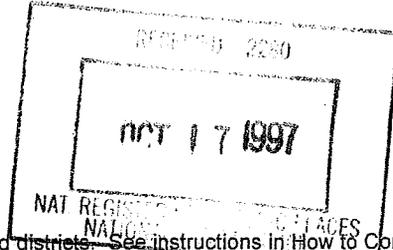


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1/1/99

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 Cypress Hills National Cemetery

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 625 Jamaica Avenue not for publication N/A

city or town Brooklyn vicinity N/A

state New York code NY county Kings & Queens code 047- zip code 11208
081

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 Tappin 10/6/97
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.)

JW - Aldous 30 Sept- 97
Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

New York State Historic Preservation Office
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:)

Edson A. Beall 11/13/97
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Name of Property

Kings & Queens Cos., NY
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
2	0	sites
3	0	structures
11	0	objects
18	0	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)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Slate

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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

Architecture

Period of Significance

1854-1939

Significant Dates

1862, 1870, 1884

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Meigs, Montgomery C.

Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Name of Property

Kings & Queens Cos., NY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18.2

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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 October 1, 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.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Cos., New York**

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Materials:

Walls: Limestone
Roof: Asphalt
Other: Marble, granite

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Cypress Hills National Cemetery is located at 625 Jamaica Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, in Kings County. The national cemetery consists of three areas: the national cemetery along Jamaica Avenue, the Union Grounds, and the Mount of Victory Plot. The latter two are situated within the Cypress Hills Cemetery, a private cemetery located approximately one mile from the national cemetery. The main entrance to the national cemetery is located at the center of the south side on Jamaica Avenue and is protected by ornamental iron gates constructed in 1886. Wrought-iron fencing encloses the area along Jamaica Avenue and for a small distance around each corner, and the remainder of the main cemetery is enclosed by chain link fencing. The lodge is located to the right of the main entrance to the national cemetery, and a utility building is situated just east of the lodge. Between these two buildings rests the flagpole. A rostrum is located at the terminus of the main drive north of the entrance on Jamaica Avenue.

The Union Grounds are enclosed by wrought-iron fencing along the south side only, and a flagpole is located in the northeastern portion of the grounds. The Mount of Victory Plot is located adjacent to the Union Grounds.

The Cypress Hills National Cemetery was established in 1862. The first superintendent was John Bryson, a former private with the Thirtieth New York Volunteers, whose appointment was dated August 6, 1867. Graves were originally marked by headboards, properly lettered, and are now marked by upright marble headstones. The cemetery closed in 1954, except for interments in occupied and reserved graves. As of August 31, 1997, there were 18,568 graves used for the interment of 21,007 casketed remains and 18 sites used for the interment of 52 cremated remains. Interments of casketed remains in occupied graves and reserved graves continue. As of August 31, 1997, there were 51 gravesites available for the interment of casketed remains (48 reserved) and 48 sites available for the interment of cremated remains.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Cos., New York**

Section number 7 Page 2

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

An inspector's report for 1869 stated that a neat lodge had been erected, and a report for 1870-1871 indicated that the lodge was a wooden cottage containing two "good-sized" rooms and a kitchen, located in the Union Grounds portion of the cemetery. This structure was subsequently removed. The present lodge, constructed in 1887, is located along Jamaica Avenue in the national cemetery. It was designed by Montgomery C. Meigs, but departs from the more typical Second Empire design adopted for the lodges. With its L-shaped plan, projecting front bay, and multi-gables, it is more reminiscent of the Queen Anne style. The first floor of the two-story brick building contains four rooms and an enclosed porch, and the second floor contains three rooms and a bath. There is also a finished basement. The lodge has a pitched roof rather than the mansard typical of the lodges built in the 1860's and 1870's. The roof of the lodge is slate and that over the garage addition is reinforced concrete slab. In 1933, a one-story addition was constructed, adding an office, a workshop/storage room, and garage space for two vehicles, as well as public restrooms. Cemetery superintendents/directors resided in the lodge until 1974. A fire set by vandals damaged the first floor in 1984. In 1990, a long-term lease was negotiated with the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC), a non-profit organization whose operations focus on the redevelopment of the Cypress Hills Area. Under the terms of the lease agreement, the CHLDC assumed responsibility for refurbishing the building and for future maintenance. This organization uses the lodge for an office, meeting room and museum.

The brick and concrete utility building, with an asphalt shingle roof, was constructed in 1938.

A limestone classical revival rostrum, 20 feet 2 inches by 14 feet 6 inches, with a clay tile roof, was constructed in 1939. It is located at the northern end of the main axial drive from the entrance gate.

A brick structure, one and one half stories in height, containing tool rooms, located near the main entrance on Jamaica Avenue, as well as a wooden tool house, were both removed when the addition to the lodge was constructed in 1933.

There are five commemorative monuments within the Cypress Hills National Cemetery:

French Cross - A gray granite monument in the shape of a French cross approximately 12 feet high, in memory of 25 sailors of the French fleet who died while on duty in American waters during World War I, located near the rostrum. An ammunition ship blew up in New York Harbor. Of the 25 sailors, 22 are buried in the area of the monument, and 3 were returned to France. The monument is inscribed as follows:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Cos., New York

Section number 7 Page 3

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE
TWENTY-FIVE SAILORS OF THE FRENCH FLEET
WHO DIED WHILE ON DUTY
IN AMERICAN WATERS
DURING THE WORLD WAR
1914-1918
ERECTED AND REVERENTLY DEDICATED
BY THE FRANCE AMERICAN SOCIETY

The 22 individual graves are marked by gray granite headstones with a bronze plaque on top and the interment data inscribed in French.

