

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC NEW BERN NATIONAL CEMETERY

AND/OR COMMON

SAME

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1711 National Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

CITY, TOWN New Bern

STATE North Carolina

VICINITY OF
CODE 37

COUNTY Craven
CODE 049

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Cemetery

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable) U.S. VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

STREET & NUMBER 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Land Management Service/ VA Office of Construction

STREET & NUMBER 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE VA Historic Sites Survey

DATE Continuing FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS VA Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

New Bern National Cemetery contains 7.68 acres of land. The cemetery is oblong and divided into 20 regular but unequal burial sections. The ground is flat and landscaped with many large shade trees and shrubs. The burial sections were originally separated by grass walkways much wider than today's sidewalks.

The cemetery was enclosed by a four foot high brick wall with a panel and post effect constructed in the early 1870's. The main entrance was situated at the center of the northeast side. Double ornamental wrought iron entrance gates were attached to stone block pillars to form a carriageway. Pedestrian gates flanked the drive. The driveway extended the length of the cemetery. This was originally crushed stone or shell, suitable for horsedrawn carriages. A second pedestrian gate served the lodge.

Burials in the cemetery were originally made by States so far as they were known. This practice was abandoned as space became limited. Many of the unknowns from the Civil War still have the original small 6' x 6' white marble or granite markers. There are also some private markers which have been erected by family or friends. This are limited to sections 3, 6, 11 and 15.

The original lodge was constructed shortly after the cemetery was established, in 1870. It was a "Meigs" lodge, one and one-half stories, contained six rooms and was constructed of shellrock. The lodge was in the southeast corner of the cemetery. An out building of shellrock was to the rear of the lodge. It contained stable, toolhouse and wagon house. All these buildings have been removed, the dates are unknown.

The rostrum, from which memorial and other patriotic ceremonies were conducted was octagonal and resembled a bandstand. The base is of block with recessed panels. Square wrought iron standards at each corner connected a wrought iron railing and supported twisted rope columns. The eight columns supported an ornamental wrought iron filagree with roman arches and a stylized motif. Above the springline of the arches the columns became square and supported a pagoda roof with an ornamental finial.

There are four monuments, erected one each by New Jersey, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. They commemorate those who died during the Civil War. These monuments contribute to the significance of the national cemetery.

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The monument erected by the State of Massachusetts was dedicated on November 11, 1908. A stone base surmounted by a heroic female figure in bronze representing "Peace." The inscription on the front reads:

The Commonwealth/of Massachusetts/ Erected this Monument/in Grateful Memory/of her/ Soldiers and Sailors/who died in the/Department of North Carolina/1861-1865.

On the right side are listed the: 27th, 33rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 51st, and 2nd Mass. Vol. Infantry.

On the left side the: 2nd, 3d, 5th, 8th, 17th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, and 25th Mass Vol. Infantry.

The New Jersey Monument, erected in 1905, has a multi-level square stone base and supporting shafts with the statue of a Union soldier with musket at parade rest. The inscription reads:

The State of New Jersey erects/this monument in honor of her/ 9th Regiment vol. Inf. whose/ heroic dead lie buried in this/ cemetery. 1861-1865.

The Rhode Island Monument was erected in 1909. It has a rough-hewn rectangular base with small pedestal and a heroic figure of a female representing "Peace", with up-stretched arms as if in benediction. The inscription reads:

Erected by the State of Rhode/ Island to commemorate the service/ of Rhode Island Volunteers who/ gave up their Lives in North/ Carolina during the Civil War 1861-1865.

The 15th Connecticut Volunteers monument was erected by the State of Connecticut in 1898. It has a double base with truncated obelisque draped with a soldiers cloak. There are depictions of military devices on the front of the shaft and the seal of the State of Connecticut on the reverse. The inscription on the west reads "15th CONN VOLS." The inscription on the east face of the shaft reads:

To The Men Who Died of/ Yellow Fever in 1864/ And Those Who Fell In/ Action Before Kingston/ March 8, 1864.

