

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 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 Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery  
other names/site number Comanche Indian Cemetery, Yellow Mission Cemetery, Indian Agency Cemetery

### 2. Location

street & number Henry Post Army Airfield, 4900 Area  not for publication  
city or town Fort Sill  vicinity  
state Oklahoma code OK county Comanche code 031 zip code 73503

### 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 forth 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 at the following level(s) of significance:  
 national  statewide  local

JK Wayne 2013/2/11  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
HQ Department of the Army Washington, DC 20310  
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] 2/5/2014  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**  
 Name of Property

**Comanche, Oklahoma**  
 County and State

**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	
		buildings
		district
1		site
		structure
		object
1		<b>Total</b>

**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**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Funerary-Cemetery  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Funerary-Cemetery  
 Defense- Air Facility  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 walls: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 roof: \_\_\_\_\_  
 other: Concrete (slab markers)  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

Name of Property

County and State

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**Narrative Description**

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(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**

The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery is located in the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 18, Township 2 North, Range 11 West of the Indian Meridian. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery is approximately 1.098891 acres and situated on the grassy rolling plain at the southeastern corner of the Henry Post Airfield, adjacent to Rogers Lane and Interstate 44. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery today, retains the appearance of a natural prairie grass setting as in its historical times of use.

The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery is associated with significant Native American Use during a time when Tribes were being forcibly removed to reservations and slowly acculturated into Christian/Euro-American practices through government policy. The Comanche as a Nation hold the cemetery as sacred ground, not only associated with their ancestors during a time of significant tribal upheaval, but also as a symbol of the deprivations faced by the tribe as a result of their treatment and conditions.

Historically the Comanche people were comprised of many bands (groups of Comanche people), dispersed geographically in order to survive each other for the good of the whole population. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery is representative of the effects of forced acculturation in traditional burial practices of the Comanche people, and indicative of the impact smallpox had on the entire Comanche population at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and D in the areas of Ethnic Heritage-Native American and Historic Archeology.

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**Narrative Description**

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The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery (Cemetery) is located in the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 18, Township 2 North, Range 11 West of the Indian Meridian. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery is approximately 1.098891 acres and situated on the grassy rolling plain at the southeastern corner of the Henry Post Airfield<sup>i</sup>, adjacent to Rogers Lane and Interstate 44.

From a distance the Cemetery today retains the appearance of a natural prairie grass setting with no vertical monuments or identifiable features. Oral tradition indicates approximately 200 below ground burials. In 1917-1918 the Army Quartermaster Corps placed approximately 109 concrete slab markers on graves identified by clergy and family members of the decedents willing to participate in a survey of graves. A "Cemetery List" prepared by Reverend Richard H. Harper in December of 1917 contained a list of the identified burials (see attachment). It is unclear what type of information may have been used by Rev. Harper to identify the location and pattern of graves or later by the Quartermaster in their placement of the grave covers.<sup>ii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> The *Henry Post Air Field* was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977, but the 10-acre listed site did not include the Cemetery grounds.

<sup>ii</sup> *Cemetery List*, 12/15/1917, Fort Sill Historic Landmark and Museum, Fort Sill, OK.

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

Name of Property

County and State

The concrete grave cover markers were reportedly covered with three inches of dirt in 1954 to accommodate increasing use of the adjacent Army airfield.<sup>iii</sup> The only visible indicators of the cemetery today are a limited number of depressions that conform to the circa 1918 concrete grave covers. Upon inspection, only 49 markers contain actual inscribed names, while another 46 slabs are marked *unknown* and 14 are marked *child* or *child/sister/brother of*. The names inscribed on the existing concrete grave markers were placed on the easternmost side of the slabs and situated to be read from the west. It is likely that the placement of the concrete slabs has protected the below ground burials from degradation and/or inadvertent disturbance/excavation.

The original estimation of graves supports the traditions of the Comanche Tribe. The limited number of markers might reflect the reluctance of some decedents to participate in the grave marking, where it was often considered improper to speak of/or say the name of the deceased. At this time no physical evidence has been identified regarding the existence of other burial markers or tombstones at this site.

During 1984, the Fort Sill Museum Curator supervised the field investigation of the Comanche Mission Cemetery, which included uncovering of a number of concrete slab markers overlaying burial sites. The field investigation included a survey of the site conducted by Army personnel from Battery C, 25th Field Artillery. Based on this survey, the probable Cemetery site corners were located and marked. The Fort Sill Grounds Maintenance and Museum staff subsequently located 109 burial sites and uncovered them to the top of the concrete slab markers. The names on the exposed concrete markers were recorded and photographed, the locations of the burial sites were mapped.<sup>iv</sup>

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<sup>iii</sup> 1955, Morris Swett memo, Department of the Army, 12/15/2009 letter.

<sup>iv</sup> Weston, page 2-15 and 2-16.

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

Name of Property

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 whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic Heritage -Native American

Archeology-Historic

**Period of Significance**

1870-1907 (Reservation Life)

**Significant Dates**

1869-1901 (Reservation Life)

1900-1901 (Smallpox epidemic)

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

Comanche Tribe

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Period of Significance (justification)**

(1870-1907) Fort Sill was officially established in 1869. As a direct result of Fort Sill's establishment and the reservation being opened for land settlement, a cultural transition occurred in the behaviors and patterns of traditional Comanche Indian burial practices. Thus, necessitating a localized site for burial of the deceased. The first documented burial dates to approximately 1895, however, oral tradition of the Comanche people places the first burial at this location circa 1870, providing an appropriate start date for the period of significance. Reverend Richard Harper's documentation places the last burial use at 1907, at which point the lands occupied by the cemetery were transferred to Fort Sill.

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

Name of Property

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

County and State

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

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

The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery is associated with significant Native American use during a time when Tribes were being forcibly removed to reservations and slowly acculturated into Christian/Euro-American practices through government policy. The Comanche as a Nation hold the cemetery as sacred ground, not only associated with their ancestors during a time of significant tribal upheaval, but also as a symbol of the deprivations faced by the tribe as a result of their treatment and conditions.

Historically, the Comanche people were comprised of many bands (groups of Comanche people), dispersed geographically in order to survive each other for the good of the whole population. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery is representative of the effects of forced acculturation in traditional burial practices of the Comanche people, and indicative of the impact smallpox had on the entire Comanche population at the close of the 19th century. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and D in the areas of Ethnic-Heritage-Native American and Historic Archeology.

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

**Criterion 'A' association to a specific event:**

Historically the Comanche people were comprised of many bands (groups of Comanche people), dispersed geographically in order to survive each other for the good of the whole population. At close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a small pox epidemic claimed the lives of many Comanche's, which impacted the entire body.

**Criterion 'D' yielded or likely to yield information:**

There is much to be gleaned from the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery and smallpox event, regarding the effects on Comanche culture, which has not been purveyed or examined in its full extant. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery retains the potential to yield significant information in Tribal/Government history. The ability to verify and study the general character of Native American burials during this period of time, when forced acculturation was radically altering Comanche lifeways; the ability to verify whether or not the burials were associated with smallpox deaths; and the ability to study how the treatment of such victims if they existed differed from the treatment of other burials are significant avenues of potential investigation from a scientific and cultural perspective.

Additionally, because little documentary material regarding the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery exists and considering that these burials were not generally denoted with permanent markers, archeological analysis, even if done with remote sensing such as ground penetrating radar, could further define the number, extant, and physical layout of the burials, providing important information about the landscape, use of space, and boundaries.

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

Name of Property

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

County and State

**[As noted in the National Register Bulletin, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places*, cemeteries eligible under National Register Criterion D need not meet Criterion Consideration D.]**

*special requirements:*

Criterion 'A' religious property with historical importance:

The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery is considered a 'sacred site' by the Comanche people, because of their religious beliefs surrounding the smallpox epidemic.

Criterion 'D' association with historic events:

The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery site derives its primary significance from its association to a historic event (the 1900-1901 smallpox epidemic).

*[The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery meets the same requirements, in addition to special requirements Criterion 'A' as a religious property with historical importance and Criterion 'D' from its association with historic events as a 'Traditional Cultural Property' (TCP).]*

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

Comanche Nation

The Comanche Nation as it is known today is comprised of many bands or groups of people who historically were geographically dispersed over broad areas of the southern and Southwestern Great Plains from Colorado and Wyoming to Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Before being placed on the reservation, the Comanche in historical times were nomadic bison hunters organized into numerous bands, of which five were always prominent—the Quahadi (Kwahadi), the Penateka (Penande), the Nokoni (Detsanayuka), the Yamparika, and the Kotsoteka. The bands were nearly autonomous and interconnections were very loose. Bison were the subsistence mainstay from the time the Comanche moved onto the plains. After the horse was acquired<sup>v</sup>, they usually staged communal hunts under the direction of a hunt leader. Bison were shot with bows and arrows (later with rifles), stabbed with lances, or sometimes driven over a cliff. Men did the hunting and women the butchering. Other game hunted included elk, deer, black bear, antelope, and, at times, wild horses. In times of necessity, their own horses would supply the food. Numerous wild plants were collected by the women, and agricultural products could be traded for with other tribes. The bison-hide-covered tipi was the basic dwelling, with wooden frame bungalows and houses replacing them in modern times.

