

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



336

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Frazer Cemetery
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2 miles West of the Jackson County Courthouse on U.S. 62, and 1/2

NA
X

 not for publication
mile South on County Road 202
city or town Altus vicinity _____
state Oklahoma code OK county Jackson code 065 zip code 73521

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

[Signature] APR 25, 2011
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

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:)

[Signature] 6-8-11
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Frazer Cemetery
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

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.)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: N/A
walls: N/A
roof: N/A
other: N/A

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Location and Setting

The Frazer Cemetery is located in an agricultural field two miles west of the Jackson County Courthouse on U.S. 62, and one-half mile south on gravel road CR 202. The cemetery is on the west side of the road and is easily found because it is marked with a large wood sign, stained red with white letters which rests on a substantial granite boulder base. The sign has the cemetery name and the 1885 establishment date. The one-acre cemetery site is surrounded by chain-link fence. The landscape around the cemetery is open countryside and farm land. There are two clumps and several single Chinaberry trees in the northeast quarter of the cemetery. The closest vegetation near the cemetery is along the edges of the meandering Bitter Creek to the west. The most significant feature of the cemetery is the vertical marble grave markers that are placed on a grid, though it is clear that there are more graves in the cemetery than those marked by headstones.¹ There is no planned parking, rather a pull-off area in a field at the southeast corner by the cemetery gate. Frazer was located along what is now U.S. 62 (in Sections 14 and 23), and the cemetery was approximately one-half mile to the southeast (in Section 23).² Frazer residents and nearby neighbors would later found Altus, Oklahoma.

Narrative Description

The cemetery is on high ground to the east of Bitter Creek and the Salt Fork of the Red River. Its location has protected it from the incidents of flooding such as the one that caused Frazer residents to abandon their town. Bitter Creek was important to those who founded Frazer because it provided potable water in an area where streams and groundwater can be laden with gypsum. But the creek was also important as cattle moved north to the Kansas railhead in Dodge City. The nascent town of Frazer was well located along the western edge of the Great Western Cattle Trail which was in use from c. 1876 to c. 1890.³ The trail is also known as the Dodge City Trail, Doan Trail, the Lone Star and the Old Texas Trail. The trail began at Brownsville, Texas, and approximately 300,000 head of cattle, 7000 horses and 1000 drovers moved over the trail annually.⁴ Meandering herds moved through the Frazer area along the North Fork of the Red River toward the Lone Wolf, Oklahoma area (see Continuation Sheet Section 7, page 4). While it generally followed the North Fork there was no "one" trail as cattle spread out in feeder and splinter trails feeding on lush prairie grasses. The town was also known as "Buttermilk Station" along a stage and wagon route through the area (See Continuation Sheet Section 7, page 3).⁵ The town was well-placed to do business with cowboys, stage travelers and those riding the north/south Lone Star mail circuit; and as such, the town's location held promise for future growth until it flooded and the residents moved.⁶

The cemetery conveys its period of significance from 1886 to 1950, and reflects the use of the cemetery by settlers of Frazer and its continued use by residents and neighbors after the town moved and became Altus. The cemetery maintains its integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association with Frazer. It has always been

¹ Several markers are broken, and/or lying on the ground, and some cannot be identified due to damage.

² The location of Frazer is shown on an 1890 township map labeled "Greer County, O.T.? Tx?". The location is also marked on the 1890 Meers Map of Greer County, Indian Territory, centered at the bottom edge of Section 14 and the map also shows a school house present.

³ Different dates are provided by different authors, historic markers, etc. This website said that the drives began approximately 1876 until 1893. See http://www.greatwesterncattletrail.com/along_gwct_a/along_gwct.html, referenced December 8, 2010. Also see Jimmy Skaggs master's thesis, "The Great Western Cattle Train to Dodge City, Kansas, Texas Technological College, 1965, 21. Skaggs claims that Hige Nail, who was the trail boss for the Adams Brothers cattle Company of Uvalde, Texas, was the first to find this trail in 1876. This date is confirmed by "A History of Southwest Oklahoma: When Greer County was Old." This is a 2010 calendar with five pages of historic dates in the county. Skaggs's thesis is in the author's possession. Another document describes Texas cattle trail study which the state highway department completed at the behest of the state government in 1931. See H. S. Tennant, "The Texas Cattle Trails," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, (Vol. 14, Number 1), 84-121.

⁴ Corwin F. Doan kept records of herd crossings numbers, the trail bosses, the number of cattle and to whom they belonged. See <http://rebelcherokee.labdiva.com/cattletrail.html>. The website information was written by Ethel Taylor and was referenced on December 8, 2010.

⁵ The McClearans reputedly handed out buttermilk to cow hands.

⁶ "Soil Survey of Jackson County, Oklahoma," cooperative published by the National Cooperative Soil Survey, the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal and State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. Publication date is c 1999, 3-4.

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in a separate location than the town itself. The land was donated for a cemetery by Joseph Cofer in a warrantee deed on January 24, 1902, which stated that the acre was to be reserved for a cemetery.⁷ The date appears to be in error because the cemetery was established in 1885, but the date reflects the status of Unassigned Lands at the time. Land ownership was not recorded until after the Supreme Court case establishing the Altus area as part of Indian Territory rather than Texas.⁸

The town of Frazer was abandoned during the period of cemetery significance, but it does not affect the property's integrity since it was not part of Frazer proper. A few replacement headstones have been added after the period of significance, but these do not prevent the cemetery from conveying its historic significance. They are immediately distinguishable because most are contemporary gray or red granite.

The cemetery landscape is a grid type that predominates in most Midwest rural settings. The headstone density tends to be closer to the road, thinning out as one moves toward the west boundary fence. There are several fenced family plots, two with early cast iron fences, one with early woven wire, and two with more recent chain link. The chain-link fencing does not detract from the significance or integrity of the cemetery. Several family plots are outlined with concrete or stone curbs, and a few single unmarked graves are surrounded by brick. Curbed plots visually keep the family together, and often family plots are purchased in a group. Family plots were extremely important into the late Victorian era because they emphasized the value and cohesion of the family unit. Family plots were desirable because even in death, families could be kept together. Fencing around family graves serves the same purpose; it visually binds the family into a unit.⁹

Headstones range in size from small tablets to larger three dimensional markers many resting on tooled bases. Some graves have short footstones as well. This cemetery maintains a common pattern of burying the body with the feet toward the east. Headstones then have their inscriptions usually on the west face of the stone. Some stones have two burial citations which was also common during this period because markers could be erected long after several deaths in a family. As the last great necessity for a family's loved one, the need to mark a grave is very strong and several graves have hand made markers, either of local stone or of poured concrete.

With the exception of recent replacement and 1920s stones, headstones are varieties of white marble; some are high density and very white; others are streaked and heavily mixed with gray. They are in relatively good condition considering that marble is soft and highly subject to weathering.¹⁰ Stones under the trees tend to have lichen on the north faces.

The settlers who came to this area brought burying traditions with them. In new and unsettled locations, traditions were kept and reintroduced into new settlement areas to sustain their heritage, cultural values and identity. Cultural persistence is the retention and diffusion of cultural values as people move from one location to another, and Frazer settlers' cultural values and attitudes toward death are reflected in this cemetery.¹¹ Settlers came to Greer County in the late Victorian period of cemetery history when white marble was the stone of choice for marking loved ones graves. The whiteness could not be missed as it stood out against the backdrop of blue skies and the open landscape. White marble also symbolized the purity of the heaven-bound soul; it was considered uplifting and replaced earlier dark headstone materials such as slate, which often grimly warned about the approach of death.¹² White marble through a range of incised symbols celebrated the soul's flight to heaven. The marble markers allow an acceptable public sentimentality, romanticism and mourning both through the symbolism and epitaphs. Commonly used headstone symbols convey shared complex cultural values among those who use them.

⁷ Joseph Cofer was the first to patent this land; from Jackson County Courthouse records.

