

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0678422

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RECEIVED	MAR 19 1979
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Chief Ne-kah-wah-she-tun-kah Grave & Statue  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER (NE/4 NE/4 NE/4 NE/4 Sec. 13, T 24 N, R 5 E)  
Fairfax Cemetery at SW edge of

CITY, TOWN  
Fairfax

STATE  
Oklahoma

VICINITY OF  
No. 2

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
No. 2

COUNTY  
Osage

CODE  
40

CODE  
113

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Cemetery

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Mr. Francis Drexil

STREET & NUMBER  
800 So. 6th St.

CITY, TOWN  
Fairfax

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Oklahoma

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER  
Osage County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN  
Pawhuska

STATE  
Oklahoma

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE  
1978

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Oklahoma Historical Society, Preservation Office

STATE  
Oklahoma

—FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

CITY, TOWN  
Oklahoma City

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

EXCELLENT                     DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                             RUINS  
 FAIR                               UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The statue and grave of Ne-kah-wah-she-tun-kah is located in the northeast quarter of the Fairfax Cemetery at the southwest edge of town. The statue, which faces west, is carved in stone and sits atop a large base some six feet high. The statue is life size, approximately five and a half feet in height. Chief Ne-kah-wah-she-tun-kah is shown in leggings and moccasins with a blanket draped around his bare shoulder. He is holding a metal-headed tomahawk in his left hand. His right hand is hidden by the blanket. He wears a single shell pendant and his head is shaven but for the roach. The following epitaph is carved on the base:

Chief  
 Ne-kah-wah-she-tun-kah  
 Born in Osage Co., 1839  
 Died Aug. 3, 1923  
 He was governor of the  
 Osage four times  
 and a member of the  
 council seven times

\_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_

His sole aim in life was the  
welfare of his people

Behind the statue is a large stone crypt about three feet high and six and a half feet long. It is plain except for a rose-colored cement covering that is inlaid with black and white rock chips. Much of the colored cement has now fallen off.

Next to the statue and base of the Chief a somewhat smaller base bears the name of the Chief's wife. There is no statue but the crypt behind the base is identical to that of the chief's. The inscription reads:

Wah-ghre-lum-pah  
 Wife of Chief  
 Ne-kah-wah-she-tun-kah  
 75 years old  
 Died July 24, 1924

# 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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Tribal History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1923

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This grave and statue-memorial is significant, not only for the role Chief Ne-kah-wah-she-tun-kah played in Osage history during his lifetime, but also - and perhaps even more importantly - for the influence his burial ceremony had on events after his death.

Ne-kah-wah-she-tun-kah was an important leader of the Osage people. He was governor, or primary chief, four times, twice as elected principal chief - in 1908-1908 and again in 1922-1924. He was a member of the tribal council seven times. ?

When Ne-kah-wah-she-tun-kah died he received the complete traditional Osage burial ceremony. This ceremony included the killing of his favorite horse and the placing of a human scalp in his grave at the end of the mourning period to allow his spirit to enter the spirit world. The scalp used in this particular burial was that of a Wichita chief A-sa-wah, and its taking precipitated an inter-tribal incident that led the government to forbid all future scalp-hunting. The Osages finally settled the score by making large payments of money and goods to the Wichitas. Thus, the Chief's burial, the last traditional Osage burial ceremony performed, marked a turning point in the life-style of the Osage tribe.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ruth, Kent, Oklahoma: A Guide to the Sooner State, Norman, University of Oklahoma, 1957

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Fairfax, Oklahoma

QUADRANGLE SCALE 15 min.

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 | 7,0,4 | 4,5,0 | 4,0,0,0 | 7,0,0

B  |  |  |  |

C  |  |  |  |

D  |  |  |  |

E  |  |  |  |

F  |  |  |  |

G  |  |  |  |

H  |  |  |  |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Space 4 N End and 4 S End, Lot 66, Block D, Fairfax Cemetery

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marjorie M. Schweitzer

Kent Ruth, editor

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey

DATE

9/78

STREET & NUMBER

Oklahoma State University

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

CITY OR TOWN

Stillwater

STATE

Oklahoma

# 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

TITLE

*Harry L. Boyles III*

DATE

3-8-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-22-79

ATTEST:

*Bill Johnson*

DATE

May 24, 1979

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION