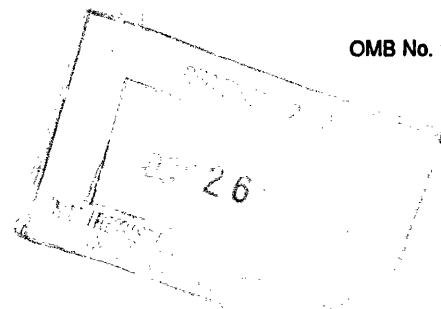


1229

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave

other names/site number Site # 34AD141

2. Location

street & number Highway 59

not for publication

city or town Westville

vicinity

state Oklahoma

code OK

county Adair

code 001

zip code 74965

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bob Blumberg
Signature of certifying official/Title

10-25-04
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

12/6/04
Date of Action

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Name of Property

Adair, Oklahoma
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic and Historic Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears, 1837-1839

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

FUNERARY/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

foundation N/A
walls N/A

roof N/A
other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Name of Property

Adair, Oklahoma
County and State

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 who's 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)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Native American

Period of Significance
1844

- Criteria Considerations** N/A
(Mark "x" in all 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Dates
1844

Significant Person
(complete if Criterion B is marked)
Bushyhead, Jesse, Reverend

Cultural Affiliation
Cherokee

Architect/Builder
N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bibliography**
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
- Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A
- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
National Park Service, Long Distance Trails Office
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Name of Property

Adair, Oklahoma
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>357405</u>	<u>3988865</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason/Teresa Douglass
organization Thomason and Associates date July 28, 2003
street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone 615-385-4960
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

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

name Old Baptist Mission Cemetery Trustees c/o Brad Self
street & number Route 1, Box 421 telephone 918-723-5055
city or town Westville state OK zip code 74965

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Adair County, Oklahoma

DESCRIPTION

The Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave is located in the Baptist Mission Cemetery which is seventeen miles north of Stilwell, Oklahoma, the county seat of Adair County. The Baptist Mission Cemetery is located on the east side of US Highway 59 opposite the Baptist Mission Church. The cemetery is located at an elevation of 1,050 feet above sea level in an area of undulating hills and cultivated fields. Directly southwest of the cemetery and church is Mission Mountain which rises to an elevation of 1,420 feet. The cemetery is located on a high terrace to the west of Ballard Creek. The cemetery is rectangular in form, measures approximately 300' in width by 300' in length, and is bounded on all four sides by a chain link fence.

The cemetery contains approximately 250 graves, many of whom are Cherokee who traveled along the "Trail of Tears" in 1837-1839. The majority of the graves have traditional markers and headstones of marble, sandstone, and limestone (Photos 1 and 2). The majority of the graves date to the late 19th and 20th centuries and reflect typical headstone inscriptions and designs of the period. In the south central section of the cemetery is a cast iron fence which encloses the graves of the Crowder family (Photo 3). This is the only enclosed family grave site within the cemetery.

The cemetery contains the grave of the Rev. Jesse Bushyhead, a prominent Cherokee leader and religious figure of the early 19th century (Photos 4 and 5). Bushyhead died on July 17th, 1844 and his burial is marked by a fifteen foot tall marble obelisk topped by an urn. The base of the obelisk on the west façade contains the following inscription:

"Sacred to the Memory of Rev. Jesse Bushyhead – Born in the Old Cherokee Nation in East. Tenn. September, 1804. Died in the Present Cherokee Nation, July 17, 1844."

"Well done good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things. I will make thee ruler over many things."

At the base of the obelisk on the south side of the marker is another inscription:

"Rev. Jesse Bushyhead was a man noble in person and noble in heart. His choice was to be a true and faithful minister of his lord and master rather than any high wordly position. He loved his country and people serving them from time to time in many important offices and missions. He united with the Baptist Church in his early manhood and died as he lived, a devoted Christian."

