1208

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 Beaufort National Cemetery

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 1601 Boundary Street ☐ not for publication N/A

city or town Beaufort ☐ vicinity N/A

state South Carolina code SC county Beaufort code 013 zip code 29902

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 8/20/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Federal Preservation Officer 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.)

Mary W. Edmonds 8/12/97
Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
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
10/10/97

Beaufort National Cemetery
Name of Property

Beaufort County, South Carolina
County and State

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
2	1	structures
3	1	objects
8	2	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

0

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: Dutch Colonial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete
walls Brick; stucco
roof Tile
other Metal: Iron bronze; Stone: Marble, granite

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

1863-1934

Significant Dates

1863, 1869

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

Beaufort National Cemetery
Name of Property

Beaufort County, South Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 28.9

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	530260	3588320
2	17	530260	3588000
3	17	529880	3588000
4	17	529880	3588320

☐ 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 May 27, 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.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Beaufort National Cemetery is located at 1601 Boundary Street, Beaufort, South Carolina, in Beaufort County. The site is laid out in the shape of a half wheel. The cemetery's roads form the spokes, and the large iron gates are set at the hub. The main entrance is at the center of the south side and is protected by a double iron gate, which was constructed in 1940. There is also a gate at the north end of the cemetery, as well as a pedestrian gate to the east of the main entrance. The cemetery was originally enclosed by a wooden picket fence, which was replaced with a brick wall circa 1876. The lodge is situated just east of the main entrance, and the utility building is located west of the main entrance gate. The flagpole, constructed in 1931, is located to the direct north as you enter the main gate, and a committal service tent is located just north of the flagpole circle.

The national cemetery was established in 1863. Graves were originally marked by headboards, properly lettered, which were later replaced with upright marble headstones. As of March 31, 1997, there were 14,026 sites used for the interment of 14,487 casketed remains and 418 sites used for the interment of 508 cremated remains. As of March 31, 1997, there were 2,385 gravesites available (132 reserved) for the interment of casketed remains and 237 sites available for the interment of cremated remains.

The original lodge was a wooden cottage with three rooms, which was constructed outside the walls of the cemetery and was moved to inside the cemetery in 1877. In 1881, a lodge of the standard design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs, was constructed near the former lodge, which was used as a tool house. The Meigs lodge was used until 1934, when a new two-story brick and frame structure was constructed, containing six rooms, a bath, and a basement. This lodge was the standard being built by the National Cemetery System in the early 1930's to replace some of the original Meigs lodges. This design has a Gambrel roof of cement tiles with a four-windowed dormer in the front and a similar but smaller dormer in the rear. The eaves on each side of the building have wood diagonal bracing similar to Tudor style with stucco infill, an unusual style accent. It is a Dutch Colonial influence, popular in this era. The windows are six-over-six double hung. The original open porch in the left quadrant of the front facade was enclosed in the mid-1960's. This building is now used as the cemetery office.

The brick and stucco maintenance building, with a galvanized metal roof, was constructed in 1894. New garage work space and tool storage, as well as an oil and paint room were added in 1949.

A brick and iron octagonal rostrum, with a tin roof, was situated in the northwest section of the cemetery. The roof and columns were removed in 1964, and the remainder of the rostrum was removed in 1966.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

There are three commemorative monuments or memorials within the Beaufort National Cemetery:

Union Soldiers Monument - At the end of the center road in the cemetery is a large granite monument, approximately 20 feet in height, honoring those who died for the Union cause. The inscription reads as follows:

IMMORTALITY
TO HUNDREDS OF
THE DEFENDERS OF
AMERICAN LIBERTY
AGAINST THE GREAT
REBELLION
ERECTED BY THE EFFORTS OF MRS. L. T. P.

Mrs. L. T. P. is Mrs. Lorenzo Tucker Potter (Eliza McGuffin Potter) who had spent days and nights in the hospitals caring for soldiers with her own hands and giving them words of comfort and cheer. She promised them that, after the war was over, she would erect a fitting monument to their memory.

Potter Monument - In Section 64 of the cemetery is an unfinished marble tablet on a brick base erected by Mrs. Potter on which are inscribed names of nearly 175 soldiers from nearly every state in the Union, but largely from Massachusetts (where the monument was made) whom Mrs. Potter and her husband had personally served. The soldiers are not identified by other than unknown markers. The Potters devoted their time and means in a most heroic manner, often risking their lives to serve the suffering. The war continued for so long, and Mrs. Potter's means were greatly exhausted. She only received $1,300 from Reverend H. W. Beecher's church to aid her in this work. Inscribed on the marker are the names of 175 soldiers from 18 states:

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

COLUMN I

Maine
Geo. D. Carr
Abraham Paul
J. Sanderson
Massachusetts
Samuel C. Ambler
J. L. Parley
O. A. Wilson
L. S. Moulten
C. Rice C. H. Vose
C. H. Van
Patrick Millen
Hugh Gallagher
Vermont
J. J. Barrow
G. Bemis
E. Duval
J. M. Duncan
H. Chamberlin
J. Lovecrette
T. Masters
W. Kingston
Connecticut
S. Berwick
M. Blakesley
S. E. Derby
Chas. Gilbert
John T. Holmes
Thos. Summers
Rhode Island
D. B. Bollon

COLUMN II

New York
J. H. Thompson
Jas. Timmons
H. Thompson
D. D. Vanarsdalen
John Walker
George White
Lewis Wol
J. Ward
W. P. Williams
W. H. White
New Jersey
R. Vaughan
K. Sampson
R. R. Phillips
Maryland
J. L. Johnson
G. N. Muck
Pennsylvania
Wm. Besley
J. A. Connor
H. H. Call
A. McKee-Cape
J. Ellis
J. Mayhood
Jonathan Miller
C. R. McKee
S. L. Pritchard
D. G. Quinlin
D. L. Rice
John Rich

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

COLUMN I (Continued)

New York
A. Allen
G. Burnley
F. Caldwell
Geo. Cotturt
J. Guntree
Wm. Eddy
J. Fisher
R. S. Fountain
Wm. Hawkins
J. Lightmire
John McMillan
J. McCarthy
J. McCrink
T. Moore
C. A. Osborne
T. W. Pipe
-----Rang
Chas. Schenell
H. Tilte
N. Tillaige
Fred Hurst

COLUMN II (Continued)

R. Somers
H. B. Wet
W. Walters
Michigan
A. Y. Jones
Frederick Ferrell
M. W. Sprague
B. Langford
Chas. Burt
W. Schrand
D. A. Randall
G. B. Marble
George Call
Ohio
Levi Lupter
B. F. Evers
E. Haug
J. Y. Thomas
J. W. Jones
Isaac Jones
Isaac Long
L. P. Horney
H. Heathbrook
G. Scharmand

COLUMN III

Kentucky
G. Bogg
G. Miller
A. Bryan
L. Morgan
J. B. McCoy

COLUMN IV

(Names Only Recorded)
Fowler J.
Farley James
Gates H. M.
Gallanicks T. H.
Hoog A.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