The location was originally outside of the city limits of New Bern and the government constructed a road (now National Avenue) from the city to the cemetery. Title to the road was transferred in 1948.

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PRESENT APPEARANCE

The appearance of the national cemetery has changed very little over the years. Additional burials have been made. The roadway and walks have been paved. The road now ends in a cul-de-sac at the opposite end of the cemetery from the entrance. The pedestrian gates to either side of the entrance are permanently closed. New plaques identify the entrance to the cemetery.

The burials over the years have meant the addition of government markers other than those of the Civil War period. They are appropriate to the periods of service of those interred in the cemetery through the Vietnam Era.

There are three permanent buildings in the cemetery. Of these, the lodge and service building are not original, and the rostrum has been altered.

The combination residence and office of the director faces National Avenue. The present lodge, built in 1916, is a one and one-half story frame bungalow covered with aluminum siding. Windows are double hung single pane with storm windows. There is a concrete porch with two separate front doors. One door leads to the cemetery office the other to the residence. The lodge contains 1700 square feet. The lodge contributes to the historic value of the national cemetery even though altered from its original appearance and materials.

The service building is located behind the lodge. The building is constructed of brick and is used to store the cemetery equipment and supplies. Restroom facilities for visitors are located here. There are two service bays which face the drive. The service building does not contribute architecturally or historically to the significance of this national cemetery.

The third permanent structure is octagon shaped rostrum, the date of construction is unknown. The rostrum has been reduced in height by removal of the roof and supporting columns above the surrounding rail. This alteration took place in 1946. The rostrum still serves its original function, most notably on Memorial and Veterans Days. The rostrum contributes to the significance of the national cemetery.

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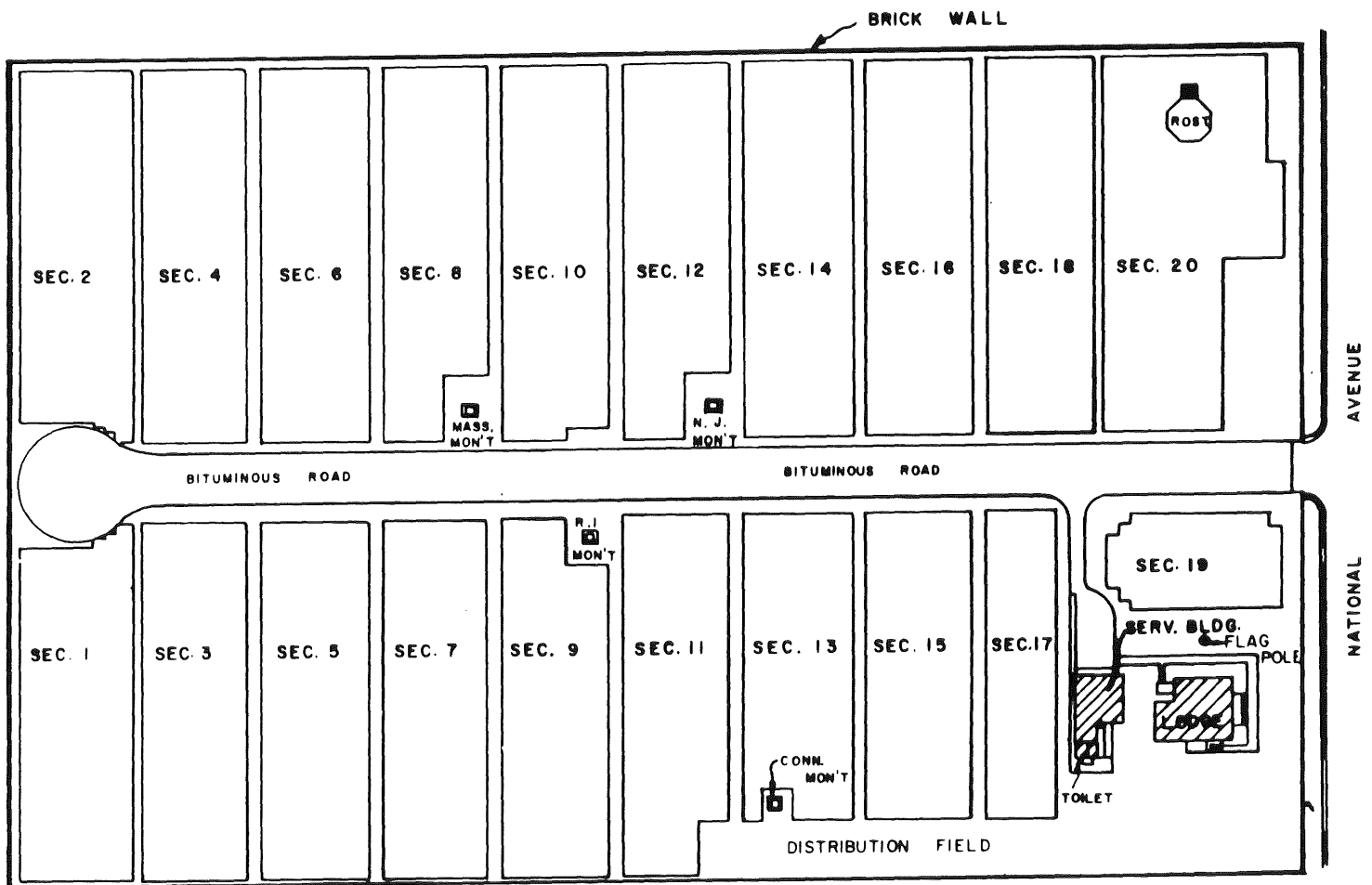
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NEW BERN NATIONAL CEMETERY NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA



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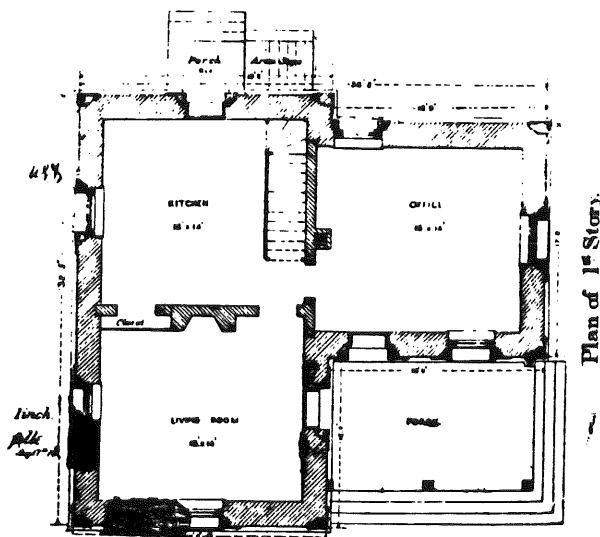
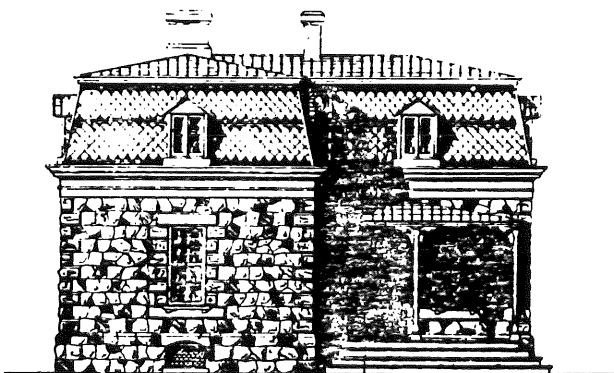
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MEIGS NATIONAL CEMETERY LODGES

Between the 1860's and the end of the nineteenth century National Cemetery lodges were constructed according to a design by then Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs. The plan of this rather basic facility was used at sites across the country. It was executed in a number of materials: ashlar stone at Grafton, West Virginia; coursed stone at Fort Harrison, Virginia; red sandstone block at Alexandria, Virginia; and in a number of variations in brick with details such as decorative self-quoining. The simple floor plan provided an office, living room, and kitchen on the first floor and three bedrooms on the upper story.