⁸ The area of present-day area of Frazer and Jackson County was once claimed by Texas and called "Greer County". The area was a matter of dispute among nations beginning in 1542 as Spain and France claimed the area as part of the "right of exploration." France conveyed the Louisiana Purchase boundaries to the United States as it had received them from Spain. One of the boundaries was the Red River which was a difficult boundary location as the river was mis-identified by U.S. surveyors. They also mis-identified where the 100th meridian was located and as a result Texas believed "Greer County" to be in its state. It took a U.S. Supreme Court case in 1896 to settle claims over the area. The early settlers of Greer County then lived in the area of "Disputed Lands," believing they were in Texas.

⁹ Fencing around rural cemetery sites keeps animals away from browsing on graves or toppling stones.

¹⁰ There appears to be little damage from mowing machines or weed eaters.

¹¹ Cathy Ambler, "A Place Not Entirely of Sadness and Gloom," Kansas History, A Journal of the Central Plains (Winter 1992-1993, Vol.15, #4), 242.

¹² Blanch Linden-Ward, Silent City on a Hill: Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery (Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press, 1989), 218. Linden-Ward's book covers the history and evolution of American burying traditions. One stone in the cemetery for J. W. Arnold still reflects earlier and somber warnings: "Remembered loved ones and friends, as you pass by as I am now so you must be, prepare for death and follow me,"

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The most common symbols in this cemetery are the gates of heaven, open book or Bible, the index finger pointing to heaven, male/female clasped hands, floral motifs, and doves and lambs which are most often used for children's graves. Fraternal symbols are present: Masonic, Odd Fellows and Woodsman of the World (WOW), and there are three WOW tree markers in the cemetery. One grave announces a veteran member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Fraternal institutions in settlement communities were very important because shared memberships fostered familiarity and trust among members and unknown strangers were viewed with healthy suspicion. It is common in the cemetery's period of significance for markers to show fraternal memberships in an effort to demonstrate a deceased's character. There is one government-issue military marker for Thomas Barnett who served in the Spanish American War. Multiple variations of the obelisk are present, which symbolically represents the beginning and end of life. Headstones for the most part bear no overt reference to religion except through applied symbolism. There are references to classical forms in pediments, the applied use of the Greek key, and stylized urns.

Epitaphs reflect the goodness and a deserved place in heaven for the person buried, mourning for the death, or demonstrate belief that the family will be once again united, again reflecting the Victorian emphasis on the value of the family. An example epitaph on the E. L. Allen stone reads: "Darling father, he has left us, for evermore; but we hope to meet our loved one on that bright and happy shore."¹³ Another for Walter Farmer says simply, "Gone home to Jesus."

During the period of Frazer's existence, twenty-five people were buried in the cemetery between 1885 and 1896.¹⁴ About half are men and half women. Eleven (44%) were children ten and under, about 44% were between 18 and 50 (mostly 20s and 30s), and 2% were in their 70s. Thirteen of the 25, both young children and adults, died in 1890-91, which indicates a likely illness that spread among the Frazer community.¹⁵ There are three infants buried who were never named. Burials continue between 1896 until the end of the 1920s, when they almost stop. All the 1920s burials are children with the exception of five senior adults with family members already in the cemetery. The three 1930s burials had family members already buried in the cemetery as did the 1950 burial. More than half of those buried in the cemetery were born before 1900.

A list of the burials that follows comes from three sources: field work on November 16, 2010 by Cathy Ambler and Jennie Buchanan, and two websites that identify those buried here in two different surveys in 2003 and in 2007. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gsr&GSsr=1&GScid=98471>, the Find-a-Grave website and was compiled by Patti O'Bannon and updated with family information by Ken Townsend, the last update was in 2007. This site has photographs of many of the headstones. The other site is <http://www.interment.net/data/us/ok/jackson/frazer/index.htm>. This list is at Internment.net with cemetery records on-line, it too was compiled by Patti O'Bannon, Jan 27, 2004, last edited Jul 24, 2007.

Among these three sources the list of burials below are those that can be recognized by markers. Depressions in the ground, missing stones from extant foundations make it evident that the cemetery has more burials. One also must consider that there would have been a high degree of transience in this settlement community and families may have buried a loved one in the Frazer cemetery and moved away, never placing a marker at the burial site.

¹³ Epitaphs were commonly used in the United States by the 1850s. See Jane Hadden Hobbs, "Flowers in the Victorian Cemetery," *Markers XIX, Annual Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies*, ed. Richard Myers (Greenfield, MA: Association for Gravestone Studies, 2002), 245. Hadden describes the significance of the symbolism of flowers. One stone in the cemetery for J. W. Arnold still reflects earlier somber warnings: "Remembered loved ones and friends, as you pass by as I am now so you must be, prepare for death and follow me."

¹⁴ The post office remained in Frazer until 1896 although many of the residents had moved to found Altus in 1891. It was along an existing mail route so perhaps that this the reason for the post office remaining after the town moved.

¹⁵ Indian Pioneer Papers, October 12, 1937, Margie Parker McMahan. Ms. McMahan remembers that there were times when fever and small pox were present in the Frazer community. Interview is on the web at <http://www.okgenweb.org/pioneer/ohs/mcmahanm.htm>. Referenced November 17, 2010. She notes a small pox outbreak occurred in 1900-1901 but the years may be slightly off. Hightower, *ibid.*, 23.

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Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Age	Notes on Stone	Sex	Stone Description
Aaron, Lena	12/27/1869	11/20/1900	31	Wife of T. M	F	modified obelisk, finger pointing upward
Aaron, Mary				Wife of G. J.	F	modified obelisk, finger pointing upward
Allen, E. L	11/24/1862	3/15/1916	54		M	WOW
Allen, Louis D.	1909	11/13/1919	10	s/o E. B. & Amanda Allen	M	
Arnold, J. W.	1854	1924	70		M	Wreath and Greek Keys on tablet
Barclay, Oscar M.	1876	10/6/1906	30y 9m 6d		M	Crown with Leaves modified obelisk
Barrett Gladys	11/17/1899	11/11/1901	2	d/o O. W. & Belle Barrett	F	
Barrett, Constance	8/15/1888	3/6/1906	18	w/o G. R. Barrett	F	ferns on modified obelisk
Barrett, Dora	1863	1934	61	w/o T. F. Barrett	F	replacement red granite stone
Barrett, Grace	1893	9/9/1917	24y 2m 3d	Only d/o Enos & Lucy Barrett,	F	modified obelisk with floral
Barrett, Philip	11/11/1905	7/24/1913	8	s/o G. R. & Constance Barrett	M	Crown with Leaves modified obelisk
Barrett, Ruben	1819	5/11/1898	79y 2m 25d		M	modified obelisk, many mansions, Greek key
Barrett, Sophia	11/14/1831	12/2/1917	86		F	tablet
Barrett, Thomas F				have family history	M	military marker, Co. F, 1st Inf. Spanish American War
Barrett, W. Ruth	2/15/1902	5/12/1902	0		F	modified obelisk
Blain, Harriett W	11/26/1857	3/22/1897	40	w/o R. M. Blain	F	tablet
Blain, Richard Murry	1/1/1856	12/30/1909	53	husband of Harriett	M	replacement stone gray granite flat on the ground
Burdick, Mirene	2/3/1905	1/23/1908	3		F	thick tablet
Burnell, C. J.					M	
Burnell, Marie	9/27/1836	6/11/1901	65y 8m 14d	w/o Francis Brunell,	F	column
Bush, G. L.	6/18/1866	1/13/1928	63		M	Masonic modified obelisk, ivy
Bush, Infant	6/9/1903	6/9/1903	0	s/o J. M. & M. I. Bush	M	tablet with shoulders
Bush, Joel	1855	1933	78		M	replacement stone with floral
Bush, John J.	11/4/1819	8/18/1891	72		M	podium with book, odd fellows and gates of heaven
Bush, Lizzie	5/11/1862	5/11/1890	28		F	
Bush, Mary	4/26/1833	11/1/1920	87		F	modified obelisk
Carter, Flora	9/12/1910	12/7/1910	0	d/o H. T. & M. M. Carter	F	
Cattlett, Laura A	7/21/1870	5/27/1889	19		F	
Chism, Robert B	2/2/1898	11/10/1900	2		M	
Cochran, H. B	11/16/1874	3/13/1904	30		M	short modified obelisk and clasped hands
Deloach, Infant	4/7/1909	4/24/1909	0			rounded tablet and dove
Dennis, Pollie	1906	1907	1	d/o W. R. & Nettie Dennis	F	replacement stone on ground
Derr, E. A.	1846	1889	43		M	
Donachey, Barney Paskel	8/22/1910	6/17/1911	1	s/o I. S. & I. J. Donachey	M	tablet
Eaton, Mary	1853	1892	39		F	replacement red granite stone
Eccles, Marion F.	11/1/1882	9/19/1888	6	s/o J. R. & M. E. Eccles	F	tablet with lamb
Elder, Neva	12/21/1910	1/15/1910?	0		F	pointed tablet with floral
Elder, Retha Wills	1900	1901	1		F	

