

Treaty Grounds Stone

A large stone marks the location of The Old Treaty Grounds at the Forks of the Wabash. Great crowds of Native Americans and United States government officials have gathered here to work out terms in treaties which were signed in 1834, 1838, and 1840. Each treaty provided for the sale of more land from what was once an extensive land empire. The gathering of all the major and minor chiefs around the council fires beneath the tall tree must have made an impressive sight! The last treaty also provided for the move of the Indians to Kansas within 5 years. After much pleading for a delay, about 323 Miami were gathered on canal boats in the fall of 1846. (Because of provisions in the 1840 treaty about 302 Miami were allowed to stay behind.) They were very sad to leave this country which they loved and where their ancestors were buried. Many of the stoic Indians were weeping and carrying handfuls of soil while others ran off into the woods to hide. The Indians were moved because the white man wanted to settle on their land and also to protect them from white traders who sold them illegal whiskey and cheated them in other sales.