Montgomery C. Meigs, Lodges,
National Cemeteries (1871)



8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1867 1973 BUILDER/ARCHITECT U.S. Army

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

National cemeteries administered by the Veterans Administration are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because they have been designated by Congress as primary memorials to the military history of the United States. These cemeteries were created in response to a national sense of obligation to care for those who served their country, and are physical manifestations of our social conscience.

The New Bern National Cemetery was established in 1867 during the post Civil War graves recovery and reinterment program. The greater number of original remains were removed from the old cemeteries at New Bern, Beaufort, Morehead City, Kingston, Hatteras, Roanoke Island and other places along the coast of North Carolina.

The cemetery has continued to serve as the final resting place for those associated with America's military history from the Civil War to the present.

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GENERAL HISTORY OF NATIONAL CEMETERIES

The 140 national cemetery properties administered by the veterans administration include the following properties transferred by the Department of the Army under the National Cemetery Act of 1973:

- 81 of 82 National Cemeteries;
- 22 Soldiers Lots;
- 7 Confederate Plots;
- 2 of 3 Monuments; and,
- 1 group of Federal Lots in Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

The VA national cemeteries also include 21 VA cemeteries:

- 11 of which were established at the Branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS);
- 4 of which were military post cemeteries;
- 5 of which served VA long term care facilities; and,
- 1 established by Congress.

Six new expansion sites have been acquired by the VA since 1973.

The two properties transferred in 1973 but not longer controlled by the VA are the Perryville Battlefield National Cemetery in Perryville, Kentucky, and the Fort Phil Kearney Monument Site in Sheridan County, Wyoming. Both have been transferred State agencies under jurisdiction of the respective State Historic Preservation Officers. Neither property contained any federal interments.

The Department of the Army retained jurisdiction over the Arlington and the United States Soldiers and Airman's Home National Cemeteries. The Department of the Navy retained the cemetery at the Sailors Home. The armed services also retain the cemeteries at the

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three service academies.

The Department of the Interior has jurisdiction of 14 National Cemeteries transferred prior to 1973.

National cemeteries were first authorized by Congress in 1862. But the basis for national military cemeteries has much earlier roots. Post and Garrison commanders had long provided burial grounds for those of their commands and their dependents. Following the Mexican War, efforts were made to recover the remains of the fatalities and bring them together in the American military cemetery at Mexico City.

As early in the Civil War as September of 1861 the War Department had issued General Orders 75 making the commanders of Corps and Departments responsible for the burial of officers and soldiers within their jurisdiction. This was followed in April, 1862, when Section II of General Orders 33 charged commanding generals in the field:

In order to secure, as far as possible, the decent interment of those who have fallen, or may fall, in battle, it is made the duty of Commanding Generals to lay off lots of ground in some suitable spot near every battlefield, so soon as it may be in their power, and to cause the remains of those killed to be interred, with headboards to the braves bearing numbers, and when practicable, the names of the persons buried in them. A register of each burial ground will be preserved, in which will be noted the marks corresponding with the headboards.

On July 17, 1862, the President was authorized "to purchase cemetery grounds... to be used as a national cemetery for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country." By the end of the year 14 national cemeteries had been established under authority of this act, though none fell within the statutory provisions. This discrepancy appears not to have been any cause of concern as 27 national cemeteries had been established by the end of 1864.

