NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Alexandria National Cemetery

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 209 Shamrock Avenue ☐ not for publication N/A

city or town Pineville ☐ vicinity N/A

state Louisiana code LA county Rapides Parish code 079 zip code 71360

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 ☒ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally ☐ (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Karen Rome Tupek, Federal Preservation Officer 6/4/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Department of Veterans Affairs
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jon Fricker May 6, 1997
Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

Jonathan Fricker, Deputy SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other, (explain:)

for
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 7/9/97

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	
2	0	buildings
1	0	sites
3	0	structures
2	1	objects
8	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete
walls Brick
roof Asphalt
other Iron

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

Period of Significance

1867-1940

Significant Dates

1867

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository
Department of Veterans Affairs

Alexandria National Cemetery
Name of Property

Rapides Parish, Louisiana
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.2

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	553010	3465220	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Therese T. Sammartino, Staff Assistant, National Cemetery System

organization Department of Veterans Affairs date June 9, 1997

street & number 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W. telephone (202) 565-4895

city or town Washington, D.C. state _____ zip code 20420

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Department of Veterans Affairs

street & number 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W. telephone _____

city or town Washington, D.C. state _____ zip code 20420

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

DESCRIPTION

MATERIALS (Continued)

Walls: Stucco
Other: Marble

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Alexandria National Cemetery is located at 209 Shamrock Avenue, Pineville, Louisiana, in Rapides Parish near Alexandria, Louisiana. The site is rectangular in shape. The main entrance is at the center of the west side and was originally surmounted by a handsome wooden arch and closed by double wooden gates. The entrance is now enclosed by wrought-iron gates over the drive and one small wrought-iron gate at the pedestrian entrance on the right side of the drive. These gates were constructed in 1938. The cemetery was originally enclosed by a wooden picket fence, which was replaced with a brick wall in 1878. Concrete triangular coping on the top of the wall and concrete caps for pillars were added in 1934. New bronze name plaques were installed on the main entrance gate in 1963. From the main entrance, an avenue extends to the centers of the north and south sides, and at the intersection of these two avenues is a small circular mound, supporting the flagpole. The lodge is located near the main entrance, and the utility building is situated to the east of the lodge. To the east of the flagpole is a rostrum, and a committal service tent is located northeast of the flagpole.

The cemetery was established in 1867. George B. Craft, a discharged sergeant of Company E, Forty-fifth Regiment of Infantry, was the first superintendent. His appointment was dated August 20, 1867. Graves were originally marked by wooden headboards that were later replaced with upright marble headstones. The cemetery closed in 1995, except for interments in occupied and reserved graves and interments of cremated remains. As of February 28, 1997, there were 7,647 sites used for the interment of 9,683 casketed remains and 57 sites used for the interment of 114 cremated remains. As of February 28, 1997, there were 106 gravesites available (105 reserved) for the interment of casketed remains and 36 sites available for the interment of cremated remains.

The original lodge was a wooden cottage consisting of three rooms, which was replaced by a two-story brick house consisting of six rooms and a basement. This structure was built in 1879. The lodge was rebuilt in 1931 and changed into a single-story seven-room building with reinforced concrete foundation, a part of which was the continuation of the front and side walls with a large concrete L-shaped basement. The walls are hollow tile with stucco surface, the foundation is concrete, and the

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

slate roof was replaced in 1965 with an asphalt roof. There is a sun porch with a concrete floor that was enclosed with eight glass windows on the east side of the lodge. Exterior door and concrete steps to the sun porch were installed in 1938. The front porch woodwork was replaced with concrete pillars in 1946.

The original utility building was demolished, and a new one was constructed, using lumber from the old lodge. The two-story building was built sometime between July 1881 and August 1889, and was later demolished. The present brick and concrete utility building was constructed in the mid 1930's. The roof is asphalt shingles. The building originally consisted of one large room and two public toilets. In March 1940, an addition on the south end for a workshop and rest rooms, with an overhead garage door for the workshop, was constructed.

A rostrum with steel columns and concrete piers was constructed in 1931. It is located to the east of the flagpole. The railing is wrought-iron with pipe posts. The tin roof was subsequently removed.

A 250-square-foot brick and concrete greenhouse was built in 1931 and was located fifty feet east of the lodge. The glass was replaced in 1947. This structure was subsequently removed.

Two sections of the brick perimeter wall (south side and Section B of the west wall) collapsed either during or immediately after an exceptionally heavy rainfall in 1953. After inspection, it was concluded that the damage was caused by inadequate drainage, either by stoppage of the existing drains or inadequate size and the poor quality of brick and mortar in the affected wall. Repairs were made to the wall and new drains installed. In 1957, Hurricane Audrey caused damaged to the Section B west wall. The wall was subsequently repaired, and the cap replaced.