COLUMN III (Continued)

Indiana
H. C. Liddick
A. H. Wuder
D. R. Scott
Thos. Smith
John Kemper
Illinois
R. English
Wm. Pratt
A. Hughes
P. R. Baker
J. L. Vineyard
Wisconsin
Wm. Colbert
A. Thompson
Minnesota
C. Laurey
Iowa
W. E. Holmes
E. Dewitt
Alabama
W. Childless
North Carolina
Wm. Nelson

COLUMN IV (Continued)

Howard Geo.
Haughton H.
Hunley M.
Harvey D. S.
Johnson
Johnson C.
Keeper Sam
Kemper H.
Keele J. C.
Kennedy M.
Kellers John
Kascondin J.
Low James
Martin Jos. W.
Murich R.
Miller P.
Moore John
Malone J.
Manfield
Moses M. S.
Malody P.
McKenzie
Neumann E.
Pontuns Wm.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

COLUMN III (Continued)

(Names Only Recorded)
Atkins J.
Alston John
Ainsworth W.
Amidon Malcolm
Brants W. T.
Brooks, T. S.
Bovran M.
Bevnar, A. J.
Burdick C.A.
Burton John L.
Cox A. B.
Cauncey T.
Crolter M. A.
Ellis W.
French G. S.
Wolf T. D.
Woodbury H. A.
Whitehead A.
Woodward A.

COLUMN IV (Continued)

Robertson Geo.
Riggs C. S.
Reeves S.
Strickland D.
Tiblet James
Taylor H. C.
Varley John
White A. P.
Webster D. P.

Hundreds of others Unknown
Erected through Mrs. L. T. Potter Charleston South Carolina

Massachusetts Monument - This monument, consisting of two bronze plaques affixed to stone bases, was erected by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and was unveiled after the reinterment of 19 black Union soldiers who had been missing in action since 1863. Governor Michael Dukakis led a group of dignitaries and served as principal speaker at a ceremony held on Memorial Day 1989. The Honor Guard for the service consisted of members of the base who were filming the movie Glory nearby. Dukakis quoted General Sherman: "If it had not been for so much talk in Massachusetts and so much hot blood in Carolina, this war would not have come upon us." The plaque is inscribed as follows:

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

MEMORIAL DAY 1989
May 29, 1989
THE GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS, AND
DESCENDANTS OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
VOLUNTEERS OF THE 54TH AND 55TH INFANTRY
REGIMENTS AND THE 5TH CAVALRY REGIMENT OF
MASSACHUSETTS, ACCOMPANIED BY DISTINGUISHED
CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH, CAME ON THIS DAY
TO BEAUFORT NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY TO
HONOR THE MEMBERS OF BLACK 55TH MASSACHUSETTS
REGIMENT OF VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, WHOSE REMAINS
WERE FOUND ON FOLLY ISLAND, SC IN
1987, AND REINTERRED THIS DAY WITH FULL MILITARY
HONORS BEFITTING AMERICAN SOLDIERS
"DUTY WELL PERFORMED....GLORY THEIR REWARD WON."
GOV. JOHN A. ANDREW 1865

THESE HALLOWED GROUNDS HOLD THE
REMAINS OF AT LEAST 19 BLACK
UNION SOLDIERS, 55TH MASSACHUSETTS
INFANTRY REGIMENT, WHO LOST THEIR
LIVES ON FOLLY ISLAND IN THE SIEGE
OF CHARLESTON, DURING THE WINTER
ENCAMPMENT OF NOVEMBER 1863-FEBRUARY 1864,
CIVIL WAR

In May 1987, the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (a research institute and state agency within the University of South Carolina) was notified by Mr. Robert Bohrn and Mr. Eric Croen, relic collectors, of the discovery of an abandoned cemetery on Folly Island, South Carolina. The cemetery was accidentally exposed during the construction of a road within a private development. The Institute gained permission from the landowner and the City of Folly Beach to excavate and study burials prior to their reburial. Over a two-week period, the Institute uncovered fourteen burials. Later, additional remains were found and excavated, which brought the total to at least nineteen. Artifacts and analysis of the remains quickly determined that the remains were of black Union soldiers. Because the cemetery was only part of a large Civil War camp, the State

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Historic Preservation Office later determined that the entire development needed to be surveyed by archaeologists. Archaeologists determined the project area to be the location of the 1863 winter camp for the Union troops stationed on Folly Island. Through continuing analysis of the archaeological remains and the historic documents, it was believed that the soldiers were members of the 55th Massachusetts Regiment and the 1st North Carolina Colored Infantry Regiment who died of diseases during that winter.

The 55th Massachusetts was organized in Readville, Massachusetts, on June 22, 1863. The regiment was stationed at New Bern, North Carolina, briefly in July before being transferred to Folly Island. From August 19863 to February 1864, the 55th Massachusetts remained on Folly Island doing fatigue and picket duties, and participated in operations against Charleston and John's Island. In November 1863, they moved to the interior of the island where they made winter camp. It was in this camp that many died and were buried in the brigade cemetery. The archaeologists believe it was this cemetery that they excavated in May 1987.

During the third phase of excavations, archaeologists concentrated their efforts on areas of the camp beyond the cemetery. This work revealed wells, latrines, tent sites, and artifacts belonging to the many soldiers, both black and white, who occupied the winter camp. On May 29, 1989, the soldiers were laid to rest at the Beaufort National Cemetery.

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

Buildings: Lodge, utility building

Sites: Cemetery

Structures: Gates, perimeter wall

Objects: Union monument, Potter monument, flagpole

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

Structures: Committal service tent

Objects: Massachusetts Monument

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Beaufort 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 includes the remains of veterans associated with every war and branch of service who had served their country throughout its history.

The period of significance ends in 1942, the year that Machinist Mate Gerd Reussel, a German World War II prisoner of war, was buried in the cemetery.

During the first months of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln believed that the Confederate coastal ports should all be blockaded and Secretary of the Navy Gideon Wells had the same view. Members of the Navy Blockade Board, which was created for just that purpose, could not make up their minds about the site for the fleet base that must be established. In early September 1861, Wells put the choice in the hands of the two men assigned to lead the amphibious assault which would secure the base. Both were veteran officers--Commodore Samuel Francis Du Pont, and Brigadier General Thomas West Sherman. The site agreed upon was Port Royal Sound, South Carolina, which lay about midway between Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina, on the Atlantic Coast so vital to the Confederacy.

Beaufort, the main town, lay ten miles inland on the river of the same name. It had become the favorite summer resort of the rich planters of the region, and they maintained splendid, spacious mansions there. Port Royal Sound was for the Union a great and tempting prize. To deny its use by the northerners, fortifications were built at the mouth of the harbor. Two forts were built, the largest being Fort Walker on Hilton Head, which was started in July 1861. A smaller fort, Fort Beauregard, was constructed across the way on Bay Point. The two works were manned by two regiments. The Confederate commander was Brigadier General Thomas Drayton.