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Eldridge, Ray	9/12/1890	8/2/1901	11		M	modified obelisk with ivy and floral wheel
Farmer, Walter L	9/27/1884	6/18/1890	6	s/o J. W. & M. E. Farmer	M	modified obelisk and dove
Fowler, Eddie	4/13/1863	7/13/1891	28y 3m	w/o J. E. Fowler (doctor)	F	modified obelisk and clasped hands, anchor
Fox, Clarence	19/9/1908	10/14/1914	6	s/o T. F. & L. C. Fox	M	rounded tablet with floral
Fuer, Mirene	2/3/1905	1/23/1908	3	d/o R. & G. S. Fuer	F	
Goen, Mary Iris	6/17/1905	11/14/1914	9		F	
Gray, Arthur	1882	1897	5		M	replacement stone
Gray, Ira	1891	1897	6		M	replacement stone
Gray, James	1855	1929	74		M	replacement stone
Gray, Mattie	1857	1927	70		F	replacement stone
Harris, Allie A	12/10/1858	4/6/1891	33	Mother, w/o F. M. Harris	F	replacement stone
Hawkins, Allie A	ND	3/15/1891			F	replacement stone, "Mother"
Hawkins, Mary K.	ND	3/11/1891			F	modified obelisk with bird shared with W. R.
Hawkins, Rev. W. R	ND	3/11/1891	28y, 11 m		M	Modified obelisk with a bird shared with Mary
Jones, Hardy	2/3/1891	3/12/1891	0	likely a twin?	M	
Jones, Harry	2/4/1891	2/12/1891	0	likely a twin?	M	Shared with Hardy, modified obelisk, floral, ivy
Jones, Sallie	4/6/1865	2/12/1891	26		F	Shared with Harry, modified obelisk, floral, ivy
Jones, Winnie Maybelle	5/25/1909	8/18/1910	1	d/o J. A. & Mary Jones	F	
Julian, Rose B	1875	1893	18		F	broken round top tablet stone on the ground with clasped hands "we shall meet again"
Kennedy, Robert	5/25/1909	4/25/1886	52		M	modified obelisk with ivy and floral wheel
Kiker, Glenna	1927	1929	2		F	gray granite flat on the ground
Kiker, Joel	1924	1924	0		M	gray granite flat on the ground
Kleinsteiber, Infant	1926	1926	0	Buried in row with Gray Family		gray granite flat on the ground
Lawrence, Frank	8/31/1895	9/18/1896	1		M	thick tablet
Lee, Edna	1915	1916	1		F	
Luikart, Frederick G	10/6/1840	12/23/1903	63		M	G.A.R., modified obelisk with floral
Luikart, Lucy A	10/12/1852	2/29/1916	64		F	Was a Barrett, modified obelisk with floral
McMahan, Ruby	12/31/1897	9/3/1898	1	d/o J. R. & M. T. McMahan	F	rounded thick tablet; gates of heaven
McMurry, Elmo Wilson	9/15/1894	9/3/1895	1		M	short modified obelisk, ivy, lamb
McMurry, J. E	9/2/1826	6/2/1893	74		M	podium with bible; Masonic
McSpadden, Albert Sidney	8/17/1881	9/17/1909	27	s/o A. C. & S. A. McSpadden	M	draped modified podium with gates of heaven, crown and cross
Moreau, Fountain L.	2/2/1886	5/23/1896	10	s/o B. M. & S. J. Moreau	M	short modified obelisk and dove

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Morris, William	1915	3/30/1905	1		M	
Naurice, T. F.	1892	1916	24	hand done	M	concrete on the ground
Newton, Walter	12/28/1910	3/27/1911	0		M	
Owen, Walter	1920	1922	2		M	red granite on the ground
Paskell, Barny	1910	1911	1		M	
Peace, Edna Lee	3/17/1906	5/27/1907	1	d/o W. R. & Ella Peace	F	heart with palm leaf shared with Mildred
Peace, Mildred	3/1/1907	8/17/1907	0	d/o W. R. & Ella Peace	F	heart with palm leaf shared with Edna Lee
Pollock, L. D.	9/5/1860	4/21/1891	31		M	modified obelisk, bird
Polston, Clarence	1/11/1856	8/13/1914			M	WOW Marker
Polston, E. F.	1868	1/11/1868	46		M	
Polston, Lee				concrete hand made	F	
Powers, Vilena	1848	1918		Buried in the row of Gray Family	F	gray granite flat on the ground
Raley, Cecil	1912	1913	1		M	red granite on the ground
Raley, Edward M	1867	1938	71		M	WOW Marker
Raley, Keller M	1893	1950	57		M	red granite on the ground
Raley, Renna	1897	1913	34		F	red granite on the ground shared with Cecil
Snider, Fannie E.	12/13/1894	7/2/1912	18	w/o T. N. Snider	F	
Starnes, J. M	2/7/1852	4.19/1890	38		M	rounded tablet
Stubbs, Charles P	1/22/1867	3/13/1896	29		M	
Turner, Annie	1862	9/20/1892	30	w/o J. O. Turner	F	rounded tablet, finger pointing to heaven, stone on the ground
Verrick, Julia A	12/18/1904	Feb-05	1	d/o F. H. & Mae Verrick	F	thin tablet with dove and leaves
White, Ethel	5/10/1900	10/24/1904	4	d/o A. S. & M. F. White	F	modified obelisk, many mansions, Greek key
Wilson, Nettie	1891	1891	0		F	
Woodson, J. A.					M	

ALTERATIONS

There are six individual replacement markers, the Allie Harris and the Gray family's stones among ninety-four burials. The number is insignificant and they do not detract from the marble and verticality of the historic markers. The Allie Harris stone is the only new stone that has height. Some tablet historic markers are on the ground but have not been restored in place. The chain link fencing around the cemetery which replaced earlier barbed wire and the sign for the cemetery are not historic. The chain link fence is damaged along the north boundary. Vandalism has occurred in the cemetery and infrequently the up-righted markers have been rotated so the inscriptions are not on the west face; some markers have missing finials or urns.

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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.)