The grave of Rev. Bushyhead is located in the northeast corner of the cemetery and is one of the oldest identified in the cemetery. Surrounding the cemetery on the north, east, and south are open fields and to the west is the Baptist Mission Church built in 1888. No other buildings or structures are in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Adair County, Oklahoma

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - SUMMARY

The Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave is significant under National Register Criterion B and Criteria Consideration C for its association with the Cherokee Trail of Tears of 1837-1839. The grave meets registration requirements for the property type of "Gravesites" as outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "The Historic and Historic Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears, 1837-1839." The Rev. Jesse Bushyhead was an important Cherokee religious and political leader of the early 19th century. During Cherokee removal he led one of the detachments west to the Indian Territory and later helped to bring opposing factions together to create the Cherokee Nation. No buildings or structures associated with the productive life of Rev. Bushyhead remain extant. The dwelling where he resided at Cleveland, Tennessee prior to removal is now the site occupied by the Cleveland High School. No extant features of his dwelling remain at this location. When Rev. Bushyhead moved to the Indian Territory he built a log dwelling he called "Pleasant Hill" one-half mile north of the present-day location of the Baptist Mission. This site was investigated in 1995 by the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey and assigned site # 34AD145. The log dwelling built by Rev. Bushyhead was later replaced or incorporated into a modern house. The site no longer retains integrity from Rev. Bushyhead's productive life. No buildings or structures associated with the original Baptist Mission also remain standing. The Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave is the only surviving property directly associated with his productive life. The grave is located within the Baptist Mission Cemetery and is one of the most prominent markers within the cemetery.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Reverend Jesse Bushyhead was born in 1804 near present-day Cleveland, Tennessee. Bushyhead was the grandson of John Stuart, a Scotch emigrant. Stuart came to Tennessee to help build Fort Loudon for the British army, and his shock of blond curly hair resulted in the Cherokee calling him "Oo-no-du-tu" or "bushyhead." Stuart married Susannah Emory, a half-Cherokee daughter of a Scotch fur trapper and their son also became known as "Unodutu" or "Bushyhead." Unodutu remained among the Cherokee and married Nancy Foreman, the daughter of a Scottish trader and a Cherokee mother. The couple had five sons and two daughters, one of whom was Jesse born in 1804.¹ Jesse Bushyhead attended school in Tennessee, joined the Baptist Church and was baptized in 1830. He gathered together a congregation in the Ahmohee District in what is now Bradley County, Tennessee and was ordained to the ministry in 1833.² Bushyhead became a circuit rider for the Baptist Church and preached regularly at a variety of churches in the Cherokee Nation from 1834 to 1838. Bushyhead was married twice; little is known of his first wife but he married Eliza Wilkerson by the mid-1830s. Together they had four, and possibly five, daughters.³

After a minority of the Cherokee leaders signed the Treaty of New Echota in 1835, the Cherokee were forced to give up their lands in the East and move to the Indian Territory. Most Cherokee opposed this treaty and Chief John Ross and other tribal leaders spent two fruitless years of negotiation with the US Government. In June of 1838, the Cherokee were forcibly rounded up by the US Army and state militia, and transferred to a series of temporary forts and stockades. Jesse Bushyhead and his family were moved to Camp Hetzel near present-day Cleveland which was

¹ A.E. Schroeder, Rebecca B. Schroeder, and Donald M. Lance, comp. "Remembering Eliza Missouri Bushyhead," Manuscript prepared by the Missouri Chapter of the Trail of Tears, 2001, 5.

² Ibid, 5.

³ Ibid, Appendix III.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Adair County, Oklahoma

not far from his home. Prominent Cherokee leader Evan Jones wrote from Camp Hetzel that "Our brother Bushyhead and his family, Reverend Stephen Foreman, native missionary of the American Board, the speaker of the national council, and several men of character and respectability, with their families, are here prisoners."⁴ After spending several weeks in the forts, all of the Cherokee were moved to three emigration depots, two in Tennessee and one in Alabama. At these depots the Cherokee were divided up into various detachments for the journey west to the Indian Territory.

Because of Rev. Bushyhead's prominence he was chosen to lead one of the Cherokee detachments west. Each detachment was assigned "conductors" and "assistant conductors" whose responsibility was to direct the day-to-day movement westward and exercise leadership for the journey. Rev. Bushyhead was chosen to be the conductor for the third Cherokee detachment which consisted of approximately 950 Cherokee. This detachment remained at the emigration depot near Fort Cass, Tennessee through the summer and early fall of 1838. After repeated delays due to drought conditions, the detachments began leaving the depots in early October.