Second Division, American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) Monument - This monument is located in the foreground of the rostrum. It is approximately 3 feet square. At the top of the left side is inscribed an Indian head with Army, Navy, and Marine insignias to the right. The inscription reads as follows:

IN MEMORY OF OUR SACRED DEAD
OF THE SECOND DIVISION AEF
ERECTED BY SECOND DIVISION
POST NO. 860, AMERICAN LEGION
N.Y. MAY 30, 1945

Eagle Monument - A pyramid of field stones erected in the Mount of Victory Plot was constructed by laborers of the Cypress Hills Cemetery in about 1934. A large stone eagle with wings outspread, which was the property of the cemetery, was erected atop the pyramid by the Londino Construction Company, Bronx, New York, during the same year.

Ringgold Monument - A large monument located in the Union Grounds, erected by the officers and soldiers of Colonel Benjamin Ringgold's command. The monument is inscribed as follows:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Cos., New York

Section number 7 Page 4

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN
ANTIETAM
FREDERICKSBURG
SUFFOLK

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
COL. BENJ. RINGGOLD
103RD REG. NEW YORK VOL'S.
BORN IN DUSSLINGEN
KINGDOM OF WURTEMBERG
JUNE 6TH, 1828
KILLED AT SUFFOLK, VA
MAY 3RD, 1863
WHILE GALLANTLY LEADING
HIS REG. INTO ACTION
AGED 35 YEARS 7 11 MONTHS
THIS MONUMENT
IS ERECTED BY THE
OFFICERS AND SAILORS
OF HIS COMMAND
A NATION
MOURNS THE LOSS OF
ONE OF ITS
BRAVEST AND NOBLEST DEFENDERS

British Navy Monument - A large granite monument at Grave 36, Section 2, bears the names of 14 officers and men of the British Navy who perished on the coast off Sandy Hook, New Jersey, on December 30 or 31, 1783. Inasmuch as a treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States was signed on September 3, 1783, ending the Revolutionary War, perhaps the ship bearing these men might have been homeward bound when disaster overtook it. A document dated April 20, 1908, to the Commanding Officer at Fort Hancock, New Jersey, from the Constructing Quartermaster at Fort Hancock, reported that a few days prior, laborers unearthed a brick vault while making an excavation for a new road. The vault was opened and found to contain the skeletons of a number of men. The Construction Quartermaster felt that since the vault was constructed of old English brick and that it was covered with about ten feet of sand, he believed the remains to be those of English soldiers or

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Cos., New York

Section number 7 Page 5

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

sailors who were probably buried there during the Revolutionary War. A century and a quarter later, their remains were disinterred and were reinterred in a single grave in the Cypress Hills National Cemetery. The date of reinterment was March 5, 1909. The headstone, inscribed with their names, was erected in 1939.

There is a commemorative area known as the "Garfield Memorial Site," located within the Union Grounds. Its location was marked by an oak tree planted November 3, 1881, by the James A. Garfield Oak Society of Brooklyn, New York, in memory of President Garfield. This Society was formed almost entirely of Germans residing in the Eastern District of Brooklyn. The tree was subsequently enclosed with an iron fence with gate and gate posts inscribed with "JAMES A. GARFIELD SHOT JULY 2, 1881, AND JAMES A. GARFIELD DIED SEPTEMBER 19, 1881. The inscription on the gate read: ERECTED BY J.A.G. OAK ASS'N. - NOVEMBER 13, 1881." An article in the New York Times for November 14, 1881, regarding the tree planting, read as follows:

"The James A. Garfield Oak Society, formed almost entirely of Germans residing in the Eastern District of Brooklyn, met at Cypress Hills Cemetery yesterday to plant an oak in honor of the martyred President. A procession, consisting of fully 1,200 men, formed at 11 o'clock on Meserole Street and took up the line of march toward the cemetery. Among those who participated were members of the Grand Army of the Republic of the Eastern District, numbering 86 men; the Sixteenth Ward Battery, 1100 men, with two guns; the Germania Schuetzenbund, 500 strong; the John Blaum Association, 50 strong; the Nineteenth Ward Battery; the Veteran Cadets, numbering 69, and the Soldiers and Sailors Union, 40 strong. The program at the cemetery consisted of an overture by the Columbia Band, a war song by the Schwaebischer Saetgerbund, an English oration by Col. Lewis R. Stegman, the newly elected Sheriff of Kings County, and the solemn planting of the oak, accompanied by a salute of 21 guns, fired by the Sixteenth and Nineteenth Ward Batteries. Then followed a German oration by Hewrr Thomsen, and the ceremonies ended with the playing of a dirge by the band. The throng of spectators at the cemetery was immense, and great interest was manifested in the proceedings. The members of the various societies wore badges bearing the words "We mourn our loss," and all were dressed in uniform. Col. Stegman, in his address, traced the careers of Lincoln and Garfield, and showed how much alike they were and how, from humble beginnings, they had risen to the highest office in the great American Nation. Col. Stegman spoke also in eloquent terms of the soldier life of the late President Garfield. It was late in the afternoon when the exercises terminated."