The numbers shown for contributing resources within the property reflect the following:

Buildings: Lodge, utility building

Sites: Cemetery

Structures: Gates, perimeter wall, rostrum

Objects: Flagpole, Bronze plaque affixed to flagpole

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The numbers shown for non-contributing resources within the property reflect the following:

Objects: Plaque in front of cemetery

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alexandria National Cemetery is significant under Criterion A and is an important component of the multiple property submission of Civil War Era National Cemeteries. It is significant under Criterion A because of its association with the Civil War. The cemetery is also significant beyond the Civil War era, as it contains the remains of veterans associated with every war and branch of service who have served their country throughout its history.

The period of significance ends in 1940, the year of construction of the addition to the utility building.

Early in February 1863, Lieutenant General Edmund Kirby Smith was assigned command over the entire Trans-Mississippi Department. Only thirty-seven years of age, his rise in the Confederate army had been very rapid. On March 7, he assumed control of the Trans-Mississippi and set up his headquarters in Alexandria.

By March 25, 1863, General Nathaniel P. Banks, who had been assigned command of the Department of the Gulf by the War Department, had begun the first phase of his Teche campaign. With the approach of the Federal troops up the Teche on April 24, Edmund Kirby Smith issued orders transferring his headquarters from Alexandria to Shreveport. General Richard Taylor, and his forces occupied Alexandria and vicinity. Taylor was extremely popular with the people of Louisiana; he was Jefferson Davis's brother-in-law and was possessed by military and political ambitions. Banks, on May 4, ordered General William Dwight, Jr., to move toward Alexandria from Washington and, on the same afternoon, Lieutenant Godfrey Weitzel left from Opelousas. William H. Emory's division followed the next morning. Meeting no opposition, the army moved, arriving at Governor Thomas O. Moore's plantations below Alexandria on May 7 at six o'clock in the evening. Earlier, the cavalry had been sent forward to Alexandria to reconnoiter the area. On May 6, Taylor had withdrawn his main forces from Alexandria and had beaten a hasty retreat toward Natchitoches. Lieutenant David D. Porter stole the march on Banks and, early in the morning of May 7, took over Alexandria with his gunboats. Later in the day, Banks's cavalry burst into the town and was amazed to find Porter already in possession. Banks was greatly disappointed to learn that Porter held Alexandria, but he determined to push on to the town although his tired men had already marched twenty-five miles that day. Porter,

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

who disliked Banks, reported that as soon as Banks arrived, he posted guards over everything and declared martial law. Porter turned over Alexandria to Banks and left the gunboat *Lafayette* to aid him.

Faced by limited supplies and long supply lines, Banks lived off the country as much as possible. He felt that in order to prevent the reorganization of the rebel army and to deprive the rebel government of all possible means of support, to take possession of mules, horses, cattle, and the staple products of the country--cotton, sugar, and tobacco. Citizens loyal to the Union were to be compensated for all products seized by the United States. By May 4, Banks reported that 20,000 beeves, mules and horses were forwarded to Brashear City, with 5,000 bales of cotton and many hogsheads of sugar. Operating from several locations, detachments of Banks's men gathered cotton, vegetables, molasses, run, sugar, saddles, bridles, horses, mules, cattle, corn, and sweet potatoes. It was estimated that the Teche and lower Red River regions were stripped of legitimate forage valued at more than ten million dollars. These goods, along with thousands of Negroes, were sent by wagons and boats back to Brashear City for safekeeping.

The effect of the Union army upon the Negroes during Banks's first Red River expedition was overwhelming. Provost troops left behind by Banks to restore law and order and to help the loyal citizens with their labor problems had their hands full. Around May 10, while Banks mulled over various plans of action at his encampment in Alexandria, General Dwight's brigade and attached troops had been sent to catch the retreating enemy and to reconnoiter the area for a possible movement against Shreveport. The men marched some forty or fifty miles but did not sight Taylor's army. The troops were preparing to push farther into the desolate region when word arrived that a movement toward Port Hudson was underway. The men began the long drudge back to Alexandria.

Grover's troops were the first to leave Alexandria. On May 15, Colonel Halbert E. Paine followed. Weitzel and Dwight pulled out of Alexandria on May 17, followed at a safe distance by a small Confederate force composed of Colonel W. P. Lane's regiment, fresh from Texas, Edward Waller, Jr.'s battalion, and a detachment from Henry H. Sibley's brigade.