Commodore Du Pont was chosen to lead the Union attack. The Army supplied 14,000 men under the command of Sherman and, for good measure, a battalion of Marines was thrown in. The fleet of 75 vessels left Hampton Roads, Virginia in late October 1861. Du Pont led his flagship, the steam frigate *Wabash* to station at the head of the first echelon of inverted V's which was the fleet formation. The established speed was seven knots. There were fifteen warships, including the *Wabash*, and thirty-one transports and supply craft.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The Confederacy had been aware almost from the beginning where the expedition was headed. Southern spies had watched loading operations in the Chesapeake, seen the transports gather, form, and leave for sea. Detailed and accurate reports were in the hands of President Jefferson Davis and Judah P. Benjamin, the Acting Secretary of State very soon after the fleet sailed. Benjamin conferred with Davis and obtained permission to withdraw General Robert E. Lee from duty in western Virginia and assign him to coastal defense command of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. General Lee planned to set up headquarters at Coosawhatchie, but was only able to get there on the day that the battle for Port Royal Sound was fought. Precious time was gained for the Confederacy, though, because Commodore Du Pont's fleet had been caught by storm at sea. The fleet was scattered for miles. Four ships were lost. Ships were scattered over fifty miles of ocean, and each captain shaped his own course for Port Royal Sound.

The Confederates were ready to defend themselves. The orders to proceed were issued and, under the command of Flag Captain John Rodgers, the vessels crossed the Port Royal Sound bar at 6:40 a.m. on November 5. They were met inside by Flag Officer Joseph Tattnall. Tattnall's ship let go a ranging shot, and the Union ships replied. This had been no more than a skirmish with nobody badly hurt. Now the enemies knew each other and could estimate the other's strength. Battle would be the answer.

On November 7, 1861, one of the most important battles of the war began. Du Pont, on board his flagship *Wabash*, led his warships into battle. Once inside the harbor, the majority of the vessels stopped off Fort Walker's western flank and began pounding the fort. Only the flagship and two other warships steamed back and forth in front of Walker, ignoring Beauregard. The Federal gunboat *Pocahontas,* whose commander was Captain Percival Drayton, brother of the Confederate commander, arrived off Fort Walker's other flank and added shells from her guns. The fire of the Federal ships was devastating and was too much for the defenders of Fort Walker. Seeing a number of his men fleeing the fort, Drayton ordered a withdrawal. When the Confederates in Fort Beauregard realized that their companions on Hilton Head had abandoned their position, they too began a retreat that would take them through Beaufort and to the safety of the mainland. Du Pont, seeing the Confederates pulling out of Fort Walker, immediately sent his fleet captain ashore to raise the American flag. He wanted to make sure that the battle of Port Royal would be recorded as a Navy victory.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

While the Federals were trying to establish an effect base at Port Royal, the southerners were working to stabilize their military situation. The man in charge of organizing the Confederate defense was General Robert E. Lee, who arrived in Port Royal the day after Du Pont's attack. Lee orchestrated a defense system based around the Savannah and Charleston Railroad and went on to construct a series of fortifications guarding the railroad. The Port Royal area was its own district, commanded by Brigadier General William S. Walker. Walker had his headquarters at McPhersonville. In a very short time, the North turned Port Royal into one of the largest military bases in the world.

On Hilton Head, Fort Walker was renamed Fort Welles, in honor of the Secretary of the Navy, and was enlarged and encircled with extensive trench works. Across the sound on Bay Point, Fort Beauregard was strengthened and renamed Fort Seward. On St. Helena Island was constructed a large foundry and a huge quartermaster depot complete with a railroad and dock complex. In Station Creek, a naval repair facility was constructed, and farther inland, signal towers were built on top of live pine trees. What all these installations guarded and supported was the South Atlantic blockading squadron, which was in charge of watching the coastline from the North Carolina-South Carolina border to the Florida Keys. The squadron was made up of over 100 warships.

Farther inland, the North established a fortified base at Beaufort, which was occupied in early December 1861. Beaufort served as an advanced outpost for Hilton Head. The water front was used by light-drafted steamers that patrolled the shallow waterways around the islands. Troops were camped throughout the city and the grand houses were used for barracks, offices, warehouses and, whenever needed, hospitals. The old arsenal, built in the 1790's, was turned into an ordnance depot. Beaufort was also home to Samuel Cooley, the self-proclaimed photographer of the Department of the South.

Lee kept his headquarters at Coosawhatchie and hastened to build up his defenses and close the gap left dangerously pen when, on the night of November 7 after the Port Royal Sound battle, Beaufort had been deserted. Captain Daniel Ammen in the United States Navy gunboat *Seneca* sailed up the sound on November 9, took in a landing party at Beaufort and succeeded in blowing up the town's arsenal without being fired at or hindered in any way. Then, a month later, General Sherman roused from his logistical stupor and gave General Stevens of the Second Brigade orders to occupy Beaufort. Stevens did this at once, fully realizing the importance of the place. Now Lee threatened it, and Sherman became worried. He finally resolved that he must send troops into action against Lee. Volunteers were asked for at Hilton Head. Lee had pondered the Federal lack of action for weeks. It had been over a month since the Port Royal Sound battle, and still General Sherman refused to bring any sort of firm pressure against the Confederate lines perched in defense of Charleston, Savannah,

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

and the connecting railroad. Lee devoted nearly all his energy to the assembly of a force that might save the coast from capture. Richmond gave him five regiments and a battalion. He hurried to establish them along the railroad, fortify it, put obstacles in the rivers that led to the Savannah River, and those of that city, and of Charleston, already bristling with forts. At the heart of the strategy that Lee adopted was not just his artillery weakness but the fact that the Union lines, as put forth by General Stevens outside Beaufort on Port Royal Island, were only eight miles from his headquarters at Pocotaligo and the railroad. Stevens had occupied Beaufort on the evening of December 11, 1861. His brigade followed and were surprised to find that the town had been wholly deserted by its citizens. Stevens marched through and then called a staff meeting. One of his first orders was that the town should be evacuated, cleared of looters at once, and kept cleared. He had plans for crossing the Coosaw perfected weeks before Sherman, at Hilton Head, authorized the attack and sent him support troops. The obstacles that Lee had placed in the river could impede progress of Federal gunboats, but Stevens had foreseen that and had been collecting flatboats of shallow draft to carry his troops. On December 31, 1861, he loaded his troops aboard the flatboats with two Navy howitzers and started them around Port Royal Island to the ferry station and Seabrook Landing. With dawn, Stevens got two columns of Highland Guard skirmishers ashore on the mainland side of the river. Then, from the pine woods, came the first Confederate volley. Lee had given field command to Colonel James Jones of the Fourteenth South Carolina Regiment. Jones abandoned the earthworks, hauled out the guns as best he could, and retreated through the woods to Seabrook Landing. The Federal troops came after him when they had leveled the earthworks and taken care of their dead and wounded. They seized the battery position at the landing with Jones in calculated retreat and, as a final gesture on the part of the Navy, the gunboats tossed some of their big-caliber shells in to the few houses that made up Gardens Corner.

