

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	Okanogan
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 15 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Chief Joseph Memorial (Nez Perce Cemetery)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Nez-Perce-Cemetery near intersection of Wash. 10A and Cache Creek Road

CITY OR TOWN: Nespelem

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: # 4 - Honorable Mike McCormack

STATE: Washington

CODE: 53

COUNTY: Okanogan

CODE: 047

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) cemetery
			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Colville Tribes

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Nespelem

STATE: Washington

CODE: 53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Colville Indian Agency

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Nespelem

STATE: Washington

CODE: 53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

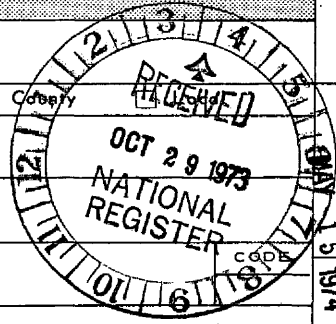
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

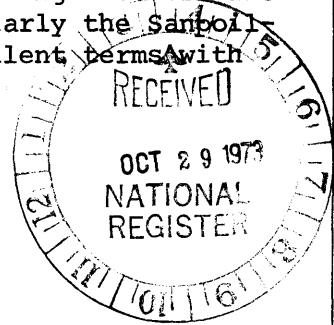
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Chief Joseph is buried in a Nez Perce Indian cemetery at Nespelem, Washington, on the Colville Indian Reservation. Joseph died on September 21, 1904, and was buried without fanfare. A year later, his grave was disinterred and redeposited with much ceremony, including the placement of an impressive monument donated by the Washington University State Historical Society.

The monument, a white marble shaft standing 7 1/2 feet high, still remains on Joseph's grave. A likeness of the famous Chief is carved on the front, and inscribed below is his name, "CHIEF JOSEPH." On one side of the shaft, Joseph's Indian name is printed in his native Sahaptian language, "HIN-MAH-TOO YAH-LAT-KEKT," and below is the English translation, "THUNDER ROLLING IN THE MOUNTAINS." This translation, by the way, is not entirely correct. Joseph's Indian name is more correctly interpreted as Thunder Rolling in the Mountains to a Loftier Place. On a third side, there is the inscription, "HE LED HIS PEOPLE IN THE NEZ PERCE WAR OF 1877-DIED SEPT. 21, 1904 - AGED ABOUT 60 YEARS." The words on the back of the monument are, "ERECTED JUNE 20, 1905, BY THE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY."

Only Nez Perce Indians are buried in the cemetery, and most of the graves are unmarked. Yellow Wolf's grave, however, has been indicated with a stone in recognition of his role as a "PATRIOT WARRIOR OF THE NEZ PERCE 'LOST CAUSE' 1877." Yellow Wolf, a relative of Joseph's, was a famous warrior who died of old age in 1935. The inscription on Yellow Wolf's grave also states: "MARKER PLACED BY WHITE FRIENDS." Only the Chief Joseph Memorial is being recommended for the Register, although a number of other Nez Perce involved in the war are buried here. Located nearby are other cemeteries for other tribes inhabiting the Colville Indian Reservation. Some of these tribes, particularly the Sanpoil-Nespelem, are noted for having always been on excellent terms with Whites.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **September 21, 1904**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chief Joseph has often been described as the "Great War Chief of the Nez Perce," a "military genius," or even the "Red Napoleon of the West." This view is false. Joseph was a man who much preferred peace to war; a man who fit the role of a domestic leader and diplomat, and not that of the unexcelled warrior chief. The facts are known, yet much modern literature presents the untrue picture, including a recent, popular study purporting to present the Indian view of all disputes between Whites and Indians in the latter half of the Nineteenth Century.

Young Joseph, as he was sometimes called by Whites, was born about 1840, in the Wallowa Valley of present-day Northeastern Oregon. This was the summer home of the Wallowa band of Nez Perce; and in winter, the group lived along the sheltered Imnaha River Valley located further east. Joseph succeeded to the leadership of the Wallowa band when his father, Old Joseph, died in 1871.

Since the coming of Lewis and Clark, the Nez Perce had always been on friendly terms with Whites; but in 1877, a number of Nez Perce bands were all but forced to fight after a series of incidents involving an unfair treaty, arbitrariness, and broken promises committed by the Whites. Generally, these revolting bands were non-Christian.