By the end of 1863, Banks had occupied several points in Texas. General Henry W. Halleck was far from satisfied. He had not yet surrendered his ideas concerning the most effective route of operations against Texas. He wrote to Banks on January 4, 1864, that Generals William T. Sherman and Frederick Steele agreed with him that the Red River would be the shortest and best line of defense for Louisiana and Arkansas at a base of operations against Texas. Banks had strongly objected to the use of this route, but bowed to Halleck's decision. The sudden reversal of his opinion was not only based

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

on pressing demands but to other factors, including politics. With an eye on the forthcoming election, Abraham Lincoln had strongly urged Banks to hold a constitutional convention, draft a new constitution, and bring Louisiana back into the Union as soon as possible. Lincoln wanted Louisiana's electoral votes. Unknown to Lincoln, Banks himself aspired to the Republican nomination. If he failed to bring Louisiana back into the Union, Lincoln might remove him from command, which would probably weaken his political chances.

On March 1, Sherman met in New Orleans with Banks. After learning that Banks intended to command the Red River expedition and that General John A. McClernand might also take part, Sherman gracefully refused to go, saying that Grant needed him. However, he promised to send ten thousand of his best troops along with Porter's flotilla, to join Banks on March 17 at Alexandria. Three-year enlistment terms of the older regiments of the corps were soon to expire. The men were offered a bounty and a thirty-day furlough at home if they would re-enlist for another three-year period. Every one of the nineteen regiments and six batteries of the Nineteenth Corps accepted the offer. Banks concentrated most of his troops on the Teche. On the evening of March 13, the cavalry advance moved out on the road to Alexandria. When Edmund Kirby Smith received word of Sherman's visit to Banks in New Orleans, he was convinced that the two would cooperate in a drive against Red River. Taylor, with only seven thousand men, sorely needed reinforcements and orders were given to several divisions to move into Alexandria. More regiments of infantry and batteries of light artillery sailed from Vicksburg, Mississippi, for Red River. Porter informed Smith that Taylor had built a strong fortification and river blockade halfway between the mouth of the Red River and Alexandria. Before the gunboats and transports could proceed to Alexandria, this fortification had to be taken. Porter immediately sent nine of his gunboats into the Atchafalaya, followed by Smith's transports. The remainder of the gunboats proceeded up the Red to remove the river obstructions. They were to await the arrival of the troops, or until Porter could come up, before they bombarded Fort DeRussy.

After the capture of the fort, Brigadier General Thomas Kilby Smith's command of the Seventeenth Corps was kept behind to dismantle the fort and to destroy the magazines and casemates. Great excitement possessed Taylor's troops at Alexandria when they learned of the capture of Fort DeRussy. Taylor proceeded to Carroll Jones's plantation, which was a large forage depot located only twelve miles from Bayou Rapides and Cane River. From this area, he could draw additional supplies from other depots and could watch Porter's fleet along Red River. General Joseph A. Mower's troops, accompanying Porter, peacefully occupied Alexandria. Two days later, on March 18, Thomas Kilby Smith's troops came up and joined in the occupation. The first portion of Banks's expedition, one hundred men, arrived in Alexandria on March 19. The next day, the main body of the cavalry division

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

entered the town and went into camp. Banks's Chief of Staff and several other members of his staff arrived by steamer from New Orleans. On March 20, Taylor sent the Second Louisiana Cavalry, led by Colonel W. G. Vincent, into the Bayou Rapides valley to push as close to Alexandria as possible. He sent Edgar's battery of light artillery to strengthen the cavalry. Later General Mower and his troops set out to dislodge Vincent and took over two hundred prisoners, two hundred horses, and all of Edgar's guns. The next day, Mower marched back to Alexandria. Franklin was busy moving his forces from the Teche up to Alexandria. The movement to Alexandria was reported to be one of the most orderly ever made by the Union Army. During the interim and before Banks's arrival, Porter had whiled away the time collecting cotton. He took all cotton wherever he found it and netted the navy some three thousand bales.

Banks left New Orleans and proceeded to Alexandria aboard the steamer *Black Hawk*, arriving on March 24. Banks was furious with Porter when he learned that the admiral was scouring the interior for cotton. While waiting for the Red River to rise so that he could go on to Shreveport, Banks busied himself not only with recruiting and with collecting cotton for the United States but also with political matters. On March 26, Banks ordered Andrew J. Smith to march to Cotile Landing, some twenty miles above Alexandria, and there to wait for transports. Banks had not intended to leave a garrison at Alexandria but conditions on the river and the inability of transports to pass the falls made it necessary to establish a depot of supplies at Alexandria and a line of wagon transportation from the steamers below to those above the falls. To protect the depot and the transports, General Cuvier C. Grover and his division were left at Alexandria. Banks proceeded with his campaign plans to go to Shreveport. Battles were fought at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill in early April. Banks consulted with Porter on April 15, and the Admiral expressed confidence that the move toward Shreveport could be resumed. Porter was wrong. Instead of rising, the river continued to fall. Porter began to move his fleet below to Alexandria. Later, with most of Porter's gunboats before Alexandria and the rest on their way, Banks was ready to begin his retreat to Alexandria.