In July of 1865, General Orders #40 required reports of interments be made to Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs. When the reports

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showed only 101,736 graves, representing less than 30 percent of the union fatalities (359,528) could be accounted for, orders went out to located and mark the remaining graves. This led to the massive post war recovery and reinterment program which Meigs declared substantially complete in 1870.

Secretary of War Edwin Stanton gave personal orders that a national cemetery be established at the Andersonville Prison. Thanks to careful work by the Union officials and the accuracy of Confederate records, of the 12,912 bodies, 12,461 are known descedants and only 451 are unknown. This rate is far below the average rate of unknowns for the total of Union burials.

The recovery program took the recovery teams back along the lines of battles, retracing the marches of the great armies, in their search. They also sought out the locations of graves in private, city and family cemeteries to assure as complete an accounting as possible.

During the recovery period Congress supported the effort and in February, 1867, passed legislation directing the Secrtary of War to enclose each national cemetery "with a good substantial stone or iron fence," to mark all graves with a headstone or marker to appoint superintendents (all to be veterans) and to erect suitable quarters for them. Congress also directed that there be annual inspections and a report on them to the legislature as a basis for determining necessary appropriations.

By 1870 when the recovery and reinterment program was drawing to completion, 73 national cemeteries had been established or designated and contained 299,696 union remains. The aggregate of all remains in national cemeteries, post cemeteries, private interments and remains which had been identified for reinterment totalled 315,555. It is not clear whether this figure includes only the Civil War dead in post cemeteries or any of the Confederate dead in such national cemeteries as Fort Leavenworth. From the tally of 173,109 known interments and 143,446 unknown, it would appear to be a report of Union Civil War fatalities only. Remains of just over 26,000 could not be accounted for.

The eligibility for burial in national cemeteries has expanded significantly since 1862. Some of this has resulted from interpretation, policy and tradition; some thru legislation.

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It had long been Army practice to inter in post cemeteries soldiers who died while in service and their dependents. This practice continued in national cemeteries at military posts as well. The language of the original 1862 Act covering soldiers who died "in the service of the country" was interpreted to include those dying on active duty "at any or all times...."

The ruling in support of this interpretation by Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt had come in response to petitions by Civil War veterans for burial in available space in the national cemeteries beside their comrades-in-arms.

Congress in the 1870 Army appropriations made a half step to removing the limitation of burial for the war time or current dead by covering expenses for officers, non-coms and troops in line of duty status.

In trying to meet the demands of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) to permit national cemetery burial for all Civil War veterans, in 1872 Congress approved such burial for those dying in destitute circumstances. The response was anger that Congress would turn the national cemeteries into potter's fields. Only 9 months later (in 1873) all honorably discharged Union veterans became eligible for national cemetery burial.

As early as 1867 remains from post cemeteries were being relocated to the national cemeteries being established at the forts. In 1873 Secretary of War Belknap arranged for the reinterment of his father from the abandoned Fort Washita and directed General Meigs to arrange for the removal of the other military (and dependent) remains at Washita and Fort Arbuckle (also abandoned) to the national cemetery at Fort Gibson. Subsequently military remains from abandoned forts were relocated to perpetual government care in national cemeteries.

National cemeteries had become such an ingrained part of the American memorialization of significant military events that the Custer Battlefield was declared a national cemetery in 1879 as a matter of course. In the west and southwest, remains from the Mexican and Indian wars were interred in national cemeteries routinely.

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During the Spanish American War remains were returned from overseas for either burial in national cemeteries or private family interment. In this era recovery and graves registration capability had increased so dramatically that only 13.63 percent of the dead from the eastern theaters of Puerto Rico and Cuba were buried as unknown compared with 42.5 percent in the Civil War. Only 9 of the 1,384 bodies returned from the Philippines were unidentified. Figures for World Wars I and II were 2.2 percent and 3.7 percent respectively.