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance

1886-1950

Significant Dates

- c. 1886 is the first recorded burial
- c. 1891 is the vacation of the town of Frazer
- c. 1938 is the end of marble marker use
- C. 1950 is the last burial date

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- 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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance date for the cemetery was determined by to the last known burial in the cemetery, which was is a member of the Raley family which had a family plot in Frazer Cemetery.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Frazer Cemetery

Name of Property

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The Frazer Cemetery is the only tangible physical evidence for the settlement community of Frazer, Oklahoma founded in 1885. The cemetery contains the graves of individuals who were exceptionally significant in the founding of Altus, Oklahoma. The cemetery also reflects the settlers' burial traditions of those who settled Frazer and the Frazer area.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Frazer Cemetery is eligible locally for the National Register of Historic Places, Criterion A, under Exploration/Settlement for its association with the early settlers from the town and neighborhood of Frazer in Greer County, Texas (Jackson County, Oklahoma). Residents abandoned Frazer in 1891 after severe flooding swept through the town, moved about two miles east and established a new town, Altus (named such because it was on higher ground). Frazer settlers and neighbors are buried here, but Frazer families who moved to Altus after Frazer was vacated also continued to bury their dead here until 1950 when the last burial occurred. The cemetery contains the names of Frazer settlement families who contributed significantly to the development of Altus and became leading citizens in the community. The cemetery also documents the settlement period burial traditions of Frazer residents and neighborhood families.

The cemetery also meets Criteria Consideration D because the cemetery is the only existing resource associated with Frazer one of the earliest settlements in Greer County. Frazer was on the western edge of the Great Western Cattle Trail, a stage stop, and an early mail route in early Greer County. While the town of Frazer lasted only from 1885 to 1896 (the date the post office was discontinued), many residents became leaders in their transplanted town now named Altus.

The period of significance begins in 1886 with the first known burial and extends to the last in 1950. This burial was in the established Raley family plot.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A – Settlers from and near the town of Frazer.

Ranchers had free rein of the country around Frazer for many years as they grazed cattle on the rich grasses and took them to market on the Great Western Trail; many established ranches in what is Jackson County such as the Day Land and Cattle Company, the Herring, Waggoner, and the Cross S ranches. The nomination for the Cross S Ranch Headquarters (NRIS #06000119) notes that by 1885, there were in Greer County "some ten families and 60,000 cattle belonging to seven or eight firms that employed 100 men."¹⁶ But farmers continued to arrive as well and stake land claims in the county. A few of the well-known Frazer residents are listed below.¹⁷

Frazer and its neighborhood vicinity are known for the number of residents who helped establish Altus and settle the Altus area. It took both town residents and successful Frazer farmers to ensure that Altus would become a successful agricultural marketing community. Frazer founders were John and Susan McClearn who moved into the area they believed to be Texas in 1885. Claiming land grants from Texas, they settled on the east banks of Bitter Creek, a source of good water in an area where poor water quality is common in streams. The McClearans came with their two married daughters, whose families were the Holts and Walkers. New residents continued to move into the area encouraged by the State of Texas in 1884 to begin homesteading. Frazer was the first of only three towns in Greer County all of which were founded in the 1880s; the others were Mangum and Navajoe. John McClearn's family also organized the first church in their half-dug out home in 1887.¹⁸ McClearn carried mail from Doan's Crossing for three months three times a week until a post office was established in Frazer. His sons-in-law, Peter Holt and J. B. Walker hauled freight from Wichita Falls, Texas, to Kansas over the Great Western Cattle Trail the first few years they lived in Greer County.¹⁹ On the way back they picked up buffalo bones to sell. John's son Joe McClearn Sr. was on the Altus City Council and helped build the city auditorium. The fourth generation of McClearans, great-grandson Joe McClearn, is still living in Altus.²⁰

¹⁶ National Register Nomination, Section 8, 10.

¹⁷ Residents of Frazer were also most often farmers with land claims.

¹⁸ Michael J. Hightower, "The Businessman's Frontier: C. C. Hightower, Commerce, and Old Greer County, 1891-1903," Chronicles of Oklahoma (Vol. 86, #1, Spring 2008), 5.

¹⁹ History provided in a 1958 typewritten manuscript of memories of Flo Rene LeForge. She was a granddaughter of J. B. Walker. This typed manuscript was provided to the author by Bart McClenny, Director of the Museum of the Prairie in Altus.

²⁰ Copied information provided to Cathy Ambler and Jennie Buchanan by Joe McClearn, great grand-son of John McClearn, November 17, 2010.

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J. R. McMahan and his family arrived in Frazer in 1887, and became the community's school teacher in the little school house just northwest of the cemetery.²¹ They homesteaded on land north of Frazer, but McMahan served part time in the town as Frazer postmaster which was located in a drug store operated with Dr. J. E. Fowler. McMahan became the founder of one of the town's biggest banks, the First National Bank.²² He also became a director for the Wichita Falls and Hollis Railroad Company.²³ The McMahan's have a daughter buried in the Frazer Cemetery. An addition in Altus is named for him.

Dr. J. E. Fowler was one of the first doctors to settle in Greer County and at Frazer; he ran a drugstore and post office with J. R. McMahan. He moved to Altus after the flood and opened another drugstore. His first wife is buried in the Frazer Cemetery.²⁴ He was heavily involved in local real estate and an addition in Altus is named for him.

C. C. Hightower was an early resident of Frazer and had a dry-goods store there. After the town flooded the building was moved to Altus and he reopened a dry goods business. C. C. Hightower was a high profile rancher in the region and had diversified enterprises, including retail stores and he was a co-founder of the People's Bank. He had extensive real estate holdings and four additions are named for him in Altus. Hightower was a director of the Wichita Fall and Hollis Railroad Company and helped organize the Bonebreak-Hightower Hardware Company.

Other well-known Frazer residents or neighbors mentioned as instrumental to Altus's success in town history were: E. E. Russell, who had a jewelry store in Frazer and was the first tax assessor for old Greer County. Gee Russell opened a hotel. Charles P. Stubbs who co-started a Frazer newspaper and then in Altus, is buried in the cemetery.²⁵ Joseph Cofer donated the land for the cemetery. Others living in or near Frazer included J. B. Jackson, F. S. Baird, Charlie Neal, W. W. Waters, J. M. Brown, Wesley and Will Cox, G. N Harvey, Jim and D. A. Reid, B. T. Turner, T. G. Braddock. T. A. Lawrence, J. M. Hayes, J. M. Russell, Charlie Munsel, Elmer Barrett, Dan Simpson, Stan Luikart, C. R. McConnel, Ralph Hudson, Todd and Frank Simpson, Green Cotney, Rush brothers, Christian brothers, and B. M Moreau. Members of the Luikart and Moreau families are buried in the Frazer cemetery.²⁶

Two families with large family plots are the Bushes and Barretts; both families have multiple graves in the cemetery. Thomas Barrett, a Spanish American War veteran and his family came to Jackson County in 1900. He bought unimproved land near the Frazer cemetery and he, his wife and nine Barrett relatives are buried in the Frazer Cemetery.²⁷

The Bushes homesteaded in the Frazer neighborhood. John Jacob Bush came to Oklahoma Territory from Wurttemberg, Germany, through Alabama and considered himself a "planter." His son, Thomas, homesteaded in 1903, and Thomas's son Samuel also farmed. Two more generations remained in Altus: Samuel's son, and his grandsons, Floyd and Michael. Michael manages the Altus newspaper today. Six members of the Bush family are buried in the Frazer cemetery (their land was in Section 20, T2N, R21W west of the cemetery).

Criteria Consideration D

The cemetery is the only existing resource associated with the settlement town and neighborhood around Frazer, the earliest settlement in Greer County.

Frazer was established in 1885 along the east bank of Bitter Creek and because the cemetery's establishment date is 1885, perhaps there was an undocumented burial the same year. The cemetery conveys its historic significance for the period it has been used from 1886 to 1950.²⁸ It reflects both the period when Frazer was an active neighborhood and

²¹ The school was located near the cemetery. Chesser, *A History of Jackson County* (Altus, OK: Altus Printing company, 1971), 144.

²² "1st National Bank in Altus 100th Year Anniversary Calendar," 2002. This summary of Mr. Mahan's involvement in Altus is on the inside of the cover. McMahan was in business with C. C. Hightower as well and they co-founded the People's Bank. See Hightower, *ibid.*, 22.