During the entire course of the war, Nez Perce decisions concerning strategy and planning were made in council by the leaders of the various bands involved. These chiefs included White Bird, Looking Glass, Too-hoolhoolzote, Lean Elk, Joseph, Hush-hush-cute, and Hahtalekin. Joseph generally supervised the moving of the women and children; whereas, some of the other chiefs were involved with the actual carrying through of battle plans. After a remarkably lengthy chase, Army troops defeated and captured most of the Nez Perce at the Battle of the Bear Paws in northern Montana. Interestingly, Joseph was the only major Nez Perce leader who had not been killed or escaped to Canada. This fact, associated with Joseph's obstinate opposition to arbitrary treatment by Whites prior to the war; the diplomacy, and the tact that he always displayed; and the failure of Whites to understand the true nature of Indian leadership all made it appear to many Whites that Joseph had single-handedly master-minded the retreat. This view, of course, is untrue, and unfair to the other Nez Perce leaders, as many individual

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beal, Merrill D. "I Will Fight No More Forever", Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1963.

Haines, Francis. The Nez Perce Tribesmen of the Columbia Plateau. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1955.

Johansen, Dorothy O. and Gates, Charles M. Empire of the Columbia: A History of the Pacific Northwest. New York, Evanston, and London:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

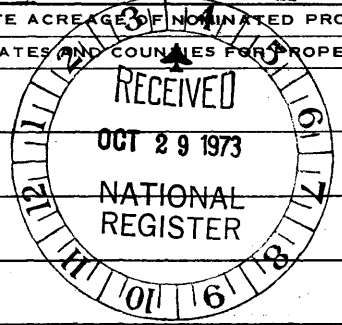
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		48 ° 10 ' 08 "	118 ° 58 ' 35 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

11/353070
5336750

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Glen Lindeman, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission DATE: August 9, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 1128

CITY OR TOWN: Olympia STATE: Washington CODE: 53

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard
Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director - Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Date October 18, 1973

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

Al R. Mauter
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/15/74

ATTEST:

Wm J. Sauter
Keeper of The National Register

Date 5. 8. 74

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#8 - Significance
Chief Joseph Memorial (Nez Perce Cemetery)

Nez Perce have pointed out in later years.

But after the defeat came a time when Joseph did confirm his reputation as a diplomat and protector of his people. After the capture, the Nez Perce were sent to Oklahoma where large numbers died from malaria and other lowland diseases. Largely because of Joseph's tactful efforts, the surviving Nez Perce were finally granted permission in the mid-1880's, to move to Nespelem in Washington Territory, an area somewhat similar to the Wallowa Valley. A few Nez Perce were also allowed to return to the Nez Perce Reservation at Lapwai, Idaho Territory. At Nespelem, Joseph was nationally recognized as the spokesman expressing the ills and desires of his people. Joseph also constantly strove to gain claim to a portion of his beloved Wallowa Valley for his band. His efforts included trips to Washington, D.C., conferences with Presidents, and contact with various influential individuals. On one trip he was enlisted to participate in the dedication of Grant's tomb in New York City. Success may have ultimately been achieved; but in 1904, Joseph died. Dr. Latham, the agency physician at the time, reported that Joseph died of a broken heart while sitting before his tepee fire.

Joseph's gravesite memorial is important not only because it is the famous Indian leader's burial site, but because it is one of the very few existing tangible reminders of Joseph's life and the events associated with the Nez Perce conflict. In 1939, a bill in the Idaho House of Representatives requested \$25,000 for a Chief Joseph memorial and museum. Despite considerable support, this proposal was dropped when an equally-evident ground swell of antipathy against Joseph and the Nez Perce Tribe became evident. A few years later in 1943, Eastern Oregon began a movement to have Joseph's remains brought to the Wallowa Valley. This project was thought by many to be a publicity stunt and the plan ultimately failed. Thus today, the Chief Joseph Memorial at Nespelem remains as the outstanding monument to Joseph's memory, and will always remain a focal point for the understanding and recognition of one of our nation's greatest sagas.



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Harper & Row, Publishers, 1967, second edition.

McWhorter, Lucullus Virgil. Yellow Wolf: His Own Story. Caldwell,
Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1940.

