photographs from the 1970s or early 1980s, possibly taken during the dedication of the new granite monument on May 30, 1982. Note the flagpole, the crape myrtles, and the painted headstones, fenceposts, and east side of the tablet on the Tank Monument (photographer and date unknown). Courtesy of the University of Arkansas Little Rock, Center for Arkansas History and Culture (ualr-ms-0250_b07_26_cemetery1 and ualr-ms-0250_b07_26_cemetery11).



Figures 13a & 13b: Two photographs from a set taken for the National Historic Landmark application. Note the broken south tread on the Tank Monument and the weathered paint on the headstones and fenceposts (A. Albright, April 1990). Courtesy of the University of Arkansas Little Rock, Center for Arkansas History and Culture (92001882 Rohwer).



Figure 14: View from the current access road after passing over the railroad tracks. The cemetery is in the grove of trees and today is surrounded by cotton fields, but historically the relocation center was located to the right (north) of the cemetery (K. Erdman, January 2012).



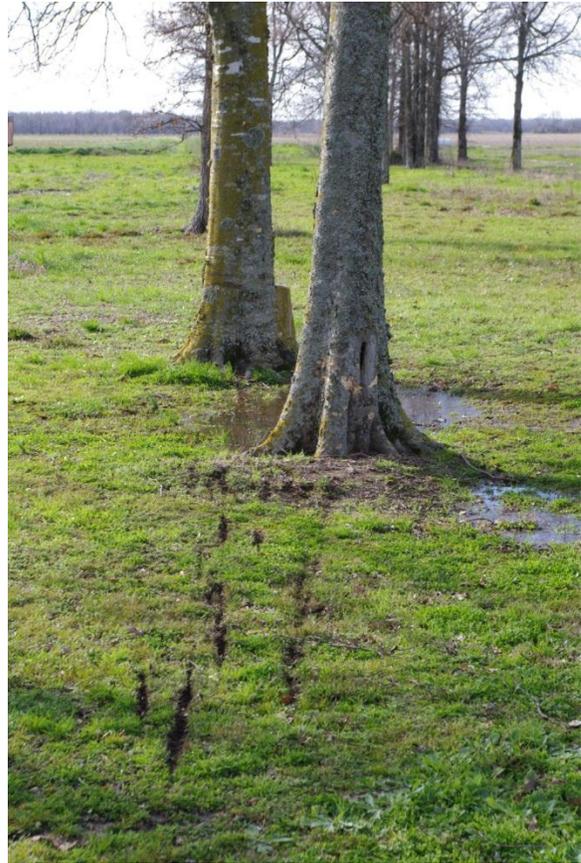
Figure 15: Most visitors today enter the cemetery from the east at this point – the access road is directly behind the photographer. The two new monuments face east, while the historic monuments face west (K. Erdman, January 2012).



Figure 16: Historic sidewalks in the cemetery are badly deteriorated. The walk seen in this photograph leading to the flagpole is not historic, but is believed to have been created in the 1990s from broken pieces of the original pad that surrounded the two monuments (B. Stinnett, January 2012).



Figure 17: The elevation of the concrete pad that was replaced in the 1990s is several inches lower than the original, preventing drainage around the monuments and creating a shallow pool after rain events (K. Erdman, January 2012).



Figures 18a & b: The “Papy” headstone, located in the grove west of the main cemetery likely memorializes the pet of an internee that died before the Relocation Center was occupied. Scars on the ground and trees are clearly evident after local residents used this area for pistol target practice. The “Papy” headstone, partially visible behind the second tree, narrowly avoided damage (K. Erdman, January 2012).

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PART IV: PROJECT INFORMATION

This HALS report and accompanying drawings were completed by Kimball Erdman, Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas, with the assistance Derek Lynn, Adjunct Teaching Assistant, and students enrolled in the Spring 2012 semester of LARC 5053 Historic Landscape Preservation:

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The GPS surveying, laser scanning, and photogrammetry of the site and objects for the accompanying drawings were conducted and processed by Robyn Dennis, RLA, PhD, and Caitlin Stevens of the University of Arkansas Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies.