

## Chief Joseph Battleground of Bear's Paw

**Approximately 15 miles south of Chinook**

"From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more, forever." The battle and siege that took place here from September 30 to October 5, 1877, ended when Chief Joseph uttered those words at this place. He and more than 400 Nez Perce Indians, exhausted from a 1,700-mile trek to escape confinement on a reservation, surrendered to U.S. troops. Even General of the Army William T. Sherman lauded the Nez Perce as displaying "a courage and skill that elicited universal praise." More than a battle was lost at Bear's Paw. It signaled the end of the Nez Perce's existence as an "independent Indian people." Henceforth, they lived as a group of displaced persons — in the white culture, but not of it. Interpretive signs and exhibits mark the undisturbed site of this poignant episode in American history.