General Lee was transferred to Richmond on March 2, 1862, at the command of President Davis, and Major General John C. Pemberton took his place. After Lee's departure, regiment after regiment was taken away and sent to either Corinth or Richmond. It became apparent to Pemberton that he could not maintain his headquarters at Pocotaligo and began on April 20 to withdraw his men towards Charleston.

Stevens had a great deal to occupy his energy right in the Beaufort area. He brought his family south to be with him. He had done a great deal to restore Beaufort to its pre-war condition. The town of some seven thousand people had become in the last two decades the favorite spa and summer gathering place of the wealthy planters from most of the coastal area. Stevens then gave himself entirely to his military duties. He was first and foremost a soldier.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

In late May 1862, Stevens with some 1,000 men, were brought out of Beaufort on flatboats and landed at Port Royal Ferry. Some 500 men pushed on through Confederate pickets to Pocotaligo where they overran the Confederate defenses. Stevens considered pulling up reinforcements and pressing on to the railroad, but his men were low on ammunition and black spies reported that another regiment of Confederates was arriving by rail, so the northerners withdrew back to Port Royal Island.
Stevens felt that the reconnaissance justified further advances, but developments would take Stevens and his command first to outside Charleston and then, with a large number of Hunter's command, Stevens and his men were transferred to Virginia. Stevens was subsequently killed on September 1, 1862, at the Battle of Chantilly.

General Hunter ceased active operations and contented himself with supporting the Navy and occupying additional sea islands. Hunter was eventually recalled and replaced with Major General Ormsby McKnight Mitchel, who began to organize a series of attacks against the railway. Even though the attacks had failed to reach their objectives, Mitchel was encouraged and felt his demonstration against the railroad justified further strikes. He began to plan for new offensives, but before any could be put into motion, he contracted yellow fever and died. General Hunter was then returned to command. During the summer of 1862, the Federal Government authorized the raising of black troops at Port Royal, and Hunter's original African regiment became the nucleus for the First South Carolina, which received its colors and was officially taken into Federal service on January 1, 1863. Since this unit could trace its lineage back to March 1862, it was the first black regiment raised in the Civil War. Under Hunter's watchful eye, the black regiments began to carry out raids against military and economic sites.

The war was taking a grim turn. Federal attacks now went after the economic and social structure of the lowcountry. Union raids were designed to free slaves and destroy southern property. One raid, carried out by Colonel James Montgomery, one of the Union commanders, was directed against rice plantations along the Combahee River. Assisting Montgomery was Harriet Tubman, a former slave who served as a spy for the northerners in the Port Royal region. In early June 1863, Montgomery's regiment swept into the river, destroyed a number of plantations, and returned with 800 freed slaves, of which 150 joined his regiment.

In the spring of 1863, new northern troops arrived at Port Royal for an attack on Charleston. Along with them came Clara Barton, the future founder of the American Red Cross, who came to Port Royal to serve as a nurse. She wrote that the natural, haunting beauty of the island, combined with the dashing young officers almost turned her from the life of public service. She was, however, not swayed and joined the army in its assault on Charleston.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Time and again during the spring and summer of 1863, squadrons of United States Navy ships had steamed from their anchorage off Hilton Head and again up the coast to bombard Charleston, come back with their dead and wounded, many of the ships badly battered by the powerful Confederate fire.

Departmental headquarters continued with the belief that Beaufort was really a rest area. A new fine structure, to be used for the entertainment of the officers and men, was built in the town and opened with a formal ball on the evening of February 23, 1864. During this evening, General Rufus B. Saxton spoke before the crowd, advising that the transport *Cosmopolitan*, with 250 wounded aboard, had just come up the river from Port Royal Sound. The wounded would go to the hospital in Beaufort.

In early 1864, both sides sent troops into Florida and, in May, General Quincy Gillmore, who replaced Hunter, was sent to Virginia, along with the majority of his command.

The war may well have ended this way in the Port Royal area, had not General William T. Sherman marched his Army of 60,000 men across Georgia. His final objective was the city of Savannah where he hoped to join the Navy and refit his army. For nearly a month, battles raged along the Savannah and Charleston Railroad.

In late 1864, the war was shifting to its final scene in the South Carolina low country. Sherman's men reached Columbia in mid-January and captured the South Carolina capital. Left behind were Confederate troops who moved toward Charleston. By February 1865, the Confederates were forced by Union troops to evacuate that city.

The war in the low country ended as quickly as it began. The majority of the troops was transferred to Charleston for occupation duty, and by 1867, the Navy and Army had left Hilton Head. The buildings, warehouses, and forts on Hilton Head were left to the remaining freed men who took the lumber and fixtures to build their new homes. Soon the only evidence of the Federal occupation of Hilton Head were the soldiers and sailors graveyards, and those buried there would later be removed to the Beaufort National Cemetery.

The 28.9 acres comprising the Beaufort National Cemetery were part of a 64-acre tract of land known as "Polly's Grove," which was acquired at a tax sale on March 11, 1863. The title to the 28.9 acres was approved by the Attorney General on March 25, 1869. The remainder of Polly's Grove was sold for other purposes. The cemetery proper was laid out in the form of a half circle with a small circular mound in the center for the flagpole, the same as it is today. Four smaller mounds were placed at

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

equal distances around the flagpole mound with a large iron gun planted vertically in the center of each. These iron guns have since been removed.

Records show that a Mr. Dougherty was apparently the first superintendent, and he held that position for only a few months. By appointment dated August 31, 1867, George Griffin, a discharged captain of the First District of Columbia Cavalry, was named superintendent.

Initial interments were remains of Union soldiers of the Civil War from burial places in Charleston, Morris Island, Hilton Head, South Carolina and various islands near Beaufort and from several locations in east Florida, as well as from Savannah, Georgia. During the period 1863-1868, the remains of some 2,800 Union prisoners of war were removed from the Millen, Georgia Confederate Prison Cemetery at Lawton, Georgia, and reinterred in the national cemetery at Beaufort. Graves were originally plotted according to states so that relatives would know the approximate area in which their loved ones were buried.

A memorial section is located between Sections 58 and 59 for those veterans whose remains were non-recoverable or who were buried at sea. The Confederate section contains the remains of 117 Confederate soldiers, and Section D was designated for "colored" enlisted burials.

One German World War II prisoner of war, Machinist Mate Gerd Reussel, is buried in Section PB 61, Grave 18. The U. S. Coast Guard cutter *Icarus*, cruising off Cape Lookout, North Carolina, on May 9, 1942, encountered a German U-Boat, the *U-Rathke*, and forced it to surface. Thirty-three of the crew members were rescued, and twelve of the U-boat crew went down with their ship. One of the thirty three, Reussel, suffered a leg wound and died on the way to Charleston. His date of interment was May 15, 1942. The thirty-three survivors were held in an American prisoner of war camp until they were returned to Germany after the war.