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Cos., New York

Section number 7 Page 6

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The iron fence enclosing the Garfield memorial has been removed, and the area is now enclosed by shrubs. In September 1944, the memorial was damaged by a storm. The oak tree was uprooted, and gates, railing, and marble posts were broken. In October 1944, orders were given to dismantle the railings and posts. A new oak tree was planted in November 1944, and four maple trees replaced those damaged by the storm.

As you enter the cemetery, there are two plaques, each inscribed with a verse of Theodore O'Hara's "Bivouac of the Dead." The inscriptions read as follows:

Plaque No. 1

On fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread
An glory guards, with solemn round
The bivouac of the dead

Plaque No. 2

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo
No more on life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few

There is also a plaque near the main entrance inscribed as follows:

AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH AND PROTECT NATIONAL CEMETERIES
APPROVED FEBRUARY 22, 1867
Section 3

And be it further enacted. That any person who shall willingly destroy, mutilate, deface, injure, or remove any monument, gravestone, or other structure, or shall willfully destroy, cut, break, injure, or remove any tree, shrub, or plant within the limits of any of said National Cemeteries, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof before any District or Circuit Court of the United States within any State or District where any of said National Cemeteries are situated, shall be

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Cos., New York

Section number 7 Page 7

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

liable to a fine of not less than twenty-five nor more than one hundred dollars, or to imprisonment of not less than fifteen nor more than sixty days, according to the nature and aggravation of the offense. And the Superintendent in charge of any National Cemetery is hereby authorized to arrest forth with any person engaged in committing any misdemeanor herein prohibited, and to bring such person before any Court of the United States, within any State or District where any of said Cemeteries are situated, for the purpose of holding said person to answer for said misdemeanor then and there make complaint in due form.

The second plaque is inscribed with General Orders No. 80 of the War Department issued by the Adjutant General's Office in Washington, September 1, 1875, by order of the Secretary of War. The orders read as follows:

I.

Information having been received of the desecration of soldiers' graves by picnic parties in a National Cemetery, and by vending refreshments therein, it is hereby ordered that hereafter no such practices shall be allowed in any National Cemetery, nor any adjoining ground within the control of the United States.

II.

VISITORS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED
IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERIES
BEFORE SUNRISE OR AFTER SUNSET
No refreshments will be taken into these Cemeteries.

III.

IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES WHERE DRIVING IS PERMITTED.
THE SPEED MUST BE CONFINED TO A WALK
If it is found difficult to enforce this rule at any Cemetery the gates will be closed over the carriageway and all driving prohibited.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Cos., New York

Section number 7 & 8 Page 8

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

IV.

These orders will be conspicuously posted at the main entrance of each National Cemetery.
and will be rigidly enforced by the Superintendents.

The plaques were constructed circa 1880.

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

Buildings: Lodge, utility building

Sites: Cemetery, Garfield memorial site

Structures: Gate, perimeter wall, rostrum

Objects: Flagpoles (2), Monuments (5), Plaques (4)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cypress Hills National Cemetery is significant under Criteria A and C, 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, and under Criterion C, because the lodge represents a distinctive prototypical design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs, who was acclaimed as a master architect of civil works projects for the Quartermaster Corps. The cemetery is also significant prior to and beyond the Civil War era, as it includes the remains of veterans associated with every war and branch of service who have served their country throughout its history.

The period of significance begins in 1854, the year of the first interment in the Mount of Victory Plot, and ends in 1939, the year the rostrum was constructed.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Cos., New York

Section number 8 Page 9

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

When originally established in 1862, the Cypress Hills National Cemetery was located within the boundaries of the Cypress Hills Cemetery, a large private cemetery which had been established in 1849. A fact sheet in National Cemetery System microfilm records stated that on April 15, 1862, the remains of Alfred Mitchell, aged 16 years, an early casualty of the Civil War, had been interred in Grave No. 1 in the Union Grounds.

In the related multiple property nomination titled "Civil War Era National Cemeteries," a reference to the establishment of the fourteen national cemeteries in the latter half of 1862 states that a cemetery was opened at Cypress Hills, New York, for burial of the remains of Confederate prisoners and guards who perished in a train wreck. In the preparation of the individual nomination for the Cypress Hills National Cemetery, no further information could be found regarding this accident. A listing was located in historic files showing names, companies, and regiments of Confederate soldiers who died while prisoners of war at several locations in the state and whose remains were relocated to the Cypress Hills National Cemetery. Dates of death range from 1862 to 1865. The dates of interments are not shown. It is possible that some of these Confederate burials could be those of soldiers who perished in the train wreck.

