

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Blaine	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.12.40.0019	DATE 12/16/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Chisholm (Jesse) Grave Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Left Hand (or Raven) Spring

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
c. 8 m. NE of Geary via unnumbered
SN/4, Sec. 32, T 15 N, R 10 W. county roads

CITY OR TOWN:
Geary (4 m. N, 2 m. E, 2 m. N, 1/2 m. W)

STATE Oklahoma	CODE 40	COUNTY: Blaine	CODE 011
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Oklahoma City

STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Blaine County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Watonga

STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Special Chisholm Grave Site Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local

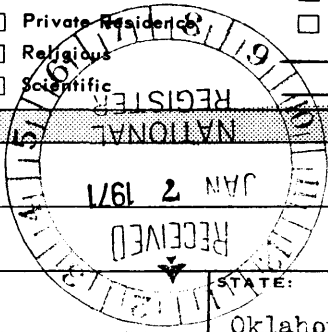
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Oklahoma City

STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

But for the simple stone grave marker, the site appears much as it must have a century ago. The marker itself tops a low, grassy mound from the base of which flows a healthy spring. Spreading trees shade the boggy pool below the spring outline the course of the meandering stream as it flows southwesterly toward the North Canadian River. Now known as the Left Hand Spring (and flowing an estimated 300-500 gallons per minute), it is shown as Raven Spring on the 1872-73 Survey map. Native grass covers the slope to the east where the grave marker is. The five-acre site has been fenced, following acquisition by the Oklahoma Historical Society in 1968. Outside the fence, on allotted Indian land still owned by his heirs, stands the abandoned house Arapaho Chief Left Hand (Nawat, or Nawathit) built for himself in 1884-85.* There are additional graves (presumably Indian, mostly unmarked) in virgin prairie at the north edge of the Left Hand allotment. But for the grave site itself the quarter section is farmed and pastured.

* See attached copy of War Chief, Dec. 1969, for additional information on Left Hand and his house.

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(Continuation Sheet)

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71,12,40,0019	12/16/71

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance . . . Explanatory Note to Mr. Levy

Chisholm (Jesse) Grave Site

May I address myself briefly to the doubt I seem to have aroused as to whether or not we are asking protection for the actual grave site of Jesse Chisholm?

In my Left Hand article in The War Chief (p. 2, col. 1) I tried not to be dogmatic. I said: "But the knoll enfolds (or so it is commonly believed) the grave of Jesse Chisholm . . ." I did so because the Indians among whom he died obviously erected no chiseled stone over the site. And the interested school children who put up the first crude wooden grave marker some 50 years later certainly did no archeological research. They accepted the site located for them by oldtimers still living in the area of the spring.

There are those who speculate the body was buried some yards to the southeast. This might well be. As you can see however from the enclosed sketch of the spring area, such a site could still be well within the preservation plot.

In short, while making no categorical claim as to precise spot for Chisholm's bones, we do state - and that quite emphatically - that there is absolutely no reason to believe Chisholm was buried anywhere but in the immediate vicinity of the present simple stone marker.

As for Left Hand, he too is buried near by, as I have indicated. There are those who (again) believe they know the exact site and it would seem desirable at some future date to bring these two friends together again - in spirit, if not in actual skeletal remains - in a single protected grave site. Addition of the Left Hand home, as shown on the accompanying sketch, will in our opinion further underscore the importance of this site.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Jesse Chisholm's death March 4, 1868, while he visited the camp of his Arapaho friend, Chief Left Hand, was fortuitous. The precise cause of death is not known; it may have been food poisoning, or pneumonia. That he was buried here, rather than at the home base for his trading operations a hundred miles or so the southeast, was determined by the exigencies of communication and transportation of the time. Yet the grave site is uniquely deserving of preservation because it represents a significant Indian/white man friendship at a troubled time in the history of the West when all too many whites subscribed to the dogma that the only good Indian was a dead Indian. Historically, the white man traded with the Indian to make money, the Indian traded to get those things he needed or wanted - whether guns, flour, beads, copper pans, or cheap whiskey. Chisholm and Left Hand were friends. That friendship may well have been a deciding factor in the Indian's valiant attempt to adapt himself to "the white man's way."

Chisholm, himself a halfblood Cherokee, was born in 1805. He was primarily a trader. Incidental to this business was his engaging in the manufacture of salt (some miles north and west of where he died) and laying out wagon trails to connect his various operations. It is ironically coincidental that one of his freight routes was incorporated into the most famous cattle trail of them all. Up it in the years after his death, from Texas to various railheads in Kansas, moved an estimated ten million head of cattle. Yet Chisholm himself, who gave his name to the trail, lies buried some twenty miles west of the trail and was never a cattleman.