As noted above, the political structure was loosely organized, but each band had an elected nonhereditary chief. Comanche religious practice was very individualistic, with emphasis being laid on the male vision quest. The quest gave power to individuals but entailed restrictive practices and taboos. There were no priests and few group ceremonies. The Comanche believed in a creator spirit and its counterpart, an evil spirit, and accepted the Sun, the Earth, and the Moon as deities. The religion was animistic with natural objects and animal spirits (except for dogs and horses) having various powers. Medicine men served as intermediaries and helpers with the spirits and also served practically as curers<sup>vi</sup>

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<sup>v</sup> The Comanche had acquired horses from the Pueblo Indians after the Pueblo Revolt in 1680, and the horse became a key element in the emergence of a distinctive Comanche culture. "Comanche Timeline". Comanchelanguage.org., retrieved 2012-06-18.

<sup>vi</sup> Historic narrative on early Comanche culture excerpted from <http://www.everyculture.com/North-America/Comanche.html>

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

Name of Property

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

County and State

From the eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth centuries, the Comanche concentrated their settlements in the Wichita Mountains in what is now southwestern Oklahoma, while still roaming vast stretches from the Arkansas River on the north to the Mexican state of Coahuila on the south in search of buffalo. This nomadic tradition would greatly exacerbate the negative impacts of forced reservation life on the Comanche in later years, including the concentration of individuals long used to dispersed lifestyles. The buffalo were their lifeblood as they depended on the animal as their main source of food and used its hide for clothing and shelter. For decades, the Comanche served as a formidable barrier to white settlement across a wide swath of the middle of the country. Because of the barrier, some have contended that the Comanche were the most powerful tribe in U.S. history. As non-native settlers began to encroach on their territory, conflicts were inevitable.<sup>vii</sup>

During the first half of the nineteenth century there was continual strife between the Comanche, Mexicans, Texans, and the U.S. Army. Texas, an independent republic from 1836 to 1845, had as its stated policy a refusal to acknowledge Indian title to land. Officials operated under the assumption that Native Americans had the "grim choice of emigration, expulsion, or extermination"<sup>viii</sup> As a result, Texas settlers in particular carried out a merciless campaign of harassment and intimidation toward their Indian neighbors.

In addition, the Comanche faced the constant threat of annihilation due to waves of epidemics from Eurasian diseases to which they had no immunity, such as smallpox and measles. Outbreaks of smallpox (1817, 1848) and cholera (1849) took a major toll on the Comanche, whose population dropped from an estimated 20,000 in mid-century to just a few thousand by the 1870s.

In 1867, the Medicine Lodge Treaty with the United States was signed and the Comanche, along with the Kiowa and Kiowa-Apache moved to a reservation in southwest Oklahoma.

Reservation life for the Comanche actually began in 1869, as a result of the Treaty, which promised schools, churches, and annuities in return for the Indians agreeing to live on reservation lands established in the Indian Territory, thus beginning a lengthy and arduous transition from a free people to constrained reservation life. The provisions of the treaty effectively entailed the transfer of vast tracts of land totaling over 60,000 square miles in return for a reservation area initially totaling less than 5,000 square miles of land, an amount which would be continually reduced in later years.<sup>ix</sup>

The Comanche reluctantly met the terms of the agreement and were forcibly moved onto reservation lands. Incensed over the loss of their lands and the devastation brought by buffalo hunters, whiskey peddlers, and others, however, raiding parties continued to venture out in search of traditional and accustomed hunting locations and/or retribution. Chaffing at the sedentary life envisioned for them, along with longstanding animosity with Texas residents in particular spurred the Comanche Indians to continued unrest in the unsettled areas of the region. The Fort Sill Reservation and Agency for a time offered a degree of protection and refuge as the Agency Agent, Lawrie Tatum was reluctant to believe the charges against his Indian residents. Finally, the Red River War (1874-75) brought to a conclusion most of the Comanche raiding and restricted the Comanche to the reservation lands.<sup>x</sup>

Once estimated to number in the thousands, the Comanche population, according to an 1875 reservation census, had been reduced to 1,597. Reservation life necessitated a complete restructuring of Comanche society as the government attempted to transform the hunters and warriors into farmers and stockmen. Their cultural values and beliefs were under constant attack as they were encouraged to take up the white man's ways. Unable to subsist themselves, and only begrudgingly supported by the government, the Comanche suffered terribly.<sup>xi</sup>

<sup>vii</sup> Arrell Morgan Gibson, *The American Indian: Prehistory to the Present*, Lexington, MA 1980, page 342

<sup>viii</sup> Gibson, p. 345

<sup>ix</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comanche>

<sup>x</sup> *Soldier and Brave; Historic Places Associated with Indian Affairs and the Indian Wars in the Trans-Mississippi West*, National Park Service, Washington, DC [http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/soldier/siteb25.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/soldier/siteb25.htm)

<sup>xi</sup> <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/bmc72>; Texas Historical Commission.



**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

Name of Property

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

County and State

With the ratification of the Jerome Agreement on June 6, 1900, the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache tribes gave up the reserved reservation lands in compensation for 160-acre allotments which were to be held in trust for them by the government. With the allotments, the government-intended transition from nomadic hunters to agricultural farmers and ranchers was complete. The former reservation areas not given as Indian allotments were opened to non-Indian settlement by lottery on August 6, 1901.

According to provisions of the Jerome Agreement, each man, woman, and child would receive 160 acres of land, with additional acreage set aside for church, agency, and school use. Comanche leaders protested the allotment on multiple grounds, but the federal government upheld the agreement. Lands not allotted to the Indians were thrown open to the public, and whites soon outnumbered Indians on the former reservation. The post-allotment period was a difficult time for the Comanche, who continued to lose their land as a result of financial reverses or fraudulent schemes. Many were forced to leave the vicinity of the old reservation to seek employment, and those who remained were divided by factionalism. World War II accelerated the breakup of Comanche society as members of the tribe left to find jobs in the defense industry or join the military service. In the postwar years, the Comanche population continued to disperse in search of economic opportunity.

In the 1960s the Comanche, encouraged by a resurgence of Indian nationalism, began to work together to rebuild their society. They underwent important political changes as a result of that initiative. Although they maintained ties with the Kiowas and Apaches, the Comanche established their own tribal government, which operates in a bustling complex near Lawton, Oklahoma. In 1995 the Comanche had an enrolled tribal population of 9,722 scattered across the United States. The People are also united by pride in their rich Comanche heritage, an element that has remained constant through years of tumultuous change.<sup>xii</sup>

Fort Sill

Established on January 8, 1869, as Camp Wachita by Major General Phillip Sheridan, US Army, Fort Sill was renamed on August 1, 1869. The original Fort Sill reservation of 36 square miles was established in 1871 by Executive Order. The Post was envisioned as a support facility to house both infantry and mounted cavalry troops assigned to settle the Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche Indians on their reservation and to stop hostile Indians from raiding border settlements located between Texas and Kansas.

The Fort expanded several times, most notably in 1897, 1901, and 1907. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery lies within the acreage transferred to the Fort in 1907, coinciding with the establishment of the Army Field Artillery branch at Fort Sill. The 1917 establishment of the Henry Post Army Airfield in the area adjacent to the cemetery brought the Fort in direct contact with the Comanche Mission Cemetery.

Today Fort Sill serves as home of the United States Army Field Artillery School as well as the Marine Corps' site for Field Artillery MOS school, United States Army Air Defense Artillery School, and the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, on a site of over 90,000 acres.<sup>xiii</sup>

Fort Sill Agency

The Fort Sill Indian Agency was originally established as part of the obligations that resulted from the signing of the Medicine Lodge Treaty with the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache Indians on October 21, 1867 and ratified by the United States Senate in July 25, 1868. The Treaty required that the Kiowa, Comanche and Plains Apache Indians settle on a reservation located south of the Washita River and North of the Red River, located within Indian Territory or the present day State of Oklahoma. The Indian Agency site was located to the southwest of Fort Sill within lands designated by the Treaty as reservation lands due to the proximity to available timber and water. The Treaty also specifically required the provision, at federal expense, of warehouse, residential, and schoolhouse facilities for the operation of the mission.<sup>xiv</sup> The

<sup>xii</sup> Carol A. Lipscomb, "COMANCHE INDIANS," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/bmc72>), accessed November 29, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>xiii</sup> Ibid

<sup>xiv</sup> Weston, page 2-6

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

Name of Property

County and State

Agency would serve as the direct liaison between the tribes and the government, all within the shadow of the military at nearby Fort Sill.