Late in the afternoon of April 21, Banks was ready to leave for Alexandria. When his army was moving from Grand Ecore to go to Alexandria, they left a trail of destruction. On April 26, General McClernand arrived from Texas with most of the reinforcements requested by Banks.

The Federal army was convinced that its stay in Alexandria would be a long one. The troops were allowed to make themselves as comfortable as possible. The men busied themselves by building wooden tent floors, benches, and furniture. Regimental details were set to work enclosing Alexandria with a zigzag line of fortifications. Banks intended to make a protracted stand at Alexandria. He knew he could not advance again until there was a rise in the river. On May 9, Banks informed the

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Quartermaster that all transportation facilities would be needed to transport the material of the army and the property of the Government and the freight of private individuals not connected with the army cannot be taken under any circumstances whatever. The next day he ordered that all cotton on the transports would be taken off to make room for Government stores. Detachments were put to work immediately removing the cotton and loading army stores aboard. The cotton was thrown in piles along the levee. With the fleet safely below the rapids, Banks issued orders for the army to move out early on May 13.

When the Federal army had returned to Alexandria, it was understood among some of the commanders that should it be necessary to withdraw, the town would be burned. Banks testified before the Joint Committee that he did not see any necessity for burning the town. For two days and nights before the evacuation, the town was protected by men of the 113th New York Regiment, who were relieved on the morning the army departed by a cavalry detachment of five hundred men.

To the music of the bands, the men stepped lively as they began their departure from Alexandria early on the morning of May 13. The route of march followed the river bank as far down as Fort DeRussy in order to cover the removal of the gunboats and transports. Despite Banks's orders, Alexandria was set on fire and, as the last of the army moved eastward, the city was wrapped in flames. Citizens claimed that Andrew J. Smith's men fired a store on Front Street. A strong wind spread the flames rapidly from one building to another. Banks was still in Alexandria when the fire broke out. He later told the Joint Committee that the fire broke out in the attic of one of the buildings on the levee inhabited by either soldiers or refugees. He had ordered out the colored engineers and other troops to stop the fire, but because of the long drought, the buildings and trees were so dry that nothing could be done. A part of the fleet still remained at the docks. Admiral Porter, who had not yet departed, expressed sympathy for the suffering people but felt that the burning of Alexandria was a fit termination of the unfortunate Red River expedition.

The Alexandria National Cemetery was established in 1867 on a site in Pineville on the north side of the Red River, opposite Alexandria. Bodies were removed from many sites throughout the state and reinterred in the national cemetery. The sites included Mount Pleasant, Cheneyville, Cotile Landing, Fort De Russy, Yellow Bayou, Bayou Deplase, Markville, Grand Encore, Natchitoches, Pleasant Hill, Mansfield, and Shreveport. Bodies were also removed from Jefferson, Texas, and Tyler, Texas, and reinterred in the national cemetery.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

One grave contains the remains of 1,537 unknown soldiers who were originally buried at the Brownsville National Cemetery, Brownsville, Texas. The grave is marked with a large gray granite monument, outlined with small concrete cubes, and is inscribed as follows:

REMAINS OF 1537 UNKNOWN
FEDERAL SOLDIERS
REMOVED FROM THE
UNITED STATES NATIONAL CEMETERY
BROWNSVILLE TEXAS 1911

This national cemetery had been established in 1867, and was located a short distance southeast of the military post at Fort Brown, Texas. An undated newspaper article states that the cemetery was started when bodies of the American soldiers killed during the Mexican War were brought there after the war, few of which were identified. Most of the men who were killed in the battles of the Mexican War were volunteers, and the records of events were kept so badly that it was practically impossible to identify the dead. Soldiers then wore no identification tags. More burials were made in the cemetery during the Civil War. In addition, many soldiers at Fort Brown and Fort Ringgold died during the yellow fever epidemic of 1885-1886 and were buried there. By 1909, the cemetery contained about 3,600 graves of enlisted men and 183 of officers. The graves of the officers lay in a circle around the flagpole, while the graves of the enlisted men dotted the surrounding area.

A decision to move the cemetery came in 1909, when the Army post was abandoned as an aftermath of the Negro raid on the city. The Army contracted with a private firm to have the remains buried in the Brownsville National Cemetery transferred to the Alexandria National Cemetery. The work was begun in June and completed in September. Bodies of the officers were placed in full-length caskets. Other remains were placed in cloth containers, encased in frame boxes coated with creosote. The remains occupied about five freight cars and were shipped to the Alexandria National Cemetery. The tombstones were sold locally, some to stone cutters, and some for use as foundation stones for buildings.

