

BURIAL GROUND FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

4857365

Field worker's name Robert W. Small

This report made on (date) July 12, 1937

1. Name (if any) of burial ground Nez Perce

2. Founded (date) Not known, possibly about By 1880.

3. Abandoned (date) About 1883 or 1884 why abandoned Tribe removed.

4. Present owners of premises Percy Davis,

Address of present owners Tonkawa, Oklahoma.

NOTE: Answer fully, if possible, questions 5 to 13 inclusive, here or on sheets firmly attached to this form.

5. Original owners of premises. County Records, best source of reliable information

6. Give names of other persons who at one time owned the premises.

7. Approximate number of graves. 100

8. Approximate number of marked graves None

9. General condition of headstones, including inscriptions. None

10. Number of inscriptions copied and attached. None (Place each inscription on a separate sheet and attach all to this form).

11. Any other information you were able to gather about the burial ground including its history. See attached comments.

12. Condition of the premises No evidence of burial ground; land is being farmed.

13. Detailed location of burial ground. farmed.

14. Local location of burial ground, County Kay,

Section One Township 25, North Range One, West

(north)

The plat on this form represents 640 acres, one square mile, and is subdivided into 40 acre tracts. The center of the section, and burial ground should be located accordingly. If possible, make additional subdivisions on plat to give more accurate location.

Number of sheets attached to this form One


This is about the exact location of the Nez Perce burial grounds.

An account of personal inspection made to locate the old Nez Perce Burial Grounds, by Robert W. Small, July 12, 1937.

Since the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Percy Davis, Tonkawa, Oklahoma, embraces the old burial grounds of the Nez Perce Indians, who once lived here but were removed about 1883 or 1884, and which grounds are being farmed over, it would be extremely difficult for anyone, even those once familiar with it, to locate the exact boundary of the old burial grounds at this time. No stones or markers are to be found as evidence of interment. From the knowledge and information furnished by different old time settlers in this part the location is shown on the plat attached hereto which is approximately the exact site of the old burial grounds.

The number buried in these grounds is roughly estimated at one hundred. Little accurate information is obtainable, locally, regarding this tribe of Indians whose residence in this locality was rather brief. The tribe, it is said, suffered from some climatic disease or ailment that decimated their number at an alarming rate while living here.

They were removed to some reservation in the northwest country in the early 1880's, after which their reservation here was settled upon by the Tonkawa tribe.