Rev. Bushyhead's detachment of approximately 950 Cherokee left the emigration depot on October 5th, traveled through Middle Tennessee, and reached Nashville in early November.⁵ The detachment marched through Hopkinsville, Kentucky and arrived at Berry's Ferry on the Ohio River by the end of the month. After crossing the Ohio River, the Bushyhead detachment became stranded in southern Illinois along with thousands of Cherokee from other detachments. By early December the Mississippi River was so clogged with ice that the horse drawn ferries of that period could not safely operate. Rev. Bushyhead's detachment was forced to camp in the snow near the present-day community of Anna for almost five weeks before the Mississippi River was clear enough to cross. Once across the Mississippi River, Rev. Bushyhead's wife Eliza gave birth to a daughter on January 3rd, who was named Eliza Missouri Bushyhead in honor of her mother and for the state in which she was born. Sadly, Bushyhead also lost a sister, Nancy Bushyhead Walker Hildebrand, who died later that month and was buried near Green's Ferry in Missouri. Once across the Mississippi, Rev. Bushyhead's detachment continued west through Missouri and northwest Arkansas, finally reaching the Indian Territory. The detachment disbanded near present-day Westville on February 27, 1839.⁶

After reaching the Indian Territory, Rev. Bushyhead and his family settled about four miles north of present-day Westville. He constructed a log dwelling at a site he called "Pleasant Hill" and established a mission to feed the needy. This mission was first called "Breadtown" and was later known as the Baptist Mission under the direction of Rev. Bushyhead.

In addition to his religious activities, Rev. Bushyhead also played a major role in unifying the various Cherokee factions during the summer of 1839 when he was chosen as one of the primary negotiators at the Cherokee National Convention. The Cherokee National Convention was held to try to bring the Eastern and Western Cherokee Nations together after several months of strife and turmoil. Some Cherokee who had settled in the Indian Territory prior to 1837 were resentful of the thousands of Cherokee who emigrated west. The arrival of over 17,000 Cherokee by water and land placed enormous strains on the Western Cherokee Nation to absorb and accommodate this large number of tribal members. There was also continual tension between the factions of Cherokee represented

⁴ Ibid, 2.

⁵ Duane H. King, "Report on the Cherokee Trail of Tears: Correcting and Updating the 1992 Map Supplement," unpublished manuscript, National Park Service, 1999, 25.

⁶ Vicki Rozema, *Voices From the Trail of Tears*, (Winston-Salem, North Carolina: John F. Blair Publisher, 2003, 191.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Adair County, Oklahoma

by those who signed the Treaty of New Echota in 1835 and those which opposed it. This tension resulted in the assassination of three of the major pro-treaty leaders, Major Ridge, his son, John Ridge, and nephew Elias Boudinot. All three were attacked and killed on June 22, 1839.

In order to avoid further bloodshed, several Cherokee leaders including Sequoyah and Rev. Bushyhead brought together the various Cherokee factions at the Illinois Campground near present-day Tahlequah on July 1, 1839. While many of the pro-treaty party and older Cherokee settlers did not attend, the convention did establish the groundwork for a unified Cherokee Nation.⁷ After meeting for over a week, Sequoyah representing the Western Cherokee and George Lowery representing the Eastern Cherokee, signed an agreement on July 12th which formed the Cherokee Nation. The agreement agreed to "form ourselves into one body politic under the style and title of the Cherokee Nation." Although acknowledging "unsettled business" from the union, all of the factions agreed to use the courts of the Cherokee Nation to settle future disputes.

The influence of Rev. Bushyhead in bringing about this union and his peacemaking efforts was widely recognized. One observer reported that Rev. Bushyhead "was the only person that could walk down the streets of Tahlequah and converse with the Ridge or Ross adherents without the other becoming suspicious."⁸ Another wrote of him in 1841 that "Reverend Bushyhead is universally loved and respected. His mere opinion in the Nation has great weight and his persuasion on any subject can win the people to his views."⁹ In recognition of his leadership, Rev. Bushyhead was elected as Chief Justice of the Cherokee Nation in 1840. In addition to this role he also directed the continued development and expansion of the Baptist Mission near his home.

In 1844, Rev. Bushyhead contracted a fever and died at the age of forty at his home on July 17th. He was buried in the new cemetery established directly across from the brick Baptist Mission and a large marble obelisk was erected in his honor. Following his death, the Cherokee Nation's Baptist Church delegates met on August 6th and mourned his loss. Erin Jones, a Baptist delegate described the general feelings among his brethren in a letter to his brother:

"The meeting was truly a visit to the house of mourning. The general salutation was silence and tears, indicative of the deepest feelings of sorrow. The death of our beloved brother Bushyhead was an affliction and a loss, beyond our power to estimate."¹⁰

After the death of Reverend Bushyhead, the Baptist Mission continued to serve the area's Cherokee residents. During the Civil War the mission was burned by Confederate sympathizers because of the Baptist Mission's anti-slavery views. The mission's school was not rebuilt but a new church building was erected in 1888. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Baptist Mission Cemetery was expanded to include several hundred graves. Although one of the oldest in the cemetery, the grave of Rev. Jesse Bushyhead is distinguished by its tall obelisk and is the cemetery's most prominent marker.