²³ Donovan L. Hofsommer. *KATY Northwest: the Story of a Branch Line Railroad* (Boulder, CO: Pruitt Publishing Company, 1976), 20

²⁴ Barbara Kay Shelton, "Altus on the Hill Above Frazer in Old Greer county." *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, (Volume 40, Winter 1962-63), 392.

²⁵ Chesser, *ibid.*, 139.

²⁶ *ibid.*, 141.

²⁷ The 1971 typewritten manuscript of the Barrett history was written by Mrs. Harry M. Black, granddaughter of Thomas Barrett. This typed manuscript was provided to the author by Bart McClenny, Director of the Museum of the Prairie in Altus.

²⁸ 1886 is the first documented burial on a headstone in the cemetery.

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settlement community. Frazer residents and neighborhood settlers continued to use the cemetery after Frazer moved to Altus. The cemetery retains its integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. The cemetery has been undisturbed since its establishment and retains its burial plan that places graves in a grid pattern facing the East. There has been no ground disturbance other than burials in the cemetery, and the setting, marble stones, symbols, and epitaphs convey its most important period of use from 1886 to 1939. Despite Frazer's complete disappearance, the town's demise does not impact the property's historic integrity and significance.²⁹

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The area of present-day Jackson County was a matter of dispute among nations beginning in 1542. Spain and France claimed the region as part of the "right of exploration." Following the French and Indian War, France ceded its territory west of the Mississippi River to Spain. Napoleon negotiated for the return of the territory but then in 1803 sold the region as the Louisiana Purchase to the United States.

France conveyed to the United States boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase just as it had received them from Spain. One of the boundaries was the Red River which was a difficult boundary location. Though Spain mapped the Red River headwaters in 1785, subsequent United States expeditions failed to locate the headwaters. In 1852, Captain Randolph Marcy and Captain George McClellan finally mapped the river for the United States, but they did not accurately locate the 100th meridian at that time. The United States considered the most southern and westerly flowing branch, known as the Prairie Dog branch, the boundary with Mexico. Mexico and later the Republic of Texas regarded the North Fork of the Red River as the principal riverbed and therefore the boundary. Texas proceeded to organize a county in 1860 and named it "Greer" after John Greer, Lt. Governor of Texas. The survey error was discovered in 1873-4 and the U.S. government assigned the Greer County area to Indian Territory. The federal government tried to stop all settlement in the area once the mistake was known, but too many settlers were already present, and even under threat of removal, they remained.

When President Harrison signed the Organic Act, which authorized the organization of Oklahoma Territory in 1890, he directed that a suit be brought to determine where Greer County was located. In 1896, the Supreme Court found in favor of the United States and against Texas (United States v. Texas, 162 U.S.).³⁰ A region having 1.4 million acres of land was added to Oklahoma Territory. At statehood in 1907, Jackson County was carved from Old Greer, and Altus was selected as county seat by popular vote. Settlement of Old Greer and therefore Jackson County occurred primarily through emigration by Texans into the region. Cattle ranches ran their livestock on the open plains. Meanwhile, nesters (squatters, sodbusters, and farmers) drifted into the area looking for a better future. Texas offered land to veterans of the Texas War of Independence from Mexico in 1836. Once the land became a part of the Oklahoma Territory, the United States Government in 1897 allowed those in residence to file on 160-acre homesteads and gave them the option to purchase an additional 160 acres.³¹ This brought dismay to large ranchers; this small amount of land did not suit their needs and they started buying up large tracts in order to maintain their businesses.

The settlers of Greer County lived in the area of "Disputed Lands," believing they were in Texas. During the 1880's three settlement communities were established: Mangum, Frazer and Navajoe. Frazer's location was along the east bank of Bitter Creek (Section 14, Township 2N, Range 21W, centered in the southern-most portion of the section. Also See Continuation Sheet Section 7, pages 1 and 2).³² It is near Altus today, the county seat of Jackson County in the southwestern portion of the state in a geographic area called the Red Bed Plains. The Altus area is open and rolling in a transition landscape between more wooded areas to the east with tall and mid-height grasses with the shorter prairie grasses to the west. The area has intermittent streamlets and small rivers that lace through the area but rainfall is

²⁹ See the township maps which record Frazer's location. Joe McClellan provided these maps in his family papers to Cathy Ambler and Jennie Buchanan. One township map is undated, and one dates as 1890.

³⁰ <http://supreme.justia.com/us/162/1/index.html/>. This has the U. S. Supreme Court Case full text. Referenced December 1, 2010.

³¹ Material for this concise introduction was taken directly from the "History" section of the "Soil Survey of Jackson county, Oklahoma," *ibid.*, 3-4, and written by Burna Cole, who was Director of the Museum of the Western Prairie from 1991 to 2002. It is well-written and to the point explaining the legal issues affecting ranchers and settlers when seeking land claims.

³² The location is provided in several references: Meers Map of Greer County, Indian Territory (1890), and material provided by Joe McClellan, *ibid.* See John Wesley Morris, *Ghost Towns of Oklahoma* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1978), 79. This has a brief history of Frazer including the location supported by two early township maps with Frazer marked in the location noted above. There was also a Frazer school and it was likely in Section 23 slightly northwest of the cemetery. One conflicting location for the town is reported in a typewritten manuscript written by Elton Talley in 1988. He believed that a concrete cellar indicated the town of Frazer two and one-half miles west of Altus and three quarters of a mile south. Several individuals lived on this property, however, and his perspective on the town's location does not jive with early maps. This typed manuscript was provided to the author by Bart McClenny, Director of the Museum of the Prairie in Altus.

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uneven.³³ Rainfall in this area of Oklahoma can be extremely heavy and wide-spread flooding occurs today between the Salt Fork of the Red River and Bitter Creek.

John and Susan McClellan and their married daughters and families founded Frazer in 1885.³⁴ Frazer was along the western edge of the Great Western Cattle Trail which crossed the Texas side of Red River at Doan's Crossing. Frazer was approximately twenty-five miles northwest of this important crossing. Frazer also was along a north/south Lone Star mail route and was known as well as the Buttermilk Station, a stage line stop.³⁵ Frazer was severely damaged in a flash flood on June 4, 1891, and the residents decided the town location near Bitter Creek and the Salt Fork branch of the Red River was too susceptible to flooding. They decided to move the town to higher ground.³⁶ A settler, Sam Neal, owned the land that would become the site for the new town of Altus, and Frazer town leaders purchased 160 acres from him to relocate their town and its displaced residents.³⁷ Some moved the buildings they could salvage to their new town.³⁸

There are a number of suggestions as to how the town was named; one is that a buffalo hunter by the name of Frazer lived in the area;³⁹ the second is the U.S. Government named the town when the Post Office was established; a third is that the Salt Fork River was originally called the Frazer and the name was taken from the river. Altus Historian Cecil Chesser suggests that Peter Holt, John McClellan's son-in-law, gave the town its name for the river when he applied for a post office. When the McClellan families first arrived, there were no post offices in Greer County. Holt received a post office charter in February of 1886, and the post office served at least a ten-mile radius around Frazer.⁴⁰ McClellan made three trips a week to Doan's Crossing for three months to assure that the family could provide adequate mail service if a post office were established. It operated out of his home, and his daughter served as postmistress until the post office eventually moved to the Frazer drugstore.⁴¹ Before the flood the town had several buildings: drugstore, hotel, general merchandise store, and jewelry store. There was a small newspaper in the community, a flower mill and the Williams Wagon Works, furniture store and Funereal Emporium which were all in the same wood-frame building (the building is the only photograph of any Frazer business).⁴² Until the railroads arrived, most supplies were obtained from Vernon, Texas, a lengthy round trip of about seventy miles.

Residences were temporary at first; the McClellans had a log house, but most settlers lived in tents, dugouts, or half dugouts which were half in the ground at the rear with an exposed wood front half. The landscape was devoid of building timber, so lumber was freighted from Vernon.⁴³ The nature of their accommodations contributed to the disaster the flood created in 1891, because the dugouts filled with silt or just washed away. Many in the Frazer area lost everything but their livestock, which floated or swam to safety.