Beginning with World War I the choice was given to the next of kin whether remains would be returned to this country for burial or reinterred in U.S. overseas cemeteries operated by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Three later overseas cemeteries on U.S. soil (Honolulu, Hawaii; Sitka, Alaska; and Bayamon, Puerto Rico) were incorporated into the National Cemetery System and are now operated by the VA.

In the post World War I period the new American Legion called attention to the need for expanding the National Cemetery System to provide adequate burial space for the millions of new war veterans eligible for interment. Seven national cemeteries were added to the system, four newly established, by the outbreak of World War II. These four were Golden Gate, Long Island, Fort Snelling and Baltimore.

Between 1946 and 1950 four new national cemeteries were established in the contiguous 48 states. Three were associated with military posts while the Willamette National Cemetery was a totally new site donated for national cemetery use. No new national cemeteries were established or declared until 1973 when responsibility for most national cemeteries was transferred to the Veterans Administration.

Even as the National Cemetery System of the War Department (Department of the Army) had evolved, a separate system of cemeteries (also established for Civil War veterans) had been developed. These would later become national cemeteries.

In March of 1865, President Lincoln signed the legislation creating the National Assylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers - renamed the National "Home" in 1873.

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The first three Branches of the Home, near Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Dayton, Ohio; and Togus, Maine; were far removed from national cemeteries where, after 1873 members of the Home were eligible for burial. As a result, the Managers of the Home provided for burial of deceased members in cemeteries on the grounds of the individual branches.

When the Southern Branch of the Home was established in 1870, it was located adjacent to the Hampton, Virginia, National Cemetery and deceased members were buried there except for a short period during 1898. An outbreak of yellow fever at the Southern Branch resulted in an immediate, strict quarantine. The twenty-two home members who died of various causes during the quarantine were buried in a small plot on the Home grounds.

The Western Branch of the Home at Leavenworth, Kansas, was established in 1886. Although the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery was located only a few miles north of the Home, the custom of a Home cemetery prevailed. As additional Home branches were established near Los Angeles, California; Marion, Indiana; Danville, Illinois; near Hot Springs, South Dakota; and the Mountain Branch near Johnson City, Tennessee, cemeteries were established at each. The Bath Branch, donated to the Federal Government in 1929, had been the New York State Soldiers & Sailors Home and included the Home cemetery.

As eligibility for admission to the National Home had been expanded beyond Union veterans of the Civil War to encompass those with service in other periods of our national history, so had those interred in the Home cemeteries come to represent a cross section of American veterans.

Following World War I, a number of military facilities were transferred to the Veterans Bureau (established 1921). Four of these: Forts Meade, South Dakota; Bayard, New Mexico; Lyon, Colorado; and Prescott, Arizona, included post cemeteries.

The National Home, Veterans Bureau and other veterans benefit programs were combined in 1930 to create the Veterans Administration. Five VA extended care facilities also included cemeteries for those dying at VA installations. One expansion

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cemetery, not located at an existing VA medical facility, was established at Houston, Texas, in the 1960's.

The assassination of President Kennedy and his burial in Arlington National Cemetery focused the nation's attention on national cemeteries and the burial benefits of all veterans.

Applications for burial in the Arlington National Cemetery increased so greatly that the Army was forced to adopt a more restrictive eligibility policy for burials than that in force for national cemeteries in general. This focused national attention on the relatively limited grave sites available in existing national cemeteries. The system had seen no expansion since the end of World War II. As a result of studies and Congressional hearings the decision was made by the Congress to transfer the major part of the National Cemetery System to the Veterans Administration. This brought the program for veterans burial benefits under the same agency which handles other veterans benefits programs, including the provision of the American flag to drape a veteran's casket.

The National Cemetery Act of 1973, in addition to transferring jurisdiction of the National Cemetery System, directed the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to study the overall demand for national cemetery burial and means to meet that need. As a result, existing national cemeteries are being expanded and new ones created to meet projected demand through the year 2000 and beyond.