At a meeting of the Cypress Hills Cemetery Board of Directors on April 21, 1862, the following minute was approved: "Mr. Miles's (William) proposition from A. J. Case, undertaker, respecting a place for the burial of the United States soldiers who die in this city and vicinity. When it was suggested to appropriate a portion of the cemetery grounds for that purpose, the members present concurred." Mr. Miles was a naturalized citizen born in Wales, who was destined to serve as a member of the Board and as an officer (without compensation) for more than fifty years and who, before his death, provided a liberal endowment toward the perpetual care and maintenance of the cemetery. The site set aside for the burial of Civil War dead occupied 2.7 acres and was known as the "Union Grounds." In March 1870, pursuant to that resolution, the Cypress Hills Cemetery Corporation conveyed, gratis to the federal government, the Union Grounds. The Government purchased, at twenty cents per square foot, 120 additional lots, and the whole was designated "Cypress Hills National Cemetery."

In the early 1880's, the War Department proposed to Congress a special appropriation for enlargement of the Cypress Hills National Cemetery. Objections by Congress to the price asked by the Cypress Hills Cemetery Company for the desired tract led to the purchase of land outside the cemetery company limits. A parcel, consisting of 15.4 acres, located approximately one mile from the Union Grounds, was purchased in 1884 from Mr. Isaac Snediker. The Mount of Victory Plot, consisting of .06 acre, was donated to the United States by the state of New York. Title was conveyed by deed

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Cos., New York

Section number 8 Page 10

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

dated September 17, 1941 (Public Law 682, 76th Congress). These three separate plots, consisting of 18.2 acres, make up the Cypress Hills National Cemetery.

Some of the first burials in the Cypress Hills National Cemetery included those made from general hospitals near New York, from Hart's and David's Islands in Long Island Sound, and from the soldiers' burial ground near Providence, Rhode Island (about 300).

Reinterments were made in the Cypress Hills National Cemetery from the following locations: Fort Hamilton (1885); Governor's Island and Fort Wadsworth (1886); Fort Wood (1889); and Mount Hope Cemetery at Otisville (1921).

Records show that Veindovi, a Fiji Island Chief, who died in the Brooklyn Naval Hospital on June 11, 1842, is interred in the national cemetery. When the hospital cemetery closed in 1926, Veindovi's remains and the remains of 985 other decedents interred therein were reinterred in the national cemetery.

Old Black Jack Crawford, the Indian scout who delivered the last message from General George Custer before he and his men were killed at the Little Bighorn is also buried in the national cemetery.

A total of 488 Confederate soldiers is interred here. In addition to those who died at nearby Hart's and David's islands, others are interred here who died while prisoners of war at Fort Columbus, Willet's Point, Fort Lafayette, and Fort Wood, New York, and at Portsmouth Grove, Rhode Island.

Eleven decedents, including seven children, who were originally buried on Bedloes Island, New York Post Cemetery, were transferred to the Cypress Hills National Cemetery.

In June of 1850, the Board of Directors of Cypress Hills Cemetery had resolved that a Mr. Charles Edward Lester should have discretionary authority to offer to a General Scott the Mount of Victory plot located within the Cypress Hills Cemetery as a donation for the burial of officers of the American Army. Records state that it was assumed that this offer was made but not accepted, although no evidence of this had been found. On June 10, 1854, the first interment in this plot was the remains of a veteran of the War of 1812, and during the following 50 years, there were interred in this plot the remains of some 48 other veterans of that war and widows and children of such veterans, including the remains of Private Herman Cronk, the last surviving veteran of that war, who died in 1905 at the age of 105. The plot was eventually donated to the United States by the State of New York in 1941 and is now part of the Cypress Hills National Cemetery.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Cos., New York

Section number 8 Page 11

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

There are 24 Medal of Honor recipients interred in the Cypress Hills National Cemetery. The markers at their graves are inscribed with an enlarged gold-leafed replica of the medal of the awarding service and the words "MEDAL OF HONOR."

Frederick W. Gerber, Sergeant Major, U. S. Engineers, 1839-1871 - Distinguished gallantry in many actions and in recognition of long, faithful and meritorious services covering a period of 32 years. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 1601.

James Webb, Private, Company F, 5th New York Infantry - At Bull Run, Virginia on August 30, 1862, under heavy fire, he voluntarily carried information to a battery commander that enabled him to save his guns from capture. He was severely wounded, but refused to go to the hospital and participated in the remainder of the campaign. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 7410.

John Cooper (a.k.a. John Mather), Coxswain, U. S. Navy - His first award citation was for when he was on board the USS *Brooklyn* during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the ram *Tennessee* in Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864. Despite severe damage to his ship and the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked her decks from stem to stern, Cooper fought his gun with skill and courage throughout the furious battle which resulted in the surrender of the prize rebel ram *Tennessee* and in damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan. His second award citation was for when he served as quartermaster on Acting Rear Admiral Thatcher's staff. During the terrific fire at Mobile on April 26, 1865, at the risk of being blown to pieces by exploding shells, Cooper advanced through the burning locality, rescued a wounded man from certain death, and bore him back to a place of safety. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 5022.

Valentine Rossbach, Sergeant, 34th New York Battery - At Spotsylvania, Virginia, on May 12, 1864, he encouraged his cannoneers to hold a very dangerous position and, when all depended on several good shots, it was from his piece that the most effective was delivered, causing the enemy's fire to cease and thereby relieving the critical position of the Federal troops. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 5427.

Patrick Golden - He was awarded the medal for bravery in scouts and actions against Indians in Arizona from August to October 1868. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 4316.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

James Dougherty, Private, U. S. Marine Corps - On February 8, 1872, while onboard the USS Carondelet in various actions of that vessel, he was wounded several times and invariably returned to duty, presenting an example of constancy and devotion to the flag. He is buried in Section 6, Grave 12374.