⁷ Ibid, 166.

⁸ C.W. 'Dub' West, *Among the Cherokees, A Biographical History of the Cherokees Since the Removal*, (Muscogee, Oklahoma: Muscogee Publishing Company), 1981, 48.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Schroeder, Schroeder, and Lance, comp. "Remembering Eliza Missouri Bushyhead," 37.

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Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Adair County, Oklahoma

The Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave meets the registration requirements for the property type "Gravesites" as outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "The Historic and Historic Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears, 1837-1839." These registration requirements outlining integrity are as follows:

Location: The Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave remains at its original location in the Baptist Mission Cemetery.

**Design/
Materials/**

Workmanship: The original 1844 obelisk marking his grave has not been altered and continues to display its original design, materials, and workmanship.

**Feeling/
Setting/**

Association: The Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave is located within the Baptist Mission Cemetery which was established in 1841. His grave is one of the earliest in the cemetery which now contains over 200 burials. The cemetery contains a variety of 19th and 20th century markers and headstones and is bordered on the north, south, and east by open fields. The grave retains its feeling, association, and setting of a mid-19th century burial site.

The Rev. Jesse Bushyhead grave possesses sufficient integrity and significance to meet National Register criteria for its association with the Cherokee Trail of Tears. The Rev. Jesse Bushyhead was a prominent Cherokee leader during the emigration to the Indian Territory and in the months following arrival he helped to create the Cherokee Nation. The Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave is the only surviving property directly associated with his productive life.

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Section number 9 Page 6

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Adair County, Oklahoma

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 7

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Adair County, Oklahoma

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave is a plot measuring five feet in width and eight feet in length in the northeast corner of the Baptist Mission Cemetery in Adair County, Oklahoma. This cemetery is part of parcel 6 in Section 18N of Township 13 and Range 26E. This boundary is shown on the accompanying Adair County tax map which is drawn at a scale of 1" = 1,000'. The boundary is also shown on the accompanying site plan. The boundary is drawn to include a parcel to encompass the Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave and marble marker. The cemetery itself is bounded on the west by the right-of-way of US 59, and on the north, east, and south by a chain link fence.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave is drawn to include the grave itself and the marble marker erected upon his death in 1844. The plot, measuring five feet in width and eight feet in length is sufficient to encompass the grave without infringing on the adjacent graves. Surrounding the grave on all four sides are additional burials which date to the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 8

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Adair County, Oklahoma

Photo by: Thomason and Associates

Date: March, 2002

Location of Negatives: Thomason and Associates, Nashville, TN

Photo No. 1: General view of the Baptist Mission Cemetery, view to the northeast with the Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave marker in the distance.

Photo No. 2: General view of the Baptist Mission Cemetery, view to the southwest with the Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave marker in the distance.

Photo No. 3: Baptist Mission Cemetery, cast iron fence surrounding the Crowder family plot south of the Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave, view to the east.

Photo No. 4: Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave, inscription, view to the east.

Photo No. 5: Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave, view to the east.

Photo No. 6: General view of the Baptist Mission Cemetery, view to the north with the Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave marker in the distance.

