

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 2 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Francis Godfroy Cemetery

and/or common

2. Location IN

street & number State Road 124
Approximately five miles east of Peru N/A not for publication

city, town Peru vic. vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Miami code 103

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Cemetery

4. Owner of Property

name Ray Hopkins, Butler Township Trustee

street & number R. 1

city, town Peru N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46970

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Deed Record Book 85, page 184

street & number Miami County Courthouse

city, town Peru state Indiana 46970

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Francis Godfroy Cemetery is located approximately five miles east of Peru, Indiana, on State Road 124.

The cemetery is fixed on a grassy knoll. On the crest of this knoll is located the grave of Chief Francis Godfroy, the last War Chief of the Miami Indian Nation. His final resting place is surrounded by members of the Miami tribe. This historic spot has been an Indian burial ground for over one hundred years.

The cemetery is well maintained and easily accessible to the public. It is marked by an historical marker erected December 1, 1931, by the Peru History Club.

Through the efforts of the Miami County Genealogical Society, aged tombstones are currently being repaired and made readable once again. The families of Al and James Cole, of Peru, Indiana, have placed a new fence surrounding the cemetery. A new sign marking the cemetery has been donated by Harold Hay. A local funeral home (Eikenberry-Eddy), of Peru, Indiana, has agreed to donate grave markers to mark the graves to coincide with our platting history.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Indian History
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1812 Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (~~Historic~~)

The Francis Godfroy cemetery is significant as one of the few documented/Indian sites in the State of Indiana, and the burial place of Francis Godfroy. Originally the site of a Miami village and Chief Godfroy's council chambers, it became an Indian cemetery in 1812 after American forces mistakenly razed the village. historic

Born near Fort Wayne in March, 1788, Francis Godfroy was the son of Jacques (Jocko) Godfroy, a French fur trader who lived with the Miamis. Jocko was a nobleman who could trace his ancestry to Godfroy of Bouillion, a knight whose bravery in battle against the Saracens at Jerusalem during the First Crusade earned him the title of King of Jerusalem in 1099.

From his youth, Francis Godfroy was noted among his people for daring and bravery. He was a friend of Frances Slocum, known to the Miamis as Maconsquah (Little Bear Woman) and her husband, She-pan-cun-ah, war chief of the Miamis and chief of the Osage village located in Miami County and so named for an aged Osage Indian in residence there. In 1812, after the resignation of She-pan-cun-ah, Francis Godfroy was selected as his replacement. He took a prominent part in the battles of Kekionga (Fort Wayne) and Tippecanoe, and also in an engagement on the banks of the Mississinewa, the last battle in which the Miamis took part.

The Godfroy Cemetery had its beginnings in the last engagement. Originally the village of Chief Silver Heels, it was tragically destroyed December 17, 1812. Troops under the command of Lieutenant Col. John B. Campbell, sent to punish hostile Indians in the area, had been ordered not to harm friendly villages, including that of Silver Heels. Mistaking the village for a hostile camp, the troops attacked and destroyed the settlement. Escaping villagers informed Godfroy and his hunting party of the tragedy. Arriving at the site, Godfroy found eight warriors dead, and 42 men, women and children had been taken prisoner. Godfroy, pausing to bury the dead, then gathered his hunting party and set out to attack Campbell. In the pre-dawn of December 18, Godfroy attacked Campbell's camp, killing eight officers and men.

In 1817, Godfroy established a trading post on the Wabash River near the mouth of the Mississinewa across the road from the cemetery. Known as the Mount Pleasant Trading Post, this was to be Godfroy's home for the remainder of his life. Well known as a man of lavish hospitality, he was an astute businessman who amassed a fortune from his trading business and land sales.

Along with Miami Chief Jean Richardville, Godfroy was a statesman for his people, negotiating several treaties with the Federal Government between 1795 and 1840. Among these was the Treaty of 1826, known as the "Five Mile Reserve," which provided the right-of-way for the Michigan Road (U.S.421) through Pottawatomie land, and provided several land reserves for the Indians. In return for his help, Godfroy was granted several reserves of land, which included areas through which the Wabash and Erie Canal would later pass.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3/4 Acre

Quadrangle name Richvalley quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ray Bakehorn, President

organization Miami County Genealogical Society date 7-4-83

street & number R. 3, Box 292 telephone 317/459-9460

city or town Kokomo state Indiana 46901

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature J. M. Redlin

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 1-24-84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Allourez Byers Entered in the National Register date 3/1/84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Godfroy Cemetery

Item number 8

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Godfroy's success as a diplomat and statesman was exemplified by the Treaty of 1828. In that year, President Andrew Jackson came to negotiate a peace treaty with Godfroy and the Miamis. The agreement was called the Treaty of the Forks of the Wabash, and it allotted 2,500 acres of Wabash River bottomland to the Miamis. To commemorate the event, President Jackson presented Godfroy with a solid silver medallion.

At his death in 1840, Francis Godfroy was buried in the cemetery he had started and that now bears his name. Other prominent Indians buried there include John Baptiste (Big Leg), Chief of the Miamis at the time of their removal to the Kansas reservation, and Gabriel Godfroy, son of Francis and the last Chief of the Miamis in Indiana.

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Continuation sheet Godfroy Cemetery

Item number 9 and 10

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Item No. 9, Major Bibliographical References

Anson, Bert, The Miami Indians. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970.

Bodurtha, Arthur L. History of Miami County, Indiana. Chicago: The Lewis Co., 1914.

Indianapolis News. "Godfroy Family Cemetery", June 29, 1938.

Indiana State Library Manuscript Collection. Jacob P. Dunn Collection of Indian Materials, Essays and Notes—Indiana Indian Names.

Stephens, John, compiler. History of Miami County. Peru, Indiana: The John H. Stephens Publishing House, 1896.

Winger, Otho. The Last of the Miamis. North Manchester, Indiana: Otho Winger, 1935.

Item 10, Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point 380' north and 179' west of the southeast corner of a 24.38 acre tract of land, being a part of a half section of land set off to Clemence Godfroy in Francis Godfroy's Reserve No. 9, Township 27 North, of Range 5 East, said 24.38 acre tract being a tract of land deeded by Gabriel Godfroy and Jennie Godfroy, his wife, as shown in deed record No. 45, page 161, and marked as Lot No. 2 on the partition record "A" at page 58, said southeast corner of said 24.38 acre tract being 18.70 chains north of the south line and 23.74 chains east of the west line of the above mentioned half section of land and running thence south 75°47' west 182 feet to a point; thence north 14°45' west 215' to a point on the south line of a Public Highway, thence north 62°30' east 12' along the south line of said highway, thence south 89°30' east along the south line of said highway 195' to a point, thence south 14°25' east 172 feet to the place of beginning, containing .841 (thousandths) of an acre. For the purpose of an Indian Burial Ground, for the burial of Indians and persons of Indian Blood, and persons related to the Indians by marriage, and none others.