The physical site of the original Fort Sill Indian Agency was approximately 3 miles to the southeast of the Fort Sill Old Post on the east bank of Cache Creek, south of the confluence of Medicine Creek. Religious organizations were chosen to provide the Indian Agents to the Indian agencies established under the requirements of the Medicine Lodge Treaty, partly to reduce the potential for the type of corruption and mistreatment that had afflicted earlier Indian Agents and Agencies. Religious institutions it was thought would also be able to bring with them the correct morality to the Indian people. In the case of the Fort Sill Indian Agency, the Society of Friends (Quakers) were selected for managing the Agency. The first civilian Agent appointed was Lawrie Tatum, a Quaker from Iowa who arrived in 1869. His first goal--attempt to immediately transform his recalcitrant wards into peaceful farmers. By 1870 the Agency had relocated to the west side of Cache Creek and the first modest adobe buildings were completed<sup>xv</sup>

*"... hundreds of tipi, thousands of horses, scores of women in bright-hued blankets, and uncountable numbers of playing children and barking dogs made a most colorful and noisy scene, at times verging on pandemonium. Fort Sill was truly an "Indian Post." <sup>xvi</sup>*

The Agency Village served as the distribution point for "annuity goods" distributed to the reservation Indians, requiring tribal bands and groups to congregate periodically at Fort Sill from their disparate reservation homes. *"I saw the Indians drawing their annuity goods to-day—they came in on the 19th—and it was a real sight to see each chief with his little band circled around him, all sitting cross-legged on the grass, with all the goods apportioned in a circle and one or two members of the band assisting the chief in distributing the same. The goods consisted of blankets, muslin, calico, strouding, coats, pants, shirts, frying pans, kettles, tin-cups, & c., & c. Some of them seemed pleased but others were not." <sup>xvii</sup>*

The Old Agency Village, also known as the Red Store had three general stores, a blacksmith shop, a church that also served as a school, and a few homes. The settlement existed until Lawton was created on August 6, 1901<sup>xviii</sup>

In 1871 Rev. Josiah Butler, a Quaker, (and his wife Elizabeth), founded Josiah Missionary School, which later became known as Fort Sill Indian School. Initially, the facility provided education to the Apache, Comanche, and Kiowa from a fairly substantial, 1 ½-story, adobe and rubble masonry structure, with a kitchen, dining room, and dormitory. The school operation meant that Indian youths were kept congregated at the Agency for extended periods, which may again have exacerbated the spread of small-pox and other readily communicable diseases. In 1958 the school (now housed in newer facilities) continued as a boarding school for American Indians, with 41 faculty and 230 students.<sup>xix</sup>

Fort Sill Agency Mission

In the year 1895 the Women's Executive Committee of the Reformed Church in America (later known as the Women's Board of Domestic Missions) sent into the field the Reverend Frank Wright, a member of the Choctaw tribe. It was thought that there were both a need and an opportunity for more Christian work among the Comanche people. In 1906, the

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<sup>xv</sup> Weston, page 2-9

<sup>xvi</sup> <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/Chronicles/v036/v036p002.pdf>, Chronicles of Oklahoma  
*Old Fort Sill: The First Seven Years*, Gilett Griswold, page 9

<sup>xvii</sup> <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/chronicles/v006/v006p483.html>, Chronicles of Oklahoma Volume 6, No. 4, December, 1928, Pioneer School Teaching At The Comanche-Kiowa Agency School 1870-3, Being the Reminiscences of the First Teacher, Josiah Butler, page 502]

<sup>xviii</sup> <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/C/CO035.html>

<sup>xix</sup> <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/C/CO035.html>;  
<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/chronicles/v006/v006p483.html>

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

Name of Property

County and State

Women's Board of Domestic Missions established the Dutch Reform Church. Originally consisting of three adobe buildings, the Mission was reportedly located east of the railroad tracks southeast of the cemetery.

*With all his heart and soul Dr. Wright entered this field. A mile north of the townsite of Lawton, Oklahoma, a piece of land containing one hundred and twenty acres was obtained from the Government, by Act of Congress, for missionary uses. Here a church and parsonage were erected later.*<sup>xx</sup>

Comanche Mission Cemetery

The earliest known and documented burials there occurred from about 1895 forward. If burial records ever existed, those of the earliest burials have been lost to time.

Although the Department of the Army and the Department of the Interior required extensive documentation regarding the operational management of Indian agencies, little information regarding the date of establishment of the cemetery has been located, to date. This may be due in part to the 1879 consolidation of the Fort Sill Indian Agency with the Indian Agency located in Anadarko, Oklahoma, upon which Fort Sill became a sub-agency with management decisions made from Anadarko.

The earliest recorded information regarding the Comanche Mission Cemetery site comes from Department of the Interior files that date from August 1907, regarding the location of the Cemetery. The letters reference the potential transfer of these lands to Fort Sill. The letter dated August 12, 1907 from John B. Blackman, Indian Agent, Kiowa Indian Agency, Anadarko, Oklahoma requested the Fort Sill Sub-agency farmer (Walter D. Silcott) to locate the Cemetery on a plat Sheet and report on the number of grave sites within the site. On August 17, 1907, Mr. Silcott recorded the location of the site and reported 70 individual burial plots were identified. Further documentation states that on December 10, 1907, the Department of the Interior requested that the Kiowa Indian Agent determine the feasibility of removing the remains buried in the Cemetery and reintering the remains on non-military lands set aside for the Dutch Reformed Church located to the south of Fort Sill adjacent to the City of Lawton. No further records verifying any actual relocation efforts have been identified.<sup>xxi</sup>

In 1916, the Comanche Mission Cemetery was again surveyed by S. A. Joyner, Comanche County Supervisor. The monument corners of the Cemetery were identified and located from this survey. Located on military land, the Cemetery was once again the subject of possible relocation discussions.<sup>xxii</sup>

The Reverend Richard H. Harper compiled the only known listing of the burials in the Cemetery during his assignment at the mission from 1914 to 1923. The most detailed description and discussion of the Cemetery occurred in 1917, when the Reverend Richard H. Harper, Missionary, Reformed Missionary Church identified 64 burial sites with the remains of 68 individuals located within the surveyed Comanche Mission Cemetery site. The Harper letter also states the Comanche Mission Cemetery was used from approximately 1895 to 1907, or a period of about 10 years.<sup>xxiii</sup>

The Harper letter is based on interviews he conducted in determining the names of the remains buried in the Cemetery and is the first written mention of the age of the Cemetery, and its approximate period of use.<sup>xxiv</sup> The letter also stated the desire to delineate the individual burial sites with markers with the identified names. (Figure 1)

<sup>xx</sup> <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/chronicles/v018/v018p328.html>; Chronicles of Oklahoma, Volume 18, No. 4, December, 1940, The Missionary Work of the Reformed (Dutch) Church in America, in Oklahoma, Richard H. Harper, page 329

<sup>xxi</sup> Weston, page 2-12

<sup>xxii</sup> Weston page 2-13

<sup>xxiii</sup> Weston page 2-14

<sup>xxiv</sup> The year 1895 merely represents the earliest documented burial date and not necessarily the earliest burial, which Comanche oral tradition place as early as the 1870s.

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

Name of Property

County and State

Based upon an internal Army memorandum (Swett, 1955), the Quartermaster Corps placed concrete slab markers over the individual burial sites in 1918. The concrete markers were inscribed with the information obtained from Reverend Harper's study. According to the same Army document, the concrete slab markers were covered with 3 inches of soil by the Army Engineers due to interference with aircraft landings.<sup>xxv</sup>

Details of what might have happened to this cemetery between 1917 and the early-1950s have not been found.

During 1984, the Fort Sill Museum Curator supervised the field investigation of the Comanche Mission Cemetery, which included uncovering of a number of concrete slab markers overlaying burial sites. The field investigation included a survey of the site conducted by Army personnel from Battery C, 25th Field Artillery. Based on this survey, the probable Cemetery site corners were located and marked. The Fort Sill Grounds Maintenance and Museum staff located 109 burial sites and uncovered them to the top of the concrete slab markers. The names on the exposed concrete markers were recorded and photographed, the locations of the burial sites were mapped.<sup>xxvi</sup>

Smallpox epidemic 1900-1901

Ever since the first contact of Comanche with Europeans in the early nineteenth century, small pox and other communicable diseases had taken a toll on Indian lives. The scattered nature of the Comanche Nation throughout most of the century, however, kept such deaths minimized. The confinement of the Indians to reservations and agency villages, particularly while awaiting periodic actions requiring the convening of individuals in a single location, such as allotment distribution and schooling, disrupted the protective shield of dispersion.

The most severe epidemic was 1900-1901 in which small pox outbreaks were recorded throughout Indian Territory. During this outbreak, 163 Comanche deaths from smallpox were reported in the 1901 Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to Secretary of the Interior. However, Comanche oral traditions document a greater impact of these events, although official records may have sometimes under-reported the outbreaks due to incomplete information available to them. Included in these traditions is the belief that the number of deaths so overwhelmed the ability of the Agencies to manage burials in an accustomed manner that mass burials may have occurred. While no documented records or evidence has been found for this claim, oral history accounts with the Comanche nation are closely held.

Other Fort Sill Cemeteries

With the development of the original Fort Sill Post, a military cemetery was established and located west of the Old Post quadrangle in 1869. The oldest portion of the Fort Sill Post Cemetery is an area known as Chief's Knoll and contains the graves of distinguished Native Americans that were prominent during the early post period. The site was listed in the National Register in 1978. The Fort Sill Post Cemetery remains active and is maintained by the Army.<sup>xxvii</sup>

The Otipoby Comanche Cemetery is located in the Fort Sill East Range and was originally established by the Comanche Indians in 1888 when they began to abandon their traditional burial practices of interring the deceased in unmarked locations throughout the Wichita Mountains and began to adopt the Christian customary practice of burying the dead in cemeteries. The Otipoby cemetery was located on was selected lands that had been part of the 100 acre allotment chosen by Hugh Otipoby in 1901. It remained a privately owned cemetery until it was donated by the Otipoby family in 1929 to the Comanche Tribe. The Army purchased the property in 1942 as part of the expansion of Fort Sill during World War II. The Otipoby Cemetery was listed in the National Register in 1977. The cemetery contained approximately 160 marked graves, although only 53 were originally marked with permanent type headstones. In the mid 1960s the Fort Sill Museum, in cooperation with the Comanche Tribe, undertook the project of identifying and permanently marking the other graves with modern headstones.<sup>xxviii</sup>

<sup>xxv</sup> Weston page 2-14; The issue of the existence of any previous markers or headstones is unresolved based on the 1907, 1916, or 1917 reports.