Another grave, also marked with a gray granite monument, contains the remains of 16 unknown soldiers, originally interred at Fort Ringgold, Texas.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

REMAINS OF 16 UNKNOWN
FEDERAL SOLDIERS
REMOVED FROM THE
POST CEMETERY
FORT RINGGOLD, TEXAS
1911

A burial register maintained at the cemetery includes all interments, reinterments, and disinterments up until February 10, 1912. A note in this register indicates that, during the months of July and August 1911, reinterments were made in the Alexandria National Cemetery from the Brownsville National Cemetery and from the Fort Ringgold Post Cemetery, both located in Texas. The reinterments from Brownsville were made in Section B, and the reinterments from Fort Ringgold were made in Section R. The numbers shown in the register are as follows:

	KNOWN	UNKNOWN
Brownsville National Cemetery	1,463	1,544
Fort Ringgold Post Cemetery	127	19

The figures shown for the total unknown burials differ from those inscribed on the headstones that mark the two group burials. It is possible that the remaining 7 burials from Brownsville and the remaining 3 from Fort Ringgold are buried in individual graves and their graves marked as unknowns.

Major Jacob Brown, for whom Fort Brown was named, is interred in Grave 1, Section B. He died from wounds received during a skirmish with Mexican soldiers in 1846.

In Section B, Graves 7 and 8 are buried Texas Rangers Captain W. M. Montgomery and a Lieutenant Jackson, whose remains were originally buried at Fort Brown. Captain Montgomery was kidnapped by Confederate Texans and later hanged from a small mesquite tree. He was left hanging for four days when a Mexican cut him down and, scratching a shallow grave, buried him under the tree where he was hung. He was later buried in Fort Brown. The kidnapping and subsequent hanging of Montgomery threatened to close border trade between Texas and Mexico. No information is available on Lieutenant Jackson, not even his first name.

A grave contains the remains of 25 unknown soldiers, transferred from post and private cemeteries near old Fort Jessup, Louisiana.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Five German Prisoners of War were reinterred in Section K, transferred from Camp Fannin, Texas, in February 1946.

There are 57 Buffalo Soldiers interred in this cemetery. These soldiers served in African-American regiments of the regular United States Army formed shortly after the Civil War. Recognizing the military service of African-Americans during the Civil War, Congress enacted legislation on July 28, 1866, creating six (later reduced to four) regular Army regiments of African-American enlisted soldiers under the command of white officers. These became the 24th and 25th Infantry and Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments, the latter two headquartered at Greenville, Louisiana, and Leavenworth, Kansas, respectively. They fought with distinction in the Cheyenne War from 1867-69, the Red River War of 1874-75, the Ute War of 1879, the Apache Wars of 1875-86, and the Sioux War of 1890-91. In addition to the Indian Wars, Buffalo Soldiers played a key role in the West's development. The Ninth and Tenth Regiments went on to serve with Teddy Roosevelt and the "Rough Riders" in the Spanish-American War. During World War I, Buffalo Soldiers served on the Mexican Border. In World War II, the regiments were part of the Second Cavalry Division until their decommissioning in North Africa in 1944. The Buffalo Soldier era ended in 1952 with integration of the Armed Forces 86 years after the regiments were commissioned.

The surveyed center of the state of Louisiana is located in the cemetery and identified by a square marble marker.

A cast bronze plaque affixed to the flagpole is inscribed as follows:

UNITED STATES
NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY
ALEXANDRIA
ESTABLISHED 1867.
INTERMENTS 1378
KNOWN 507
UNKNOWN 871.

ORIGINAL PLAQUE
OF THE
ALEXANDRIA
NATIONAL CEMETERY

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

In many national cemeteries, such a plaque was affixed to a large monument made of an original cast iron seacoast artillery tube, secured by a concrete base. Records indicate that there were two large gun monuments near the main entrance with the prescribed shield affixed to one. These monuments were subsequently removed, but the shield was preserved and restored. It was affixed to the flagpole in 1953.

Three former superintendents of the Alexandria National Cemetery are buried here:

Erastus Thayer Ingle - Section D, Grave 1358 - Superintendent from June to September 1914.

George Wilton May - Section E, Grave 250B - Superintendent from May 1926 to August 1939

Charles S. Stroup - Section E, Grave 27 - Superintendent from January 1947 to October 1955.

Former Congressman Gillis W. Long, who died on January 19, 1985, is buried in Section B, Grave 1610-B. He was a combat infantryman who served in the U. S. Army during World War II. He maintained a residence in Alexandria.

A plaque in front of the cemetery is inscribed as follows:

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Alexandria National Cemetery, Pineville, was authorized by an Act of Congress on February 22, 1867, and the United States, through the Secretary of War, took possession April, 1871, of this property from the succession of Francois Posssan. The parcel containing 8.24 acres was valued by United States District Judge W. B. Woods in the amount of $1,2700.00, pursuant to an order of the United States District Court signed on May 21, 1875.