John Nihill - At Whetstone Mountains, Arizona, on July 13, 1872, he fought and defeated four hostile Apaches located between him and his comrades. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 6640.

Christopher Freemayer, Private, Company D, 5th U. S. Infantry - He was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action at Cedar Creek and other places in Montana from October 21, 1876, to January 8, 1877. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 5259.

Henry Rodenburg, Private, Company A, 5th U. S. Infantry - He was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action at Cedar Creek and other places in Montana from October 21, 1876, to January 8, 1877. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 5825.

Henry Wilkens, First Sergeant, Company L, 2nd U. S. Cavalry - He was awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery in action with Indians at Little Muddy Creek, Montana on May 7, 1877, and at Camas Meadows, Idaho, on August 20, 1877. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 5325.

Edward P. Grimes, Sergeant, Company F, 5th U. S. Cavalry - At Milk River, Colorado, from September 29 to October 5, 1879, the command was almost out of ammunition and surrounded on three sides by the enemy. Grimes voluntarily brought up a supply under heavy fire at almost point blank range. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 7210.

Louis Williams, Captain of the Hold, U. S. Navy - His first citation was for jumping overboard from the USS *Lackawanna*, on March 16, 1883, at Honolulu, T. H., and rescuing from drowning Thomas Moran, landsman. The second citation was for while serving aboard on the USS *Lackawanna*, he rescued from drowning William Cruse, who had fallen overboard at Calleo, Peru, on June 13, 1864. He is buried in Section 6, Grave 12616.

Bernhard Jetter, Sergeant, Company K, 7th U. S. Cavalry - He was awarded the Medal of Honor for distinguished bravery at the Sioux campaign in December 1890. He is buried in Section 5, Grave 1.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Anton Olsen, Ordinary Seaman, U. S. Navy - Onboard the USS *Marblehead* during the operation of cutting the cable leading from Cienfuegos, Cuba, on May 11, 1898, he was facing the heavy fire of the enemy. Olsen displayed extraordinary bravery and coolness throughout this period. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 9158.

John Mapes Adams (a.k.a. George Lawrence Day), Sergeant, U. S. Marine Corps - In the presence of the enemy during the battle near Tientsin, China on July 13, 1900, Adams distinguished himself by meritorious conduct. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 8262.

Daniel Joseph Daly, Private, U. S. Marine Corps - His first citation was for meritorious conduct in the presence of the enemy during the battle of Peking, China, on August 14, 1900. The second citation was while he was serving as a gunnery sergeant with the U. S. Marine Corps on October 22, 1915. He was one of the company to leave Fort Liberte, Haiti, for a six-day reconnaissance. After dark on the evening of October 24, while crossing the river in a deep ravine, the detachment was suddenly fired upon from three sides by about 400 Cacos concealed in bushes about 100 yards from the fort. The Marine detachment fought its way forward to a good position, which it maintained during the night, although subjected to continuous fire from the Cacos. At daybreak the Marines, in three squads, advanced in three different directions, surprising and scattering the Cacos in all directions. Daly fought with exceptional gallantry against heavy odds throughout this action. He is buried in Section 5, Grave 70.

Peter Stewart, Gunnery Sergeant, U. S. Marine Corps - In action with the relief expedition of the Allied Forces in China during the battles of June 13, 10, 21, and 22, 1900, in the presence of the enemy, he distinguished himself by meritorious conduct. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 7303.

Edwin S. Martin - He died on December 23, 1901, and is buried in Section 2, Grave 5966.

Mons Monssen, Chief Gunner's Mate, U. S. Navy - While serving aboard the USS *Missouri*, on April 13, 1904, he entered a burning magazine through the scuttle and endeavored to extinguish the fire by throwing water with his hands until a hose was passed to him. He is buried in Section OS, Grave 190.

Johannes J. Johannessen, Chief Watertender, U. S. Navy - Serving onboard the USS *Iowa* on January 25, 1905, he displayed extraordinary heroism at the time of the blowing out of the manhole plate of boiler D onboard that vessel. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 7425.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Eugene P. Smith, Chief Watertender, U. S. Navy - On September 9, 1915, he entered compartments onboard of Decatur several times immediately following an explosion onboard that vessel, and located and rescued injured shipmates. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 7742.

Wilhelm Smith, Gunner's Mate First Class, U. S. Navy - Onboard the USS New York on January 24, 1916, he entered a compartment filled with gases and rescued a shipmate. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 9492.

Wilbur E. Colyer, Sergeant, U. S. Army, Company A, 1st Engineers, 1st Division - Near Verdun, France, on October 9, 1918, while volunteering with two other soldiers to locate machine gun nests, he advanced on the hostile positions to a point where he was half surrounded by the nests, which were in ambush. He killed the gunner of one gun with a captured German grenade and then turned this gun on the other nests, silencing all of them before he returned to his platoon. He was later killed in action. He is buried in Section 2, Grave 8588.