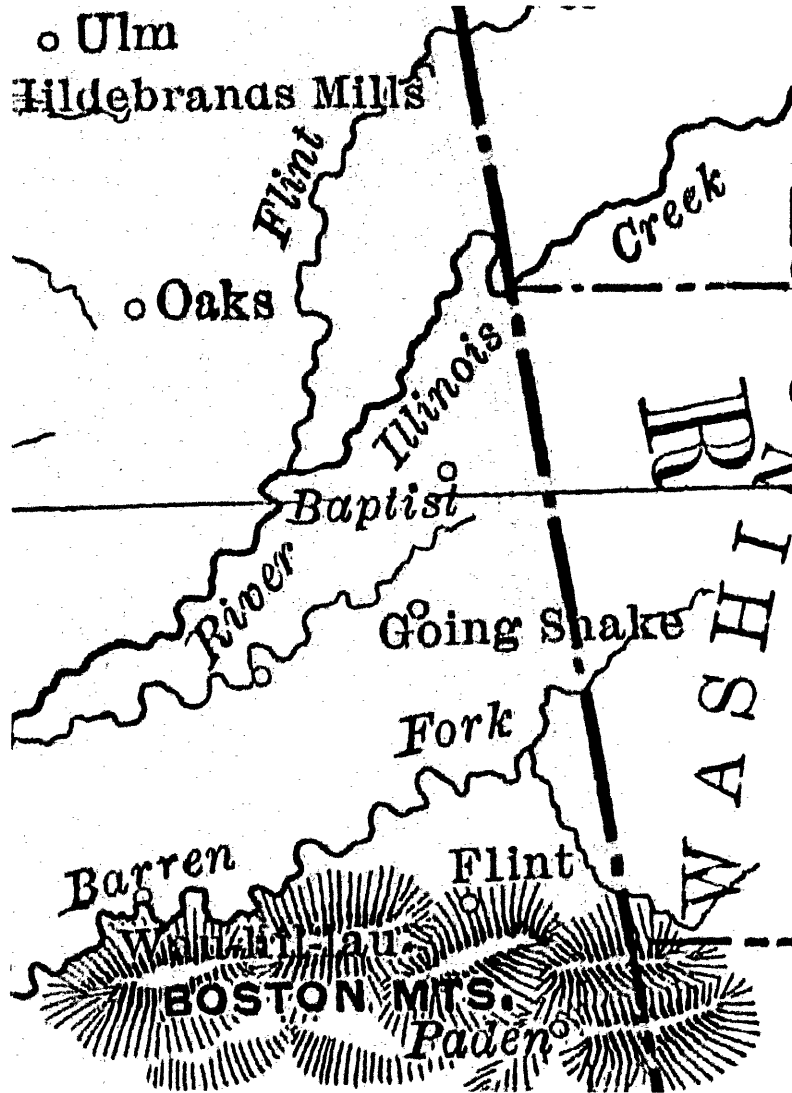
Photo No. 7: Historic marker of the Baptist Mission and the 1888 Church in the background, view to the west.

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Section number Maps Page 9

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Adair County, Oklahoma



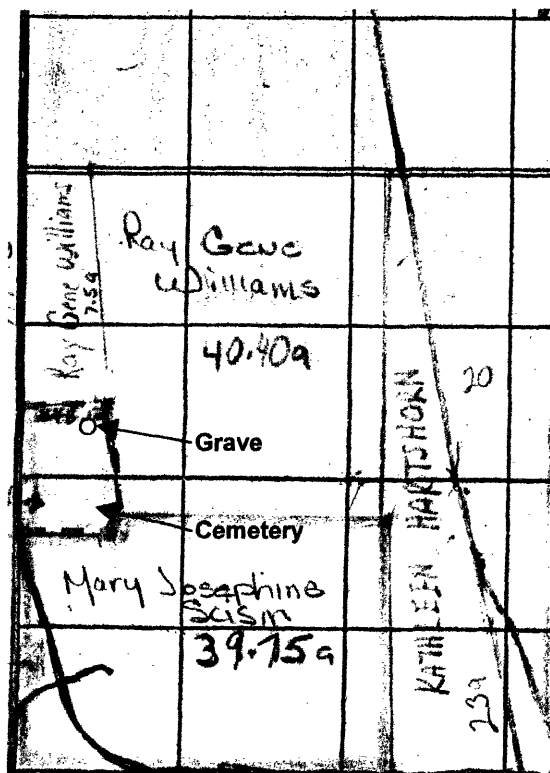
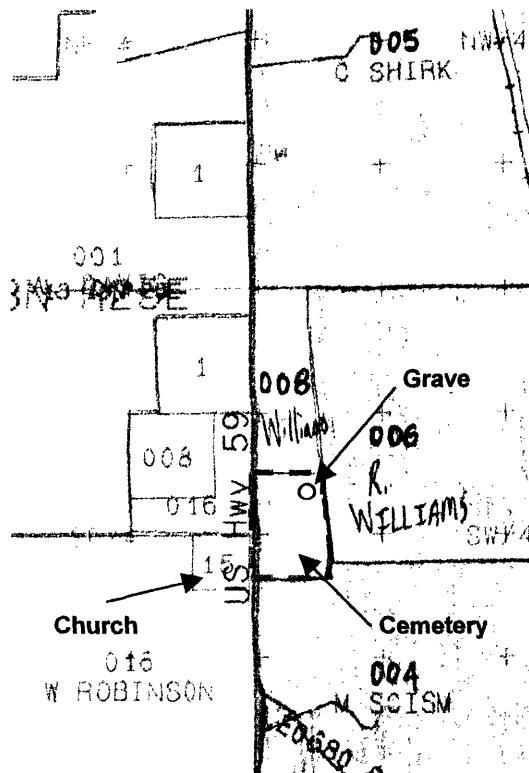
Map 1: 1897 Rand McNally Map showing the Baptist Mission of Oklahoma and cemetery location.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Maps Page 10