The cemetery was originally enclosed with a picket fence, later replaced with a brick wall in 1870. Lodge built in 1879, rebuilt in 1931. Sun porch added in 1938 by W. P. A. labor. Flag mound and flagstaff replaced in November, 1950.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Initially, there were 1,378 interments, 871 unknown, 507 known. Later, the following transfers were made to three common graves. 1,537 unknown soldiers originally interred in Fort Brownsville, Texas as casualties of the Civil War were interred in one grave.

In a second grave, 25 unknown soldiers were transferred from post and private cemeteries near old Fort Jesup, Louisiana.

A third grave bears the remains of 16 unknown soldiers originally interred at Ft. Ringo, Texas. During World War II, five German prisoners of war were given interment.

In 1973, the responsibility for operation of the cemeteries was transferred to the Veterans Administration.

JOHNSON BROWN POST 1736 V.F.W.

The plaque contains this same inscription on the reverse side.

The Alexandria National Cemetery contains 8.2 acres. The land for the cemetery was purchased in 1867 from Francious Poussin.. Later, a suit was filed by Poussin's heirs. A court order and an appraisal board was set up by Judge W. B. Woods, Federal Attorney, Louisiana District, on motion. Appraisal was set on the property for the amount of $1,200, and on June 30, 1873, by order of the court, that sum was deposited by the United States with the Clerk of the Court in full payment for said land. This action, in the opinion of the Attorney General of the United States, vested a valued title thereto in the United States.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Cemetery System Microfilm Records

Department of Veterans Affairs Historic Preservation Office

Report of Inspector of the National Cemeteries of the United States for 1869

Report of the Inspector of the National Cemeteries for the years 1870 and 1871

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

Holt Dean W. American Military Cemeteries. North Carolina. McFarland and Company, Inc., 1992.

Winters, John D. The Civil War in Louisiana. Louisiana. Louisiana State University Press, 1963.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Cemetery System has used the existing boundaries of the cemetery.

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
Rapides Parish, Louisiana
Armando A. Sammartino, photographer
Date of Photographs: November 8, 1996

All negatives are stored with Technical Support Service (401B), National Cemetery System, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420

VIEW OF: Main entrance gate, view looking northeast
NEG. NO. 7747-21
PHOTO 1 of 17

VIEW OF: Gate at pedestrian entrance
NEG. NO. 7749-8
PHOTO 2 of 17

VIEW OF: Flagpole, view looking northeast
NEG. NO. 7747-24
PHOTO 3 of 17

VIEW OF: Lodge, southeast elevation
NEG. NO. 7747-20
PHOTO 4 of 17

VIEW OF: Lodge, southwest elevation
NEG. NO. 7747-19
PHOTO 5 of 17

VIEW OF Lodge, northwest elevation
NEG. NO. 7747-18
PHOTO 6 of 17

VIEW OF: Lodge, northeast elevation

NEG. NO. 7747-22
PHOTO 7 of 17

VIEW OF: Utility building, south elevation
NEG. NO. 7749-0
PHOTO 8 of 17

VIEW OF: Rostrum
NEG. NO. 7749-5
PHOTO 9 of 17

VIEW OF: Committal service tent
NEG. NO. 7749-6
PHOTO 10 of 17

VIEW OF: Plaque at base of flagpole
NEG. NO. 7749-10
PHOTO 11 of 17

VIEW OF: Plaque in front of cemetery
NEG. NO. 7747-23
PHOTO 12 of 17

VIEW OF: Marker, grave of soldiers from Fort Ringgold, Texas
NEG. NO. 7749-2
PHOTO 13 of 17

VIEW OF: Marker, grave of soldiers from Brownsville, Texas
NEG. NO. 7749-1
PHOTO 14 of 17