John Schiller, Private, U. S. Army, Company E, 158th New York Infantry - He died on June 3, 1926, and is buried in Section 5, Grave 3.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - UTM REFERENCES

MAIN CEMETERY

POINT	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
1	17	594557	4504330
2	17	594422	4504234
3	17	594271	4504483
4	17	594322	4504695
5	17	594350	4504714

UNION GROUNDS

POINT	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
6	17	594703	4504877
7	17	594495	4504908
8	17	594504	4504975
9	17	594705	4504941

MOUNT OF VICTORY PLOT

POINT	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
10	17	594952	4504893

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base map.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the main section of the national cemetery includes the entire 15.4-acre parcel as purchased by the federal government in 1884.

The boundary for the Union Grounds section of the national cemetery includes the entire 2.7-acre parcel within the private Cypress Hills Cemetery as deeded to the federal government in 1870.

The boundary for the Mount of Victory section of the national cemetery includes a rectangular .06-acre parcel within the private Cypress Hills Cemetery as deeded to the federal government in 1941. The source for more specific information about the boundary is a c. 1870 large-scale map of Cypress Hills Cemetery which is framed and is located in the cemetery office.

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Kings & Queens Cos., New York

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CYPRESS HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY

Kings and Queens Counties, New York

Therese T. Sammartino, photographer

Date of Photographs: October 23, 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, view looking north
NEG. NO. 7424-14A
PHOTO 1 of 18

VIEW OF: AEF monument
NEG. NO. 7424-2A
PHOTO 8 of 18

VIEW OF: Flagpole, view looking southwest
NEG. NO. 7424-10A
PHOTO 2 of 18

VIEW OF: French Cross monument
NEG. NO. 7424-3A
PHOTO 9 of 18

VIEW OF: Lodge, southwest elevation
NEG. NO. 7424-7A
PHOTO 3 of 18

VIEW OF: British Navy monument
NEG. NO. 3815-5
PHOTO 10 of 18

VIEW OF: Lodge, southwest elevation
NEG. NO. 7424-6A
PHOTO 4 of 18

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking south
NEG. NO. 7424-0A
PHOTO 11 of 18

VIEW OF: Lodge, northeast elevation
NEG. NO. 7424-8A
PHOTO 5 of 18

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking northwest
NEG. NO. 7424-11A
PHOTO 12 of 18

VIEW OF: Utility building, northwest elevation
NEG. NO. 7424-13A
PHOTO 6 of 18

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking north
NEG. NO. 7424-12A
PHOTO 13 of 18

VIEW OF: Rostrum, view looking north
NEG. NO. 7424-1A
PHOTO 7 of 18

VIEW OF: Flagpole, Union Grounds
NEG. NO. 7424-15A
PHOTO 14 of 18

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National Park Service**

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**Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Cos., New York**

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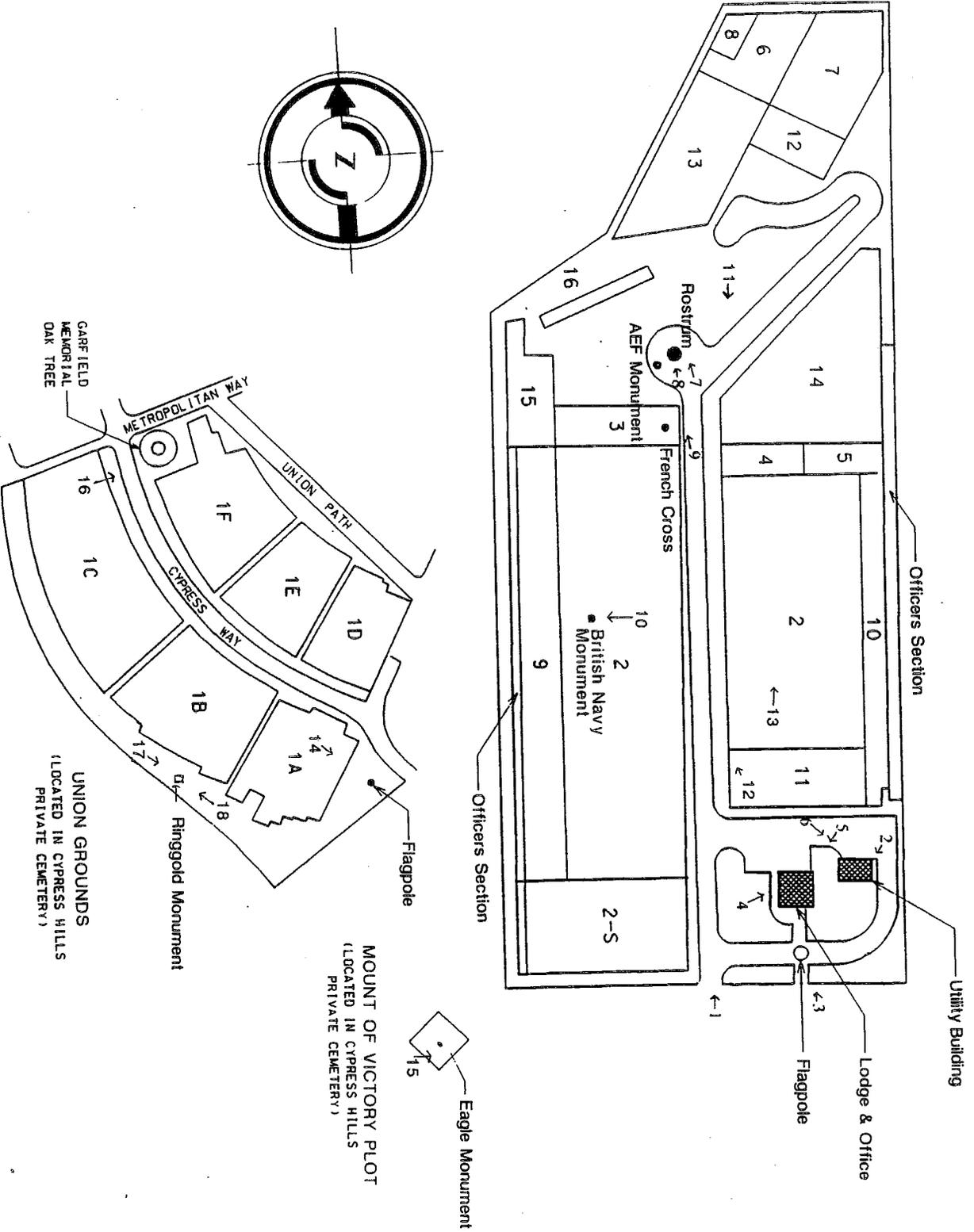
VIEW OF: Eagle monument, Mount of Victory
Plot
NEG. NO. 7424-20A
PHOTO 15 of 18

