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Form 10-306 (Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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7.	DESCRIPTION							
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in the South Central portion of the Fort Sill Post Cemetery, Chiefs Knoll is distinguished from the main portion of the cemetery by being the highest elevation and by containing several remarkable grave monuments. Outstanding monuments are those of Comanche Chief Quanah Parker, and his white mother, Cynthia Ann, his sister Prairie Flower, and the stone vault over Kiowa Chief Kicking Bird's grave. The Quanah Parker and Cynthia Ann monuments were erected by Act of Congress.

The Chiefs Knoll is administered by the Fort Sill Museum and maintained by the Post Engineer. It is in use as a historic site and for selective reburials of other prominent South Plains Indian Chiefs of the 1870's, thus preserving the historical integrity of this site.

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PERIOD	ANCE (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)		
	Pre-Columbian 15th Century	16th Century 17th Century	☐ 18th Century ☑19th Century	20th Century
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	Conservation	Music	Transportation	

The Chiefs Knoll at Fort Sill is known to the Indians of the South Plains as the "Indian Arlington." Here lie buried in a single location many of their war chiefs and peace chiefs of a hundred years ago.

The earliest Indian burial here, by order of the Post Commander, was Satank or Sitting Bear, the fierce leader of the Kiowa Indians, who was killed by 4th Cavalry troopers in 1871. He was followed by Ten Bears, noted peace chief of the Yapparika Comanches, who was buried with full military honors on his death in 1872. Others include Chiefs Kicking Bird, Stumbling Bear, and Big Bow of the Kiowas, Horseback and Iron Mountain of the Comanches, and Little Raven, Yellow Bear, and Spotted Wolf of the Arapahoes. Many were signers of the Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty of 1867. Some represent reburials from unmarked isolated locations in recent years, performed by Fort Sill authorites at the request of the Indian descendants.

This knoll is the oldest section of the Post Cemetery, established in 1869 and includes the graves of the earliest Cavalry troopers and white scouts who died here in that period. The Fort holds Veterans Day ceremonies at this location annually, and Indian descendants continue to decorate the graves of their chiefs, in tribute to their past.



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