Major General Reuben Henry Rucker, III, one of the four most decorated men of the world is buried here. He spearheaded General Mark Clark's Army movement from Africa to Europe. He died on January 6, 1970, and was buried in Section 20, Grave 61, on January 9, 1970.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

There is one Medal of Honor recipient buried in the Beaufort National Cemetery:

Ralph H. Johnson, Private First Class, U. S. Marine Corps, Company A, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF - He was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a reconnaissance scout with Company A, in action against the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong forces. In the early morning hours of March 5, 1968, during Operation ROCK, Pfc. Johnson was a member of a 15-man reconnaissance patrol manning an observation post on Hill 146 overlooking the Quan Duc Valley deep in enemy-controlled territory. They were attacked by a platoon-size hostile force employing automatic weapons, satchel charges, and hand grenades. Suddenly, a hand grenade landed in the three-man fighting hole occupied by Pfc. Johnson and two fellow Marines. Realizing the inherent danger to his two comrades, he shouted a warning and unhesitatingly hurled himself upon the explosive device. When the grenade exploded, Pfc. Johnson absorbed the tremendous impact of the blast and was killed instantly. His prompt and heroic act saved the life of one Marine at the cost of his life and undoubtedly prevented the enemy from penetrating his sector of the patrol's perimeter. Pfc. Johnson's courage, inspiring valor, and selfless devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U. S. Naval service. He gallantly gave his life for his country. Pfc. Johnson was originally interred in his family church cemetery near Charleston, South Carolina, and his remains were disinterred and reinterred in Section 3, Grave 21, Beaufort National Cemetery, on March 20, 1990. His grave is marked with a special marker inscribed with an enlarged gold-leafed replica of the medal of the awarding service and the words "MEDAL OF HONOR." Pfc. Johnson was also awarded the Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Vietnamese Military Merit Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Navy Unit Commendation Medal. The Ralph H. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Charleston, South Carolina, was named in his honor.

Two former cemetery superintendents are buried in the cemetery:

John G. Voss - Section 23, Grave 2054,
Date of death - October 7, 1969

Fillmore M. Brist - Section 42, Grave 9000
Date of death - September 30, 1922 20, 1944
Wife, Carrie S., is interred in same grave.

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

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

Carse, Robert W. Hilton Head Island in the Civil War. Department of the South. South Carolina. Impressions Printing Company, Inc., 1987

Wise, Stephen R. Port Royal in the Civil War.

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.

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
Beaufort County, South Carolina
Armando A. Sammartino, photographer
Date of Photographs: November 26, 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 north
NEG. NO. 7884-20
PHOTO 1 of 19

VIEW OF: Flagpole, view looking north
NEG. NO. 7884-21
PHOTO 2 of 19

VIEW OF: Pedestrian gate to east of main entrance
NEG. NO. 7884-17
PHOTO 3 of 19

VIEW OF: Rear gate, view looking north
NEG. NO. 7884-3
PHOTO 4 of 19

VIEW OF: Perimeter wall, view looking northwest
NEG. NO. 7884-4
PHOTO 5 of 19

VIEW OF Lodge, south elevation
NEG. NO. 7884-16
PHOTO 6 of 19

VIEW OF: Lodge, west elevation
NEG. NO. 7884-14
PHOTO 7 of 19

VIEW OF: Lodge, north elevation

NEG. NO. 7884-18
PHOTO 8 of 19

VIEW OF: Lodge, east elevation
NEG. NO. 7884-19
PHOTO 9 of 19

VIEW OF: Utility building, southwest elevation

NEG. NO. 7884-13
PHOTO 10 of 19

VIEW OF: Utility building, northeast elevation
NEG. NO. 7884-12
PHOTO 11 of 19

VIEW OF: Union soldiers monument

NEG. NO. 7884-2
PHOTO 12 of 19

VIEW OF: Massachusetts monument
NEG. NO. 7884-5
PHOTO 13 of 19

VIEW OF: Potter monument
NEG. NO. 7884-10
PHOTO 14 of 19

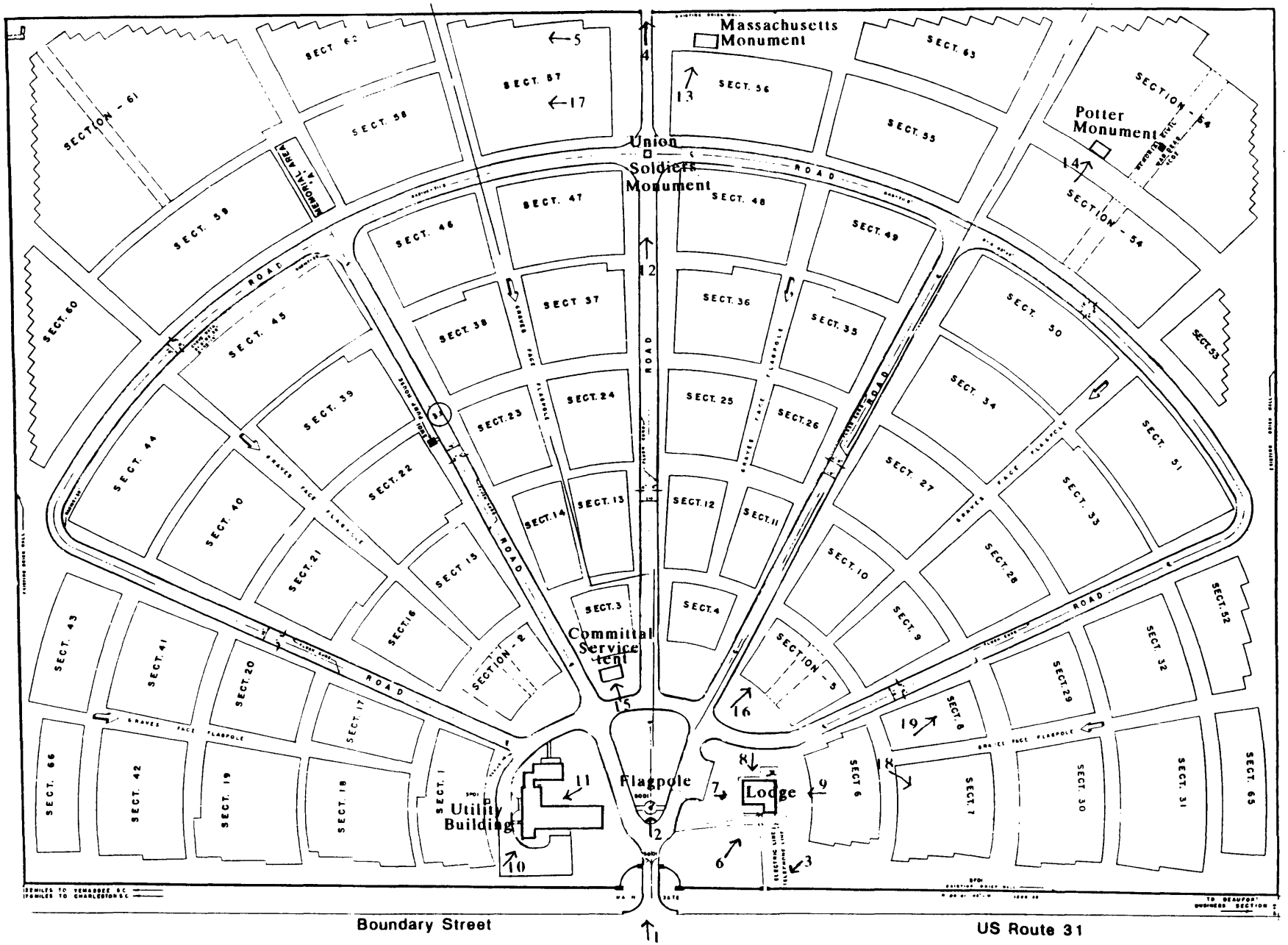
VIEW OF: Committal service tent
NEG. NO. 7884-1
PHOTO 15 of 19