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Adair County, Oklahoma



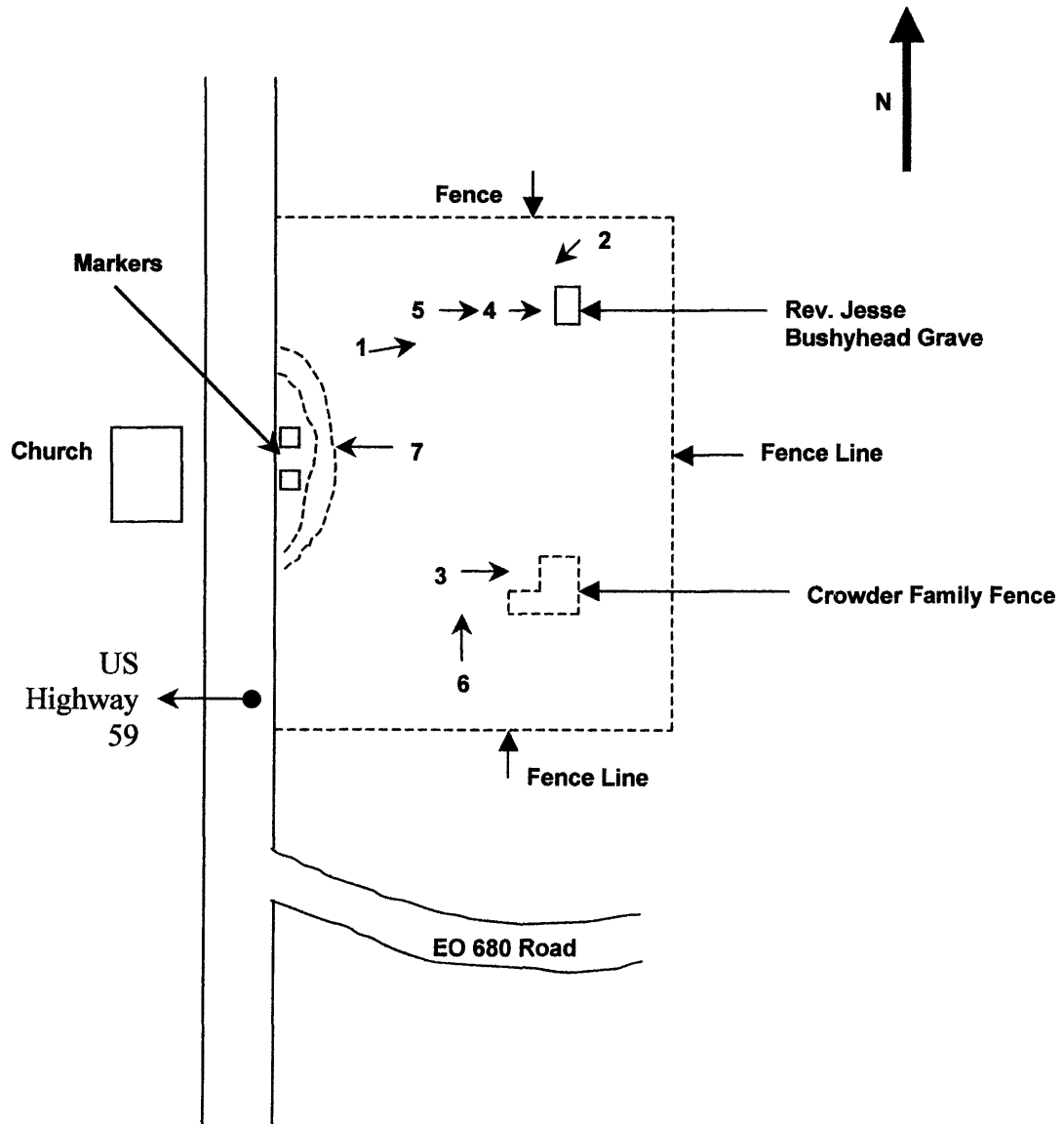
Map 2: Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave Property Location (Adair County Tax Map, 18-18N-26E, 1" = 1000').

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Maps Page 11

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave
Adair County, Oklahoma



Map 3: Site Plan and Photo Key for the Rev. Jesse Bushyhead Grave.