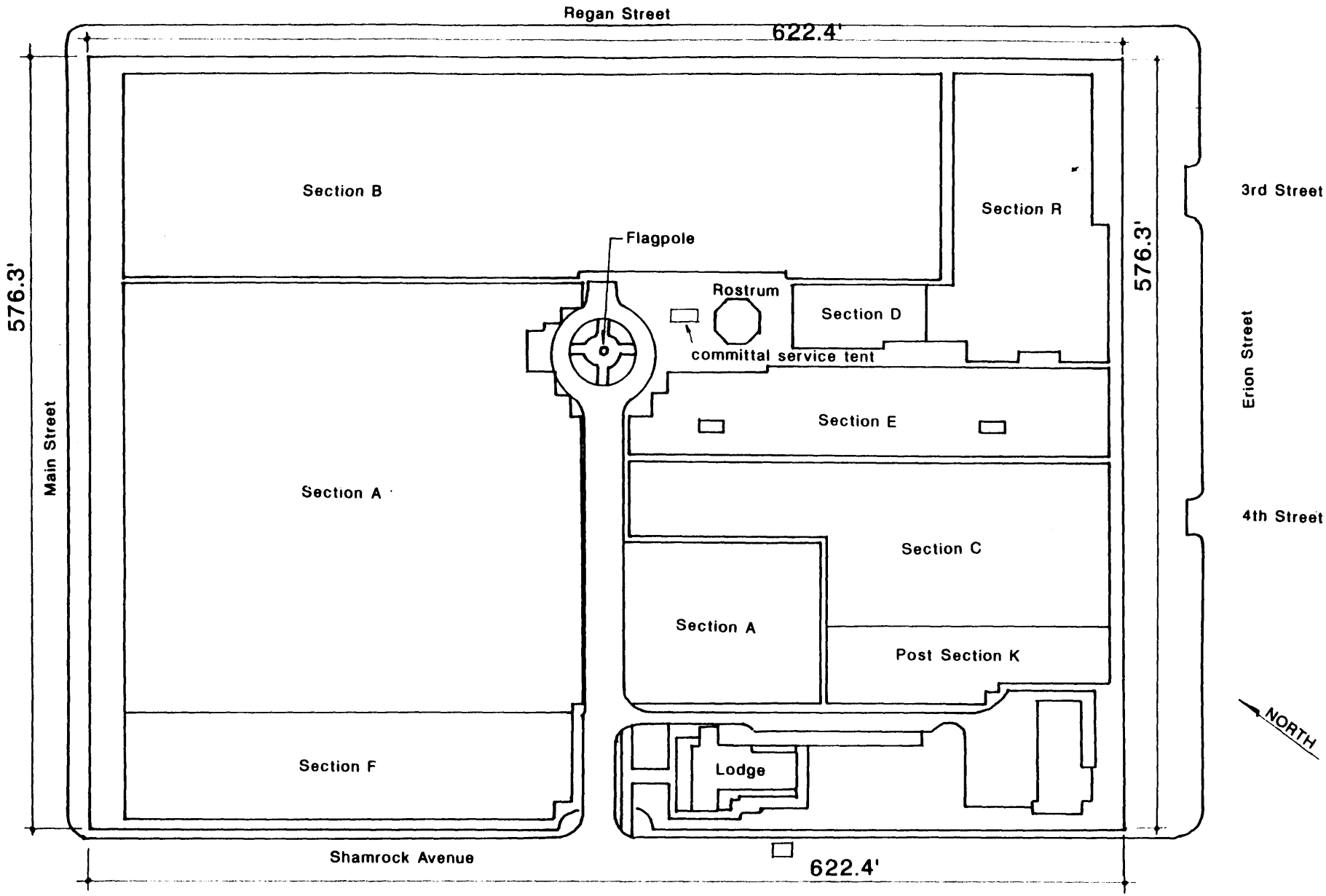
VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking south
NEG. NO. 7749-9
PHOTO 15 of 17

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking north

NEG. NO. 7749-7
PHOTO 16 of 17

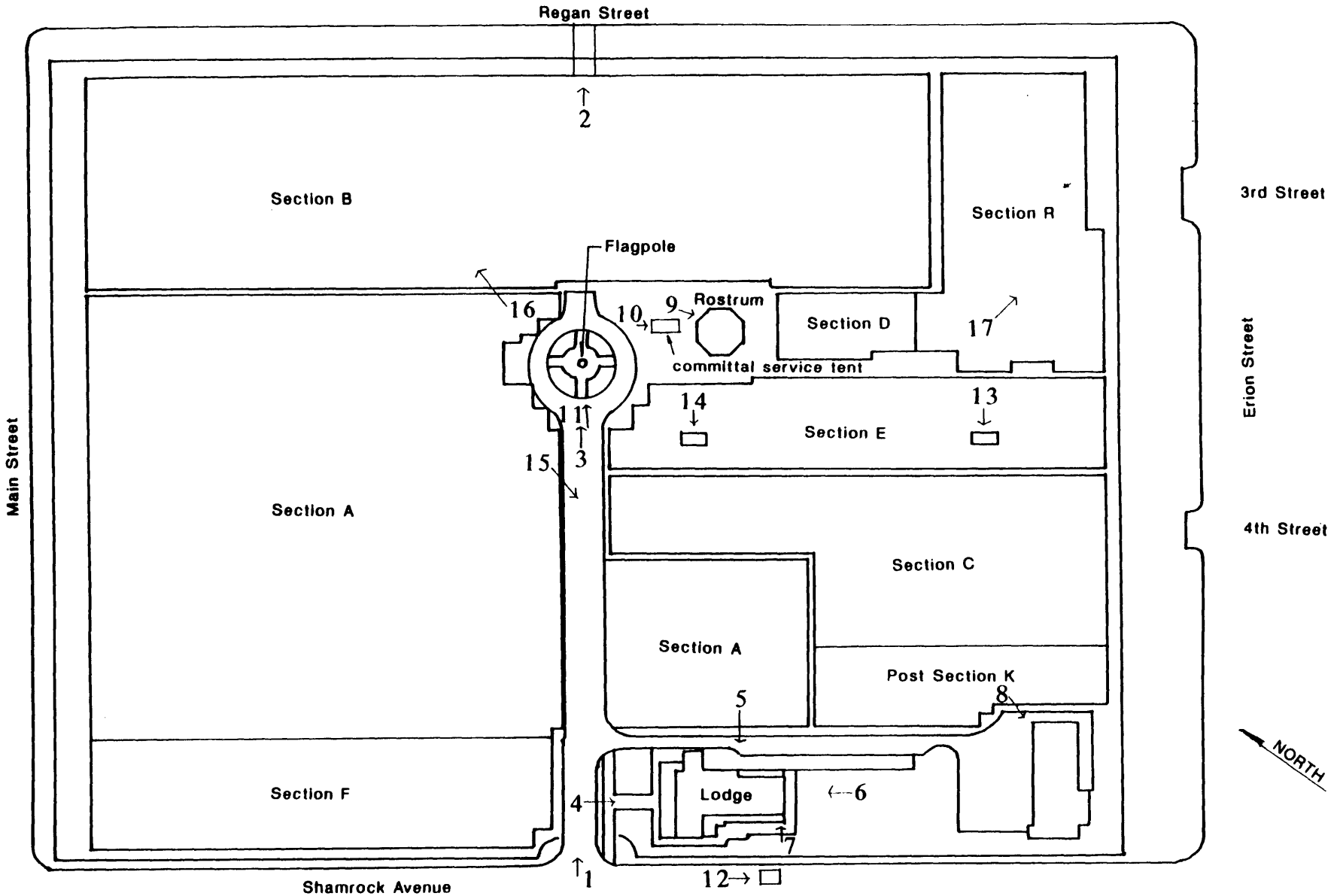
VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking east