National cemeteries have contained a number of common features. These have included flag poles, rostrums, monuments, lodges, service buildings and, of course, graves markers.

Grave Markers

There are two categories of grave markers or headstones in national cemeteries: private and government. Today private markers are permitted only in those sections of cemeteries where they were originally erected years ago. As there are few burial spaces still available in any of these sections for all practical purposes new private markers are no longer permitted in VA National Cemeteries.

Government markers have changed over the years, as the system of national cemeteries has evolved. In post cemeteries a uniform

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manner of marking graves with wooden, rounded top boards had been established prior to the Civil War. This custom continued in national cemeteries through the remains recovery and reinterment program.

Though Congress had authorized permanent markers in 1867, a dispute over whether to use marble or iron meant no permanent markers were procured until late 1873 after Congress had directed the use of durable stone and of such weight and design that they would stay in place when set. Separate styles were used for the known and unknown dead. Graves of unknowns were to be marked by a stone block 6 inches square and 2 1/2 feet long. Two feet of the length was below grade to hold the marker in place. The marker for the identified deceased was of white marble, 4 inches thick, 10 inches wide and 36 inches long. The top was curved and the face ornamented with a recessed shield and raised lettering. All individual Union graves in established national cemeteries had been marked by 1879. Group and mass graves were marked by various means.

Authority to provide government markers for the graves of veterans buried in other than national cemeteries came in 1879.

The Civil War type upright marker continued in use for the Spanish American War and for veterans of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Indian campaigns and for the graves of peacetime soldiers. This is known as the Civil/Spanish American War stone.

In 1902, to provide greater stability when set, marker dimensions were increased to a width of 12 inches and a depth of 39 inches. In 1903 this marker replaced the 6 inch square block for unknowns.

Civilian graves in national and post cemeteries were included in the graves marking program in 1904. It was not until 1906 that Congress authorized markers for the graves of the Confederate dead (in national cemeteries and northern Confederate plots). The Civil/Spanish American War marker was modified to omit the shield and provide a pointed rather than rounded top. Government furnished headstones for Confederate graves in private cemeteries was authorized in 1929 and the use of the Southern Cross of Honor permitted.

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After World War I a new headstone was proposed. Spanish American and Civil War veterans protested any abandonment of their traditional grave marker. A new marker was designated for all veterans other than these two groups who would be provided with the traditional headstone. The new grave marker 2 1/2 inches thick, 10 inches wide and 40 inches long with the rounded top was used for only 2,200 graves. Deemed unsatisfactory it was replaced in 1922 with a marble marker 13 inches wide, 4 inches thick and 42 inches long.

As private cemetery design shifted from burial grounds to memorial parks and flat or pillow markers came into use, the government authorized three types of flat markers: the marble in 1936; granite in 1939; and bronze in 1940 (for non-military cemeteries only). The surface dimensions were 12 inches by 24 inches. The bronze marker was modified in 1972. Park like cemeteries can be significantly less expensive to maintain if mowers can go over the grave markers and little or no manual trimming at individual grave sites is needed.

Since 1978 Government grave markers may be of any material, including but not limited to marble, granite, bronze or slate. Only slate is not now authorized in national cemeteries and is reserved for non-government cemeteries.

Over the years symbols of religious preference have been approved for inclusion on the general and flat grave markers. The earliest of these were the Latin Cross and the Star of David. More than twenty religious symbols, including one for Atheists, have been accepted by the Veterans Administration.

A new Medal of Honor headstone was inaugurated for the American Bicentennial. A representation of the Congressional Medal of Honor appears below the name of the deceased and above the words "Medal of Honor." The incised work is gold leafed on the marble, granite and bronze markers.

In addition to serving as headstones, Government markers may be installed in memorial sections in memory of members of the armed forces buried at sea or whose bodies could not be recovered.

Inscriptions on government headstones may include name, place of

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birth, military rank, branch of service, period of military service, dates of birth and death and military awards.