Left Hand, for his part, came close to typifying Rousseau's "noble savage." An eloquent speaker, he championed the cause of his people in negotiations with the government preparatory to breaking up the Indian lands for white settlement in 1892. In later years, though totally blind, he became something of a lay preacher. Through it all, however, he never forgot the old ways. His creed was simple: "There are many ways to God." While clinging to old values, however, he recognized the inevitability of the white man's culture and economy, strove dutifully to

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gibson, Arrell M., Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries, (Norman: Harlow Publishing Corp., 1965), pp. 190, 235, 281.
 McReynolds, Edwin D., Oklahoma: A History of the Sooner State, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1964), p. 73.
 Ruth and Others, Oklahoma: A Guide to the Sooner State. (Norman University of Oklahoma Press, 1957), p. 364.
 Taylor, T. U., The Chisholm Trail and Other Routes. (San Antonio: Naylor). Notes and Documents, The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXIV (Spring, 1956), p. 110.

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	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	35°	43'	36"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	98°	17'	28"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

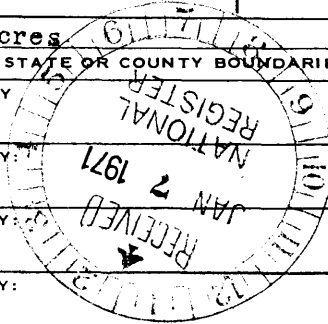
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: c. 5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

NO UT
HL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Kent Ruth

ORGANIZATION: Oklahoma Historical Society DATE: January 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: [Signature]
 Title: Liaison Officer for Oklahoma
 Date: JAN 7 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 16 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 14 1971

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STATE	
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Blaine	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
7112.40.0019	12/16/71

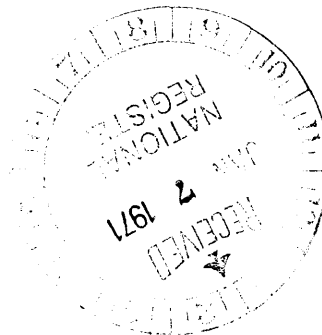
(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Chisholm (Jesse) Grave Site

adapt himself. In 1883, Agent John D. Miles in his monthly report notes that Left Hand had "herds today which for grade of cattle and amount of care are surpassed by few . . ." It is because of this success that the government decided to reward him with a proper "white man's house," the dilapidated remains of which now overlook the Chisholm Grave Site. (A recently prepared paper on Left Hand and his house is enclosed for additional reference.)

This nomination, then, is based essentially on the accomplishments and human qualities of two men, both of whom are probably buried on or near this site. (Left Hand's nearby resting place is known by some of the older Indians still living in the area. There are those Indians and whites who hope he might some day be moved to the nominated site and the two friends could thus be, symbolically, reunited.) Jesse Chisholm's name is widely known, Left Hand's virtually unknown. Preservation of the spring and grave site will focus attention on both of them - and a friendship that, had it not been interrupted by death, might have helped to smooth Indian/white man relationships in the 1870s and 1880s in what is now western Oklahoma.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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1. NAME

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AND/OR HISTORIC:	Left Hand (or Raven) Spring

2. LOCATION

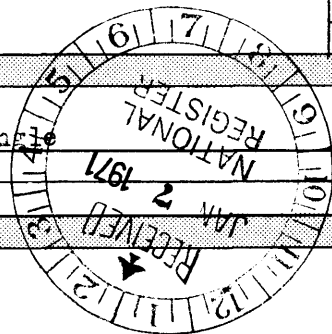
STREET AND NUMBER:			
8 1/2 miles northeast of (SW/4, Sec. 32, T 15 N, R 10 W)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Geary			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Oklahoma	40	Blaine	011