<sup>xxvi</sup> Weston, page 2-15 and 2-16

<sup>xxvii</sup> Weston, page 2-11

<sup>xxviii</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination form, *Indian Cemeteries*, Comanche County, OK, 1977, National Park Service, Washington, DC <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/77001510.pdf>

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

Name of Property

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

County and State

The Apache Prisoner of War Cemeteries were established concurrent to the placement of members of the three Apache Tribes that were held as prisoners of war at Fort Sill beginning in 1894. Approximately 320 Apache prisoners of war are buried in the cemeteries with the practice ending in 1914 when most of the Apaches were moved to the Mescalero Apache Reservation or settled on local land allotments located near Fort Sill. These Army maintained cemeteries, one per each for the Chiricahua, Warm Springs, and Nedni tribal bands, are located on the East Range Complex and west bank of Beef Creek. From 1958 to 1977, the cemeteries remained in use with the burial of survivors and descendants of the prisoners of war. In 1958, the Fort Sill Museum undertook a project to identify and permanently mark with inscribed government headstones all graves in these three cemeteries. The project was completed in 1961. The Apache Prisoner of War Cemeteries were listed in the National Register in 1977.<sup>xxix</sup>

Prior to establishment of these cemeteries Indian burials followed traditional patterns reflective of the deceased individual's, or their families' cultural beliefs, including the practice of burying the deceased in caves or crevices in the isolated mountain areas of the region. Often the names of the deceased were no longer spoken or mentioned. Christian missionaries, most notably those associated with the Indian Agencies were the first to convince the Comanche to bury their dead in coffins in dedicated graveyards.<sup>xxx</sup>

Summary

The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery is locally significant under National Register Criterion A and D in the areas of Native American ethnic heritage and Historic Archeology. To the Comanche People, the cemetery is a sacred site containing the remains of their ancestors from a time of significant social and cultural change and upheaval. For a people historically comprised of diverse bands dispersed geographically across a broad swath of the American west, the nineteenth century removal and confinement to restrictive reservations represented a dramatic cultural shift. Indian agency sites, mission sites and cemeteries such as this convey significant aspects of that period in history and the effects of forced acculturation, including the dramatic change to traditional burial practices.

For the Comanche people, one of the most traumatic effects of reservation life was the increase in mortality tied to disease. At the close of the nineteenth century, small pox ('piah tasi ah quoi,' which means 'big grey death of many' in the Comanche language), claimed the lives of numerous Comanche. The entire Comanche body was impacted as a result of a change in lifestyle from dispersed bands to confinement on a reservation. Current day Comanche tradition holds that burials at the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery are directly associated with those smallpox deaths.

The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery also derives National Register significance under Criterion D from its likelihood to yield important information regarding Native American history at the point of intersection between Comanche and Euro-American cultures. There is much to be gleaned from the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery, regarding the effects on Comanche culture, which has not been purveyed or examined in its full extent. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery retains the potential to yield significant information, including the ability to verify and study the general character of Native American burials during this period of time when forced acculturation was radically altering Comanche lifeways, the ability to verify whether or not the burials were associated with smallpox deaths, and the ability to study how the treatment of such victims, if they existed, differed from the treatment of other burials. Additionally, because little documentary material regarding the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery exists and considering that these burials were not generally denoted by permanent markers, archeological analysis, even if done with remote sensing such a ground penetrating radar, could further define the number, extent, and physical layout of the burials, providing important information about the landscape, use of space, and boundaries.

As a cemetery significant under Criterion D, the property need not meet Criteria Consideration D for cemeteries and burial places.

<sup>xxix</sup> National Register of Historic Places nomination form, *Indian Cemeteries*, Comanche County, OK, 1977, National Park Service, Washington, DC <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/77001510.pdf>

<sup>xxx</sup> <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/chronicles/v006/v006p483.html>; <http://www.ftsillindianagencycemetery.com/fort-sill/indian-agency>

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

Name of Property

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

County and State

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Wallace, E. and Hoebel, E. A. (1972) *The Comanches: Lords of the South Plains* (University of Oklahoma Press)

Kavanagh, T. W. (2008) *Comanche Ethnography: Field Notes of E. Adamson Hoebel, Waldo R. Wedel, Gustav G. Carlson, and Robert H. Lowie. Compiled and edited by Thomas W. Kavanagh* (University of Nebraska Press)

Kavanagh, T. W. (1996) *The Comanches: A History 1706-1875*. (University of Nebraska Press)

Narcomey, G. (2007) Taken from the minutes of Comanche Indian Cemetery Association: Statements by Comanches and a Caucasian. (Comanche Tribal Member) Personal communication.

Weston, D. (2009) Draft Historical Site Evaluation and Proposed Recommendations: Comanche Mission Cemetery

U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (2011) National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties.

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb38/nrb38%20introduction.htm#tcp>

Morris W. Foster, *Being Comanche: A Social History of an American Indian Community* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1991).

William T. Hagan, *United States-Comanche Relations: The Reservation Years* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976; rpt., Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1990).

Thomas W. Kavanagh, *Comanche Political History: An Ethnohistorical Perspective, 1706-1875* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995).

Rupert N. Richardson, *The Comanche Barrier to South Plains Settlement* (Glendale, California: Clark, 1933; rpt., Millwood, New York: Kraus, 1973).

Ernest Wallace and E. Adamson Hoebel, *The Comanches* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1952).

**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: **Comanche Nation Historic Preservation Office**

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

Name of Property

County and State

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.098891

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>555654.483236</u> Easting	<u>3833581.455975</u> Northing	3	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>555698.114522</u> Easting	<u>3833503.775643</u> Northing
2	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>555730.631618</u> Easting	<u>3833576.841452</u> Northing	4	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>555651.10877</u> Easting	<u>3833513.913861</u> Northing

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

The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery boundaries are indicated on the accompanying USGS map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery boundaries were defined by a 1984 survey of the Fort Sill Museum, and reaffirmation by the Comanche Nation in June 2007. The site corners were located and marked to provide coordinates during the 1984 survey, and utilized as indicated on the accompanying USGS map. The boundaries reflect the current boundaries of the cemetery as shown in the *Memorandum of Agreement Among U.S. Army Garrison Fort Sill, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding Improvements to the Indian Agency Cemetery, Fort Sill, Oklahoma* (IAC MOA).

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jimmy W. Arterberry, THPO

organization Comanche Nation

date September 13, 2013

street & number P.O. Box 908

telephone (580) 595-9960

city or town Lawton

state Oklahoma zip code 73502

e-mail jimmya@cne-mail.com

**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

Name of Property

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

County and State

**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.

Name of Property: **Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

City or Vicinity: Henry Post Airfield, 4900 Area

County: Comanche

State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Theodore Villicana

Date Photographed: June 15, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 4

Photograph: (# 1) Photo taken of the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery from the northwest corner post, looking southeast. (# 2) Photo taken of the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery from the northeast corner post, looking southwest. (# 3) Photo taken of the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery from Southeast corner post, looking northwest. (# 4) Photo taken of the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery from the southwest corner post, looking northeast.

**Property Owner:**

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

name U. S. Army Ft. Sill, OK POC: Commander U.S. ARMY Garrison Ft. Sill  
street & number 462 Hamilton Road, Suite 120 telephone (580) 442-3106  
city or town Fort Sill state OK zip code 73503



**Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery**

**Comanche, Oklahoma**

Name of Property

County and State

**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.

Figure 1

December 15, 1917

Cemetery List

1. - Karty's sister
2. - Karty's brother
- C 3. - Mrs. Kate Karty's four children
4. - Emily Haiyah
5. - Comastie
6. - Casper Tissoyo's three children. First child's name, Mary. Other names unknown
- O 7. - Mary Buffalo's child, Amos Tabbytite. This body to be moved, by permission of command officer and health authorities.
8. - Potatoyeh
9. - Donabeta
- P 10. - Ternoyaka
11. - Pasoyo
12. - Casper Tissoyo's child
13. - Nora
- Y 14. - Chaljobea
15. - Lizzie Mullen
16. - Nabesta
17. - Macell
18. - Aykodrop
19. - Dick
20. - Wanakin
21. - Mohapope
22. - Cequah
23. - Tuquash
24. - Kowanoid
25. - Chasonobeta
26. - Nokake
27. - Popepiky
28. - Child. No name
29. - Child. No name
30. - Big Medicine Man
31. - Elancho Maddox
32. - Jimmie
33. - Small baby. No name
34. - Mo cho rock
35. - Diswake
36. - Nabo
37. - Tadasomo
38. - Wana
39. - Dako

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 41. - Chi co ny            | 54. - Tamocha       |
| 42. - Footah               | 55. - }             |
| 43. - Bethkobitty          | 56. - } Clark twins |
| 44. - Tananowape           | 57. - Kotudoa       |
| 44A. - Magromerita         | 58. - Kapakoa       |
| 45. - Sarah                | 59. - Esarocah      |
| 46. - Tupawyspeh           | 60. - Wyepa         |
| 47. - Hanita Caroon        | 61. - Karno's boy   |
| 48. - Naha                 | 62. - No name       |
| 49. - Child. No name       | 63. - Woeddie       |
| 50. - Child. No name       | 64. - Tlebo         |
| 51. - Kaho. Tabeyah        |                     |
| 52. - Nonnonsoho           |                     |
| 53. - Parker Erkarnaschape |                     |

Y  
d  
O  
J

It is exceedingly difficult to check up the names as we would like to. Have talked with men who were here long ago, and have done best we could. Cemetery was begun 22 years ago, and was closed some ten years ago. So, many locations have been forgotten.