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking northeast
NEG. NO. 7884-22
PHOTO 16 of 19

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking west
NEG. NO. 7884-9
PHOTO 17 of 19

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking southeast
NEG. NO. 7884-23
PHOTO 18 of 19

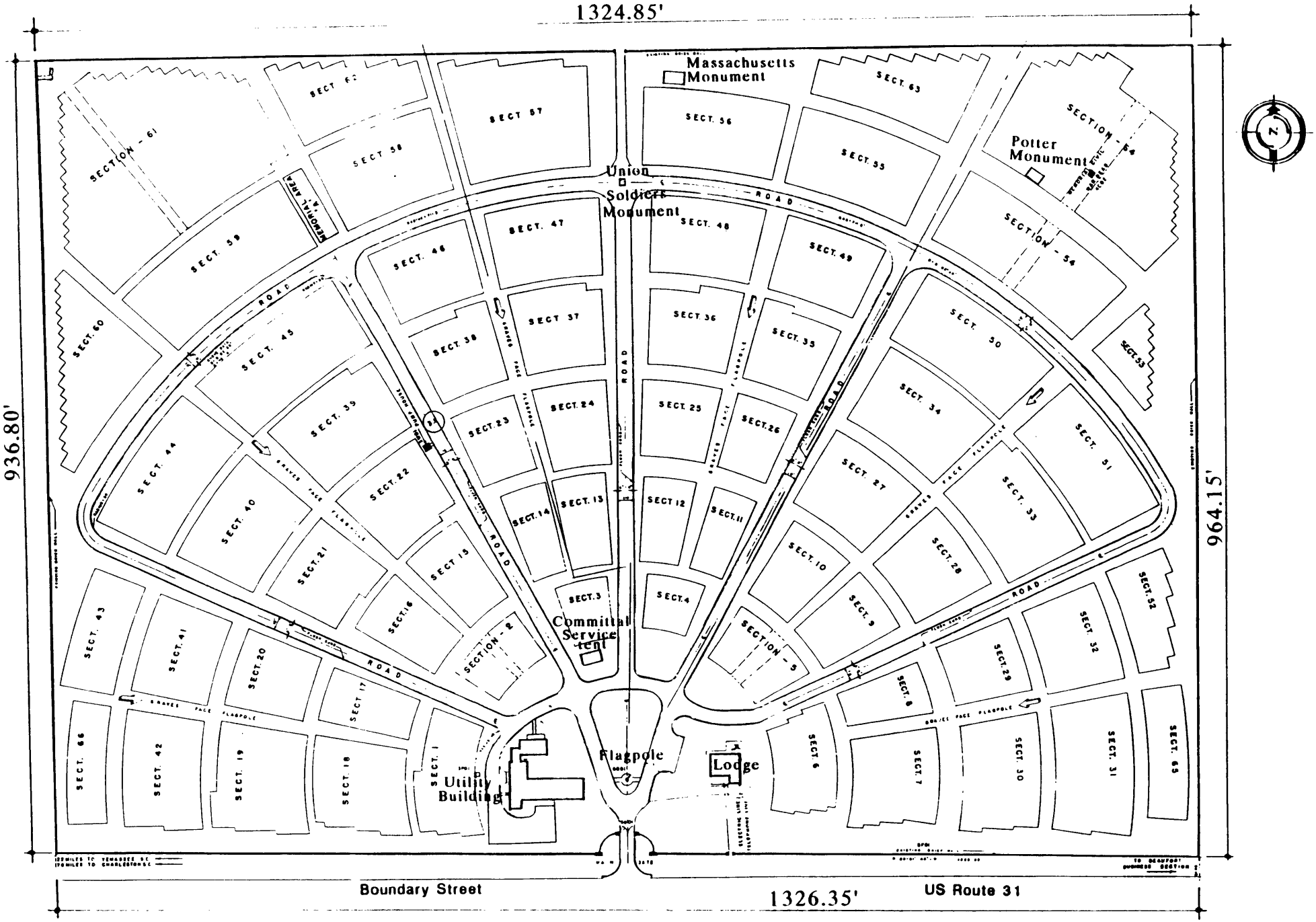
VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking northeast
NEG. NO. 7884-24
PHOTO 19 of 19



Sketch Map
Beaumont National Cemetery
Beaufort County, South Carolina

NOT TO SCALE

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



NOT TO SCALE

Base Map
Beaufort National Cemetery
Beaufort County, South Carolina

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97001208

Property Name: Beaufort National Cemetery

County: Beaufort State: South Carolina

Civil War Era National Cemeteries MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper — October 10, 1997
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Period of Significance. The period of significance is, hereby, amended to read "1863 to 1942" to correspond to the narrative statement of significance.

Therese Sammartino of the Department of Veterans Affairs was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 1 OF 19