³³ In this area of uneven rainfall, irrigation is critical to cultivation of cotton and other crops. The area has the first U.S. Bureau of Reclamation project in Oklahoma, with construction that began in 1941. See "Altus, 'The Irrigation Pioneer of Oklahoma'", Altus, Oklahoma. This is a promotional pamphlet describing all the benefits of the irrigation district. Altus Chamber of Commerce (September 1947). This pamphlet was provided to the author, Cathy Ambler, by Ellen Yates, resident of Altus.

³⁴ The McClellan's settled in this location and homesteaded the area of Frazer and "founding" early often entailed a gathering of incoming settlers who settled nearby.

³⁵ Map of mail/wagon/and stage road provided by Bart McClenny, Director of the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus. See Cecil R. Chesser, *ibid.*, 138, for reference on Buttermilk Station. A website documents the existence of the stage stand (<http://forum.treasurenet.com/index.php?topic=121557.0>) but location is incorrect. Referenced on November 10, 2010. Also see Grimes, *ibid.*, 89.

³⁶ Chesser, *ibid.*, 138.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 141. Also see "How it Looked in 1885," the *Altus Times-Democrat*, newspaper clipping provided by Bart McClenny, Director of the Museum of the Western Prairie (no date, no author).

³⁸ See http://www.okhistory.org/mwp/11_1/htm. Referenced November 18, 2010.

³⁹ Interview on November 16, 2010 with Mike Bush. Also See Loweta Chesser, "Frazer," an undated typewritten manuscript. Ms Chesser was the widow of Cecil Chesser, Altus historian, and at one time was Director of the Museum of the Western Prairie.

⁴⁰ "Agitation for Postoffice Started in 1887: County was Practically In Position of Step-Child So Far As Government Restrictions Were Concerned." This newspaper clipping was provided by Bart McClenny, Director of the Museum of the Western Prairie (no date, no author, no source cited).

⁴¹ Chesser, *ibid.*, 138-139. The post office was managed by several individuals.

⁴² Loweta Chesser, *ibid.*, 3. Also see Hightower, *ibid.*, 7.

⁴³ "Cheer Up---If It Hadn't Been For A Lot Of Rain 50 Years Ago There Wouldn't Have Been an Altus." No newspaper cited, but it is dated June 7, 1941. This newspaper clipping was provided by Bart McClenny, director of the Museum of the Western Prairie (no author, no source cited).

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Residents quickly appraised the situation after the waters receded, and decided that relocation was the only option. A committee quickly set out to find a suitable location: C. C. Hightower, J R. McMahan, M.M. Kimberlin, M. W. Lawson, Frank Trimble, Hardy Trimble and Mrs. Sutherland. They found a suitable site although it was occupied by Sam Neal, who hoped to homestead there. He sold 160 acres to the Frazer group and the allocation of town property began. Those who had lots in Frazer received an equal number in the new town.⁴⁴ The town's situation in the Undecided Lands delayed the platting process, but it was organized under Texas law. Not until the Supreme Court case was decided, did the town's legal status become explicit. The court decision made it possible for towns to continue if seventy-five residents were already living there, and if they raised one dollar/acres for land within the city limits; the Altus residents quickly complied.

The town was ideally located on high ground and Altus was poised to become an agricultural center. Good weather, the railroads, a new cotton oil mill, statehood and the creation of Jackson County, helped the community continue to maintain its reputation as a regional agricultural processing center which in turn brought new residents into the area.⁴⁵

By 1910, over 512 buildings had been constructed in the community.⁴⁶ Besides houses, the town had general mercantile, grocery stores, a hardware and drug store, four banks, sixteen hotels and boarding houses, harness shop, wagon yard, barber shops, steam laundries, an auto garage and a machine shop – all concentrated in the downtown area. Also in 1910, the Jackson County Courthouse was constructed in the city square, now the courthouse square. The population was approximately 5,000.⁴⁷

The growth of the community is directly related to the agricultural economy. In 1907 old Greer County, still undivided at this time, was the second-leading cotton producer in the nation. Much of the cotton produced in the county arrived to be ginned in Altus's four cotton gins and further processed at the cotton oil mill. Wheat and alfalfa joined cotton as significant agricultural crops; they did reasonably well in dry land farming. The city in the early 1900's had an alfalfa mill, elevator, flour mill, bottling works, ice plant, produce and poultry distributors, and grocery companies; most of which were located near the railroads for easy shipping access.⁴⁸

During the 1910's, city population stagnated and the boom period in the previous decade ended. The lack of growth can be attributed to what locals called a "disaster year (1913)" with extreme heat and dry conditions. The entire decade of the 1910's, however, was generally one of low rainfall in Oklahoma with persisting droughty conditions.⁴⁹ For example the amount of acreage farmed in cotton increased from 88,673 in 1916 to 126,033 in 1917, but number of bales produced was almost the same.⁵⁰ World War I also compounded the situation when the lack of a foreign market caused the price of cotton to drop.⁵¹

The decade of the 1920s, however brought a second period of growth in for Altus. Between 1920 and 1930 the city's population almost doubled which destined the need for more housing. Research sources attribute the decade's growth to better agricultural conditions in the area. Statistics show that the number of acres under cultivation increased during this decade, the number of farmers increased, as did variety of crops.⁵² Increased wealth from the better market value of crops started a small building boom stimulated in the 1920s by two of the biggest cotton crop years in 1924 and 1927.

⁴⁴ This allocation process might explain why some in the area remained in the Frazer neighborhood, rather than moving to Altus. See Grimes, *ibid.*, 90.

⁴⁵ *ibid.*, 92.

⁴⁶ "Altus Oklahoma: There is Business to do and a Place for You in Altus." This was a promotional brochure published by the Hooker-Wishart Investment Company with sub title on the first page "A Book of Unbiased Facts." Published in 1910. A copy of this brochure was provided to the author, Cathy Ambler, by Ellen Yates, resident of Altus, November 15, 2010.

⁴⁷ M. Brett Baker and Jim Gabbert, National Register Nomination, W. C. Baker House, Altus, Section 8, 13. Also see "Altus Oklahoma" brochure "list of partial industries."

⁴⁸ *ibid.*, and Grimes, *ibid.*, 96.

⁴⁹ Horace J. Harper, "Drought Years in Central Oklahoma from 1710-1959 Calculated from Annual Rings of Post Oak Trees," *Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Science for 1960*, 27. Harper looks a central Oklahoma in his study, but his findings support local's perception of this time period. Harper shows that in this ten year period almost every year had moderately or severe drought conditions.

⁵⁰ Grimes, *ibid.*, 97.

⁵¹ *ibid.*, 3, 25.

⁵² *ibid.*, 99.

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Market prices had increased therefore farmers were getting more income for their product. This was the decade of improvements in Altus and included as street paving and lighting, the construction of a public hospital and sanitarium, the establishment of a junior college, and the construction of a new reservoir to provide a better source of water for the town.

This small boom, however, did not last because bad crop years in 1928-29 ended the short burst of local optimism. When the Great Depression began almost the same time, Altus was further affected by the collapsed agricultural economy. The extended period of drought and falling farm income created hard times in Altus. The first bank in town failed in 1930.

The effects of the Depression began to be mediated in 1941 when two significant developments occurred: 1) W. C. Austin irrigation construction project began which would help assure a more stable water supply for crop irrigation, and 2) the construction of the 1942 Altus Army Air Field, which provided additional economic support in the area. In 1953, old World War II bases were reopened during the Korean War and the Altus base provided a new source of economic support for the community. Altus's economy today is still agricultural, but the air force base and a reliable irrigation district provide the much needed balance which stabilizes the town's economy.