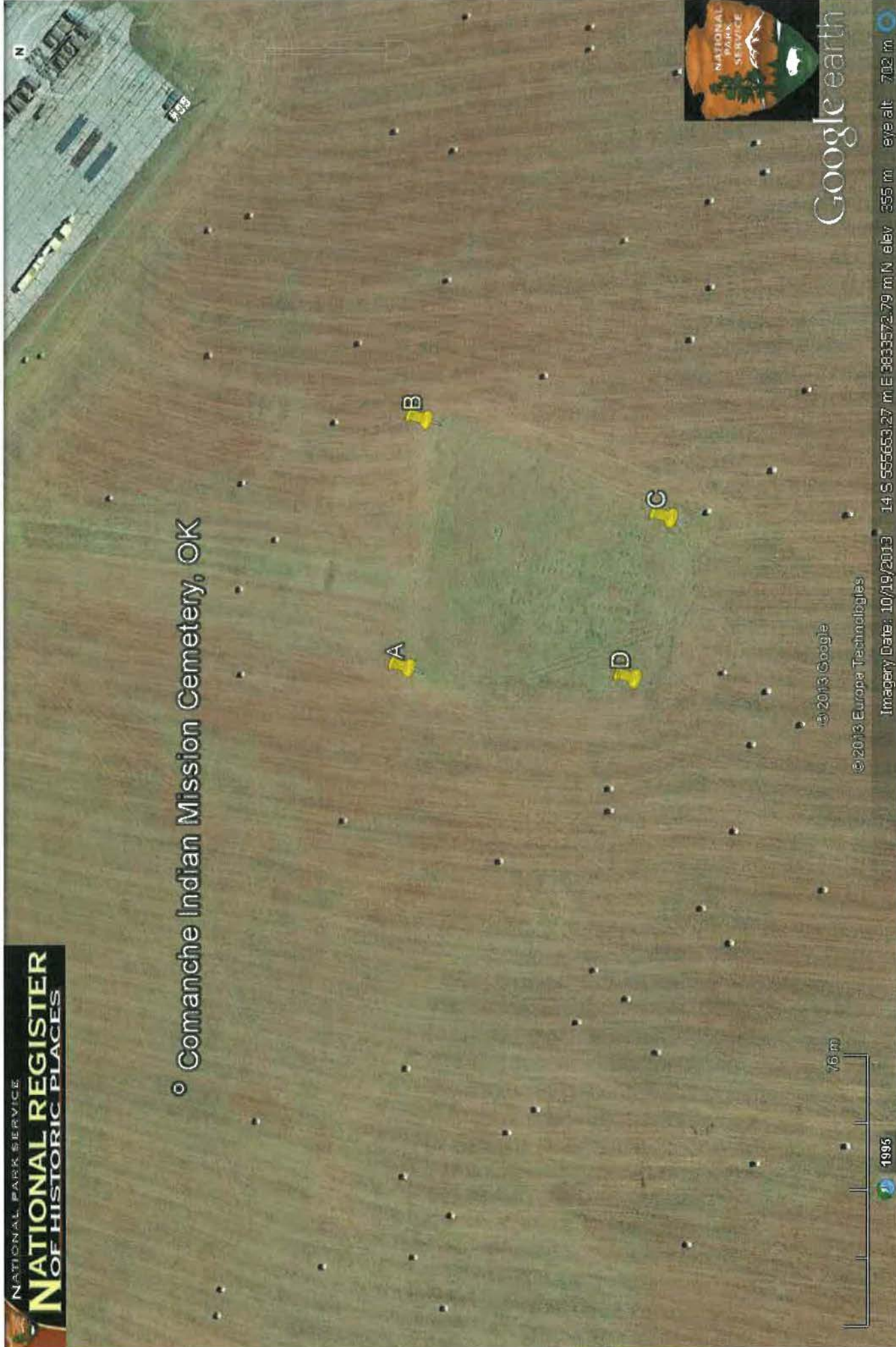
We suggest that names be put on stones without division into syllables. Thus Wo-ed-die should read Woeddie.

Respectfully

(Richard H. Harper)