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 2 OF 19

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 3 OF 19

NOT AN
EXIT

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 4 OF 19

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 5 OF 19

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 6 OF 19

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 7 OF 19

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 8 OF 19

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 9 OF 19

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 10 OF 19

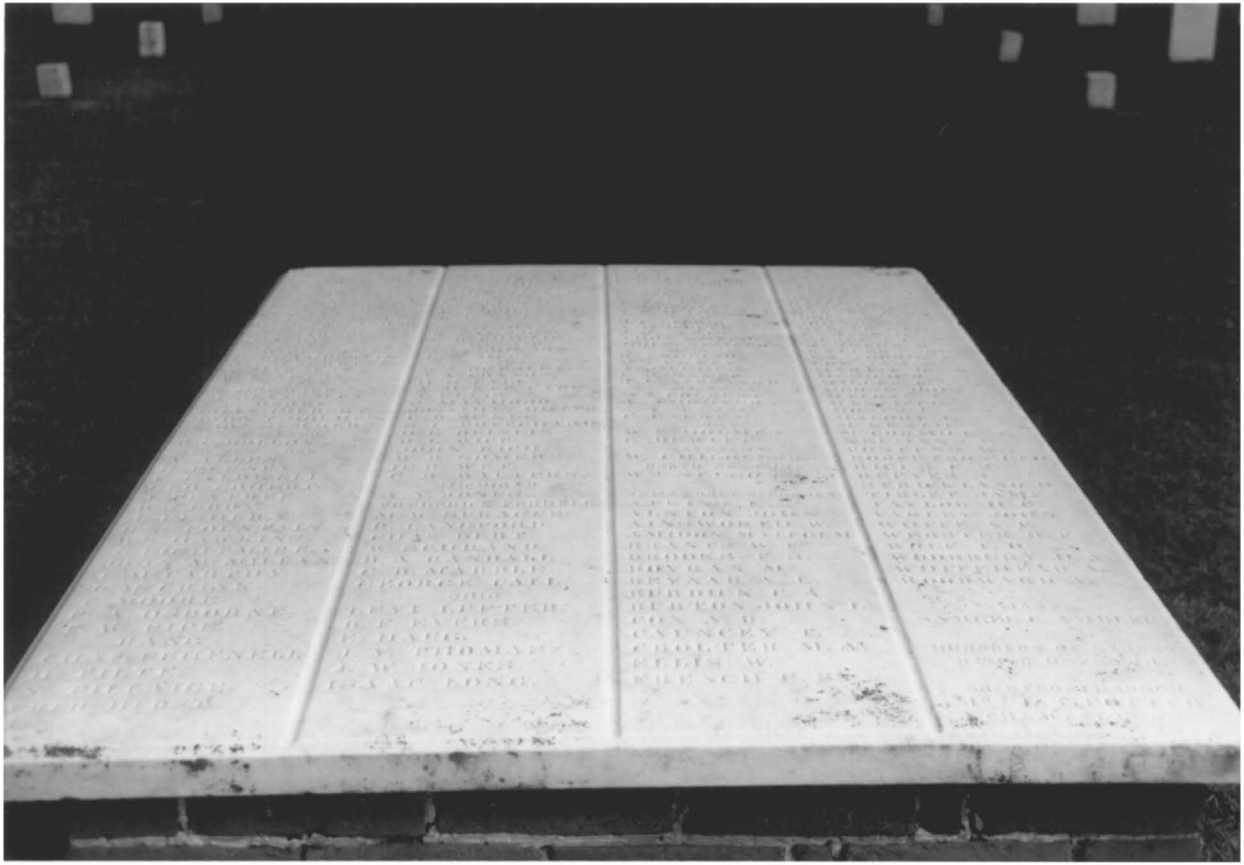
BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 11 OF 19

IMMORTALITY
REBELLION

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 12 OF 19

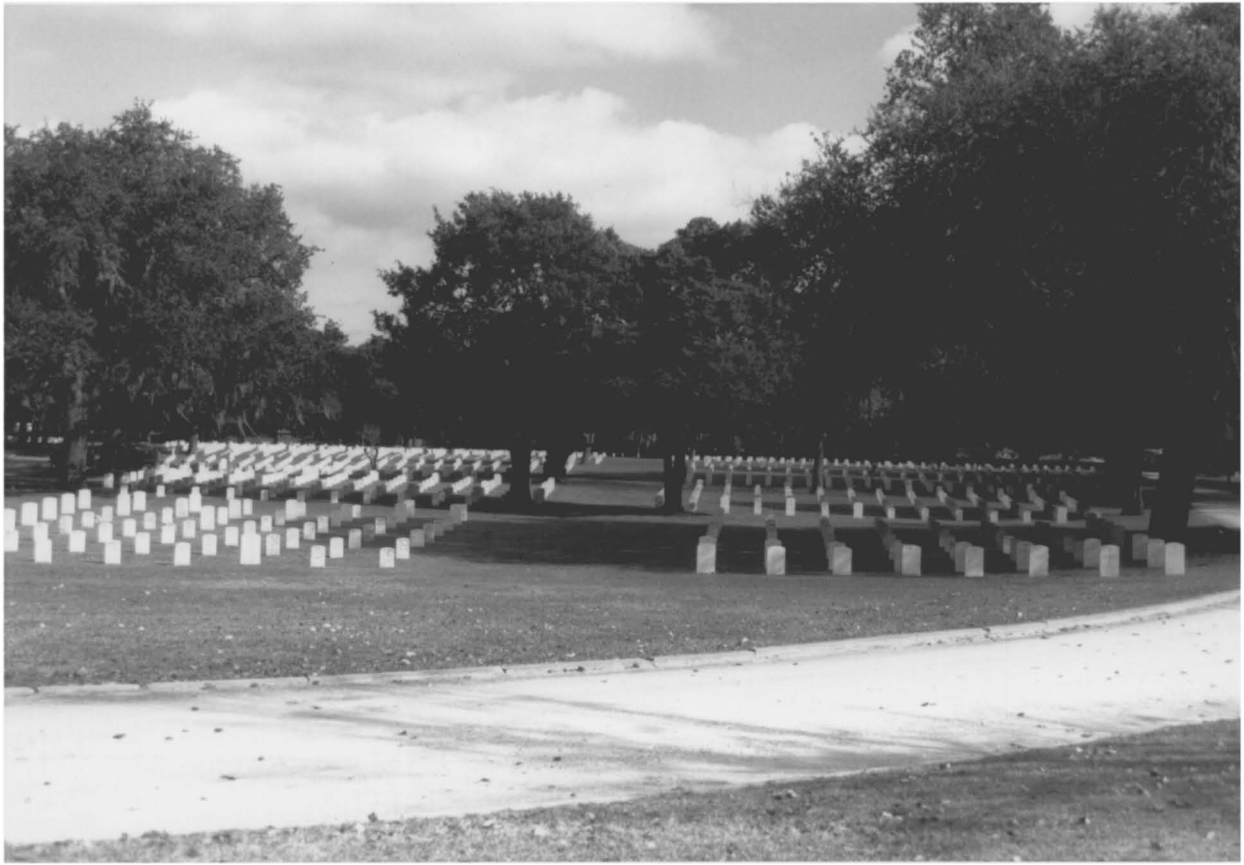
MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 29, 1989
THESE HALLOWED GROUNDS HOLD THE REMAINS OF AT LEAST NINETEEN BLACK UNION SOLDIERS, 33TH MASSACHUSETTS INFANTRY REGIMENT, WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON FOLLY ISLAND IN THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON, DURING THE WINTER ENCAMPMENT OF NOV 1863-FEB 1864, CIVIL WAR.
THEIR EARTHLY REMAINS LAY LONG FORGOTTEN UNTIL REDISCOVERED IN MAY 1987. THEY WERE REINTERRED AT THIS SITE BY THE COMMUNITY OF BEAUFORT, MAY 29, 1989