VIEW OF: Ringgold monument, Union
Grounds
NEG. NO. 7424-17A
PHOTO 17 of 18

VIEW OF: Garfield memorial, Union Grounds
NEG. NO. 7424-18A
PHOTO 16 of 18

VIEW OF: Union Grounds, view looking
northwest
NEG. NO. 7424-16A
PHOTO 18 of 18

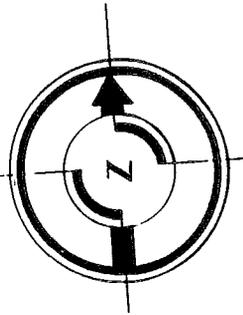
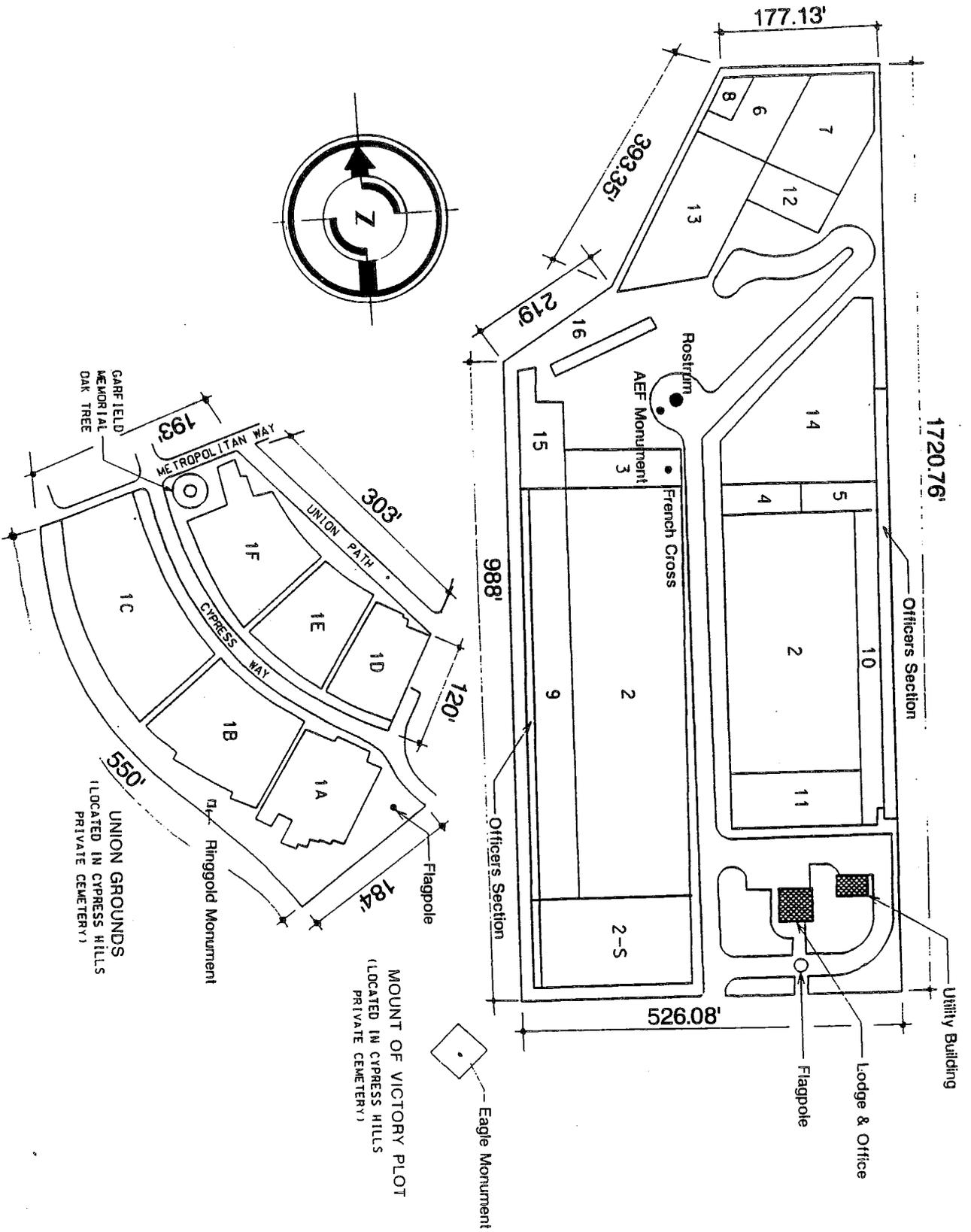
**Sketch Map
Cypress Hills National Cemetery
Kings & Queens Counties, New York**