Missionary

Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery, OK



A

B

D

C

75 m

1995

© 2013 Google

© 2013 Europa Technologies

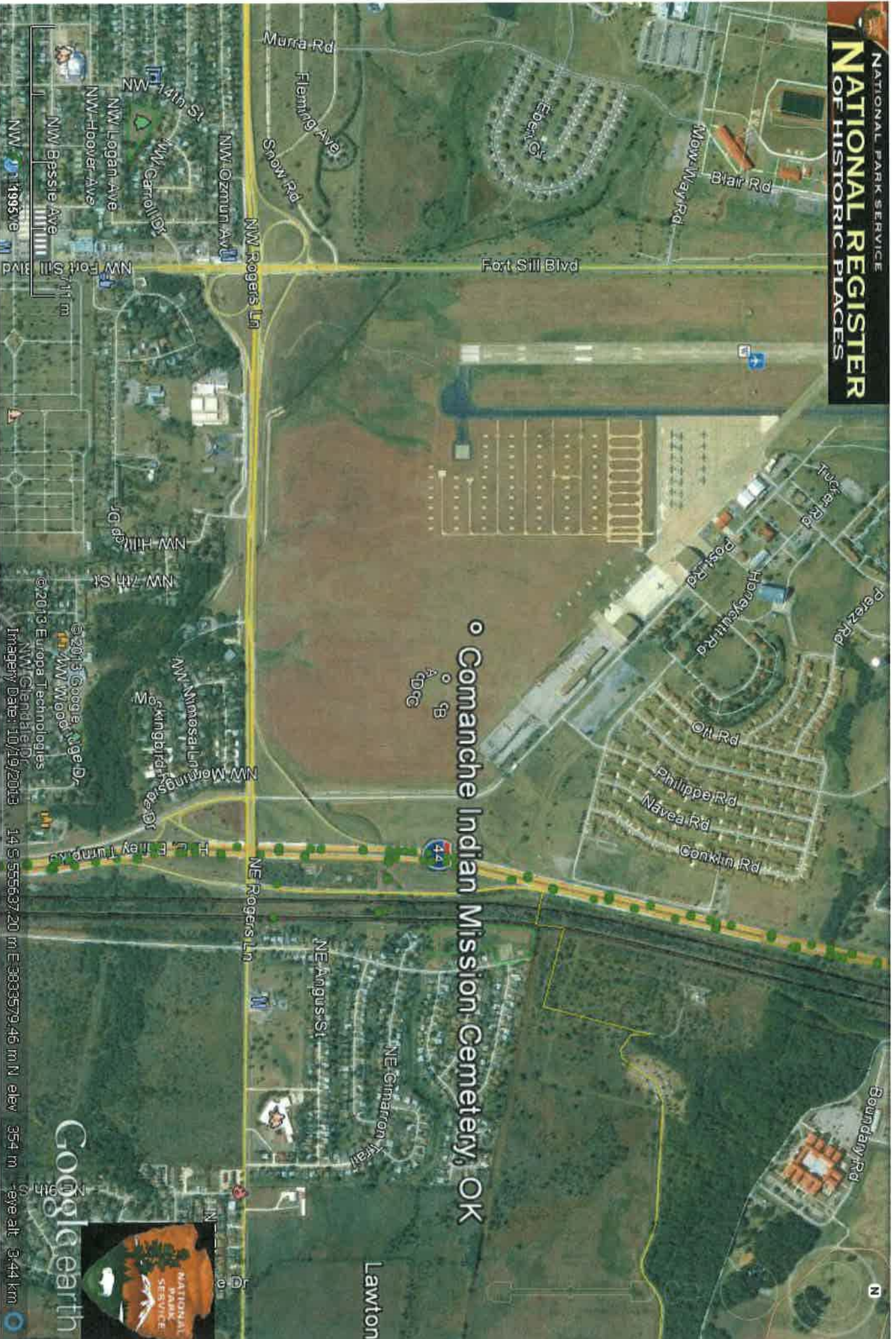
Imagery Date: 10/19/2013

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Google earth

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF HISTORIC PLACES**

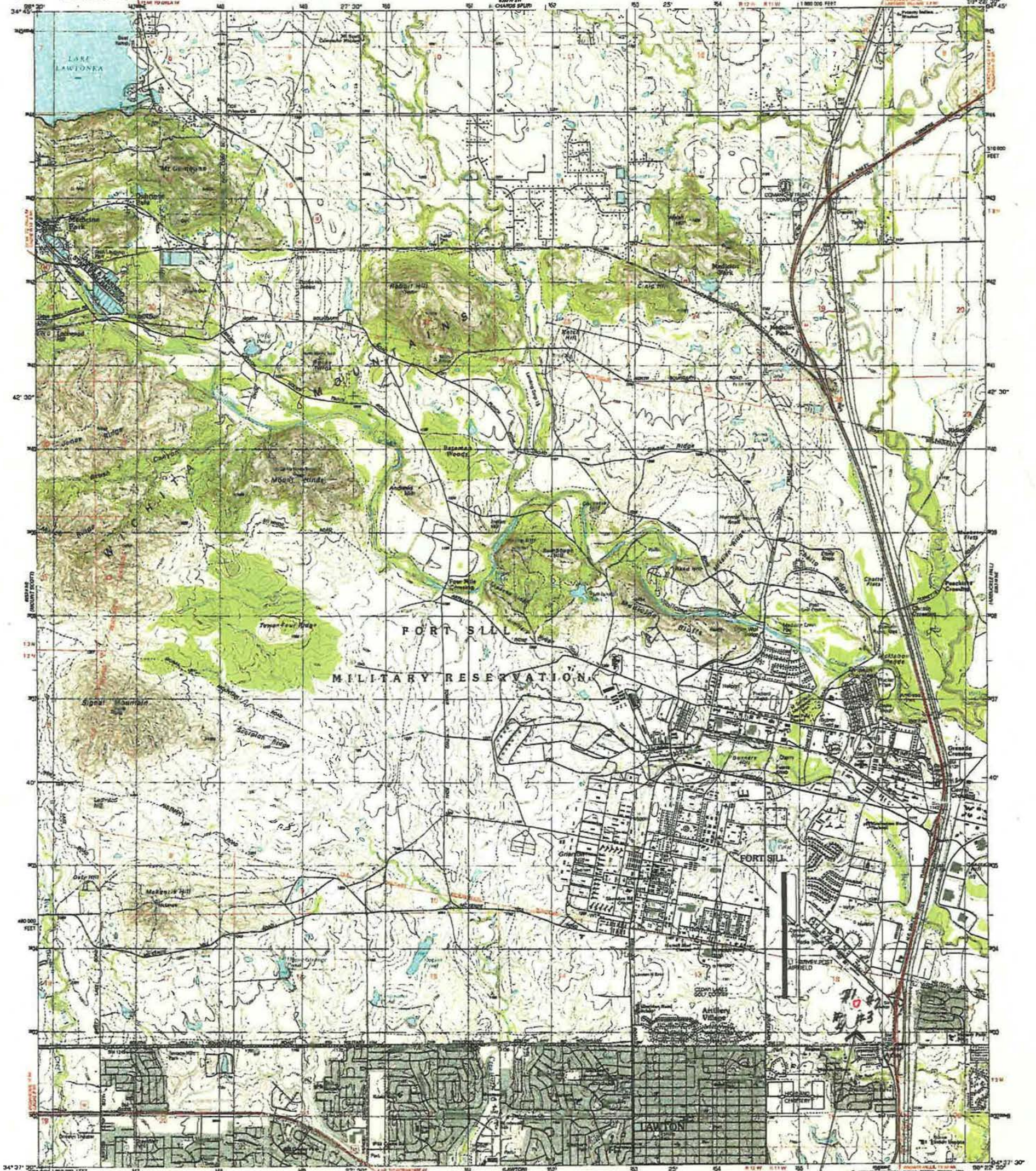


Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery, OK

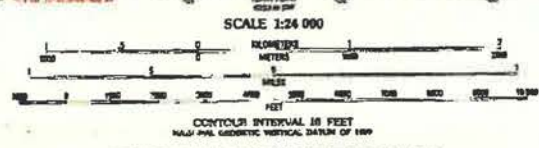
©2013 Google, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Imagery Date: 10/19/2013 14 S 555637.20 m E 3833579.46 m N elev 354 m eye alt 3.44 km



Google earth



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with the Oklahoma Highway Department, Oklahoma Water Resources Board and Oklahoma State Soil Conservation Board.  
Control by USGS, NGS/NOAA and Oklahoma Highway Department.  
Compiled from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1987. Map revised 1991.  
Projections are 19,000-foot grid ticks: Oklahoma coordinate and 100,000-foot grid ticks: North American Datum of 1927. The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5-minute intersections is given in USGS Bulletin 1873. The NAD 83 is shown by dashed corner ticks.  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State Reservations shown on this map. Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown. Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fences and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is uncheckered.



CONTOUR INTERVAL IN FEET  
NAJ AND GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1989  
THIS MAP COMES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MENARD, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

FORT SILL, OKLA.  
1991  
DMA 4351 B HW-SERIES 1085

COMANCHE INDIAN MISSION CEMETERY  
HENRY POST AIRFIELD, 4900 AREA  
FORT SILL, OK 73503 COMANCHE COUNTY

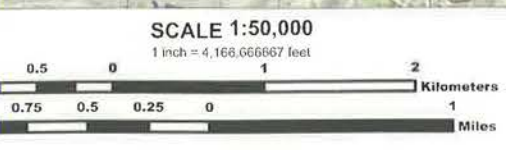
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3833576, 841452  
COORDINATE #3  
555698, 114522  
3833503, 775643  
COORDINATE #4  
555651, 10877  
3833513, 913861



MILITARY RESERVATION  
 COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
 000

CATFISH UNDER 10" MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED.  
 Daily Channel Catfish Creel Limit of 6

BASS CAUGHT IN RED SLOT (13"-16") MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED.  
 Daily Bass Creel Limit of 5 (No More than 2 over 16")



ELEVATION IN METERS  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS  
 SUPPLEMENTAL CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 METERS  
 (TO CONVERT CONTOUR FROM METERS TO FEET, MULTIPLY BY 3.28)

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988  
 CONVERT TO THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929, ADD 1 FOOT)

PROJ. SYSTEM: WORLD GEODETIC SYSTEM 1984  
 PROJ. CODE: 2.5 MINUTE LATITUDE-LONGITUDE TICS  
 PROJ. NAME: 1000 METER UTM ZONE 14  
 PROJ. PARAMS: UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR  
 PROJ. UNITS: 99° W LONGITUDE  
 PROJ. DATUM: NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988  
 PROJ. SRS: WORLD GEODETIC SYSTEM 1984  
 PROJ. AUTHORITY: NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY POINTS  
 PROJ. CREATED BY: FORT SILL (DPW) GIS PROGRAM  
 PROJ. LAST MODIFIED BY: AARON PETERSON - GIS ANALYST  
 PROJ. STATUS: UNPUBLISHED

GRID CONVERGENCE  
 0° 16' (5 MILS)  
 FOR CENTER OF SHEET

2011  
 G-M ANGLE  
 4.8° (85 MILS)

TO CONVERT A MAGNETIC AZIMUTH TO A GRID AZIMUTH  
 ADD G-M ANGLE

TO CONVERT A GRID AZIMUTH TO A MAGNETIC AZIMUTH  
 SUBTRACT G-M ANGLE



Fort Sill  
**GIS**

PREPARED BY:  
 AARON PETERSON  
 DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 1550 BARBOUR ROAD  
 FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

Topography compiled 2010.  
 Planimetry derived from imagery taken 2010  
 and other sources.

THE FORT SILL (DPW) GIS PROGRAM HEREBY DECLARES THAT THE MAPS IT PRODUCES ARE PREPARED WITH THE GREATEST POSSIBLE CARE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE STANDARDS; HOWEVER, FORT SILL CANNOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR POSITIONAL ACCURACY, AND THEREFORE, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES WHICH ACCOMPANY THIS PRODUCT. ALTHOUGH INFORMATION FROM LAND SURVEYS MAY HAVE BEEN USED IN THE CREATION OF THIS PRODUCT, IN NO WAY DOES THIS PRODUCT REPRESENT OR CONSTITUTE A LAND SURVEY.

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THE GEOSPATIAL DATA DEPICTED IN THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH SDSFIE STANDARDS.  
 THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP STANDARDS.

**Notes:**  
 All individuals pursuing recreational activities that require them to be more than 100 feet from a paved or improved gravel road must follow check-in procedures in USAFACFS Reg. 200-1.

Hunters and Anglers fishing Restricted Areas must physically check in at Sportsmen Services prior to their activities, and Phone (580) 442-3453 upon completion of each days activities. Sportsmen must be familiar with USAFACFS Reg. 200-1. and other pertinent regulations.

**PERMANENTLY OFF-LIMITS PONDS IN RED**  
 Example: "WEST (BALMER) LAKE"

**MANAGED PONDS UNDERLINED**  
 Example: "Flagg"

Lists of Permanently Off-Limits, Restricted & Managed Ponds are maintained at Sportsmen Services.

**GAME WARDEN HOTLINE**  
 (580) 442-6050



100 METER GRID SQUARE IDENTIFICATION

100 METER REFERENCE

1. Read large numbers labeling the VERTICAL grid line to the point and estimate tenths (1/10 meters) from grid line to point. 12.3

2. Read large numbers labeling the HORIZONTAL grid line below point and estimate tenths (1/10 meters) from grid line to point. 45.0

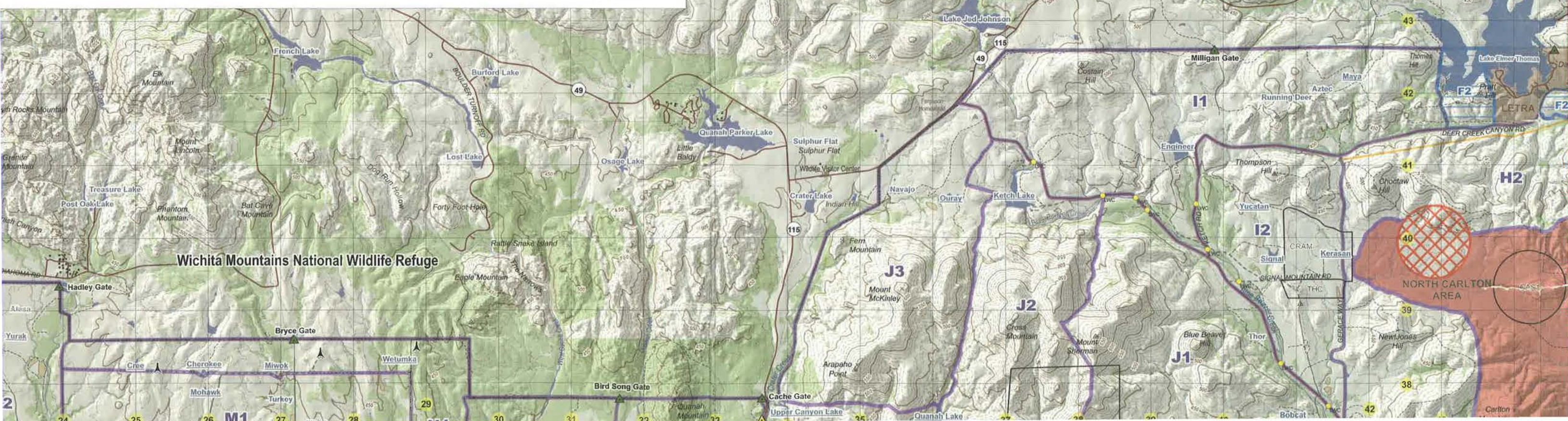
Example: 123456

WHEN REPORTING ACROSS A 100,000 METER LINE, PREFIX THE 100,000 METER SQUARE IDENTIFICATION IN WHICH THE POINT LIES.