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 13 OF 19

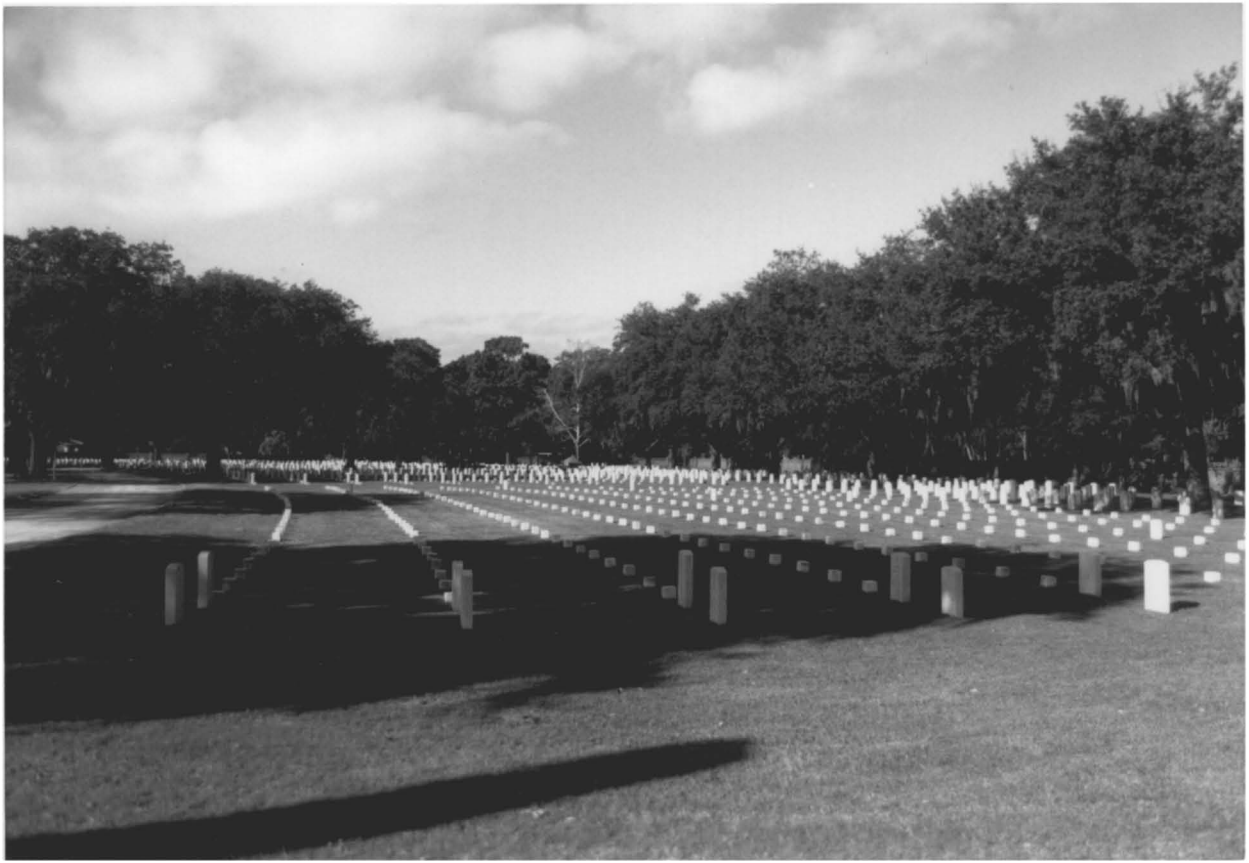


BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 14 OF 19

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 15 OF 19

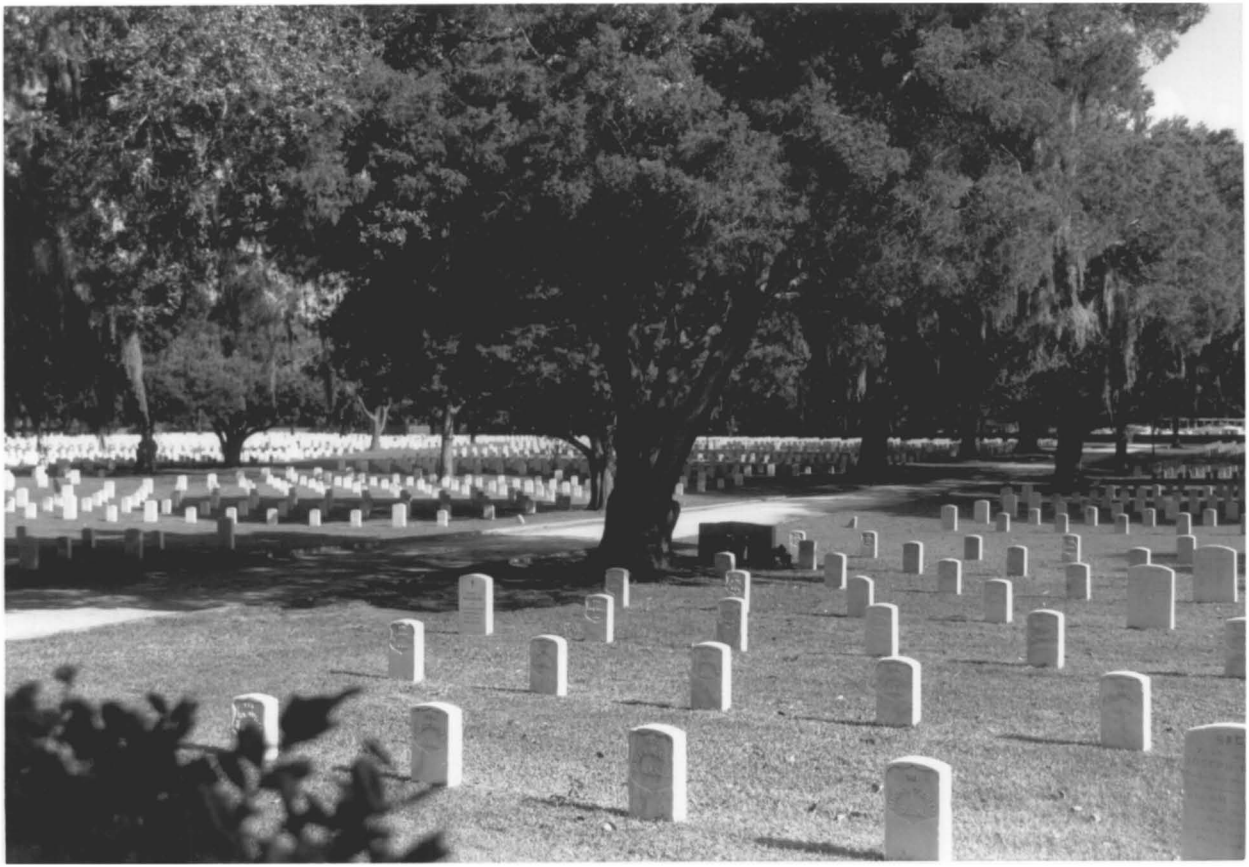


BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 16 OF 19



BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 19 OF 19

BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 18 OF 19



BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTO 19 OF 19