For prisoners of war interred in national cemeteries the inscription is modified by limiting it to name, nationality, and date of death. Members of the armed forces of other nations (other than POWs) who have died in this country have also been buried in military and/or national cemeteries.

Civilians, as distinct from veteran or military dependents eligible for national cemetery burial, have been buried in national cemeteries for a number of reasons. Civilian employees of the military who died at forts might be buried in post cemeteries. Travelers on the Oregon or Santa Fe trails who died at or near forts might be buried in pioneer sections. In at least one national cemetery the donor of the land conditioned his gift upon establishment of a plot for his family.

Private markers in national cemeteries show a wide range of styles in memorial art which have been popular over the past 120 years. Columns, truncated shafts, obeliskes, dying warriors, laurel wreaths, polished or rough hewn granite and various religious symbols, while lacking the precision and unity of row upon row of Government markers, add a visual richness and individuality to the older cemeteries in the system.

Rostrums

National cemeteries have been the focus for national ceremonies at least since 1868 when General John A. Logan, then Commander-In-Chief of the GAR issued General Orders #11 calling upon a members to observe May 30th beginning that year and "as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us" by:

strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defence (sic) of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

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Rostrums of various styles have provided the platform from which honors were rendered and speeches of rededication declaimed. Styles have varied from small, classical Greek temples to simple pulpits or lecterns or bandstand style structures. Materials have included marble, granite, iron and steel, and locally quarried coquina. They have been imposing focal points and modest platforms. As demands for burial space have mounted or where deterioration has been severe, some have been removed. Not all national cemeteries have rostrums today.

Lodges

Though Congress directed construction of superintendent's lodges in all national cemeteries, only sixty some lodges remain in VA national cemeteries, and many of these are not original. Several very small Civil War national cemeteries, such as Ball's Bluff never had lodges. None of the 21 cemeteries belonging to the VA before 1973 has a lodge.

During Meigs' tenure as Quartermaster General, standard plans for lodges were drawn. These plans were interpreted in a variety of materials; brick, frame, ashlar and coursed stone. The Meigs lodges were of late Victorian Second Empire design with mansard roof, a story and a half over a basement in an inverted L shape. The first floor contained the office and two other rooms. Sleeping quarters were located on the upper floor. Kitchens were originally in separate structures, but kitchen additions have been added over the years.

Other styles of lodges have been used through the years.

Monuments

Monuments, as distinct from grave markers, are found in most national cemeteries. These may be as modest as the boulder and plaque dedicated to civilian employees of the Quartermaster Corps who drowned in a flash flood while pursuing John Wilkes Booth, or as imposing as the American Battle Monuments Commission monument in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl).

Monuments have been paid for by the Federal Government. They have

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been purchased with voluntary contributions from soldiers. Many states have given monuments to their fallen sons. Patriotic organizations contribute to national cemeteries and individuals have donated monuments to their former comrades-in-arms. The representational, traditional, symbolic and utilitarian are all included in national cemetery monumentation.

Other National Cemetery System Properties

In addition to national cemeteries, the National Cemetery System includes soldiers lots, Confederate plots, monument sites and plots within Congressional Cemetery.

Soldiers lots are areas set aside in other cemeteries for the burial, originally, of Union Civil War veterans. These were then donated to the Federal Government and used for veterans burials when space was available.

Confederate plots are cemeteries where Union commanders buried southern troops who died in their areas of command. Most, but not all, were prisoners.

The two monument sites are located in private cemeteries and contain large monuments in honor of Confederate prisoners whose burial places in the cemeteries cannot be identified.

The Federal Government owns 806 lots in Congressional Cemetery, the Washington Parish (Christ Church) Burial Ground. These lots contain 469 burials, 340 memorial cenotaphs (no remains), 96 private markers and 9 vacant lots. Some plots contain multiple interments. Some centotaphs occupy more than one lot.

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