NEG. NO. 7749-3
PHOTO 17 of 17



NOT TO SCALE

Base Map
Alexandria National Cemetery
Rapides Parish, Louisiana



NOT TO SCALE

Sketch Map
Alexandria National Cemetery
Rapides Parish, Louisiana

Note: Numbered arrows correspond to the views in the accompanying photographs

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
ALEXANDRIA N
11 8'96

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 1 OF 17

11 8 96

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 2 OF 17

NO
DELIVERY
TRUCKS
BEYOND
THIS POINT
VISITOR
PARKING
ONLY

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 3 OF 17.

11 8'96

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 4 OF 17

11 8 '96

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 5 OF 17

11 8'96

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 6 OF 17

11 8 '96

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 7 OF 17

11 6 '95

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 8 OF 17

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 9 OF 17

11 8'96

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 10 OF 17

E PLURIBUS UNUM
UNITED STATES
NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY
ALEXANDRIA, LA.
ESTABLISHED 1867.
INTERMENTS 1378.
KNOWN 507.
UNKNOWN 871.
ORIGINAL
OF THE
ALEXANDRIA
NATIONAL CEMETERY

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 11 OF 17

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Alexandria National Cemetery, Pineville, was authorized by an Act of Congress on February 22, 1867, and the United States, through the Secretary of War, took possession April, 1871, of this property from the Succession of Francois Poussan. The parcel containing 8.24 acres was valued by United States District Judge W. B. Woods in the amount of $1,200.00, pursuant to an order of the United States District Court signed May 21, 1873.

The cemetery was originally enclosed with a picket fence, later replaced with a brick wall in 1870. Lodge built in 1879, rebuilt in 1931. Sun porch added in 1938 by W. P. A. labor. Flag mound and flagstaff replaced in November, 1950.

Initially, there were 1378 interments, 871 unknown, 507 known. Later, the following transfers were made to three common graves. 1537 unknown soldiers originally interred in Fort Brownsville, Texas, as casualties of the Civil War were interred in one grave.

In a second grave, 25 unknown soldiers were transferred from post and private cemeteries near old Fort Jesup, Louisiana.

A third grave bears the remains of 16 unknown soldiers originally interred at Fort Ringo, Texas. During World War II, five German prisoners of war were given interment.

In 1973, the responsibility for operation of the cemetery was transferred to the Veterans Administration.

JOHNSON BROWN POST 1736 V.F.W.

11 8 '96

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 12 OF 17

FEDERAL SOLDIERS
REMOVED FROM
OLD POST CEMETERY
FORT RINGGOLD TEXAS
1911
8 '96

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 13 OF 17

REMAINS OF 1537 UNKNOWN

FEDERAL SOLDIERS

REMOVED FROM THE

UNITED STATES NATIONAL CEMETERY

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, 1911

11 8 '96

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 14 OF 17

11 8'96

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 15 OF 17

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 16 OF 17

11/ 8'96

ALEXANORIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 17 OF 17