Example: ND123456

WHEN REPORTING ACROSS THE GRID ZONE DESIGNATION AREA, PREFIX THE GRID ZONE DESIGNATION.

Example: 14SND123456

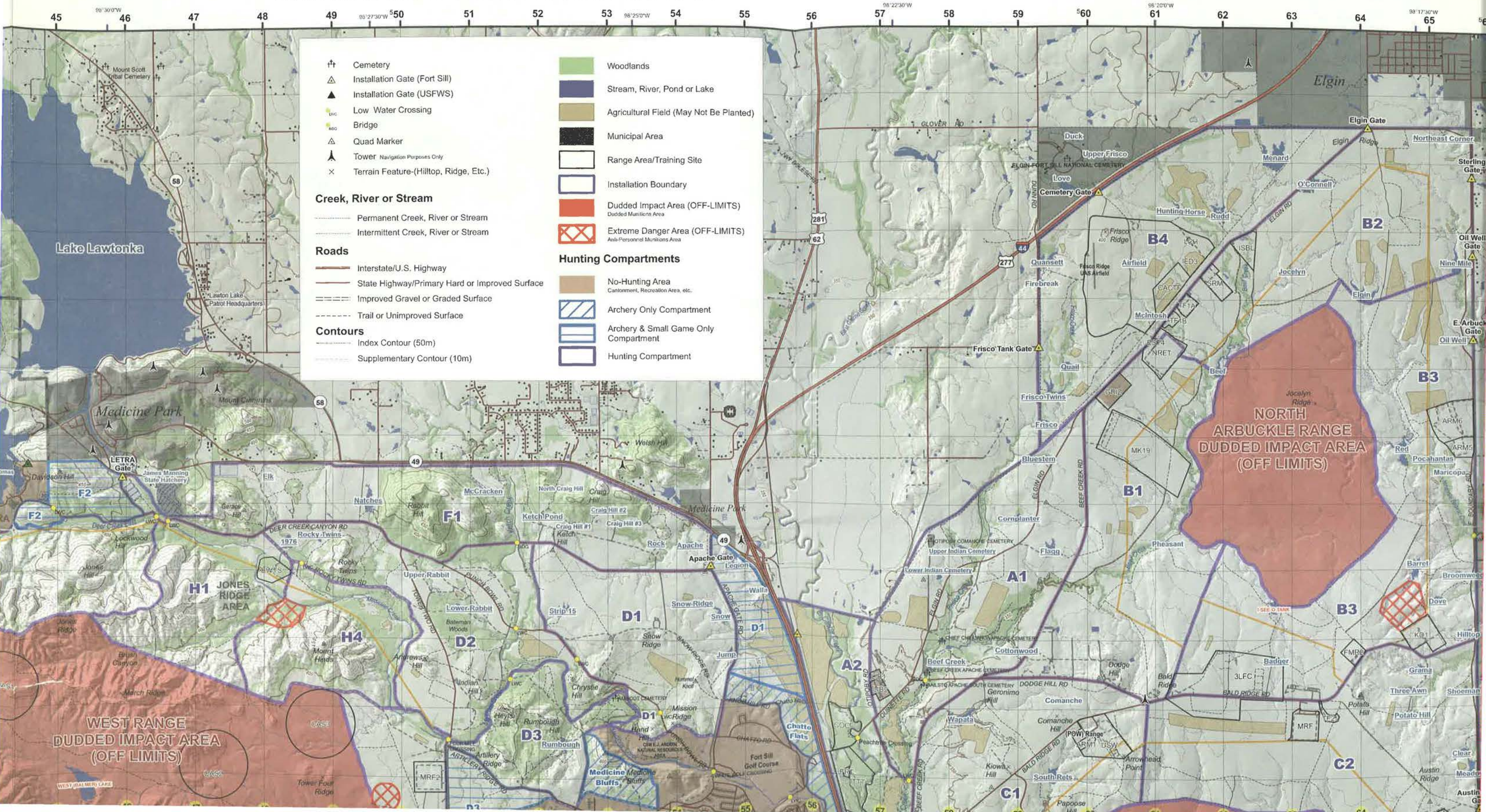


# U.S. ARMY - FIRES CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AND FORT SILL

## NATURAL RESOURCES SPORTSMEN MAP

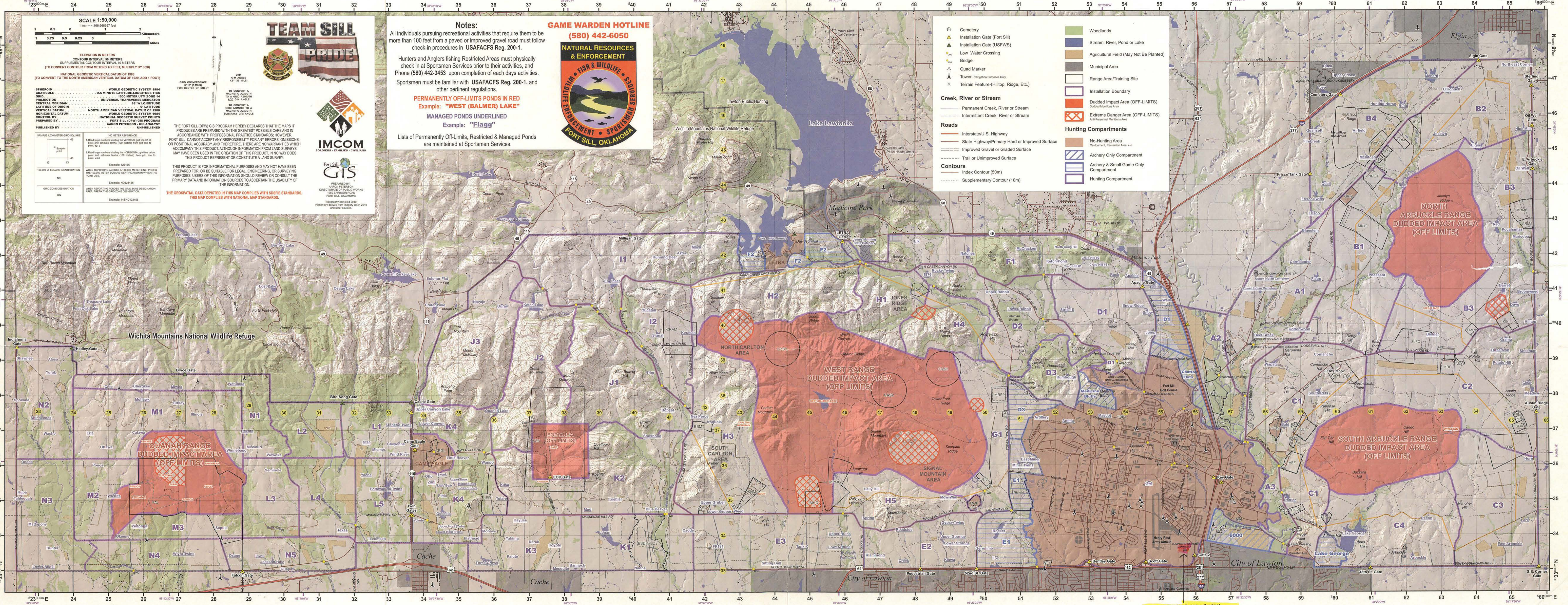
RECREATIONAL USE ONLY  
NOT INTENDED FOR TARGETING

JUNE 2  
VERSION  
EDITION



†† Cemetery	▲ Installation Gate (Fort Sill)	▲ Installation Gate (USFWS)	Low Water Crossing	Bridge	▲ Quad Marker	▲ Tower Navigation Purposes Only	× Terrain Feature (Hilltop, Ridge, Etc.)
<b>Creek, River or Stream</b>							
----- Permanent Creek, River or Stream							
----- Intermittent Creek, River or Stream							
<b>Roads</b>							
----- Interstate/U.S. Highway							
----- State Highway/Primary Hard or Improved Surface							
----- Improved Gravel or Graded Surface							
----- Trail or Unimproved Surface							
<b>Contours</b>							
----- Index Contour (50m)							
----- Supplementary Contour (10m)							
■ Woodlands	■ Stream, River, Pond or Lake	■ Agricultural Field (May Not Be Planted)	■ Municipal Area	■ Range Area/Training Site	■ Installation Boundary	■ Duded Impact Area (OFF-LIMITS) Duded Munitions Area	■ Extreme Danger Area (OFF-LIMITS) Anti-Personnel Munitions Area
<b>Hunting Compartments</b>							
■ No-Hunting Area Cantonment, Recreation Area, etc.							
■ Archery Only Compartment							
■ Archery & Small Game Only Compartment							
■ Hunting Compartment							





**SCALE 1:50,000**  
1 inch = 4,166.66667 feet  
1: 0.5 0 0.5 1 Kilometers  
1: 0.75 0 0.75 1 Miles

ELEVATION IN METERS  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS  
SUPPLEMENTAL CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 METERS  
(TO CONVERT CONTOUR FROM METERS TO FEET, MULTIPLY BY 3.28)

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988  
(TO CONVERT TO THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1985, ADD 1 FOOT)

**SPHEROID** WORLD GEODETIC SYSTEM 1984  
GRIP 2.5 MINUTE LATITUDE-LONGITUDE TICS  
PROJECTION UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR  
CENTRAL MERIDIAN 99° W LONGITUDE  
VERTICAL DATUM NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988  
HORIZONTAL DATUM WORLD GEODETIC SYSTEM 1984  
CONTROL BY NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY POINTS  
PREPARED BY FORT SILL (DPW) GIS PROGRAM  
PUBLISHED BY AARON PETERSON - GIS ANALYST UNPUBLISHED

100 METER REFERENCE  
1. Read large numbers labeling the VERTICAL grid line left of point and estimate tenths (100 meters) from grid line to point. 12.3

100,000 M. SQUARE IDENTIFICATION  
NO. Example: 123456

GRID ZONE DESIGNATION  
14N Example: 14N123456

WHEN REPORTING ACROSS THE GRID ZONE DESIGNATION AREA, PREFIX THE GRID ZONE DESIGNATION.