3. MAP REFERENCE

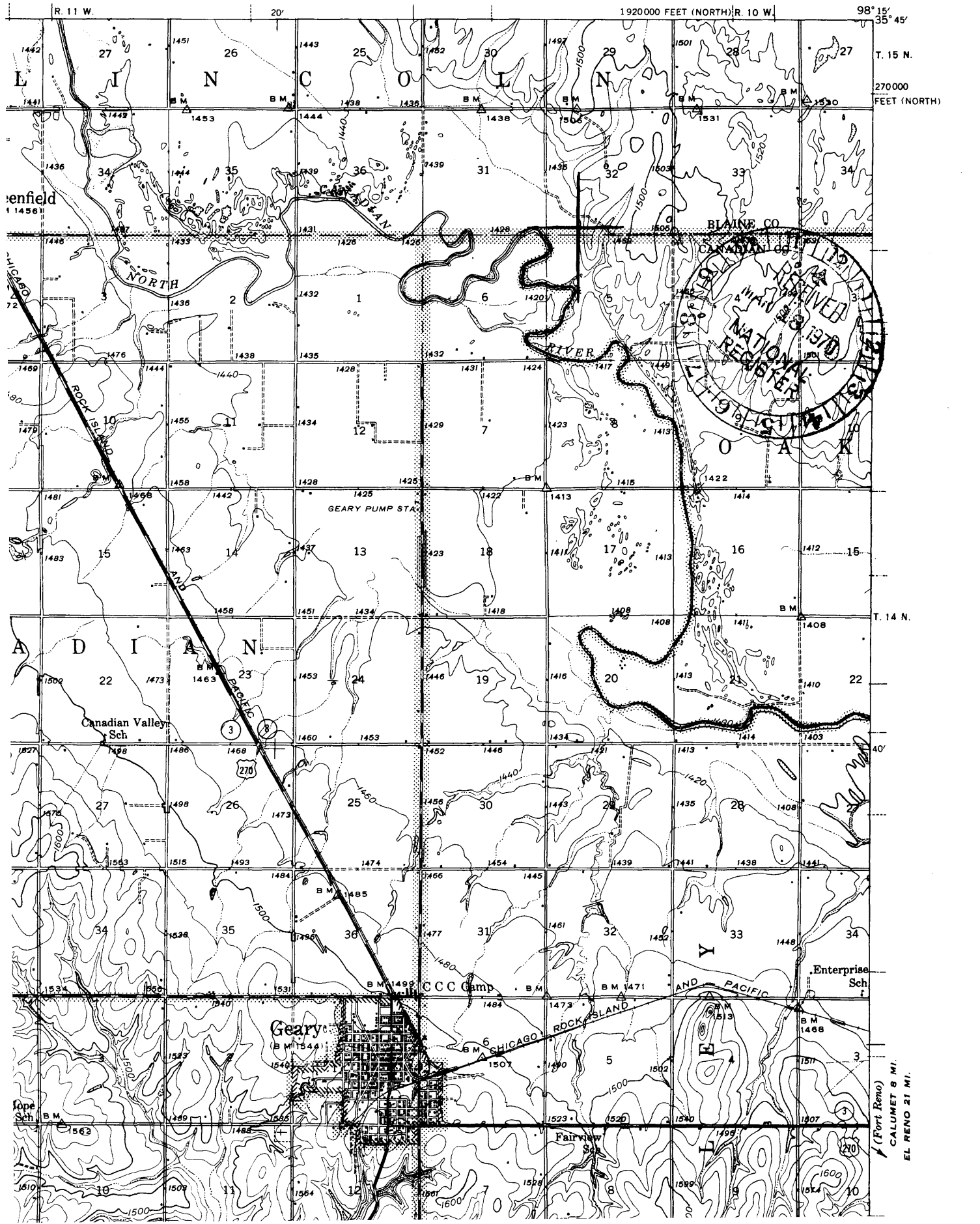
SOURCE:
United States Geological Survey, Geary Quadrangle
SCALE: 1:62500
DATE: 1942

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.



OKLAHOMA
GEARY QUADRANGLE
15-MINUTE SERIES



(Fort Reno)
CALUMET 8 MI.
EL RENO 21 MI.

Left Hand (Raven) Spring Area

Left Hand Home



Plot 1 - Owned by the
Oklahoma
Historical Society
(ca. 5 acres)

Jesse Christolm
Grave Marker

Left Hand
(or Raven)
Spring



Plot 2 - Owned by
Left Hand
heirs. (ca. 3.5 acres)

Scale: 1 □ = 10 feet

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SW/4 Sec. 32, T 15N, R 10 W

CITY OR TOWN:
Geary (4 m. N, 2 m. E, 2 m. N, 1/2 m. W)

STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40	COUNTY: Blaine	CODE 011
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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
Personal Survey of the Site to include Left Hand Home

SCALE: 1 square equals 10 feet.

DATE: 1971

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.