As one observer noted, Altus would not exist today if there hadn't been the little settlement town of Frazer. But it would not exist either without all the farmers who came to Greer County and established its agricultural economy. Frazer residents became leaders in the new community, and through their leadership assured its growth. The farmers who stayed on the land drove the economic engine to assure the community's success. Although nothing remains of the town of Frazer, its legacy was assured through its tenacious residents and the services it provided within a scarcely settled settlement area, and the Frazer farming neighborhood that created the agricultural economy for Altus's survival. The Frazer cemetery is the last resource associated with the town and neighborhood of Frazer. While short lived, it had a significant influence in the founding of Altus and the settlement of Jackson County, Oklahoma.

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Interviews:

- Mike Bush. Mr. Bush shared family history and documents about their homesteading in Greer County. Interviewed by Cathy Ambler and Jennie Buchanan, November 16, 2010.
- Joe McClearn. Mr. McClearn is the source of papers on his family which he provided to Cathy Ambler and Jennie Buchanan, November 17, 2010. He is the great-grandson of John McClearn, considered the founder of Frazer. Mr. McClearn provided copies of township maps. One is undated, and one is 1890.

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Newspaper clippings provided by Bart McClenny, Director of the Museum of the Western Prairie on November 16, 2010:

- _____ "Agitation for Postoffice Started in 1887: County was Practically In Position of Step-Child So Far As Government Restrictions Were Concerned." (no date, no author, no source cited)
- _____ "Cheer Up---If It Hadn't Been For A Lot Of Rain 50 Years Ago There Wouldn't Have Been an Altus." June 7, 1941 (no author, no source).
- _____ "How it Looked in 1885." Altus Times-Democrat (no date, no author).

Other materials provided by Bart McClenny

- 1890 Meers Map of Greer County, Indian Territory
- _____ 1st National Bank in Altus 100th Year Anniversary Calendar, 2002
- _____ "A History of Southwest Oklahoma: When Greer County was Old." 2010 Calendar.
- Black, Mrs. Harry M. Typewritten Manuscript, 1971.
- Chesser, Loweta, "Fraser." Typewritten Manuscript, nd.
- LeForge, Flo Rene. Typewritten Manuscript, 1958.
- Map of mail/wagon/and stage roads, undated.

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:

- _____ 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 1 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14S</u>	<u>466115</u>	<u>3832151</u>	3	<u>14S</u>	<u>466171</u>	<u>3832081</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>14S</u>	<u>466165</u>	<u>3832144</u>	4	<u>14S</u>	<u>466119</u>	<u>3832086</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The cemetery is in the southeast quarter of Section 23, Township 2 North, Range 21 West in the northeast corner (from Jackson County Courthouse Warrantee Deed)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains the entire property historically associated with the Frazer Cemetery

Frazer Cemetery
Name of Property

Jackson County, OK
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Ambler, Ph.D., Preservation Consultant for Western Trail Historical Society
organization _____ date December, 2010
street & number 1129 E. 8th Street telephone 918 584-3566
city or town Tulsa state OK zip code 74120
e-mail cambler@sbcglobal.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

TIF Format Photographs are 1600 x 1200 pixels at a minimum, at 300 ppi

Name of Property: Frazer Cemetery

City: Altus Vicinity

County: Jackson County

State: OK

Name of Photographer: Cathy Ambler

Date of Photographs: November 16, 2010

Location of Original Digital Files: Oklahoma SHPO

Photographs are labeled with the subject and direction of the photograph

- 1 of 16 Frazer Cemetery Landscape Looking Northwest
- 2 of 16 Frazer Cemetery Landscape Looking Northeast
- 3 of 16 Frazer Cemetery Landscape Looking Southeast
- 4 of 16 Frazer Cemetery Landscape Looking Southwest
- 5 of 16 Frazer Cemetery, Cast Iron Fencing, Draped Podium, Gates of Heaven Looking Southeast
- 6 of 16 Frazer Cemetery, Cast Iron Fencing, Family Plot with Modified Obelisks Looking Northeast
- 7 of 16 Frazer Cemetery, Woven Wire Fencing, Dove Symbol Looking East
- 8 of 16 Frazer Cemetery, White Marble, Finger Pointing to Heaven Looking East
- 9 of 16 Frazer Cemetery, Stone Curbing, Family Plot, Looking East
- 10 of 16 Frazer Cemetery, Brick Curbing on Unmarked Graves, Local Stone Marker, No Inscription Looking Southeast
- 11 of 16 Frazer Cemetery, Gates of Heaven, Marble with Heavy Gray Streaks, Epitaph, Looking East
- 12 of 16 Frazer Cemetery, Clasped Male/Female Hands, Tooled Stone Base, Looking East
- 13 of 16 Frazer Cemetery, Woodsman of the World Marker, Epitaph, Looking East
- 14 of 16 Frazer Cemetery, Odd Fellows, Gates of Heaven, Tooled Base, Looking East
- 15 of 16 Frazer Cemetery, Six Bush Family Stones, Replacement Granite Stone, Cemetery Sign Looking Northeast
- 16 of 16 Frazer Cemetery, Homemade Concrete Marker, Looking East Southeast

Frazer Cemetery
Name of Property

Jackson County, OK
County and State

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Altus, Oklahoma
street & number 590 S. Main Street telephone 580-481-2205
city or town Altus state OK zip code 73521

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 18 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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Frazer Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Jackson

DATE RECEIVED: 4/27/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/18/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/02/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/12/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000336

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6.8.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



MARY E.

Wife of
G. J. AARON.
BORN
AUG. 18, 1838.
DIED
FEB. 20, 1898.

OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery - 08

White Marble, Finger-Pointing
to Heaven Looking E



OK-Jackson County-Frazer
Cemetery-07

Woven wire Fencing, Dove
Symbol looking E



OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery - 09

Stone Curbing, Family Plot
Looking E



OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery - 10

Brick Curbing on Unmarked
Graves, Local Stone Marker, No
Inscription
Looking SE



RUBY, DAU. OF
J.R. & M.T. McMAHAN
Born Oct. 31, 1897.
Died Sept. 3, 1898.

Rest, O He Ruby, in happy rest,
Shining with angels, for long thou art blessed
For from the trials that tempt us to stray,
God in his mercy has called thee away.

OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery - 11

Marble with Heavy Gray Streaks,
Epitaph looking E

FRAZER
CEMETERY

Estab 1888

JAMES W. BROWN
1855 - 1935

15 OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery - 15

Six Bush Family Stones, Replacement
Granite Stone, Cemetery Sign
Looking NE



OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery landscape - 01
Looking NW



OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery landscape - 02
looking NE



OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery landscape - 03
looking SE



4 OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery Landscape - 04
Looking SW



OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery - 05

Cast Iron Fencing, Draped
Podium, Gates of Heaven
looking SE



OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery - 06
Cast Iron Fencing, Family Plot
with Modified Obelisks
Looking NE



H.B. GOGHEAN
BORN
NOV. 16, 1874
DIED
MAR. 13, 1904

OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery - 12

Clasped Male/Female Hands,
Tooled Stone Base
looking E



E. F.
POLSTON
BORN
JAN. 11, 1866
DIED
AUG. 18, 1914

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace

OK. Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery - 13

Woodsman of the World Marker
Epitaph Looking E

A black and white photograph showing a broken concrete marker lying on a bed of grass and soil. The marker is split into three pieces. The largest piece in the foreground has the name 'LEE POLSKY' engraved on its top surface in a simple, blocky font. The other two pieces are positioned behind it, one to the left and one to the right, showing the broken edges of the original marker. The ground is covered with a mix of dark soil and dry, light-colored grass or twigs.