100 METER REFERENCE  
2. Read large numbers labeling the HORIZONTAL grid line below point and estimate tenths (100 meters) from grid line to point. 45.6

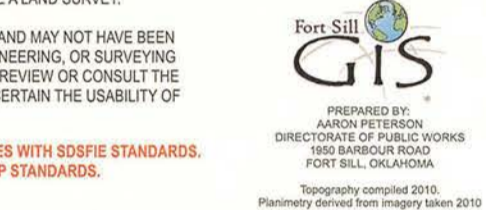
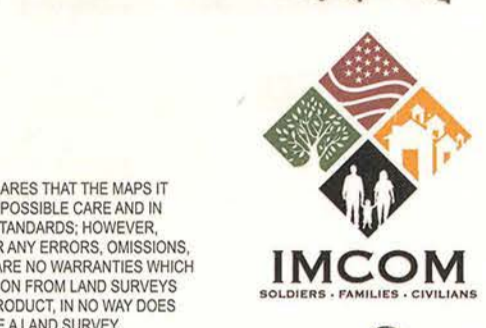
Example: 123456  
14N123456  
14N0123456

WHEN REPORTING ACROSS THE GRID ZONE DESIGNATION AREA, PREFIX THE GRID ZONE DESIGNATION.

Example: 14N0123456

THIS PRODUCT IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES AND MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR, OR BE SUITABLE FOR, LEGAL, ENGINEERING, OR SURVEYING PURPOSES. USERS OF THIS INFORMATION SHOULD REVIEW OR CONSULT THE PRIMARY DATA AND INFORMATION SOURCES TO ASCERTAIN THE USABILITY OF THE INFORMATION.

THE GEOSPATIAL DATA DEPICTED IN THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH SDSP STANDARDS. THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP STANDARDS.



**Notes:**  
All individuals pursuing recreational activities that require them to be more than 100 feet from a paved or improved gravel road must follow check-in procedures in USAFACFS Reg. 200-1.

Hunters and Anglers fishing Restricted Areas must physically check in at Sportsmen Services prior to their activities, and Phone (580) 442-3453 upon completion of each days activities. Sportsmen must be familiar with USAFACFS Reg. 200-1, and other pertinent regulations.

**PERMANENTLY OFF-LIMITS PONDS IN RED**  
Example: "WEST (BALMER) LAKE"

**MANAGED PONDS UNDERLINED**  
Example: "Flagg"

Lists of Permanently Off-Limits, Restricted & Managed Ponds are maintained at Sportsmen Services.

**GAME WARDEN HOTLINE**  
(580) 442-6050

**NATURAL RESOURCES & ENFORCEMENT**

**FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICES**  
DILIGENT ENFORCEMENT • SPORTSMEN SERVICE  
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

**CATFISH UNDER 10" MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED.**  
Daily Channel Catfish Creel Limit of 6

**BASS CAUGHT IN RED SLOT (13"-16") MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED.**  
Daily Bass Creel Limit of 5 (No More than 2 over 16")

**Legend**

- Cemetery
- Installation Gate (Fort Sill)
- Installation Gate (USFWS)
- Low Water Crossing
- Bridge
- Quad Marker
- Tower - Navigation Passages Only
- Terrain Feature (Hilltop, Ridge, Etc.)
- Woodlands
- Stream, River, Pond or Lake
- Agricultural Field (May Not Be Planted)
- Municipal Area
- Range Area/Training Site
- Installation Boundary
- Duded Impact Area (OFF-LIMITS)
- Extreme Danger Area (OFF-LIMITS)
- Hunting Compartments
  - No-Hunting Area
  - Archery Only Compartment
  - Archery & Small Game Only Compartment
  - Hunting Compartment
- Creek, River or Stream
  - Permanent Creek, River or Stream
  - Intermittent Creek, River or Stream
- Roads
  - Interstate/U.S. Highway
  - State Highway/Primary Hard or Improved Surface
  - Improved Gravel or Graded Surface
  - Trail or Unimproved Surface
- Contours
  - Index Contour (50m)
  - Supplementary Contour (10m)

**NORTH ARBUCKLE RANGE DUDDED IMPACT AREA (OFF LIMITS)**

**SOUTH ARBUCKLE RANGE DUDDED IMPACT AREA (OFF LIMITS)**

**WEST RANGE DUDDED IMPACT AREA (OFF LIMITS)**

**NORTH CARLTON AREA**

**SIGNAL MOUNTAIN AREA**

**SOUTH CARLTON AREA**

**JONES RIDGE AREA**

**Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge**

**QUANAH RANGE DUDDED IMPACT AREA (OFF LIMITS)**



Photograph 1 of 4: OK - Comanche County - Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery - 0001



Photograph 2 of 4: OK- Comanche County- Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery - 0002



Photograph 3 of 4: OK - Comanche County - Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery - 0003



Photograph 4 of 4: OK - Comanche County - Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery - 0004

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Comanche

DATE RECEIVED: 12/20/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY:                      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/05/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000437

DETAILED EVALUATION:

     ACCEPT           RETURN           REJECT                           DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and D in the areas of Ethnic Heritage-Native American and Historic Archeology. To the Comanche People, the cemetery is a sacred site containing the remains of their ancestors from a time of significant social and cultural change and upheaval. For a people historically comprised of diverse bands dispersed geographically across a broad swath of the American West, the Comanche's nineteenth century removal and confinement to restrictive reservations represented a dramatic cultural shift. Indian agency sites, mission sites and cemeteries such as this convey significant aspects of that period in history and the effects of forced acculturation, including the dramatic change to traditional burial practices. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery also derives National Register significance under Criterion D from its likelihood to yield important information regarding Native American history at the point of intersection between Comanche and Euro-American cultures. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery retains the potential to yield significant information, including the ability to verify and study the general character of Native American burials during this period of time when forced acculturation was radically altering Comanche lifeways, the ability to verify whether or not the burials were associated with smallpox deaths, and the ability to study how the treatment of such victims, if they existed, differed from the treatment of other burials. Additionally, because little documentary material regarding the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery exists and considering that these burials were not generally denoted by permanent markers, archeological analysis, even if done with remote sensing such a ground penetrating radar, could further define the number, extent, and physical layout of the burials, providing important information about the landscape, use of space, and boundaries.

RECOM. / CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+D

REVIEWER PAUL R. LUSIGNAO      DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE 2/5/2014

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



**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](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm)

February 17, 2012

Colonel Paul Hossenlopp  
U.S. Army Garrison Commander  
Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Sill  
462 Hamilton Road, Suite 120  
Fort Sill, OK 73503

Re: National Register of Historic Places Nomination Package for the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery, 4900 area, Fort Sill, Comanche County

Dear Colonel Hossenlopp:

We are in receipt of your letter dated January 26, 2012, and the National Register of Historic Places nomination package for the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery. We have reviewed the materials, and per your request, we are returning the entire nomination package prior to the expiration of the forty-five (45) day review period. The State Historic Preservation Officer declines to sign the nomination, and we offer no comments on the documentation.

Although we did not consider the cemetery to meet the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation, we respect the Keeper of the National Register's formal Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for the property. We will certainly take the cemetery's status as a historic property into account in all future Section 106 consultations with Fort Sill that may include it in the area of potential effect. Cemeteries are special resources, and must be treated with respect whether or not they are eligible for or listed in the National Register.

Since the cemetery was formally determined eligible and will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, we request an electronic copy of the complete and final nomination package for our files.

If you may have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 405/522-4484 or [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org).

Sincerely,

Melvina Heisch  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

MKH:bh

Enclosures

**Enclosure 2**



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY**  
**INSTALLATIONS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**110 ARMY PENTAGON**  
**WASHINGTON DC 20310-0110**

11 DEC 2013



Ms. Carol D. Shull  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places  
National Register, History and Education  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the nomination of the Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery/Indian Agency Cemetery, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. As the Federal Preservation Officer for the Department of the Army, I have signed the Federal Agency Certification block. The Comanche Indian Mission Cemetery meets the qualifying criteria for the National Register listing.

Earlier this year, your office requested revisions to the nomination package. It has been revised to provide greater detail and context for the site.

Please provide notification when the property is formally listed. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Toni Patton-Williams of my staff at (703) 697-3937 or Ms. Kathleen McLaughlin, Army Deputy Federal Preservation Officer (DFPO) at 571-256-9726. A copy of this letter has been furnished to the DFPO.

Sincerely,

Hershell E. Wolfe

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Environment, Safety and Occupational Health)

Enclosure