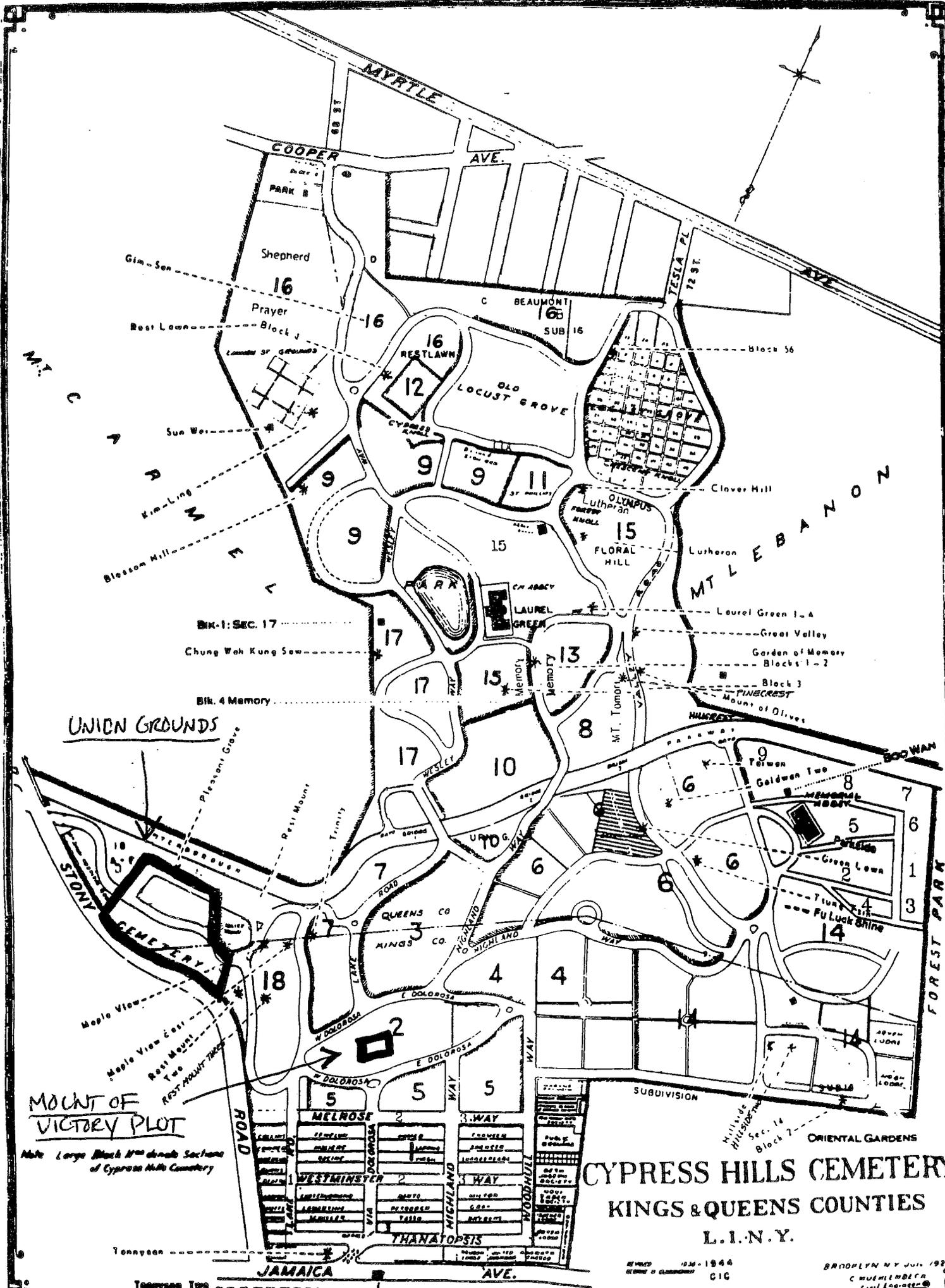
NOT TO SCALE

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

Base Map
 Cypress Hills National Cemetery
 Kings & Queens Counties, New York



NOT TO SCALE



MT. C

MT. M

MT. T

MT. LEBANON

FOREST PARK

UNION GROUNDS

MOUNT OF VICTORY PLOT

Note: Large Block No. denotes Sections of Cypress Hills Cemetery

CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY
KINGS & QUEENS COUNTIES
L.I.N.Y.

REVISED 10-30-1944
 GIC

BROOKLYN N.Y. JUN. 1926
 C. MUEHLBACH
 Civil Engineer

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JAMAICA

AVE.