LEE POLSKY

OK-Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery - 16
Homemade Concrete Marker
Looking ESE

GONEYER BLESSED

JOHN J. BUSH

BORN

Nov 4 1819

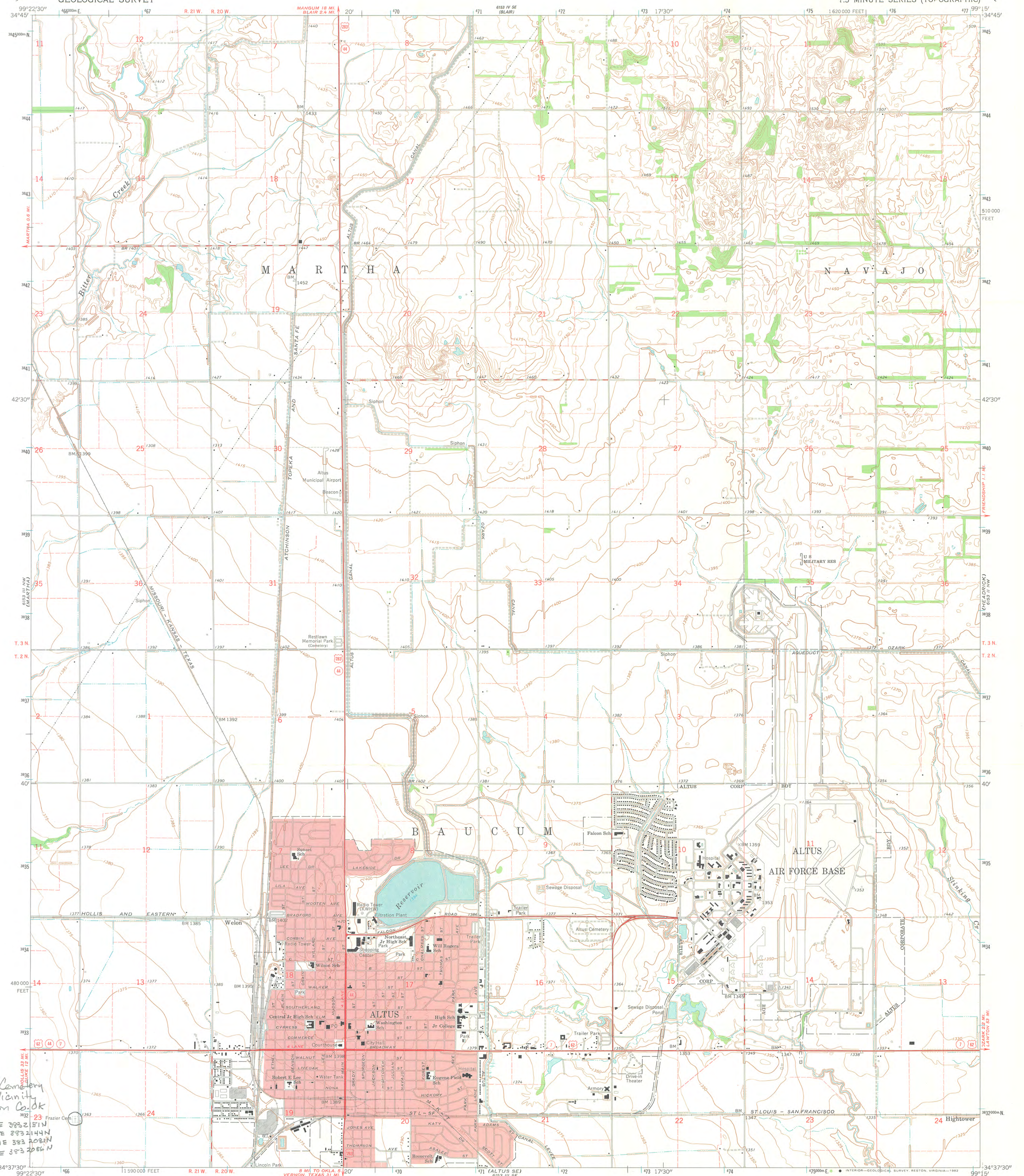
DIED

Aug 18 1891

BUSH

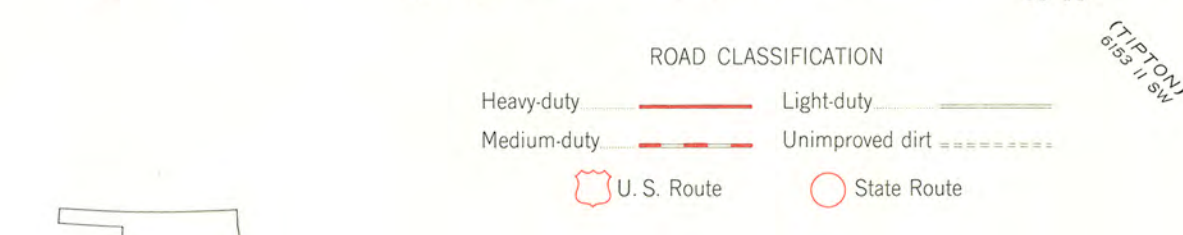
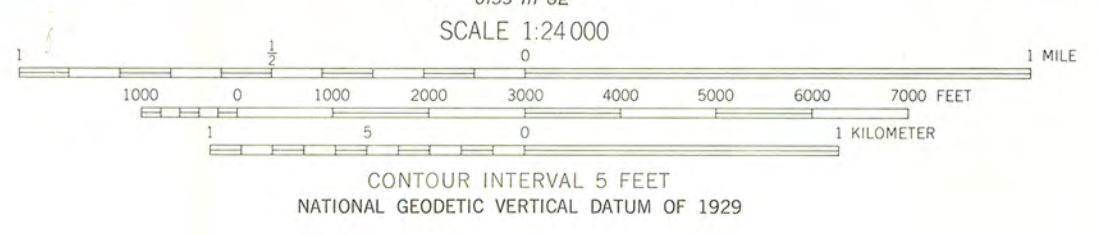
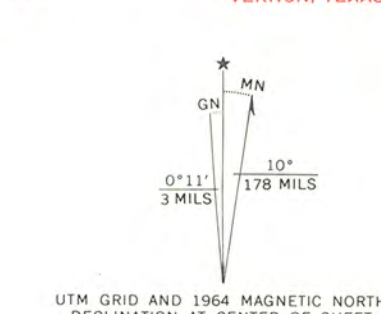
OK - Jackson County - Frazer
Cemetery - 14

Old Fellows, Gates of Heaven,
Tooled Base looking E



Frazier Cemetery
Altus Vicinity
Jackson Co. OK
145 466115E 383215N
145 466165E 3832144N
145 466171E 3832082N
145 466191E 3832082N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1960, and in part by U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
Field checked 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Oklahoma coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 4 meters south and
33 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ALTUS, OKLA.
N3437.5—W9915/7.5
1964
AMS 6153 III NE—SERIES V883



Oklahoma Historical Society

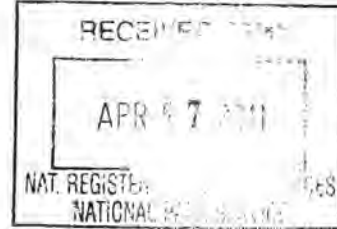
Founded May 27, 1893

State Historic Preservation Office

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm

April 22, 2011

Ms. Carol Shull
Acting Keeper of the Register
National Park Service 2280, 8th floor
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20005



Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to transmit seven National Register of Historic Places nominations for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

- Chandler Baseball Camp, Chandler, Lincoln County
- Thomas Community Building, Thomas, Custer County
- Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education, Norman, Cleveland County
- Joyce House, Snyder Vicinity, Kiowa County
- Dobson Family House, Miami, Ottawa County
- ✓ Frazer Cemetery, Altus Vicinity, Jackson County
- Garnett, Elmer and Lela, House, Altus, Jackson County

Also included for transmittal is one Multiple Property Documentation form:

Resources Designed by Herb Greene in Oklahoma

We look forward to the results of your review. If there may be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Lynda B. Schwan of my staff or myself.

Sincerely,

Melvena Heisch
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

MKH:lbs

Enclosures